

# Waranga News

Waranga News acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waterways of our distribution area. We recognise their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Published fortnightly since 1978

Serving Colbinabbin, Corop, Girgarre, Kyabram, Murchison, Nagambie, Rushworth, Stanhope, Tatura, & Toolleen

Print Post Approved PP1000007000

RRP \$2.00

A community newspaper  
staffed by volunteers

Thursday 15 February 2024

## Early learning boost from Rushworth IGA

On Tuesday 7 February, Josh and Kyle from the Rushworth IGA supermarket paid the Rushworth Kindergarten & Childcare a visit presenting the children with a cheque on behalf of the IGA.

Rushworth IGA had raised the funds through its Community Chest initiative and presented the children with a donation of over \$500. This will be put to very good use, purchasing resources for the children.

(Right) Kyle from Rushworth IGA presents the children with a cheque.



## School's back in and it's time for some fun at St Mary's (see page 21)





# Stop kidding yourself. If you drink, don't drive.

Thinking about driving after a couple of drinks? Think again.  
If you blow .05 or over, you could face serious penalties,  
including fines, losing your licence, getting an Interlock installed  
in your car and having to blow zero for three years.

**TAC** **VICTORIA**  
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT  
COMMISSION



# Draft Rushworth Place Based Plan – open for feedback

Following months of consultation and community engagement, the Rushworth Place Based Plan committee has approved the draft Rushworth Place Based Plan for the community to review.

Place Based Plans focus on making places better. The process involves looking at, listening to and engaging with community members who live, work and play in a particular place to understand their needs and aspirations.

Over the next six weeks, the Rushworth community members will have the opportunity to read and discuss the contents of the plan and provide feedback before being tabled to Council.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr Rob Amos said the plan is a combination of aspirations and future ambitions sourced from the responses to the in-person consultation sessions and survey back in June 2023.

Feedback in various forms was obtained from 315 people. Topics covered were tourism, events and business, health, wellbeing and culture, infrastructure, natural environments and community participation.

“I’m really excited for the Rushworth community to see some incredible projects in the

draft plan. The plan focuses on four main areas, including quick wins, short projects, medium projects and longer-term priorities,” Cr Amos said.

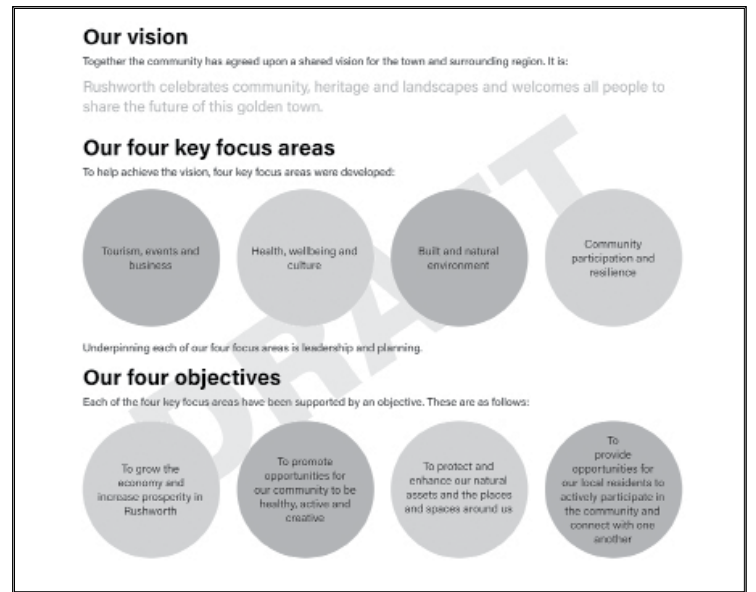
“I encourage you all to read through the plan and provide your feedback.”

The Rushworth Place Based Plan Committee is made up of nine members including Matthew Barlow, Louise Costa, Graeme Hanigan, Mark Labozzetta, Andrew Larkin, Jasmin Le Deux, Crystal Pateman, Sarah Pain and Anne Spittles.

Waranga Ward Councillor, Cr Adrian Weston thanked the committee for volunteering their time to develop this plan and being community advocates for the upcoming plan.

“It’s truly a testament to the community spirit in Rushworth and the love the residents have for their town. The plan focuses on projects and ideas that enhance Rushworth and make it a better place to live for the wider community.”

Residents can read the draft Rushworth Place Based Plan and



The Place Based Plan draft is available to read on Council’s website.

submit feedback via Council’s website or at one of the drop-in sessions in Rushworth.

Submissions close at 11.59 pm on Sunday, 31 March.

To complete the online survey or read the draft plan, visit Council’s website [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/rushworthpbp](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/rushworthpbp).

