

# The New Woodend Star

Rotary  Club of Woodend

JULY 2024  
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**EDGAR'S MISSION KINDNESS CLUB:  
Inspiring the next generation of  
animal champions**

Story page 5

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**Woodend's Rain report**

May was quite dry until the very last day, which lifted it to only slightly below average at 51.8 mm. Year-to-date 296.8 mm, which is almost exactly the average for this stage of the year.

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	av 5yr
January	73.6	92.6	140.8	17.7	134.2	<b>91.8</b>
February	67.8	32.4	2.0	27.4	11.8	<b>28.3</b>
March	79.6	47.0	73.2	47.0	2.0	<b>49.8</b>
April	139.8	15.2	89.6	92.5	97.0	<b>114.6</b>
May	79.0	83.0	39.4	56.0	51.8	<b>61.8</b>
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		
<b>Total mm</b>	<b>914.8</b>	<b>936.4</b>	<b>1142.4</b>	<b>762.2</b>	<b>296.8</b>	

NB: averages vary due to rounding



**Tiny Knits for Newborns**

**Callout for KNITTERS:**  
**Please join us in our current activity!**

We are knitting booties and beanies, blankets and wraps for Indigenous newborn babies at the Alice Springs Hospital. This is an ongoing project as the nights are cold all year round in Northern Territory.

We can provide you with wool and patterns if you need them. Fun colours are most welcome.

Join us to knit, or please bring your knits to the “Knit and Natter”, Norma Richardson Hall at 15 Buckland Street, Woodend on the third Wednesday of the month, 11.00 am to 12.30 pm, or call Amanda on 0409 330533 for more information and/or to arrange collection local to Woodend.

Or email: [woodendangican@gmail.com](mailto:woodendangican@gmail.com)

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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.



## 'KINDNESS TO ELDERS' DAY

Some of the shire's most esteemed elders were in the spotlight on Saturday 15th June for a 'Kindness to Elders' event at Jubilee Hall, Macedon, for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Led by Mr Athol Guy AO were Ms Janet Wood AM, Mr Jack Harris AM, 1960s Pop sensation and star of London shows *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Hair* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, Mr Colin Cook, and the shire's longest serving financial advisor for over 50 years, guiding those entering retirement and aged care, Mr Bob Nixon. Each one told their stories of life.

Kindness to Elders was exactly what the Scouts from the 1st Gisborne and 1st New Gisborne Groups and Guides from Gisborne, Romsey and Lancefield gave. Working together, they were a great team, from setting up the venue, decorating, to running a BBQ lunch and pack down. Everyone assisted the valuable and hardworking CWA elders in the kitchen, the Gisborne Day Branch and Kyneton ladies who offered morning and afternoon teas and a soup lunch.

A special moment for all was the performance of the Young Voices of Macedon Choir and hearing Colin sing his 60s hit single "Heart" accompanied by his son and band Midnight Mantra.

In between, the Kindness Collective from Kyneton gave away a two course lunch and the Gisborne RSL awarded special certificates to three Macedon children, thanking them for holding a fundraiser in the wake of the fire that destroyed their clubrooms.

Presenters Mr Jack Harris and Ms Dawn Bamforth closed the day with stories told to Scouts by Mens Shed elders from Riddells Creek.

At the heart of everything, including the shire trees with purple bows, was Kindness to Elders. If you or anyone you know needs support call the confidential helpline on 1300 368 821

SUBMITTED BY LYNDA MCCLURE CAMERON



Left to right: Jack Harris, Athol Guy, Janet Wood and Dawn Bamforth cutting the cake



Gisborne RSL Award Presentation

Left to right (back): Bill Shumack (Vice President), John Hike, Norman Smith, Daniel Hall (Secretary), Bronte Daniel (Treasurer).

## The Kyneton Town Hall was illuminated purple in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD).

WEAAD is held globally each year on 15 June to raise awareness of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, and to highlight the importance of the rights of older people.

Council's Director Community Maria Weiss said elder abuse can take many forms including physical, social, financial, psychological or sexual, and is often carried out by someone known and trusted by the person (i.e. a family member, carer or friend).

"Research by Senior Rights Victoria suggests that up to 14 per cent of older people in Australia may experience elder abuse," she said.

"Elder abuse is often hidden, so it's important we as a community look out for any signs of it and empower and support our vulnerable residents to report this behaviour or seek help." Warning signs may include an older person seeming fearful, anxious or isolated; injuries; an absence of personal care; or unexplained changes to legal documents or finances.

Council has implemented a range of initiatives through its PARTICIPATE Positive Ageing Plan 2020–25 aimed at supporting older residents in the community, including:

- the introduction of an age-friendly community directory consisting of a range of supports and information, including organisations specialised in seniors advocacy and elder abuse prevention
- social activities via the Village Connect program, designed to



promote inclusion and an opportunity for residents aged over 55 to come together in a safe environment and discuss issues relevant to them

- digital scam awareness workshops to teach older residents about common scams and tips to stay safe from them, as well as what to do if they've been scammed.

"Council will continue to look at ways we can proactively support and empower our older residents and ensure they feel safe and secure in their community," Ms Weiss said. If you are experiencing elder abuse, or are concerned about an older person, you can get help by calling Seniors Rights Victoria on 1300 368 821.

For more information visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/elder-abuse](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/elder-abuse).

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT







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## Edgar's Mission: school holiday program pilot

Edgar's Mission is excited to announce the launch of their new school holiday program, Kindness Club. This unique, hands-on, interactive experience is designed for children aged 6-12 and offers a wonderful opportunity for young minds to engage with the animals and the compassionate philosophy that Edgar's Mission embodies.

Running from 3-13 July, Kindness Club will host morning and afternoon sessions from Wednesday to Saturday each week of the holidays. Led by a qualified teacher with the support of dedicated Edgar's Mission volunteers, this program aims to foster compassion and respect for farmed animals, cultivating a new generation of advocates for change.

Edgar's Mission, which recently celebrated 21 years of animal rescue and advocacy, is a beacon of hope in a world that is often dark for farm animals; a place where those forgotten, abused, and abandoned can have lives truly worth living.

Kindness Club is more than just a school holiday program – it is an immersive educational experience. Children will participate in a variety of activities, including arts and crafts, scavenger hunts,

observing and engaging with the many animal residents at the sanctuary. This carefully crafted program builds on children's natural disposition to form close relationships with animals, enhancing their understanding and empathy through fun and interactive learning.

### Animal Autonomy at the Heart

At Edgar's Mission, the autonomy of animals is always top priority. While we strive to facilitate meaningful interactions between children and animals, we cannot guarantee specific interactions. We kindly ask parents and guardians to manage their child's expectations to avoid disappointment, ensuring that every interaction is respectful and aligns with our philosophy.

### Register Today

Spaces for Kindness Club are limited, so early registration is encouraged. Join us at Edgar's Mission this July for an unforgettable experience that promises to inspire and educate the young hearts and minds of our future. Bookings can be made via our website <https://edgarsmission.org.au/ticket/kindness-club/>.

Learn more about Edgar's Mission, visit: [www.edgarsmission.org.au](http://www.edgarsmission.org.au)

SUBMITTED BY CLAIRE CURNOW, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY MANAGER

## Woodend family business matches funds at Live4Life annual dinner – helping raise over \$30,000 for local charity

At the recent Live4Life Annual Dinner, the Fielding family – the team behind McQueen's Woodfired Pizza, Panini and Coffee Pit Stop in Woodend – generously offered to match the funds raised for the Silent Auction, to the tune of \$10,000. The matched funding pledge spurred people on to dig deep, helping to raise more than \$30,000 on the night.

Nik, Tom, Lauren and Jasmine, young staff from McQueen's, attended the lively event at the RACV City Club in Melbourne to present the cheque to Bernard Galbally, CEO at Live4Life. Items on offer at the Silent Auction included a Manchester United jersey signed by Marcus Rashford and a year's movie tickets to the Kino Cinema.

"I'd like to thank McQueen's for supporting young people's mental health in rural and regional areas," Bernard Galbally said. "It is wonderful to see a local business and the Fielding family helping their community in the Macedon Ranges and other rural communities – working together we can make a real difference in young people's lives." Marcus Fielding said it's "tremendous to get the Woodend community and our staff behind such a worthwhile cause."

The Live4Life Annual Dinner brings together volunteers, supporters and young people from 14 Victorian Live4Life communities and Break O'Day in Tasmania for a wonderful night of conversation and connection, celebrating the work Live4Life does for young people's mental health and suicide prevention in rural and regional communities.

Live4Life is the only youth mental health and suicide prevention model designed by and for rural and regional communities, where the suicide rate is 40% higher than urban areas, and where 63% of young people trying to seek help are unable to access the mental health services they need.

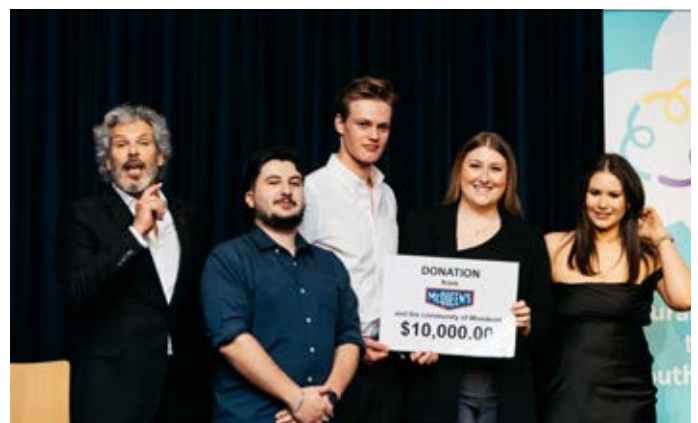
Live4Life was recently recognised for its achievements and hard work, winning Suicide Prevention Australia's (SPA) 2024 National LiFE Award for 'Communities in Action' at SPA's national conference in Adelaide.

Since its inception in the Macedon Ranges in 2010, and with the generous support of people like the Fielding family, Live4Life communities have:

- trained over 21,000 young people in evidence-based mental health education
- trained more than 2,400 adults in Youth Mental Health First Aid©
- reduced the stigma often encountered with mental health in rural communities

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE WRIGHT

Left Photo, McQueen's Staff Nik, Tom, Jasmine and Lauren alongside some of the young people involved in Live4Life and Right with CEO, Bernard Galbally  
Photo Credit: Kim Selby Photography





# RT Edgar



## Our RT Edgar Gisborne Team

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

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**Josie Borg**  
0448 271 878  
[jborg@rtedgarmr.com.au](mailto:jborg@rtedgarmr.com.au)



## Congratulations to Samantha Turner on being twice recognised in the Kings Birthday Honours

Sam has been recognised with an OAM for her contribution to nursing and the community including through her contributions to Rotary. She was also recognised in the COVID-19 Honour Roll.

Her nursing career spans over three decades, beginning in 1990. Since 2015, she has been a part-time Maternal Child Health Nurse at Macedon Ranges Health and held the role of Child Birth Education Manager/Consultant at St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne from 2007 to 2022. Additionally, she worked as a Maternal Child Health Nurse at Merri-Bek City Council between 2015 and 2017, and served as a sessional lecturer and tutor in Human Sexuality at Victoria University's Footscray Campus from 2008 to 2015.

Sam's commitment extends beyond nursing. She has served on the board of Family Planning Australia from 2002 to 2004 and represented the organization in regional and international forums related to reproductive health through the International Planned Parenthood Federation. She has also authored several publications for the Child Birth and Parenting Association of Victoria (CAPEA).

As an active member of the Rotary Club of Gisborne and Macedon Ranges, Sam has contributed to the community for six years. Her volunteer efforts include working on the Maternal and Infant Health Project in Nepal since 2019 and the Maternal and Infant Health Child Birth Education Project in Mongolia from 2013 to 2018. In recognition of her service, she was named a Paul Harris Fellow and received the Royce Abbey Champion of Change Award in 2017.

Sam's extensive contributions to nursing and her unwavering dedication to community service exemplify the qualities honoured by the Medal of the Order of Australia.

The Rotary Club of Woodend is pleased to have Samantha Turner as a member of our club.

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE FALZARANO



## Environment - Rotary International Seventh Avenue of Service

Rotary's seventh avenue of service is the Environment and Woodend Rotary is actively promoting care for the environment through the international Plastic Free Bali program recently launched with the support of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. We are committed to supporting activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources.

With Plastic Free July just around the corner, people around the world are preparing to reduce single-use plastic waste at home, work, school, and even their local café. Small steps make a big difference, as together we take action for a world without plastic waste.

Single use plastics are a threat to the health of our planet and our bodies. The world annual production of plastic has increased exponentially, and current levels are expected to triple by 2060. Plastics are now everywhere; scientific studies show tiny fragments even found in several major organs of the human body.

So, this July, consider taking the Plastic Free Pledge, go to <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/> to find out more.

SUBMITTED BY WOODEND ROTARY

## Wonderful Woodend

Once again, the Woodend community has brilliantly supported the Blanket Drive. A large number of blankets, coats, pants, tops, jumpers, sleeping bags, underpants and socks were collected for distribution to the homeless in Melbourne via The Living Room in Hosier Lane to make a real and immediate impact to those in need.

The response was so great we needed to make three trips with a massive carload of goods each trip. The need was so great that items dropped off only a day earlier were nearly all distributed when the final carload was delivered.

As always, the wonderful staff working at The Living Room were very appreciative as were the clients.

Over the past decade coordinators Grant and Melissa Hocking have coordinated the blanket drive and have had great support from the Woodend Community.

"Our sincere thanks must go to the generous Woodend community for the wonderful donations each year, and it makes such a difference to those doing it tough. We must also thank Mort and Pestle who continue to be a great support to Woodend Rotary by being a drop off point for donations", said Grant.

Find out more about Woodend Rotary and the great work we do at [www.woodendrotary.org.au](http://www.woodendrotary.org.au)

The Living Room is part of Youth Projects and offers a wonderful service to the homeless in and around the city by providing free healthcare and support to improve the physical, mental and social well-being of individuals who are homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Find out more at [www.youthprojects.org.au/the-living-room](http://www.youthprojects.org.au/the-living-room)

SUBMITTED BY GRANT HOCKING



Photo: Grant and Melissa Hocking packed to the rafters





## Have your say on a future made in Australia: Unlocking Australia’s low carbon liquid fuel opportunity

The Australian Government is seeking views on low carbon liquid fuels (LCLF) and on options for measures to assist the growth of the industry.

According to the consultation paper, sustainable fuels will play an important role as global economies transform to net zero, and are a priority sector in the \$22.7 billion Future Made in Australia package, with initiatives identified to support the growth of new industries to benefit communities and workers.

The response to the consultation paper will help ensure Australia has the appropriate policy settings to help decarbonise the transport sector.

A domestic LCLF industry will produce sustainable fuels to support emissions reductions in the aviation, heavy vehicle, rail and maritime sectors.

In the 2024–25 Federal Budget, the Government announced a number of measures to support a domestic low carbon liquid fuels industry, including \$18.5 million over four years to develop a certification scheme for these fuels.

The Government also committed \$1.5 million over two years to undertake an impact analysis of the costs and benefits of demand-side measures for sustainable fuels, which will complement this targeted consultation.

Consultation on the paper, A Future Made in Australia: Unlocking Australia’s low carbon liquid fuel opportunity will close on 12 July 2024.

Insights from this consultation will build on consultations carried out through the Aviation White Paper process and also inform the Government’s development of a Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap.

Submissions can be made online at <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say> or alternatively by emailing: [lclfconsultation@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:lclfconsultation@infrastructure.gov.au).

SUBMITTED BY GEORGIA PRETTY, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT.



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## Healthy Landscapes program

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

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

For information and to register, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthy-landscapes](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthy-landscapes)

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## Environmental health updates from Macedon Ranges Shire Council

### Paddock tree information session

2-4pm, 5 July, Lancefield

Join us to learn about the importance of paddock trees. Expert speakers will cover paddock trees' function in our landscape, different tree species, effective management and protection of paddock trees and grazing management for paddock trees.

### Large tree and hollow identification at Bushland Reserves

10am-12pm, 11 July, Barringo Reserve

Do you want to explore the large habitat trees in our bushland reserves? Throughout winter, we are running a series of large tree surveys where you can join us for a fun and educational walk that will help us gather information to create a database of large habitat trees throughout the shire.

### Planting the right plant

29 July, Lancefield

It's such a shame when you go to so much effort to prepare and protect your plantings, to see them sometimes fail. This session will take you through why starting with understanding the Ecological Vegetation Class (EVCs) for your property is important.

Selecting the correct native tree/shrub/groundcover for the area is key to increasing your chances that all your effort of planting will see success.

### National Tree Day – Planting at Hanging Rock

10am-12pm, 31 July, Hanging Rock, Woodend

To celebrate National Tree Day on 28 July, we welcome you to our community planting day to improve the biodiversity along Smokers Creek, Hanging Rock. Council's Conservation and Reserves Officer will discuss the importance of local habitat and how restoration works in the Macedon Ranges can enhance biodiversity for local species.

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

## Soft plastic recycling coming to a bin near you!

Council is launching a shire-wide innovative soft plastics recycling collection pilot in July.

The pilot program is an extension of the 12-month trial that took place in Romsey. It is part of a national pilot program led by the Australian Food & Grocery Council (AFGC) and funded by the Australian Government.

Residents and businesses using Council's kerbside collection service can recycle their soft plastic by collecting it in the Council-supplied orange collection bag and, when full like a basketball, place it in their recycling bin (yellow lid).

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

Residents can collect an initial information pack for free from Council's customer service centres – which includes a letter, fact sheet, and 20 orange collection bags. Additional bags can then be purchased for a fee as required.

Residents and business owners can continue to take excess soft plastic to resource recovery facilities for free.

A recent audit revealed that up to 70 per cent of the contents of general waste bins are soft plastic. By recycling soft plastic separately, residents can divert soft plastic from landfill and significantly reduce the contents of their general waste bin.

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

For information, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/romseytrial](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/romseytrial)

## New Climate Emergency Working Group

Are you interested in accelerating climate action across the Macedon Ranges? In a first for the shire, a Climate Emergency Working Group is being established, to guide the implementation of the Macedon Ranges Shire Climate Emergency Plan.

You are invited to demonstrate your passion and commitment to action on climate change by applying for a position in this exciting advisory group shaping climate action into the future.

As a representative, you'll be joined by other key community sectors, as well as council staff to inform and monitor the delivery of actions in the Climate Emergency Plan.

To learn more, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/climate-emergency](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/climate-emergency)

## Sustainable, Local, Zero-Waste



Wash Against Waste



Farm Fresh



Genuine & Artisanal



Powered by Volunteers

1st Saturday of every month



9am-1pm

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

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



# Green Homes in Demand: Why Sustainable Living is the Future of Real Estate

With rising energy costs and increasing environmental awareness, the demand for sustainable homes is skyrocketing. Recent data shows that energy-efficient properties are more appealing to buyers and fetch higher prices in the real estate market.

A report by Domain highlights the growing trend of green homes, driven by diverse demographics, including younger generations and environmentally conscious individuals. These buyers are looking for properties that offer long-term cost savings and a reduced carbon footprint.

## Financial Benefits of Energy-Efficient Homes

According to Domain, properties with sustainable features can command up to an additional \$112,000 in the market. This increase in value is largely due to the lower running costs associated with energy-efficient homes. Features like solar panels, battery storage, and energy-efficient appliances significantly reduce utility bills, making these homes financially attractive.

## Key Features of Sustainable Homes

**Solar Panels and Battery Storage:** These features allow homeowners to generate and store their own energy, promoting energy independence and reducing reliance on the grid.

**Efficient Electric Heating:** Systems like split system air conditioners offer efficient electric heating, replacing gas systems and minimising energy consumption.

**Heat Pump Hot Water Systems:** These systems use 75% less power and can easily run from solar energy during the day, providing hot water for free.

## Impact on the Real Estate Market

The shift towards sustainable living is reshaping buyer preferences and influencing real estate trends. Real estate agents and developers increasingly incorporate sustainable features into new developments and renovations to meet this growing demand.

## What If I Get Solar and Electrify My Home, and Then I Sell?

Many homeowners worry about investing in sustainable upgrades if they might move in the future. However, installing solar panels or electrifying your home will not be wasted. You will have increased the value of your home and enjoy greater comfort and convenience. Using power your way to enhance your living experience makes these upgrades worthwhile.

Sustainable homes are not just a trend; they represent the future of real estate. As more buyers prioritise energy efficiency and lower running costs, the demand for green homes will continue to rise.

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## Pollinator Corridor Project 2023–2024

While walking along Five Mile Creek recently, you may have noticed many plant guards have popped up. These cardboard and recycled plastic guards are protecting seedlings that have been planted over the last 10 months by Woodend Landcare volunteers as part of the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network's (UCLN) Pollinator Corridor Project.

Akin to biolinks and biodiversity corridors, pollinator corridors are vegetation specifically focussing on providing homes, shelter and food for insects, birds and other wildlife that pollinate flowers. Populations of native small birds, butterflies, native bees and other insects are in decline due to many factors, including habitat loss through clearing.

Woodend Landcare obtained 750 seedlings covering 25 different indigenous species as part of the Project. All species selected were understorey shrubs, monocots and groundcovers to infill mature revegetated riparian woodland areas.

The seedlings were planted between 24 August 2023 and 16 June 2024, during 9

events conducted by both the Thursday Crew and Sunday working bee groups. Seedlings were scattered along a 1.2km stretch of Five Mile Creek through the heart of Woodend, as well as Slaty Creek Black Gum Reserve.

Most seedlings were planted between Pyke and Bowen Streets. Referred to by Landcare as the "EnviroFund Paddocks", prior to 2005 this area was covered in European poplar trees, and before this, it was a tip. From 2005 to 2007, Woodend Landcare revegetated the area with nearly 5,000 indigenous plants, thanks to a large grant from the Federal Government's EnviroFund. Twenty years on, these trees are now 20+m tall and are in need of additional understorey habitat.

If you own a treed property (garden or woodland), consider the importance of understorey plants and how these need to be in close proximity to other pockets of understorey. This gives insects, small birds and other pollinators a place to live and enables them to safely migrate across the landscape, completing their crucial role of pollinating as they go.

Woodend Landcare is grateful to the generous people who donated their time to help make this project a success. On behalf of the wildlife – THANK YOU!