### Drop-in sessions

**Saturday, 17 February** from 8am – 1 pm at the Rushworth Market

**Thursday, 29 February** from 1 – 3 pm at Rushworth IGA

**Friday, 8 March** from 10 am – 1 pm at Gus and Ollies

**Thursday, 14 March** from 11am – 2 pm at Rushworth Bakery

**The Cottage Ice Cream Shoppe**  
24+ Flavours

- Coffee • Sundae • Thickshakes
- Soft Serves • Hot Dogs • Gifts and more
- Locally made products

M, T & Th: 11am-9pm F: 11am-10pm  
Sat: 10am-10pm Sun: 10am-9pm  
Closed Wednesdays  
18 Moora Road Rushworth  
Ph. 5856 1905

**Rushworth Market**  
Village Green High st, Rushworth  
Saturday 17 February  
8.30am - 1pm

\*Trash ‘n’ Treasure/car boot \*Soaps \*Plants \*Dog treats \*Tools  
\*Crafts /Metal work \*Fruit & Veg \*Clothing \*Knitted items

NEW STALLHOLDERS WELCOME E: [rushworthmarket@gmail.com](mailto:rushworthmarket@gmail.com) P: 0459 520 843

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/rushworthmarket>

Celebrating 4 years in Rushworth.  
Thanks for the local support.

Open: Thurs 1-5, Fri 9-5, Sat/Sun 10-3,  
Monday 9-1  
21 High St Rushworth  
“More than just balloons”  
Phone: 0418 571 673 Bruce & Gwen

**RUSHWORTH METRO FUEL**

Oils, car accessories, food, drinks, snacks, bbq gas, fishing gear, ice and much more!  
American snacks and drinks.

Open 7 days - M - F 6am - 8pm W/Ends 7am - 7pm  
22 High Street, Rushworth, 3612.  
Ph: 5856 1548

# Have your say!

Readers are invited to contribute their letters, opinion pieces and ideas to these pages.

## Buying veggies in the '40s

Late last year Waranga News published a letter from Norma Morgan in which she recalled the presence of a Chinese market gardener selling vegetables in Rushworth in 1942-43.

Known then as "Georgie the Chinaman", he visited Rushworth every Friday in the mid-1940's and I remember him parking his covered wagon during the afternoon in the laneway between the Rushworth Hotel and the butcher shop.

It was shopping day for many district farmers and Georgie would attract plenty of customers; come to think of it, there was no greengrocer in the town although the Elite Café (corner of High and Parker Streets) did sell fruit and vegetables.

Earlier in the day Georgie would do a round of the town's streets, stopping to attend to regular customers.

At the time I was told that Georgie came through the bush, all the way from Nagambie. I have since wondered about that; it would have been a long journey on an unmade road in his horse-drawn wagon.

However local historian Alan McLean assures me that the market gardeners at Whroo would have been long since departed, so perhaps Georgie's garden was down near Chinaman's Bridge at Nagambie.

Does any other reader recall Georgie visiting Rushworth?

Peter McCullough  
Tyabb

## We need your help – volunteers needed

The Rushworth Easter Festival is fast approaching and the committee is looking for volunteers. If you are able to spare a couple of hours to help with anything at all, that would be great.

The Festival is shaping up to be bigger and better this year and we will need more hands on deck. You don't need to join the committee – just come along, meet some new people and help us run this great event.

We need general help with setting up on Friday 29 March – nothing heavy, just putting up bunting, parking signs, locating bins, etc. On Saturday 30 March we need feet on the ground to help with marshalling cars before

and during the parade and helping with the dog show and Easter bonnet parade. During the parade we need attendants along the route to ensure safety.

We will have a general information evening on Tuesday, 20 February at 7 pm at the Rushworth Community House. If you can't make it to the meeting, email rushworthmarket@gmail.com or phone us on 0459 520 843.

Please come along and help to keep our Rushworth Easter festival alive.

Lyn Reade  
Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival

## Cultural hegemony in the Nail Salon?

During some recent visits to a number of nail salons, to "tidy up" and improve the look of my own, misshapen and cracked fingernails, I have been pondering the possible class distinctions between clients and workers.

The salons I have attended have been staffed by workers from Vietnam. The clients are invariably white, usually middle-aged women. Some clients are young, or as in my case elderly, and new to the experience, the system, and the specific terminology.

While studying the colonisation of Latin America, by Spain and the Portuguese, as part of the Diploma of Spanish I am studying online, I have been moved to consider the colonisation of Vietnam by France, with its consequent economic, linguistic, religious and cultural effects on the people of the country. In Latin America, the indigenous people often became slaves, subject to the whims and rule of the colonisers.

So it would seem that similar effects occurred in Vietnam.

In modern Australia, in the 21st century, it appears to me that a cultural hegemony has appeared in the nail salons. The white Australian woman sits with her feet in a bath, while the Vietnamese worker (also female) sits at the feet of the clients, attending to corns, nails and cuticles on the sometimes dirty feet of the clients. The owner of the

feet peruses her book, chats on her phone, but makes little attempt to communicate with the worker at her feet.

It may be argued that the worker has chosen to work in this particular field. Yet what are the factors that have led her to this?

Immigration to Australia in the hope of work? Poverty at home? The need to send a proportion of her earning back home? Contacts already in the industry in Australia? Wanting to make connections with others in the training course she attends?