### Upcoming Woodend Landcare events:

AGM: 11 August 2024, 10am – Woodend Neighbourhood House. Speaker TBC

Next Working Bee: 25 August 2024 – Five Mile Creek, between Thomas Court & East Street

SUBMITTED BY NICOLE MIDDLETON



## Council partners with RMIT to trial world-first coffee concrete

RMIT University and Macedon Ranges Shire Council have teamed up to conduct a world-first coffee concrete footpath trial.

Led by RMIT's Dr Rajeev Roychand and his colleagues, the trial aims to transform organic waste such as ground coffee and wood chips into a viable option for concrete and a valuable resource for the construction industry.

As part of the trial, sections of a footpath along Howey Street in Gisborne were constructed using both roast coffee grounds and wood-chip biochar to test their viability.

Shane Walden, Council's Director of Assets and Operations, was pleased to be working with RMIT on this innovative project.

"We're going to have people walking across the concrete that includes these products and RMIT is going to be coming back and doing testing to see how they stand up," he said.

"Despite the fact that we're using coffee grounds or mulch, residents aren't going to really see or smell any difference in this concrete product.

"It's really important for Council to be involved in projects such as this and to be working closely hand in hand with universities such as RMIT.

"This not only helps improve the knowledge level of our contractors and our staff, but it also has lots of other benefits that are important to our community.

"This includes helping the environment, acting sustainably and, most importantly, reducing waste to landfill and having a circular economy."



Australia generates 75 million kilograms of ground coffee waste every year – most of it goes to landfills, but it could replace up to 655 million kilograms of sand in concrete because it is a denser material. Globally, 10 billion kilograms of spent coffee is generated annually, which could replace up to 90 billion kilograms of sand in concrete.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



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## Message from your local Police Sergeant

Hello again – this month I thought I’d answer a number of social media comments recently posted within the Woodend community.

We recently had the theft of a number of bicycles from the Woodend Railway Station. Like most railway stations, they are a hive of activity and unfortunately sometimes things happen around them. Is Woodend Station safe? As a general rule, it’s far safer than many others. It is staffed, has CCTV and we patrol there regularly. I have family members who use it often and I have no concerns about this. Like anywhere else, always ensure things are locked (car/bikes) and don’t leave valuables in your car.

Not sure you know that Woodend Police Station is only staffed by three Senior Constables and a Sergeant (me), whilst Woodend Police Station is theoretically a 16-hour station. Woodend staff are also asked to help support another station regularly, which further impacts our staffing levels. With two-person patrol requirements, it is logistically impossible to give you the service I’d like to. However, more broadly, the area is supported by six police stations within the Macedon Ranges, and in turn we support them. What does this mean? If you need police, someone will be there for you, just not necessarily someone from Woodend. And I will prioritise a patrol unit in preference to opening the front counter every time.

Stay safe and warm as winter is setting in. Look out for each other, Woodend is a great place to live (and work – sometimes)

DAVID ARNOLD, OIC WOODEND POLICE STATION

## Local organisations to benefit from GWW grants and sponsorships program

Greater Western Water (GWW) is set to roll out its next round of grants and sponsorships funding to local groups and organisations to support projects, events and activities that build strong community connections and help make our region a great place to live.

As part of GWW’s Thriving Communities grants and sponsorships program, \$180,000 will be shared across 24 organisations for a wide range of initiatives that create opportunity, sustainability, inclusion or equity, right across our service region.

GWW joined Member for Sunbury Josh Bull at Kismet Park Primary School in Sunbury last week to announce this year’s successful recipients. The school will receive a \$20,000 community grant to improve water sustainability resources.

The funding will be used to install an additional rainwater tank and a new irrigation water pump, and to redevelop their existing vegetable bed area. They will also create a student-safe place with new buddy benches in the existing indigenous garden.

GWW Managing Director Maree Lang said the grant and sponsorships program received more than 100 applications over a one-month period from organisations all over its service area – from Melbourne to the Macedon Ranges.

“It is wonderful to see so many groups and organisations deeply committed to supporting projects that benefit the environment; celebrate culture, sport and diversity; promote health and wellbeing and strengthen communities,” she said.

“GWW’s grants and sponsorships program is one way we can help local groups deliver projects that matter to the community – projects that connect people and that help make our region a great place to be.”

In the latest round of applications, GWW awarded two types of funding under its Thriving Communities grants and sponsorships program - local community sponsorships and community grants.

Eighteen projects will receive local community sponsorships funding, which provides up to \$5,000 for community activities that support equity and inclusivity and help diverse groups to thrive.

A further six projects will receive a community grant, which provides up to \$20,000 for projects that help communities, environment and industry to grow and prosper.

For the full list of recipients and more information, view the Thriving Communities program page <https://www.gww.com.au/about/community/thriving-communities-grants-sponsorships>

SUBMITTED BY ROSANNA BONACCURSO,



Photo: Member for Sunbury Josh Bull and GWW Managing Director Maree Lang at Kismet Park Primary School to announce this year’s recipients of GWW’s Thriving Communities grants and sponsorships program.





## Mudbash 2024

Mafeking Rover Park once again hosted an amazing Mudbash in 2024. Out past Seymour, Hanging Rock Rovers spent the King's Birthday weekend watching rover teams tear up the track and shred the skid pit as the skills and wits of Rover Scout's best and brightest were pitted against Mafeking's newly refurbished rally track, short race track and hill climb. Hanging Rock turned out in full force this year, with 14 Rovers attending to get the adrenaline going during the day, grabbing passenger spots in this year's finest of rides and unwinding at night, whether it was in front of the stage enjoying the likes of Strawb and Funk & Disorderly, or chilling out around the peace and quiet of a good campfire.

On the open day, everyone was off taking part in the many smaller events that Mafeking offers during Mudbash, like axe throwing and archery, as well as watching the Mudbash teams put their cars through their paces on the tracks and grabbing a bite to eat at the canteen or the iconic food trucks. For those who haven't heard of a potato cyclone, we have a few hundred recommendations.

We really enjoyed being able to bring some of our new rovers to this event, a true highlight of the Rover calendar, and look forward to bringing even more next year. If you or someone you know is interested, please seek us out on Facebook, or contact the unit directly at [hanging.rock.rover.crew@gmail.com](mailto:hanging.rock.rover.crew@gmail.com).

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS EAGLE, 1ST WOODEND SCOUTS

## Woodend Senior Citizens

Come and join us in the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House (access via the gates next to the Skate Park, off Margery Crescent) for one of our regular meetups.

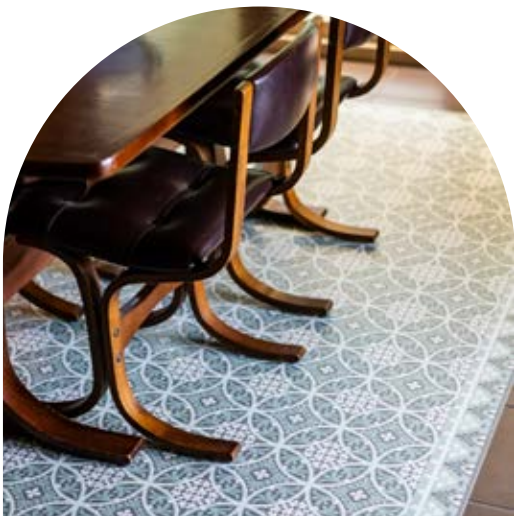
Tuesdays between 1pm and 3pm for Button Bingo, a chat and a cuppa. Fridays between 1pm and 4pm for cards

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).

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## Woodend becomes new home to refugee family.

After a year of preparations, the Woodend Refugee Resettlement (WRR) Group welcomed a Syrian family into our community. As part of CRISP – Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot program – we were matched with the family of five, who had been displaced in Lebanon for 10 years.

The family was picked up from the airport and brought back to their new house in Woodend. Through the generosity of the community, we were able to fully furnish and equip the house. The fridge and pantry were stocked with appropriate food. Warm clothes and bedding were sourced. The family arrived to a cosy house. We were so excited to finally meet “our family” after eagerly awaiting their arrival. Ahed and Alaa have three children who are already enrolled in Woodend Primary School. All the family are working hard to learn English and find their way around the town, and more broadly, life in Australia. Luckily the Woodend winter is not a huge shock for them, as temperatures in Lebanon get down to -10 degrees.

Getting to know this family and being able to offer them the opportunity to rebuild their lives in safety here has been extremely rewarding. Over the next 12 months we will continue to offer our support.

The aim of CRISP is to harness the generosity, goodwill and social capital of everyday Australians to provide a warm and supportive welcome into local communities. They are always looking for new groups to form and take on this important role. If you are interested in getting involved find more info at <https://refugeesponsorship.org.au>

SUBMITTED BY EMMA GOODSIR, WOODEND REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT GROUP



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## Woodend Lions announce the winner of the Annual Biggest Pumpkin Competition



May 18 saw both the last Woodend Lions market of the season and the second year of our now annual Biggest Pumpkin competition. Competition heated up early, with entries ranging from 4kg to just under 10kg, and with the majority of competitors favouring the Queensland Blue.

However, no one could meet the might of the winner, a 14.71kg whopper grown by John Rowe and his grandson Jack, who live in Carlsruhe. The pumpkin, which came from a heritage hybrid (a bit of a mystery), resembled the one which turned into Cinderella's coach – perhaps now to be called a Lion's Gold! However, this pumpkin had a much more important job – turning into food for the Woodend Neighbourhood House Food Bank. In fact, we sent 43 kilos of pumpkin to the Food Bank to support the community.

Do you think you could beat 14.71kg? Could it be you winning the sash of champions in 2025?

Look out for details of next year's competition, with hints and tips on growing your own champion in The New Woodend Star and remember to follow the Woodend Lions Facebook page for details of similar community events.

Congratulations again to John and Jack. True champions.

SUBMITTED BY GAIL JONES



## NAIDOC Week 2024

NAIDOC Week will be held across Australia from 7 to 14 July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme is: "Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud."

Council will host three events this year:

- Friday 5 July, 7 – 9.30pm, Kyneton Mechanics Institute: Film screening of Luku Ngarra – The Law of The Land. An extraordinary story of one Yolŋu man's 45-year life journey fighting for the political and spiritual freedom of his people.
- Sunday 7 July, 1 – 3.30pm, Kyneton Mechanics Institute: Film screening of The Last Daughter. Trying to reconcile her fragmented upbringing, an Aboriginal woman searches for the white parents who raised her before she returned to her birth family.
- Saturday 13 July, 11am – 2.30pm, Riddells Creek Community Centre: Community and Family Day, with a yarning circle and a variety of fun activities for all ages. This community event will be led by the Sunbury Aboriginal Corporation in partnership with Macedon Ranges Truth and Reconciliation Group and Sunbury Cowbaw Community Health.

For information and to register for events, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/NAIDOC](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/NAIDOC)



SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATION UNIT



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## Beware Of The Hot Spots Around Your Home

The CFA has an informative interactive website to highlight the 'hot spots' that should be checked in all houses. To download the Winter Fire Safety Checklist, please visit: <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/home-fire-safety-checklist/>

Here you will find lots of useful information about appliances and places that will be found in nearly every home, and the dangers that they can present in winter.