Why does she put up with the attitude of the clients? How is it that she has to contend with being ignored by these overweight, self-indulgent women? (. . . "myself among them, looming with the worst" - Milton's sonnet on his blindness.)

Why do I say that a cultural hegemony exists in the nail salons? It is because the clients – white, often obese, silent, probably ignorant of she who ministers to them – seemingly give no thought to the attendant, and see it as their right to have this attention, and see it as their right to have this attention, They (we?) become the ruling class because we pay the worker, see the attention as our right: (I've paid for it!) and expect that right shall be exercised. We become the 'Ladies of the Land', and the (usually) Vietnamese women become our servers.

Leonie Lewington  
Colbinabbin



**GUS & OLLIES**

Open Thursday to Monday.  
p: +61 (0) 481 386 981  
e: shop@gusandollies.com.au

**Thinking Concrete?  
Think MAWSONS!**

Mawsons Concrete Tongala  
3 Henderson Rd, Tongala

**5859 0630**  
Mick McWhinney  
0438 626 374 A.H.

**MAWSONS**  
Concrete and Quarrying

Yes, we deliver  
to Rushworth

COLBINABBIN

**GENERAL STORE**

CO-OP

PHONE: 5441 5807 SMS FOOD ORDERS: 0472 569 208

AUSTRALIA POST  
HOURS: 8.30am - 4pm, Mon - Fri  
BANKING: @post bill pay - cheque & cash deposit withdrawals - Money orders - Western Union  
Stocking a wider range of post packaging for all of your business needs - Parcel pick up any time during shop hours - Phone recharge vouchers

SHOP HOURS: 7am - 5pm, Mon - Fri | 8am - 2pm, Sat - Sun  
BREAD DELIVERY: Mon - Wed - Fri  
FRUIT & VEG DELIVERY: Wed - Fri  
MEAT DELIVERIES: Fri order by 3pm Thu

Letters to the Editor are welcome, but must be accompanied by the sender's name and residential address (address not for publication). Anonymous letters will not be accepted. Longer letters may be subject to editing. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Waranga News.

# GV Health seeks community members to help shape the future of health services

GV Health is seeking applications for six new members to join its Community Advisory Committee (CAC) commencing in May 2024.

The CAC is an official GV Health strategic advisory committee reporting to the GV Health Board.

Made up of twelve community members, along with representatives from the GV Health staff and Board, the CAC provides a vital community and consumer voice and perspective to the GV Health Board to help improve health and wellbeing outcomes and experiences for people and communities in the GV Health catchment area.

Committee Chair Simon Humphrey said: "After serving on the Committee for four years, I can say from experience this is an invaluable opportunity to make a real, meaningful contribution to GV Health's mission as we work to grow an outstanding healthcare environment in our region.

We're calling on applicants from every background and walk of life to put themselves forward and contribute to the rewarding work of the Committee over the coming years," Mr Humphrey said.

GV Health Chief Corporate Affairs Officer Tim Cannon said: "Ideal committee members are passionate about healthcare and want to make a difference in the community. GV Health is such a big part of our region, and we're at our best when we work closely with the community we serve."

CAC members are appointed on a voluntary basis for a term of three years with the opportunity for reappointment for a further two years. Applicants must be over 16 years of age and may be current, previous or potential patients of GV Health, or be a carer or family member of someone who uses GV Health's services.

CAC meetings are held bi-monthly, with a total of six meetings each year.

Prospective applicants interested in joining the CAC should contact GV Health Consumer Experience Coordinator Katie Clavarino at [ConsumerPartners@gvhealth.org.au](mailto:ConsumerPartners@gvhealth.org.au) or on 03 5832 2258, to receive an application pack. Applications will close at 5pm on Friday 15 March.

# Become a Youth Action Group member

Campaspe Shire Council is calling upon the next wave of young leaders to join its ranks, fostering a dynamic platform for collaboration and youth-driven initiatives in the Youth Action Group (YAG).

Mayor Rob Amos encouraged young individuals to seize the opportunity to join the YAG, ensuring its diversity and representation of all backgrounds across the shire.

"The Youth Action Group plays a pivotal role in advising the Council, steering youth-focused programs, and enhancing the social fabric for young people in the shire," he said.

"The group performs a vital role, providing a youth perspective on key Council policies, strategies and plans."

## New youth appointment

Newly appointed Youth Community Development Officer Kane Stewart will be working with the YAG to develop programs across the shire. As an active member of the NSW Government Regional Youth Taskforce, Kane has gained valuable experience working on events and programs with young people.

The Mayor said Council is excited to have Kane on board and ready to reinvigorate the Youth Action Group in Campaspe. He encourages young people to reach out to him if they would like to know more about the group.

"Joining the YAG is a fantastic way for young people to learn new skills that can



**Youth Development Officer Kane Stewart.**

help them in other parts of their lives as they attend meetings, organise events and drive youth initiatives," Mayor Amos said.

"Many of Campaspe's YAG previous members have gone on to gain employment, further education and advocacy roles based on their involvement with the group."