### Dangers During Winter

CFA statistics show that one-third of all house fires started in the kitchen, 20 percent were caused by heat from fuel fires and fuel-powered objects such as stoves and heaters, and another 20 percent from faulty or overloaded equipment. Here are just a few other examples: electric blankets, clothes dryers, open fire places, heaters, candles and powerboards.

Victorian firefighters are called to about 100 heater-related fires each year. Reduce the risk of fire by maintaining your heating systems and appliances and keeping them in good working order.

Keep clothes and other items at least one metre away from all heating devices. Supervise children near all types of heating. Never leave portable heaters and fireplaces unattended; turn off heating devices before leaving home or going to sleep. Never deadlock yourself in your home – a deadlock should have key in it when you

are at home. Develop and practice your escape plan – have two ways to escape from your home.

Above all else, make sure your smoke alarm is working. Take a few minutes today to test your smoke alarms. It could save your life.

## Beware Of Black Ice

There are more dangers in winter than those in and around our homes. Winter brings its own specific dangers to our region due to our climate, and black ice on our roads is one of the most severe.

We are called to every major road accident, and during the many cold mornings that occur through the winter and spring months we should be very alert to the dangers of black ice on our roads.

Over the next few months, it is not uncommon for us to be called out early in the morning, in the dark, to a serious car accident on Black Forest Drive or other major roads, where a car had hit some black ice and then skidded out of control to crash into gum trees.

People can be very seriously injured and it can take several hours to clear the scene, thanks to the combined efforts of the paramedics, SES, Police and CFA. The police helicopter is also often called to take an injured person to hospital.

It is clearly evident that we should all be extra careful when driving during our cold and wet periods.

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](http://www.woodendcfa.org).

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, FORMER CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA



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## Banking Safely Online

We recently held two Banking Safely Online sessions in Trentham and Woodend, attended by local existing customers and non-customers. We presented real life common scam scenarios, how to identify red flags, potential impact on finances, measures taken by the bank to mitigate risks and what to do if you are affected by fraud.

### Three main areas covered:

- Digital World
- Managing Risk in a Digital World
- Using Digital Banking Controls

It was really valuable to connect and share personal stories in our open forum/question and answer as part of our sessions. Scams can happen to any of us caught up in a busy life!

### Five Tips to Stay Safe

1. Never give away your e-banking PIN or e-banking password
2. Never click on an sms link
3. Never provide your sms one time passcode to anyone
4. We will never ask you to transfer funds
5. We will never request remote access to your computer or device

If you would like us to present a session at your club, business or workplace or would like more information, we would love to assist.

### Woodend Winter Arts Festival Fireworks

Great to see everyone at the fireworks on Friday. Some great feedback again with the kids loving the glowsticks, twisty potatoes and fairy floss! You may have seen Edyta Wyatt our branch manager on stage, not singing or dancing but explaining the benefits of community banking!

SUBMITTED BY ANJEE ANDERSON



## Future Ready Libraries!



We're looking ahead to the next four years and revisiting our library strategy to ensure we're meeting your needs. Have your hopes and expectations of libraries changed? What do you want from your local public library? We have some ideas, but we want to hear your thoughts! Your ideas, suggestions and feedback will help shape the future of our libraries, so please have your say by taking a few minutes to complete our survey.

More info on our website: <https://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/futurereadylibraries>

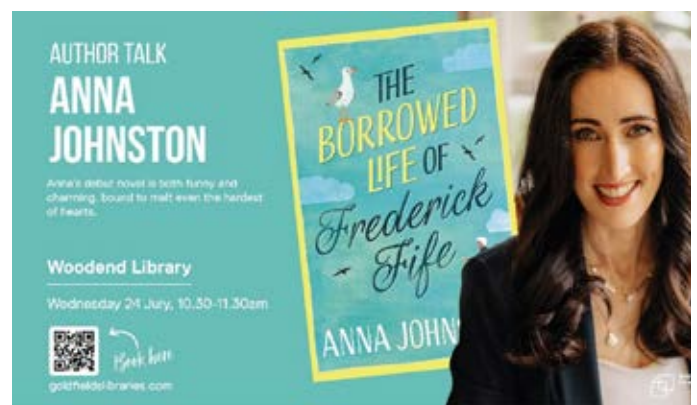
### Winter Programs

Our winter program is out, and we have these wonderful sessions coming up in July. Look out for our winter school holiday program too. Don't forget to book! Either use the QR codes below or head to [www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au](http://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au)

### See you in the Library!

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SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN





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## Community Bank Gisborne & District Autumn Grants

The volunteer Board of Directors and staff of Community Bank Gisborne & District were very pleased to award funding to 30 local groups at their autumn grant night on 18 June in Gisborne. Grants supported projects in many areas – Arts, Education, Health & Wellbeing, Community Infrastructure, Emergency Services, Environment and Sports and Recreation.

Woodend groups receiving funding included:

- Woodend SES and Woodend CFA - each awarded \$2000
- Two Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group action groups - Veg Action, that runs the Edgy Veg Awards, was awarded \$4500 and Wash Against Waste \$12,000. Both grants were multiyear to provide funding continuity and certainty to the volunteers running the programs.
- Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees - awarded \$5000 towards the 2024 National Rural Australians for Refugees Conference that will be held in Kyneton later this year.
- Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club - funding for a first aid kit

Branch Manager Sarah Barton congratulated all the recipients and thanked them for their volunteering and commitment to the community. She also thanked the customers of Community Bank Gisborne & District who make the grant program possible as it is income generated by accounts at the branch that is reinvested in the local area by the volunteer Board of Directors.

Community Bank Gisborne & District's next grant round will be in the spring. The board is always interested in learning about community groups needing support or ideas for new community investments. Contact community engagement officer Corinne Shaddock on [communityengagement@macedonrangescommunityenterprises.com.au](mailto:communityengagement@macedonrangescommunityenterprises.com.au) with questions and ideas related to the branch's community support.

SUBMITTED BY CORINNE SHADDOCK



Emergency Services funding recipients including Steve Ritchie at left (Woodend CFA) and Jane Crozier and SueEllen Cook from Woodend SES (in orange). Courtney Alexander, business development manager Community Bank Gisborne & District is at right. Photo: Rebecca Baber.



Volunteer director Rebecca Thorpe with Mark Mulcahy, Rhea Doyle, Claire Rowland and Robert Bruhn from Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group at the grant night. Photo: Rebecca Baber.



Jane Crozier and SueEllen Cook from Woodend SES with Corinne Shaddock, community engagement officer, Community Bank Gisborne & District. Photo: Rebecca Baber.



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## News from the House

### School Holiday Program

The July school holidays are upon us, and the Woodend Neighbourhood House has lots on offer to keep the kids busy: Entry fees apply.

- Bucket Drumming – Tuesday 2 July
- Drama Workshops – Wednesday 3 July
- West African Drumming – Thursday 4 July
- Creative Yoga for Kids – Monday 8 July
- Yoga for Teens and Tweens – Monday 8 July
- Air Dry Clay Workshop – Wednesday 10 July

Places are limited, so visit our website or stop by the House to make a booking.

### Community Lunch

Our monthly two-course community luncheon is back on Tuesday 9 July at the Woodend RSL. Bookings are essential to help with catering.

### Origami for Homelessness morning tea

Join us for morning tea on Thursday 18 July at 11am as we fold origami houses and create a display for Homelessness Week. Together with the Victorian Homelessness Network (VHN), we are raising awareness of the urgent need for 60,000 appropriate social homes to meet the current need in Victoria. Everyone is welcome to the morning tea. Please RSVP for catering purposes.

### Woodend Community Bike Shed

Building on the success of the Woodend Repair Cafe, a dedicated team of volunteers has launched the Woodend Community Bike Shed. The vision for the space is a casual spot for basic bike maintenance and skill sharing. Riders of all ages are invited to bring along their bike and our volunteer bike-shedders will help get your bike in tip-top condition.

The service is completely free, though we do have a donations box if you would like to donate. If specific parts are needed to repair your bike, we will recommend what to buy and help you fit it at your next visit.

Join us for our first session on Thursday 18 July between 4pm and 5.30pm in 'The Hub' (formerly the Woodend Toy Library), on the corner of Forest Street and Margery Crescent (near the Skate Park).

### We're clocking K's for R U OK?

The Woodend Neighbourhood House is taking on the K's for R U OK? challenge to strengthen connections, develop good habits, start meaningful conversations and have some fun as a team.

Each week we'll be clocking the K's we ride or walk to help start more life-changing conversation, and we'd love you to join our team! Come along to one of our regular walking or cycling groups and help us clock our K's.

The Woodend Walkers meet on Tuesdays at 10am at the Woodend Neighbourhood House and walk at two paces – medium and leisurely. No registration needed.

The Woodend Cycling Group meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 10am at the Woodend Neighbourhood House. No registration needed.

The Newham Walkers with Dogs meet each Tuesday morning at 9am at a predetermined location and walk along bushland trails for 4 to 5km. Registration required via our website.

### Food Bank at the Woodend Neighbourhood House

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

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

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER



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# Your community diary

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

## — JULY —

- 1-31 ..... Plastic Free July
- 2-9 ..... NAIDOC Week
- 2 ..... Village Connect coffee catch-up, Riddells Creek
- 3-13 ..... Kindness Cup, Edgars Mission
- 5 ..... NAIDOC Film - The Law of the Land, Kyneton Mechanics Institute (KMI)
- 6 ..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 6 ..... MRSPAG Mindful Moves, Buffalo Stadium
- 7 ..... NAIDOC Film - The Last Daughter, KMI
- 9 ..... Community Lunch, Woodend RSL
- 10 ..... MRSC Business Webinar – Workplace Communication
- 10 ..... Shadowland, KTH
- 11 ..... Village Connect coffee catch-up, Lancefield
- 12 ..... MRFS: The Secret Lives of Bees, Norma Richardson Hall
- 13... NAIDOC - Yarning circle Riddells Creek Community Centre
- 13/14 ..... Mount Players One-Act Play Festival
- 15 ..... Village Connect coffee catch-up, Kyneton
- 18 ..... Origami for Homeless morning tea, WNH
- 18 ..... Village Connect coffee catch-up. Gisborne
- 17 ..... Knit, Chat and Cuppa - Norma Richardson Hall
- 20 ..... Woodend Masters, past and present players lunch
- 22-28 ..... National Pain Week
- 26 ..... *Garage Girls*, KTH
- 31 ..... National Tree Day, Planting at Hanging Rock

## — AUGUST —

- 3 ..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 16 ..... Opening night *Family Values*, The Mount Players
- 21 ..... Knit, Chat and Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall

## — SEPTEMBER —

- 1 ..... Father's Day
- 13 ..... MRFS: *The Duchess* - Norma Richardson Hall
- 7 ..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 18 ..... Knit, Chat and Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall
- 26 ..... Rotary Footy Pie Night
- 27 ..... Grand Final Holiday

## — OCTOBER —

- 31 ..... Rotary Community Halloween Party, Children's Park

## St Mary's Guild Street Stall

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



## Kyneton Town Hall events

### Shadowland – Creative kids school holiday program



10am and 2pm, Wednesday 10 July

10am and 2pm, Thursday 11 July

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

7pm, Friday 26 July

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!