Applications to join the Youth Action Group can be completed via the online form on Council's website.

For more information, contact Youth Community Development Officer Kane Stewart on 1300 666 535 or [youthteam@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:youthteam@campaspe.vic.gov.au)



## Natrad Radiators

20 Campbell Street, Shepparton  
 Phone (03) 5821 8500  
 Fax (03) 5821 8462  
[natrad.com.au](http://natrad.com.au)

### Radiator Service

- Car, Truck, 4WDs
- Repairs, Recores & Assemblies
- Industrial & Agricultural
- Air Conditioning
- 3 year Australia wide warranty




*As good as new*

## OUR FRIENDLY STAFF LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU!

Check out our weekly and monthly specials on:

GROCERIES
FRUIT & VEG
DELI

DAIRY & FREEZER
MEAT
LIQUOR

**Free Home Delivery:**  
**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Only - cut off time 12pm**

Phone : 5856 1441

COGHLAN'S

plus LIQUOR

Open 9am to 5pm on Sundays!

## Motofinish Café

Locally Blended Coffee  
 Wholesome Home-cooked Meals & Snacks  
 Available for Functions, Birthday parties & Meetings

Open Wed to Sat 9am - 4pm  
 Sun 10am - 4pm

27 High Street, Rushworth

*Come for a ride and enjoy our home cooked goodies*

Bookings: Fiona 0438 018 192

# New Tractor for Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve

Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve is the proud new owner of a new Kubota tractor thanks to a \$48,500 sponsorship from Community Bank Rushworth & District.

Colbinabbin Town Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Chairperson Dean Wallace said that the Reserve's old tractor had "gears held in with bailing twine" and after three hours of mowing, it used as much oil as it did fuel.

The purchase of the new tractor has seen the time required to operate and maintain the existing equipment greatly reduced. It has also increased the comfort of volunteers who can now avoid exposure to the sun in an air-conditioned cab.

The sponsorship now means that other funds that had been saved by the Reserve's Committee of Management can be allocated into other projects to enhance the community's use of the Reserve as identified in a recent Master Plan endorsed by the Shire of Campaspe.

"The support Community Bank Rushworth & District has provided to the Colbinabbin community and its many community groups, while measurable in funds, is an immeasurable amount in its positive reinforcement and belief in our community," said Mr Wallace.

"The vision and core understanding they have in helping small communities thrive is a genuine credit."

Bank Manager Alek Stokes said it's through sponsorships like these that they hope to better support the community.

"What better way to show our support of local communities banking with us than by reinvesting those funds back into our community, especially in a way that helps an entire town," he added.

Community Bank Rushworth & District considers sponsorship applications each month. To apply for a sponsorship head to [communitybankrushworth.smartygrants.com](http://communitybankrushworth.smartygrants.com)



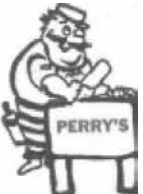
**WARANGA NEWS Yearly Subscriptions**  
\$65.00 posted - \$30.00 online  
5856 1120 or [wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)

**PERRY'S BUTCHERY**

**FOR THE FINEST QUALITY MEATS**

**Stocking:** Bulk Meat Packs  
Local Fresh Vegies  
Ironbark apiaries honey  
Fresh Fish avail Wed Arvo  
Portable coolroom for hire

**3 High Street  
Rushworth  
5856 1437**  
Phone orders welcome




Geoffrey Lipshut

## Accepting Instructions in

- Wills & Estates
- Powers of Attorney both Enduring & Medical
- Property and Conveyancing
- Notary Public
- General Legal Advice
- Secure document storage available

*~ Over 40 years experience ~*  
Personal Service • Reasonable Fees

 **LipshutLAW**

Now at 6 Francis Street Tatura  
Mailing Box 211, Tatura, 3616  
[geoff@lipshutlaw.com.au](mailto:geoff@lipshutlaw.com.au)

**Office:** 5824 1503  
**Mobile anytime:** 0417 134 929

# Wild weather wreaks havoc

Tuesday afternoon's violent storm might have been short-lived but it left a trail of destruction as it passed through. There were numerous reports of trees down from the damaging winds - at the time of going to print it was up to 46 within a 70 km radius. Thunder and lightning accompanied a brief but heavy burst of rain at a timely moment as reports of a fire on Tait-Hamilton Road came up on the VicEmergency app.



One very lucky local man, stopped by a fallen power pole and lines down on the Rochester-Heathcote Road, had just vacated his car when a tree came crashing through the windscreen!

## Council Grants awarded

Campaspe Shire Council has announced the successful recipients of Grants programs for the month of January.

Council's grants programs provide financial assistance to a diverse range of projects and initiatives that contribute to the social, cultural, environmental, and economic development of the Campaspe community.

A large number of applications were submitted for funding in two categories.

### Community Event Sponsorship

Council provided approximately \$7,000 of financial support for upcoming community events across the shire, including:

- Rochester Kart Club Inc. to assist with hosting the Golden Power Series on 17 - 18 February.
- Echuca Moama Mountain Bike Club Inc. to go towards hosting the Ride the Murray on 23 - 24 March.
- Moora Working Draught Horses Inc. to assist with hosting the Moora Working Draught Horses on 31 March.

### Community Equipment Grants Program

Council provided approximately \$4,000 of community equipment grants to provide financial assistance to community groups and sporting clubs. The funds were distributed to:

- Rochester Junior Football Club Inc. to purchase equipment for the Under 12 girls football team training and game days.
- Tongala Football Netball Club Inc. to purchase equipment for the junior netballers program, NetsetGo.

Campaspe Shire Council expressed its gratitude to all the organisations, groups and individuals who submitted grant applications, noting that the level of community engagement and participation highlights the strong commitment towards creating a vibrant and inclusive community for all residents.

Sam  
**BIRRELL MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NICHOLLS



**NATIONALS**  
for Regional Australia

### Roads

Our roads continue to be one of the biggest issues facing people across Nicholls. Our cars have to be roadworthy, so our roads should be car worthy. With a recent wet summer, roads continue to crumble, and I continue to call for more funding from both the Federal and State Governments so the quality of our roads can be improved. Road funding is an investment in our region and importantly an investment in your safety. Last week I attended Road Safe Goulburn Valley's annual meeting where passionate locals, emergency service workers, local councils and Members of Parliament gathered to discuss road safety in our region. It's an important, sobering topic that needs ongoing action from all levels of government.



### Children's Charts

School's back and it's time to practise those times tables and ABCs. My office has free copies of times tables and alphabet charts for school children to enjoy and memorise. Drop by my Shepparton office to grab a copy or email your details to [sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au) and I can post you the charts.



### Grant Opportunity

I continue to remind local organisations to apply for the Strengthening Rural Communities grant program. Funded through the Federal Government, the program aims to support a broad range of projects for rural and regional communities. Up to \$10,000 is available for projects including volunteer support, events, improving community spaces and developing services. For more information or to apply, visit [frr.org.au/funding/place/src-rebuilding-regional-communities/](http://frr.org.au/funding/place/src-rebuilding-regional-communities/)



426 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630 5821 5371

[sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au) [sambirrell.com.au](http://sambirrell.com.au) SamBirrellMP

Authorised by Sam Birrell MP, National Party of Australia, 426 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630.

# Arts & Tourism

Places to stay, things to do and see in our district

This page is proudly sponsored by:



[www.kennedyvintners.com.au](http://www.kennedyvintners.com.au)

## Basketry & Beyond at Kyabram Town Hall

An enthusiastic crowd of around 50 people attended the opening of the **Basketry & Beyond Exhibition at the Kyabram Town Hall Gallery last Sunday** and were treated to a well researched address by **Angie Russi who officially opened the exhibition.**

The amazing basketry can be seen up until 30 March along with the other exhibitions on show at the Hall Gallery.

### Northern Plains Basket Makers Group Statement

Northern Plains Basket Makers is a private, regional group of seven basket makers; all members of Basket Makers of Victoria. Our work reflects our individual focus on technique and materials.

In every civilisation basketry featured in some shape or form. They were an integral part of early culture and evolved in design, size and shape depending on necessity and available materials.

Collecting our fibre is the beginning of the finished basket. Our natural fibres are gathered from various sources, for example, swamps, trees, home gardens, public gardens and parks. We are aware of the importance of natural habitats and the process of gaining permission to responsibly harvest fibres.

Most fibres are cleaned, sorted and dried before being wrapped in paper to be stored for later use. Each type of fibre has its own unique method of preparation. This knowledge has been generously passed on from other basket makers or discovered from the tried and tested method.

Our work may be functional, sculptural or decorative. Our techniques are often explored from traditional methods. As a group we work together to grow and learn our craft, sharing and expanding ideas seen and dreamt.

Each fibre has been touched by the hands of the basket maker.



**Clockwise from above: Some of the patrons enjoying the opening, Vicki Neele, President of Ky Town Hall Gallery with Angie Russi, ceramic artist of Rushworth, who opened the exhibition and some of the work that can be seen and purchased at the Gallery until 30 March.**



**Kennedy Shiraz 2019, Kennedy Cambria (Reserve) 2014, Kennedy Pink Hills Rosé 2021, Henrietta Shiraz 2020  
Henrietta Rose 2022 - all available online and being served at Colbinabbin Country Hotel.**



# Murchison's 2024 Citizen of the Year – Judy Revell

Judy Revell was announced as Citizen of the Year for 2024 at the Australia Day event at Murchison Swimming Pool on January 26th this year. Judy was unable to attend on the day to receive her Award, so an alternative 'ceremony' was arranged for a later date.

At an afternoon tea party held at Wybalena on Saturday 3 February the presentation of the Award Certificate and a superb floral arrangement from Avonlea flowers were made to Judy by Helen Newton who had compiled the submission.