Imagine...1920s Melbourne – the advent of the motorcar! Society reels from the aftermath of war, and a second wave of Spanish flu wreaks havoc on the streets. Theatres buzz with vaudeville hacks and men with an eye for enterprise seize every opportunity to weasel wealth. Meanwhile, one small woman defies convention and makes her mark.

Meet Alice Anderson. Mechanic. Trailblazer. Entrepreneur.

To purchase tickets to Kyneton Town Hall events, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/buytickets](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/buytickets) or call

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

## Family Values by David Williamson, directed by David Runnalls.



The next production by The Mount Players is a blackly comic drama by the very well-known Australian playwright, David Williamson. The set is being built and the seven cast members are busy rehearsing, with opening night on Friday, August 16. A classic Williamson play, with crackling dialogue, perceptive insight, and fierce humour that skewers hypocrisy, *Family Values* is like your worst family Christmas lunch where deeply held beliefs are pulled apart and long-held resentments resurface...

Roger, a retired High Court judge, is turning seventy. He wants no gifts and no fuss, just quality family time with his wife Sue and their three children. However, the children, Emily, Lisa and Michael, have other things on their minds. Lisa is on a mission to save Saba, a detention centre escapee; all they need are the keys to Dad's holiday home and they'll be on their way. Michael has found religion and is now following God's plan. Emily's marriage has fallen apart with new love found in Noeline, a Border Force boat commander. A simple family birthday get-together, right? Perhaps not!

Nine performances over 3 weekends from Friday, August 16 to Sunday, September 1. Bookings can be made online from our website [www.themountplayers.com](http://www.themountplayers.com) or if you need assistance or have any queries, please call 5426 1892.

SUBMITTED BY KARLANA SANTAMARIA

## Transform Your Space with Woodend's All-in-One Solution for Landscaping and Building

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SUBMITTED BY MEGAN WOOD

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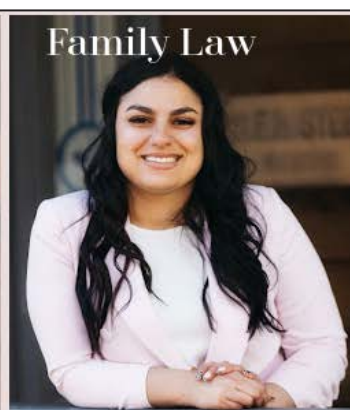
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## Mindful Moves Campaign

Join us for the launch of MRSPAG'S new "Mindful Moves" Campaign: An Integrative Fitness & Mental Health Program

The Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group (MRSPAG) is excited to launch a new initiative called Mindful Moves. This program has been designed to improve the physical and mental well-being of the Macedon Ranges community. This project will run for a twelve-month period, with the first event to be held on Saturday July 6 at 10am to 12pm at Buffalo Stadium in Woodend. The events will be held monthly at different locations throughout the Macedon Ranges, to ensure accessibility for all community members.

The "Mindful Moves" initiative is open to all members of the local community and is aimed at promoting the benefits of physical fitness in promoting mental health and wellbeing. It will feature low-impact circuit training and will be organised by fitness instructors in the Macedon Ranges, who have a passion for improving the mental health of community members through physical fitness. Your personal trainer for the launch event is Adrian Migani, a local Woodend resident who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the program.

The event has been designed to suit people of all fitness levels and abilities. It will also provide an opportunity for social connection amongst participants in a fun, inclusive and supportive environment. As part of the event, there will be discussions about mental health and wellbeing facilitated by MRSPAG members and local

professionals. At the conclusion of the session, there will be some healthy food options available and information about local support services available.

Fitness instructors and personal trainers who have joined the campaign will complete Mental Health First Aid training offered through MRSPAG. This will provide them with valuable knowledge and skills to become better equipped to support their clients' mental health needs.

For more information or to become involved please visit [www.mrspag.com.au](http://www.mrspag.com.au)

To book a free ticket for the launch event held at Buffalo Stadium on Saturday July 6, please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/mindful-moves-launch-event>

Please read more about MRSPAG at [www.mrspag.com.au](http://www.mrspag.com.au)

SUBMITTED BY FIONA LAWFORD

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## Introducing Dr Rory Dwyer

Macedon Chiropractic welcomes new Chiropractor Dr Rory Dwyer to their team. Rory is a Macedon Ranges local and is excited to be able to help clients achieve optimal spinal health and function through chiropractic care.

Rory was first exposed to Chiropractic care at the age of 22 and it has been a part of Rory's life ever since. Chiropractic greatly assists him with the ongoing management of spinal function following major back surgery at 18 years of age.

The effect that treatment has had upon Rory was great enough for him to give up his career as an electrician of 10 years to study chiropractic so that he may assist others in experiencing the amazing benefits that chiropractic care has to offer. Given his own personal experiences, Rory has a keen interest in chiropractic care for children and adolescents in particular and believes that every person should receive chiropractic care not only for spinal health but also for the function and general well-being of the body as a whole.

Rory is available at Macedon Chiropractic on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings. Bookings can be made by calling 5426 3945 or online via our website: [www.macedonchiropractic.com.au](http://www.macedonchiropractic.com.au)

SUBMITTED BY ANNA KENNEDY



## Need help connecting with services?

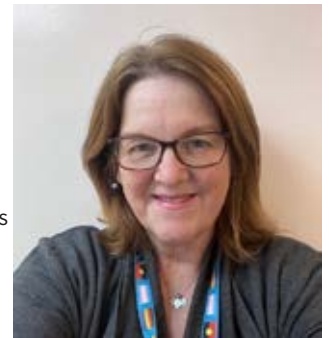
A free service is available to residents of the Macedon Ranges to help them with accessing government and other services. The service provides the opportunity for people to meet with someone in their home or another place where they feel comfortable, to discuss what support options are available to them to help improve their quality of life.

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health's Connection Officer Carolyn Colson says that there can be many barriers to getting the help that you are eligible for.

"Often people are not aware of the funding or the services that are available to them, or they might be unsure how to go about connecting with a service. The barrier might be what they perceive as their lack of computer skills, or they might not feel confident picking up the phone."

Help might include contacting the National Disability Insurance Scheme or Centrelink, or looking at what groups and programs might be available in the local area for people to join.


"There are so many ways people can enrich their lives, achieve greater independence, learn new skills and connect with others," says Carolyn. "I can help navigate what can be an overwhelming amount of information and together we can find the supports that a person wants and needs."









The service is open to people under the age of 65, or under 50 if you are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

To find out if you are eligible for this service, contact Carolyn Colson, Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health's Connection Officer, on 0491 174550 or email [admin@scchc.org.au](mailto:admin@scchc.org.au).

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER



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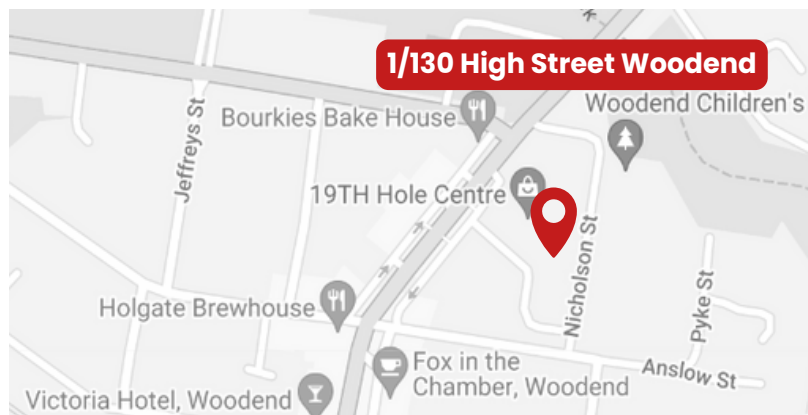
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**YOGA FOR DISABILITY**

For the past 60+ years (50 of those in the Macedon Ranges) I have been teaching yoga to students and to yoga teachers.

The face of yoga is changing. Now people go to a yoga class for weight loss, or maybe for something to connect with others before coffee (it is a starting place). Historically, yoga is a way to enhance the mind, the body, and spirit, and the first step towards meditation. In the core texts written about 4,000 years ago (Pilates is about 70 years old) the only pose was a stable sitting position.

I applaud all of that, however, the yoga I teach isn't trendy. In addition to my studio classes, and teacher training distance education, for the past twelve or so years I have been teaching **YOGA TO THE DISABLED**. Not just physically disabled, but those disabled by addiction, genetic inheritance or trauma. It has been a highlight of my yoga years.

Today I am teaching **YOGA FOR DISABILITY**. Years ago I was funded by an "angel" in my own yoga community. Now I am part-funded by the Anglican Church's Women's Guild to teach yoga at Windarrang. Windarrang itself funds one-third of my teaching and the Church another two-thirds, at least until the end of the year. I am working towards funding for 2025.

Interested? If you know someone in a wheelie or on a walker who could benefit from even one hour a week of stretching, breathing and meditating, I am available (BY DONATION) at The Norma Richardson Hall from Wednesday 17 July at 9.30am. You will not need to get on the floor or even stand. Everything can be done from a chair, or your "chair".

Or if you would like to take your yoga teaching up a notch and become a teacher in this very special area, we do have a new course starting towards the end of the year.

Student, client, teacher – you can reach out to us. Email [yogafirst2@bigpond.com](mailto:yogafirst2@bigpond.com) or go to our web site <https://yogabeautiful.com.au/>

SUBMITTED BY JAHNE HOPE-WILLIAMS – DIRECTOR.

**New Fire Station For Mount Macedon**

Mount Macedon Fire Brigade has welcomed a new fire station, better equipping volunteer firefighters to respond to emergencies and protect the community.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas visited the Mount Macedon Fire Station to officially open the facility and congratulate brigade members.

The State Government provided more than \$4 million to acquire the land and build the replacement station, as part of its work to ensure Country Fire Authority (CFA) brigades have modern infrastructure to keep the community safe.

The fire station includes a three-bay drive-through motor room to house the brigade's appliances and dedicated male and female turnout facilities. The brigade will have access to a new training yard, workshop, brigade office and communications room, as well as a multi-purpose training room with a kitchen.

The station has sustainable features including insulation, seals on doors and windows to prevent drafts, automatic air-conditioning systems, a septic system for sewerage, native plants, and water tanks holding up to 20,000 litres.

For more than 80 years, the Mount Macedon Fire Brigade has served the community. The brigade has 40 members, with 28 of those in operational roles who respond to more than 40 call outs each year.

The brigade responds to fires, explosions, road accidents and rescues, and have assisted in nationally significant emergencies including the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, the 2009 Victorian Bushfires, and the 2022 floods in Echuca and Rochester.

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

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## Delivering a sustainable Budget and progressing Council Plan actions

Council endorsed the Budget 2024–25 and Council Plan 2021–2031 (Year Four Actions 2024–25) at its May 2024 Council Meeting, with this earlier adoption ensuring officers are well-placed to deliver key initiatives from 1 July.

The final documents were informed by months of internal consideration and community feedback, with Council inviting submissions over a four-week period in late 2023 and more than one hundred submissions received (some in support of other submissions).

Through this consultation, a number of important community-driven ideas were able to be allocated funding in 2024–25, such as resurfacing works for the Romsey netball and tennis courts; LED lighting upgrades for the South Gisborne Tennis Club; and essential design works for several other projects.

These valuable initiatives are complemented by a well-balanced Capital Works Program for 2024–25, which includes upgrades to key roads in Baynton, Kyneton, Spring Hill and Woodend; and bridge upgrades in Lancefield, Macedon (Clarke Street footbridge) and Romsey.

Several key projects started in 2023–24 have also had a further allocation of funding to either close out or continue the projects in 2024–25, including Stage 2 of the Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct, the Macedon Ranges Shared Trail Project and the Kyneton Showgrounds netball development.

In relation to Council Plan actions and key policies or plans set to progress or finalise in 2024–25, these include the Kyneton Town Centre Urban Design Framework, the Climate Emergency Response Plan, Council’s Open Space Strategy and several recreational master plans, such as the Macedon Ranges Community Equestrian Facilities Master Plan.

Mayor Annette Death said: “I’d like to thank all those in the community who took the time to provide valuable budget submissions, and to Council officers for their consideration and work in finalising these key documents, in partnership with Councillors.”

“We are living through challenging economic times and not everything we would like to fund is possible within one financial year, but with our available funds – including external government grants – we believe we’ve been able to land on a sustainable budget that supports our community.”

As part of Council’s annual fees and charges review, Council is moving towards a full cost recovery model at the three resource recovery facilities, meaning that services previously provided free of charge – such as dropping off residential green waste and comingled recycling – will now incur a fee.

This follows a directive from the Victorian Government’s Ministerial Good Practice Guide on Service Rates and Charges for Kerbside Collection, with councils being asked to move away from including certain fees in the waste charge of rates notices that are for services not specific to a household. Consistent with a number of other local councils, the green waste disposal charge is set by cubic metre, with a standard 6x4x1 trailer-load of green waste to cost \$13.80. A full list of fees and charges is attached to the Budget 2024–25. “The changes to the way Council factors in certain shared waste charges with rates means that we have to adapt and change some of our business-as-usual, to help our Resource Recovery Facilities to pay for themselves,” Mayor Death said.

“We want to continue supporting our residents by offering important initiatives such as green waste disposal, but this comes at a cost

to Council and it is not sustainable for us to continue offering this for free. We know this is a low-cost measure and ensures we don’t operate at a loss.” The good news for our ratepayers is that due to the introduction of these fees at our facilities, the mandatory waste charges within rates notices will not increase as a result. Council received and disposed of about 50,000 cubic metres in the last financial year, with this number steadily increasing by about 5,000 cubic metres year on year.

The Budget 2024–25 and Council Plan 2021–2031 (Year Four Actions 2024–25) will soon be available on Council’s website at [mrsc.vic.gov.au/budget](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/budget) or [mrsc.vic.gov.au/council-plan](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/council-plan)

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

## Village Connect coffee catch-ups

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



The next round of coffee catch-ups are from 10:30-11:30am as follows:

- 2 July, Riddells Creek
- 11 July, Lancefield
- 16 July, Kyneton
- 18 July, Gisborne

Bookings are essential. Visit: [mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect) or call 5422 0333.

## Kindergarten vacancies still available for 2024

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

Our kindergartens have highly qualified and experienced early childhood Teachers and Educators and, with their beautiful natural features and outdoor play areas, are rich in nature-based and creative learning experiences.

If you are still looking for three and four-year-old kindergarten in 2024, Council still has limited vacancies available, so it’s not too late to enrol.

Online registrations for three and four-year old kindergarten in 2025 are also now open.

For information or to register online, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/kinder-rego](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/kinder-rego) or call our Enrolment Officer on 5422 0239

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A message from your West Ward Councillors

The Gilbert Gordon Netball courts project has had funding carried forward too, due to unanticipated delays, and the Woodend Community Centre project remains a priority advocacy project but needs external federal or state government or private benefactor funding in order to progress.

Many other sport and recreational projects were included in the budget, including:

- Gilbert Gordon social rooms decking and carpet replacement,
- Buffalo Stadium floor renewal and subfloor drainage
- Woodend Tennis Club renewal of courts 4, 5 and 6, following water damage
- Designs for female-friendly change rooms upgrades at Buffalo Stadium

Specific road and drainage projects are also included for Woodend, including Old Lancefield Road and Glens Court.

We would like to thank the Woodend Winter Arts Festival team of dedicated volunteers, committee members and Jacqueline Ogeil, as the executive and artistic director, for yet another successful festival. The town was buzzing over the King's Birthday long weekend, with all events pretty much sold out.

Finally thank you to all who stopped to talk to us on Tuesday 4 June at our listening post in Kyneton. We did talk to some Woodend residents there.

Stay well, safe and warm over winter.

Regards, Jennifer, Mark and Janet

At the May Scheduled Council Meeting, Councillors endorsed both the 2024–25 Budget and action items for Year Four of the Council Plan. These are the final ones for this term of Council.

We thank everyone who put in a submission late last year, and particularly those who followed up with verbal submissions and ongoing work with officers to build business cases to support their requests for funds.

Many changes occurred because of this.

We would like to highlight the inclusion of extra funding for planting of trees in the base budget this year and in future years, along with a short-term staff position to work on translating the Kyneton and Woodend flood studies into the planning scheme over the next few years and a new loan to ensure the Woodend to Riddells Creek shared trail can be completed, hopefully by the end of 2025.

Some important projects to look out for that have been delayed for various reasons, and thus carried forward to 2024/25 financial year include the Shire-wide community Equestrian Facilities Plan and the Woodend Racecourse Reserve master plan. Your submissions to both of these, once they are out for consultation, will be so important in determining the future, and thus funding bids, for this important site.



JULY 22 - JULY 28  
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- Improve lymphatic drainage
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# Plastic Free July® Calendar

## 31 Days of Ideas

<p><b>Choosing one small step</b> <span style="float: right;">1</span></p>	<p><b>Reusing what you have</b> <span style="float: right;">2</span></p>	<p><b>Avoiding bottled drinks</b> <span style="float: right;">3</span></p>	<p><b>Refusing plastic bags</b> <span style="float: right;">4</span></p>		
<p><b>Ditching disposable cups</b> <span style="float: right;">5</span></p>	<p><b>Avoiding pre-packed produce</b> <span style="float: right;">6</span></p>	<p><b>Skipping the straw</b> <span style="float: right;">7</span></p>	<p><b>Choosing reusable utensils</b> <span style="float: right;">8</span></p>	<p><b>Avoiding plastic food wrap</b> <span style="float: right;">9</span></p>	
<p><b>Swapping bottled soaps for bars</b> <span style="float: right;">10</span></p>	<p><b>Choosing plastic free packaging</b> <span style="float: right;">11</span></p>	<p><b>Making homemade snacks</b> <span style="float: right;">12</span></p>	<p><b>Hosting a morning tea</b> <span style="float: right;">13</span></p>	<p><b>Shopping in bulk food stores</b> <span style="float: right;">14</span></p>	<p><b>Choosing loose tea</b> <span style="float: right;">15</span></p>
<p><b>Switching to reusable safety razors</b> <span style="float: right;">16</span></p>	<p><b>Making household cleaners</b> <span style="float: right;">17</span></p>	<p><b>Bringing reusable containers</b> <span style="float: right;">18</span></p>	<p><b>Reducing plastic in the bathroom</b> <span style="float: right;">19</span></p>	<p><b>Dining in</b> <span style="float: right;">20</span></p>	
<p><b>Picking up litter</b> <span style="float: right;">21</span></p>	<p><b>Switching to plastic free stationery</b> <span style="float: right;">22</span></p>	<p><b>Choosing natural fibres</b> <span style="float: right;">23</span></p>	<p><b>Choosing reusable period products</b> <span style="float: right;">24</span></p>	<p><b>Avoiding plastic bin liners</b> <span style="float: right;">25</span></p>	<p><b>Choosing plastic free toys</b> <span style="float: right;">26</span></p>
<p><b>Making deodorant</b> <span style="float: right;">27</span></p>	<p><b>Learning more</b> <span style="float: right;">28</span></p>	<p><b>Travelling with reusables</b> <span style="float: right;">29</span></p>	<p><b>Plastic free celebrations</b> <span style="float: right;">30</span></p>	<p><b>Small steps, big difference</b> <span style="float: right;">31</span></p>	

Join millions of people worldwide choosing to refuse single-use plastic.

## Free advertising for local tourism businesses

Did you know as a tourism operator in the Macedon Ranges, you can have a free listing on the Visit Macedon Ranges (VMR) website, reaching 400,000+ visitors annually?

Run by Council's Visitor Economy team, the website is complemented by VMR social media pages (Facebook and Instagram) plus a monthly eNewsletter reaching even more potential visitors from near and far.

Seasonal advertising, PR, and editorial activity point towards the VMR website, promoting What's On, accommodation options, things to see and do, where to eat and drink, and of course the annual Autumn Festival.

### Highlights:

- Free to list your Macedon Ranges-based tourism business.
- Free to list your Macedon Ranges-based tourism event.
- More than 400,000 users to the Visit Macedon Ranges website (June 23 to May 24)
- More than 12,000 email subscribers to the monthly newsletter database
- More than 15,000 Facebook followers @ macedonrangesnaturallycool
- A growing Instagram following (currently 7,200) @ visitmacedonranges

To create a free listing or update an existing listing, visit [visitmacedonranges.com/sign-up/](http://visitmacedonranges.com/sign-up/)

Have an upcoming tourism event?

List it here: [visitmacedonranges.com/list-your-tourism-event/](http://visitmacedonranges.com/list-your-tourism-event/)

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATION UNIT

## Greater Western Water walks towards reconciliation

Greater Western Water's (GWW) commitment to reconciliation and support for First Nations communities was on display recently as employees took part in a symbolic walk to mark the start of National Reconciliation Week.

With two walks held at our offices in Footscray and Sunbury, the event provided an opportunity for employees to show their support for reconciliation, connect to Country and learn more about First Nations people.

Elizabeth Smith, Community Support Worker from the Sunbury Aboriginal Corporation also attended GWW's Sunbury event, further strengthening GWW's connections to local First Nations people and organisations.

GWW's Senior First Nations Advisor, Aunty Kym Monohan, said the event provided an opportunity to understand and learn more about First Nations histories, injustices, stories and cultures.

"Reconciliation is a journey that we must all embark on as Australians to understand where we have been and acknowledge that there is a dark history to this country," she said.

"It offers an opportunity to look to the future to see what we can do together that will make meaningful change for First Nations people."

Chair of GWW's Reconciliation Action Plan Steering Committee, Kirsty Henry said the event demonstrated GWW's commitment to its vision for reconciliation.

## Dogs on leash on all footpaths

New signs and decals are popping up near designated dog off-leash areas of the shire to remind dog owners that all footpaths in the shire are dog on-leash, even those in designated off-leash areas.

The only exception is Council's two designated timed dog off-leash walking tracks; Campaspe River walk in Kyneton and Five Mile Creek walk in Romsey. Dogs are allowed off leash on the path at these locations between 7.30am – 10am daily.

Footpaths and walking tracks are shared spaces for dog and non-dog owners alike. Ensuring dogs are on a leash increases safety for all users.

Delivering this important message are 'For the Love of Paws' campaign characters Piper the Kelpie, Wombat the Jack Russell and Digs the Golden Retriever.