Judy and husband John have recently moved from Wybalena Retirement Village to live at Rodney Park, needing a higher level of care. So it was also an occasion to wish them well and to say a farewell from their friends in Murchison.

Judy (nee Muir) was born in Murchison and grew up on an orchard in Tatura. Most of her married life has been spent in Murchison.

Over the years, Judy has made an enormous contribution to the Murchison community. Perhaps most impressive of all her achievements was her role for 25 years as a Swimming Instructor.

Without exaggeration it is true to say that Judy had hundreds of candidates. Through the 1980s and 1990s all children in the district, which included Dhurringile, Toolamba and Moorilim learnt to swim with Judy and her close friend, Elaine Kenyon, teaching them this important skill. Our rivers, dams and channels are treacherous for non-swimmers and so teaching the ability to swim in the safety of the Murchison Swimming Pool was the driving motivator for Judy.

From 1973 to 2019 Judy was an active member of the capable group of ladies who provided catering for local events. This was originally a Ladies Auxiliary of the Bush Nursing Hospital and when that establishment closed, it became an Auxiliary of DP Jones Nursing Home and so distributed raised funds to those organisations. Events catered for varied from weddings, Masonic Lodge Installations, funerals, 21st birthday parties, and many other celebrations often for more than one hundred people.

Judy has an excellent singing voice and a true ear for music, able to provide tuneful harmony and alto parts to songs. For many years she was a member of the talented theatre group Turaton Music Company.

Another interest was her role as an Assistant for the Girls Guides in Murchison and as a member of the Uniting Church Judy was involved in the Fellowship, Worship and Music aspects.

Judy has, over her life-time, been committed to the improvement and well-being of the Murchison community and is a very well-deserving recipient of the Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award for 2024.

**Kay Ball,**  
**President,**  
**Murchison & District**  
**Historical Society**



Helen Newton was pleased to present Judy with her well-deserved award.

**Helen Truran**  
**Marriage Celebrant**  
Mobile: 0419 529 155  
Phone: (03) 5826 2001  
Email: [hjtruran@gmail.com](mailto:hjtruran@gmail.com)  
*Ceremonies with compassion*

IF YOUR WASHER'S SICK, DON'T GIVE IT THE FLICK  
CALL THE SPIN DOCTOR, HE WILL FIX IT QUICK

**The Spin Doctor**  
WASHING MACHINE REPAIRS

Proprietor  
**KEVIN GILBERT**

REPAIRS TO MOST MAKES AND MODELS  
SECOND HAND MACHINES AVAILABLE

Ph. 0429-354-189

SERVICING : RUSHWORTH, MURCHISON, STANHOPE, COLBINABBIN, TATURA ,  
NAGAMBIE AND ALL SURROUNDING AREAS

**"We pride ourselves on good old fashioned service"**

**MURCHISON SERVICE STATION**  
25 STEVENSON ST 5826 2443

- Mechanical Services & repair
- SG Fleet authorised repairer
- Licensed roadworthy car & motorbike tester
- Pick up & drop back service Monday and Friday within a 25km radius
- New tyres, wheel alignments & puncture repairs
- 24hr car wash & vacuum
- LP gas bottle refills
- Spare parts
- New batteries
- Fishing licenses

Monday to Friday 8am - 5.30pm  
Saturday 8am - 12noon  
Proprietor - Glenn McPherson

sgfleet VACC Accredited Automotive Repairer

Like us on Facebook - Murchison Service Station

**COVERING ALL OF YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS FOR HOME AND BUSINESS. SPECIALISING IN MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS.**

**LEAKS • BLOCKAGES • RENOVATIONS  
GAS FITTING • TAPS • TOILETS**

**LIPSHUT PLUMBING & GAS FITTING**

DAMIEN LIPSHUT  
0499090924 - CALL ME TODAY  
DAMIEN@LIPSHUTPLUMBING.COM.AU

**Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns**



**Around Rushworth**

## We can't count!

You might remember we featured in our Christmas edition a family photo of which we wrote:

"It's not often that you can get four generations of family to be in the same place at the same time."

Well it's even less often that you get five generations together - and of course that's exactly what was happening when this family met up for coffee!



As we can see quite clearly in the photo, the FIVE generations above are (in front) Jim Burrows and Jacarna Miller with baby Hunter Sutherland, and at the back are Vicki Schade and Jacqueline Schade.

Support our advertisers  
who support  
our community newspaper



**Helen Truran**  
**Marriage**  
**Celebrant**

Mobile: 0419 529 155  
Phone: (03) 5826 2001

Email: [hjtruran@gmail.com](mailto:hjtruran@gmail.com)  
Ceremonies with compassion

## Girgarre welcomes new 24/7 defibrillator

Girgarre locals are now better equipped in an emergency following the recent installation of a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which is accessible 24/7 for the community.

Ambulance Victoria (AV) has donated the life-saving device to the Girgarre township following last year's success of the Heart Safe Community Program in Stanhope.

The Heart Safe Community initiative aims to improve survival rates for people suffering cardiac arrest across Victoria by teaching community members how to perform CPR and use an AED when others need it most. This is a joint initiative between Ambulance Victoria and the Heart Foundation.