For more information visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/pets](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/pets)



"Our vision for reconciliation is one that as a society celebrates and protects the cultural and spiritual connections of First Nations peoples to the lands and waters, and that meaningfully and respectfully engages with First Nations communities and Traditional Owners," she said.

"We launched our first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) last year, which not only outlines the steps we'll take towards our reconciliation vision but also emphasises that everyone at GWW has a role to play."

Read about GWW's reconciliation commitments in our RAP at [www.gww.com.au/RAP](http://www.gww.com.au/RAP)

SUBMITTED BY ROSANNA BONACCURSO







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## Plastic Free July: Small steps make a big difference

Together, every small step to avoid single-use plastic adds up to make a big difference!

Reducing plastic waste helps protect the ocean, avoid landfill waste, reduce potential harm to human health and influence business and government.

Participating in Plastic Free July will help you to find great plastic alternatives that can become new habits forever. Join millions worldwide taking steps to end plastic pollution, by choosing a single-use plastic to avoid this July.

Don't worry, Plastic Free July is not about being perfect or totally avoiding all plastic, it is about just doing what you can, where you are. Every person who joins the Plastic Free July challenge makes a real difference. By taking small, practical steps together, participants help to reduce the 300 million kilos of plastic polluting the world each year.

What single-use plastic will you choose to refuse this July?

For information, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/plastic-free-july](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/plastic-free-july)

SUBMITTED BY MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



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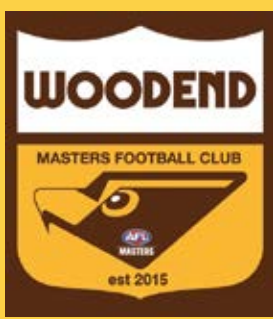
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## Chilts' rare share hands Tool to poster boy Pete

On the first weekend of winter, Woodend ventured south to Sunbury to take on their Masters over 45s team, which our many mid-40s blokes relished for a change as we mostly take on the more agile over 35s teams.

For those of us over 45, more so 50, this makes a difference, especially on Sunbury's home ground that needs an Uber to get you from one end to the other!

As usual, the game was about fun not finals and both teams had a crack without cracking anything ... other than the shits occasionally.

An early Sunday start caught a few blokes off guard having to be on the ground at midday, but this left room to be back at sponsor Holgate Brewhouse for some medicinal ales later that arvo.

Sunbury capitalised on this lethargy and led at halftime, thanks largely to our fellas missing the big sticks. Often. Especially Matt Chiltern!

'Chilts' had made an unexpected season debut having, until this game, saved his footy skills to sledging teammates on WhatsApp and remained unsighted at training.

It showed with a score of 1.6, and the man known for not even passing the sauce at pie nights shocked Pete 'I never train' McBride with a random handball in the goal square, which he duly stuffed up what should've been an easy goal only to kick the post from about 25cm out.

The play earned Pete the Tool of the Day, and 'Chilts' a solid 48 hours of WhatsApp roasting.

By the last quarter the teams were keen on checking the clock for the final siren rather than the score.

So long was the oval, fatigued Gaelic star Ross 'Rossco' Brosnan, who is usually keen for a goal, refused to head forward, so he is now known as 'Wallet' - because he's always in the back pocket.

Luckily Woodend regrouped and overran the Lions to win the game, thanks to some solid work from everyone.

Our boys enjoyed the two-week break before our popular bus trip to Gippsland to take on Wellington. Undermanned on the field we were topped up by some of their players for a great game where no one quite remembered the score, but the rehydration stops were memorable.

The Saturday game was a chance for those who help out with the junior footy on the Sunday to enjoy a game. Although this time sore in places they didn't know they had places, and a little fatigued from the drive.

Coming up on July 20, the seniors club is hosting a lunch for past and present players. If you have been involved with the Masters, this is a great chance to catch up with old mates and cheer on the seniors take on Melton Centrals.

We still welcome new blokes keen to come down to the club and join in whether playing, training or just supporting. Check out our Facebook page for updates.



## 10,000 supported as Pharmacy Pilot passes halfway mark

More than 10,000 consultations have been delivered as part of the State Government's Community Pharmacist Statewide Pilot – ensuring Victorians are getting the basic care they need, without having to wait to get an appointment with a busy local doctor. Ten of the 766 participating pharmacies across the state are in the Macedon electorate. The pilot is passing the halfway mark.

Women are benefitting the most from this fast and affordable everyday healthcare – with more than 5,290 consultations delivered for the treatment of an uncomplicated urinary tract infection and 3,160 for a resupply of the oral contraceptive pill.

Additionally, more than 2,200 Victorians have been able to easily access travel health and other vaccines. Treatment for shingles and flare ups of mild plaque psoriasis were added to the pilot in February this year. The pilot is making it easier for locals in the Macedon electorate to seek the care or advice they need, with 27 per cent of participating pharmacies and more than 20 per cent of total consultations delivered in regional Victoria. With five months left of the pilot, eligible pharmacies are still able to join the pilot with no cap on the number of pharmacies that can join.

Backed by a \$20 million investment – the pilot is making it easier for people to access care without having to repeatedly visit a GP, helping to free up appointments for those who need them and give more viable alternatives than delaying care, going to an emergency department or calling Triple Zero.

It is a clear winner with Victorians – 97 per cent reporting they are satisfied with the service they received and most stating they did not need to seek further healthcare.

The 12-month pilot is guided by experts and clinical groups representing the pharmacy and medical professions – at its conclusion, the pilot will be evaluated, and any recommendations will inform longer-term decision making.

The pilot is just one in a suite of initiatives the Labor Government is undertaking to improve access to timely care, including establishing 29 Priority Primary Care Centres and the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department.

More information is available at [betterhealth.vic.gov.au/services-support/community-pharmacist-pilot](http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au/services-support/community-pharmacist-pilot).

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



Photo: Resident hen at Edgar's Mission



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## Macedon Ranges to benefit from safer roads as funding doubled

Residents of the Bendigo electorate are set for safer road travel following the Federal Government's commitment to progressively double the Roads to Recovery funding over the next five years.

The funding, which will see local government areas (LGAs) within the Bendigo electorate receive \$41.37 million over a five-year period, will reach \$1 billion nationally from 2027/28.

The five-year allocation for the Macedon Ranges Shire Council is \$12,082,745, an increase of \$5,476,664.

Roads to Recovery provides funding to local councils and allows them to plan for the long-term maintenance and upgrade of their road network.

The program directly impacts the quality of our local roads, allows for potholes to be filled, pavements to be repaired, culverts to be installed to improve drainage and keep roads open during bad weather, and helps makes sure we all get home safely.

The increased funding is part of a series of changes aimed at strengthening investment in safer, more productive local roads across Australia.

The Black Spot Program will also rise from \$110 million to \$150 million per year, meaning more money for improving some of the most dangerous sections of our roads.

The new Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program has \$200 million available per year, \$50 million more than was available for the two programs it replaced.

For more information, visit <https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/about/local-initiatives>.

SUBMITTED BY BILLY MCNALLY OFFICE OF LISA CHESTERS MP



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Authorised by MA Thomas, Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goodie Street, Gisborne



## Delivering a new waiting room for Woodend

The State Government will be giving passengers more comfortable journeys following construction of a new and modern waiting room at the historic Woodend Station.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas announced the Government's \$1.3 million project to upgrade Woodend Station's waiting room is now complete. The new waiting room has taken inspiration from the existing heritage-listed station building on Platform 1, with curved steel verandah columns and a corrugated roof.

"The Woodend Station has been an integral part of the community for more than 160 years and these vital upgrades will ensure passengers can continue to use the station in comfort and style well into the future," said Ms Thomas.

Along with reverse-cycle heating and air conditioning, the facility has improved accessibility for passengers, including mobility aid spaces and automatic sliding doors. It will be fitted with public announcement speakers and CCTV cameras.

Woodend is a key passenger hub on the Bendigo, Echuca and Swan Hill lines with on average around 2,500 trips passing through the station each week.

The new waiting room at Woodend is part of a package of works recently completed to upgrade facilities at four stations along the Bendigo Line.

At Woodend, upgrades were also carried out to the roof and verandah of the existing building along with improvements to the drainage system.

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

## Bringing celebrations to the regions with Youth Fest 2024

Young people across regional Victoria are receiving support for youth-led events and activities at the month-long Youth Fest 2024, through State Government grants.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas announced in June the four local organisations that will each receive \$2,000 in grants to host events and activities led by and for young people in the district as part of Youth Fest 2024, to be held in September this year.

The recipients are:

- Braemar College: Building display cases to celebrate and showcase the creative talents of students, faculty, and local artists.
- Daylesford Secondary College: 'The Crew', a group of thirteen Year 9 students playing a pivotal role in driving youth-led mental health initiatives, and who are actively engaged in developing and implementing initiatives aimed at promoting mental health awareness.
- Kyneton Community House: The KCH Talent Fiesta will bring young people together from different high schools to enjoy an inclusive and fun evening.
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council: Maker's Market will have live music performances, all led and co-designed by committees of young people.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP congratulated the recipients of the grants in the Macedon district for their successful projects. "Youth Fest 2024 is so valuable for our local young people to express themselves creativity and become engaged with youth from across Macedon."

Successful recipients of \$220,000 in grants for 110 recipients statewide include schools, local government and community organisations, each receiving a grant of up to \$2,000 to create exciting and interactive events for young people across Victoria.

Almost half of this year's Youth Fest events will take place in regional and rural locations.

Activities for young people range from a Taylor Swift trivia night in Greater Shepparton, a pop-up cinema in East Gippsland to GeekCon in Wangaratta, focusing on all things comic and pop culture.

Youth Fest will be held in September, with young people to organising and delivering events, showcasing their skills, sharing ideas, building social connections, and expanding their networks, with the help of the Youth Fest grants.

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



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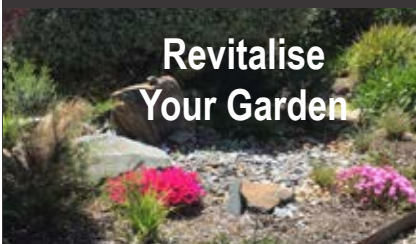
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Linara by Romo celebrates its 25th year as a beautiful plain linen union. Setting Linara apart, texture, colour, durability and practicality combine in equal measure, culminating in a timeless quality that surpasses all expectations.

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winning the hearts of many over the course of its 25-year reign. Its unrivalled palette, which began with just 44 colours, has evolved over time, and now includes 385 shades that emphasise the importance of colour and the joy that it instils.

Versatile and practical in every sense, Linara is washable and is as equally magnificent for embellishing windows as it is transforming furniture. Be it the coordinate or the statement, Linara symbolises thoughtful design, where every aspect has been considered, resulting in a go-to fabric that remains incomparable.





## Dive in! Make the most of Council's aquatics facilities

Council prides itself on offering fantastic swimming facilities for our community. Whether you're a seasoned swimmer or just starting out, our pools provide a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone.