AV Paramedic and Stanhope Heart Safe Community Coordinator Anita Stirling presented the 24/7 AED to the town's hardworking volunteers, known as the Girgarre Facilities Committee.

"We know that performing CPR and using an AED greatly improves someone's chance of survival in the event of a cardiac arrest. We're excited that this defibrillator will now be accessible to the Girgarre community 24/7 in case it is ever needed," she said.

"We had a really successful Heart Safe Communities program run in the area last year."

More than 150 people were trained in life-saving CPR as part of the Heart Safe Community program in Stanhope and Girgarre.

Girgarre was identified as a suitable location for a 24/7 accessible AED, with Stanhope welcoming five public AEDs during the 12-month program, three of which are available 24/7.

Girgarre Memorial Hall President Dennis Hammond collected the AED recently on behalf of the committee and helped install it on the external

wall of the public toilets behind the hall on Morgan Crescent.

"It will be handy to have it there and the fact that it's available 24/7 is great for the community," Mr Hammond said.

"I know that some people can fear doing CPR, but this machine talks you through it. In an emergency, you just need to call an ambulance (000), don't panic and the defibrillator will tell you what to do.

"Hopefully we never have to use it, but if we do, it's there."

AV Loddon Mallee Director Matt McCrohan said the donation would help people to feel confident to act in someone's time of need.

"Currently about twenty Victorians suffer a cardiac arrest each day and only one in tensurvive," he said.

"Bystander CPR and use of an AED increases a patient's chance of survival by more than 70 per cent.

"Anyone can save a life in three simple steps. Call, Push, Shock: Call Triple Zero (000), Push Hard, Push Fast on the middle of the chest, Shock using an AED."

AV is encouraging community groups in Girgarre to attend Call, Push, Shock sessions to learn how to use their new 24/7 AED in an emergency.

Community groups interested in arranging a small group session can email their request to: [LoddonMalleeRegion.OCELCoordinator@ambulance.vic.gov.au](mailto:LoddonMalleeRegion.OCELCoordinator@ambulance.vic.gov.au)

## Police Beat

**Greetings and welcome to your local police report for the Rushworth Police Service Area, for the month of January 2024.**

The following is a list of reported crimes. Any information in relation to these crimes can be reported to the Rushworth Police Station on 58561000, or by calling Crime Stoppers on 1800333000 if you wish to remain anonymous. Any information is greatly appreciated by both victims and police.

- An aggravated burglary occurred at a property in nearby Bailleston on Saturday 06/01/24. A motor vehicle was stolen, and four young offenders were arrested in Rushworth later in the day. A huge thanks to numerous locals who assisted police at the time.

- A theft from motor vehicle occurred at a property in McNamara Road Toolleen, between 5.00 p.m. on 08/01/24 and 11.30 a.m. on 09/01/24. A window was smashed with a chainsaw and three grease guns being stolen.

- On 27/01/24 a theft occurred at a High Street Rushworth business. Alcohol was stolen, and a 24 year old male from Seaford was arrested when police arrived. The male was charged with theft and drink driving offences, and will appear at the Echuca Magistrates Court at a later date.

- Local members also attended three family violence incidents during the month.

That is our list of reported crimes for the month. Our crime has remained low in comparison to nearby areas. This is largely due to locals contacting police when these

incidents are occurring. Please continue to report any suspicious behaviour. The best number to call is 000 as we are often not at the station to take calls.

Now on to other matters of local interest. Members issued a total of 22 speeding infringement notices for the month. This is still way too high, especially with our road toll recently. Unfortunately, our highest reading was 167 in a 100 zone. I normally try to keep my personal thoughts out of things, but this is just a disgrace! Not only did this person put their own life on the line, also everyone else out on the roads. Thankfully, they are off the road for 12 months and hopefully will appreciate the licence more in the future.

The road works in High Street are coming along. The 40 kph speed limit will continue to be enforced until they are finished.

I had a lovely coffee with Lucky at the Servo recently. It's great to have this business in town, so please continue to support our locals when you can.

Well, that about wraps up another police report. Please stay safe out on the roads, until we chat again.

*All the best,*  
**Ldg. Sen. Cons Steve Thomson**  
**Rushworth Police**



# Colbo Tit Bits

Proudly Sponsored by **REID** Stockfeeds | Trusted Performance

## Happy Birthday, Rhonda



A birthday toast to Rhonda Risstrom with (L-R) Rosemary McIntosh, Barb Cheatley, Jenni Rathjen, Belinda West, Louise Barlow and Lou Rathjen only too happy to join in any celebration involving cake and a some liquid refreshments.

## At Colbo bowls . . .

Colbo bowls training on Thursday night was one out of the box with the presence of special guest Alex Marshall.

Alex 'Tattie' Marshall is a record-breaking Scottish bowls player. He is a six-time World Indoor Singles Champion and has won seven World Outdoor Championships as well as four Commonwealth Games gold medals - just to mention a small portion of his achievements.