Below we've provided some swimming and safety tips to make your aquatic experience an enjoyable one:

### The benefits of swimming caps

As part of our commitment to excellence, we encourage all swimmers, especially our youngest ones, to wear swim caps. Here's why:

- Improved hygiene: swim caps help keep hair out of the pool, significantly reducing the amount of hair in the water and improving overall cleanliness. A cleaner pool means a healthier and more enjoyable experience for everyone.
- Enhanced performance: swim caps reduce drag, allowing swimmers to glide through the water more efficiently. This means kids can focus on improving their technique, leading to more effective lessons and faster progress.
- Hair protection: chlorine can be harsh on hair, making it dry and brittle. Swim caps provide a protective barrier, keeping hair healthier and more manageable, especially for those with longer locks.
- Increased visibility: brightly coloured swim caps make it easier for instructors and parents to spot swimmers in the pool. This enhanced visibility boosts safety and ensures that supervision is always top-notch.
- Comfort and focus: keeping hair out of faces helps swimmers stay focused and less distracted, making their swimming experience more enjoyable. A comfortable swimmer is a happy and more engaged swimmer.

Our facilities at Gisborne Aquatic Centre, Kyneton Sports and Aquatic Centre, and the outdoor pools in Woodend and Lancefield are equipped with everything you need for a great swim.

### Stay focused! Watch your children, not your phone.

With indoor winter activities in full swing, Council reminds parents and guardians about the importance of active supervision at our aquatic facilities.

Our Watch Around Water (WAW) campaign is designed to keep children safe by ensuring constant vigilance from those responsible for them.



#### Active supervision guidelines:

- Children under 5 years must be within arm's reach of a parent or guardian at all times. If they're in the water, you must be too.
- Children under 10 years must be accompanied and constantly supervised. Parents or guardians should always have a clear and direct view of the child.

#### Why it matters:

- Prevent accidents: even competent swimmers can get into trouble. Immediate intervention can prevent serious incidents.
- Quick response: it only takes 20 seconds for a child to drown. Constant attention is crucial.

#### Avoid distractions:

- No phones/books: keep your focus on your child. A moment's distraction can lead to tragedy.
- Stay present: If you need to step away, ensure another responsible adult is watching your child.

By following these guidelines, we can all contribute to a safer and more enjoyable swimming environment.

For information about Council pools and other recreational facilities, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure)

## Casual indoor junior sports programs

Council runs casual indoor sports programs for young children aged 1-5 years at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend every Wednesday and Friday morning during the school term. Perfect for keeping kids active during the colder months!

**Active Kids Sports** – children use a range of equipment from soccer, netball, hockey, basketball and more. Children will learn skills for catching, rolling and throwing in a fun environment. Wednesday mornings, 10-10,45am Wednesday mornings. For ages 3-5 years.

**Kindagym** – children develop gross motor skills, confidence, balance and social skills. a fun class with free play option for children to explore the array of equipment on display.

Friday mornings, 10-10,45am for ages 1-3 years; 11-11,45am for ages 4-5 years.

For information or to book term-based programs, email [buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au)

## Kids dance classes in Gisborne

Join the 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](mailto:studio2tinytackers@mrsc.vic.gov.au)



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## Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club

The weather has made a dramatic change over the last few weeks from beautiful shining days to now bitterly cold. But there is still the sturdy group, keen to get out in the elements and play petanque.

On May 31, a small group of members headed to Campbell's Creek, near Castlemaine, for a few games of petanque and to enjoy the sunshine. There was coffee and a delicious lunch to be had at Five Flags Merchants cafe nearby.

We played two triples games at the reserve before lunch then returned to continue play for another three or four games. The pistes were very flat and stony, as it had been raining, so it was a little easier than in the summer when they are flat, dry and hard!

The next day, Saturday 1 June, our Golden Boule Tournament began with a team of 10 players from the Maldon Petanque Club arriving to be part of the challenge for the Golden Boule trophy. After play, most of us gathered at the Full Moon Saloon in Woodend for some sustenance, which was a great way to get to know the team we had just challenged!

The Golden Boule is a tournament of five rounds held over two months, every second week, with a mixture of teams from Maldon, the Pyrenees, Ballarat, Mt Macedon and Smythesdale meeting at the various clubs. The relaxed format encourages our newer inexperienced players to think about rules, tactics and the etiquette of the game.

For any enquiries regarding joining our club please email: [president@petanqueattherock.com.au](mailto:president@petanqueattherock.com.au)

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER



### Norm and Mike win Men's Pairs.

Mike Dornau and Norm Bickerdyke played Tony Lennie and Rob Smithies (pictured left to right) in the Final of the Woodend Men's Pairs, over 16 ends in beautiful sunny conditions. Norm and Mike shot out of the blocks with a 7-0 lead after two ends, before Tony and Rob fought back to 9-6 after seven ends. It was then 18-7 after eleven ends and then 19-10 after fourteen ends. The game ended on 21-10 after 15 ends, with no need to play the last end, due to an 11-shot lead with one end to play. Congratulations to the finalists and winners.

It was Norm's second club championship this season, having won the Men's Singles and also Mike's second having won the Mixed Pairs with wife Anne.

### Tony wins 100-up

The Club 100-Up Final was contested by Tony Lennie and Rob Smithies in cool, overcast conditions, with the first player to score 100 being the winner – the four closest bowls are scored 4-3-2-1. Tony got away to an early lead and never looked back, leading 35-16 after five ends, 66-34 after ten ends and winning 106-44 on the fifteenth end. Thanks to Mark Paterson for marking.

It was Tony's second club championship, having won the 21-up final and also making the final of the Men's Pairs and Mixed Pairs, while this was Rob's second final having played with Tony in the Men's Pairs.

Thank you to all players who contested the club events this season, and congratulations to all who made the finals and to the eventual winners.

### New Committee Elected For 2024-25

The Woodend Bowling Club recently held its Annual General Meeting, which included the election of new office bearers for the 2024-25 year.

It was a good attendance by members, with reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer, with all major positions then declared vacant for the new year.

The new Committee was elected: President Mike Dornau returning for a ninth consecutive term, Vice-President Mark Paterson, Secretary Rob Smithies and Treasurer Tony Lennie. There were five more nominees for committee positions and those elected were Gary Dryden, Arthur Jewel, Stephen Pickles, John Shaw, Trevor Sturt and Geoff Symons. A huge thank you to outgoing directors for their significant contributions for many years.

Match Committee-Selectors: Derek Barber, Arthur Jewel, Mark Paterson, Stephen Pickles, John Shaw and Trevor Sturt.

Thank you to all members who nominated for these important positions for the next 12 months.

For more information please call 5407 9220 or visit our website at [www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com](http://www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com). You can also follow us on Facebook.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLS CLUB

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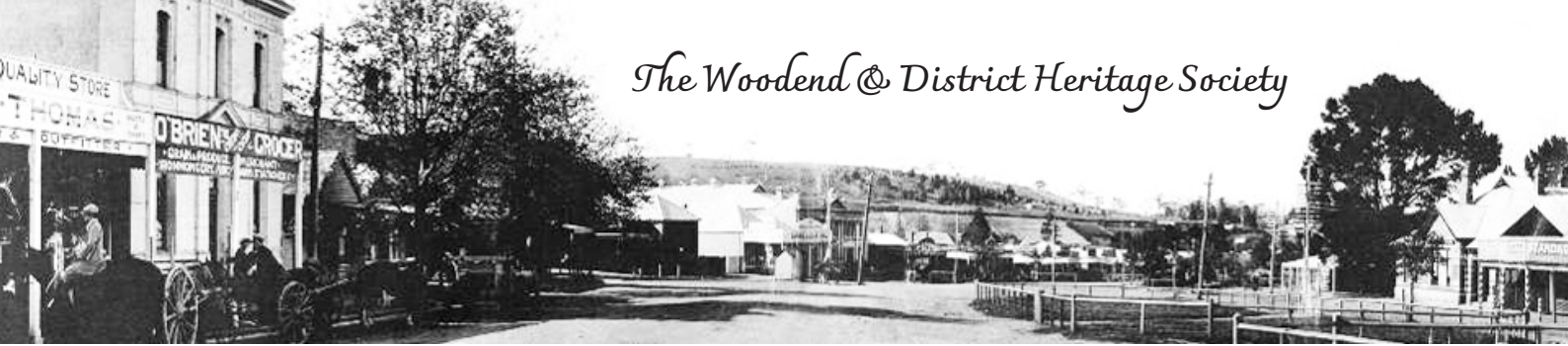


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## Stumpton – a pioneering family's home

The weather was 'one incessant rain, hail and snow', wrote Kate Daniel in her first winter in Woodend. In 1857, brothers Charlie and Louis Daniel had travelled in their spring cart from their farm at Bulla to Woodend to look for land for another farm. Their mother Mary, widowed when 43, had come to Melbourne from England in 1852 with ten children, one having died at eight months, determined to farm. Four sons had preceded her in 1850. The second farm comprised 130 acres on the corner of Mt Macedon and Boundary roads, and so started the long involvement of the Daniel family with this township.

In June 1857, the four Daniel brothers Charlie, Louis, Henry and John, built a log hut as their home. The all-essential fireplace was about ten feet wide and eight feet deep and warmed the house all winter. In 1858, another brother Frank and his wife Kate and their two little boys moved to Woodend from a tent on the goldfields. Kate would keep house and Frank would work on the farm or in the area. Their mother Mary was pleased that the boys would have Kate to look after the domestic affairs. Before their arrival the house was enlarged to accommodate them. Frank and Kate made it their permanent home and named it Stumpton.

The family bought another property of 283 acres in the parish of Newham and called it Rock Hill and also built a house there. Meanwhile, Stumpton was enlarged to include four rooms – a

kitchen, a sitting room, Frank and Kate's room and Charlie's room. There was a little dairy and the brothers ran cattle, grew hay and split post and rails for sale. The family continued to run the Bulla farm and to visit each other and write regularly. As the family grew, some members dispersed around the country, but Kate and Frank stayed. Frank died in 1909 aged 80 and Kate in 1924 aged ninety-four. Until her death, Stumpton drew this large and close family back for many joyful Christmas and Easter celebrations.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLT

Photo 896: Back view of Stumpton in 1902



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## Sacred Heart College - Celebrating 135 Years

It is quite remarkable to reflect on the courage, vision and faith of the five Sisters of Mercy who arrived in Kyneton 135 years ago and opened Sacred Heart College on Monday 29 July 1889. I can scarcely imagine the differences that have occurred in education since that time, yet Sacred Heart College in 2024 maintains a direct link to these inspirational women through our shared Mercy heritage.

Originally situated in Wedge Street adjacent to St Joseph's Primary School and the Convent of Mercy, Sacred Heart College moved to its current site on High Street in 1907. Over the next century, the school educated generations of young women and men, many of whom still regard the school and its teachers with great fondness and regard.

Maintaining its rich history of Catholic education in the Mercy tradition, Sacred Heart College has embraced the challenges of 21st Century schooling through its commitments to exemplary learning and teaching, authentic relationships and holistic education. The core values of Mercy education – service, hospitality, justice, compassion, respect and courage – inform all aspects of College life and provide a clear link back to the lives and work of our founders.

Sacred Heart College looks with expectation and enthusiasm to the future, one celebrated beautifully by the College's motto, "Semper Fidelis", Faithful Always.

Dr Darren Egberts,  
Principal



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### Enrolments Closing Soon

Enrolments for Year 7, 2026 close on 26 July, 2024 (students currently in Grade 5).

Contact the College Registrar for enrolment enquiries, or download your enrolment application form via the College website. Don't miss our next College Tour: Monday 24 June, bookings essential.



Scan for tour bookings