Marshall was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2007 New Year Honours for services to bowls.

It happened to be Alex's birthday on Thursday so they surprised him with a birthday cake made by Jenni Rathjen and an enthusiastic bowlers' rendition of Happy Birthday.



### Grandchildren everywhere

The Wright clan is doing some building up of the family tree with the birth of three babies added to the family tree.

1. Angela, (daughter of Julie and Michael Price) and Michael James have a son, Beau Michael at Mulwala.

2. Joseph (son of Jennie and Steve Hayes) and Caitlin Hayes have a son, Lenny William, born in WA.

3. William Hayes (son of Jennie and Steve) and Demi Taylor, have a daughter, Olive Jennifer in Colbinabbin.

### Save the date

Colbinabbin Silo Art Picnic and Wine Festival – Sunday 5 May 11am to 3pm

### Ecumenical Lenten group

Colbinabbin's ecumenical Lenten group has started up for the six weeks of Lent. The group meets at 2pm on Mondays at John and Glen Avard's. You're welcome to join us for some faith sharing, prayer and a nice hot cuppa to finish off.

### Happy Big-0 birthdays

We hear there's been some celebrating in the Lewington household, with Claire having just reached her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday last week and Mother Leonie ready to celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> next Sunday. Happy Birthday to you both.

### Community Men's Shed

The Colbinabbin Community Men's Shed has started up again after the school holidays (hot weather!). It's a sociable way to get some jobs done with a bit of helpful advice and a yarn together over a bring you own barbecue lunch. Ring John Avard if you want to know more 0458 505 597.

### Cemetery Trust Mowing Roster

(lawn section only)  
February - Geoff Weppner  
March - Ray McEvoy

## Silo Art Picnic and Wine Festival

The Colbinabbin Silo Art Picnic and Wine Festival 2024 committee is pleased to announce the event's special guest, entertainer and ambassador, artist: Wilbur Wilde.

Tickets sales will be through Try Booking, opening early March - the event this year will cater for 750 patrons. Adult tickets \$40, children under age 18 years of age – free.

Event date: Sunday 5 May from 11am-3pm. Stay tuned for further updates.



MaryAnn Morgan (Chair Silo Art Committee with artist Wilbur Wilde).

### Colbo Diary

Tuesdays - Colbo Pub Choir 5pm  
Thursdays - Men's Community Shed

#### February

Mon 19 Ecumenical Lenten group 2pm

#### May

Sun 5 Silo Art Picnic and Wine festival 11am-3pm.

### FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

Feb 18 Ramon Rathjen, Daryl Rathjen

Feb 25 Peter Morgan, Trevor Brown

If unable to attend for duty, call Chris/Leo.

Siren, radio and test pager at 9am. Crew member should ensure the siren and radio tests are carried out. Vehicles should be checked for fuel and taken for a road test.

### LIBRARY

Wed 21 Feb Margery West  
Wed 28 Feb Janice Tait



# Rushworth Community House

Your local Access Point for Medicare, Centrelink & other Australian Government Services



OPEN : Mon Tue Thu - 9 am to 3 pm : Wed Fri - 9 am to 1 pm

67 High Street Rushworth Vic 3612 Phone: (03) 5856 1295

Email: [admin@rushcomhouse.org.au](mailto:admin@rushcomhouse.org.au) Web: [www.rushcomhouse.org.au](http://www.rushcomhouse.org.au)



## Nothing beats a bit of local learning

That's right! What's better than broadening your horizons, improving your skills and making friends right on your door step?

This year, the Rushworth Community House is dedicated to promoting our Learn Local program and we have a number of quality activities that are open to everyone.

As always we look forward to seeing you at the House!

- We would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new volunteers at the house! Cathy Davey will be joining the ladies on the front desk and Cameron Egan is our new community transport driver. Thank you Cathy and Cameron, we look forward to getting to know you!
- Our AGM is being held on Wednesday 28 February at 7pm in the multi-purpose room at the Community House. All welcome.
- We are currently looking for a Yoga instructor and would love to hear from anyone suitably qualified.

## Wicking Beds

Have you ever been interested in wicking beds? Why not come along to our course? Running during the first two weekends of March our Wicking Bed course will cover the basics of growing food in wicking beds (provided by Very Edible Gardens). The course will also include an information session and a BBQ/pizza lunch. We still have spots available so give us a call today to reserve a place!

## Strength and Balance

Strength and Balance returned this week and it was great to see Chris front and centre again. We had a very good turn up which always makes us happy. Not just for our 'stats' of course but mostly because it's great to see older people taking good care of themselves. The benefits of a class such as this include reduction in the risk of having a fall, confidence building, improved wellbeing, better balance, improved concentration, improved stamina and increased muscle mass. All incredibly important things as you age. Why wouldn't you have a go!



## Quilting Group

We welcomed back the wonderful members of our Quilting Group last week! The House would not be the same without the chatter and occasional bursts of laughter emanating from the multi-purpose room each Wednesday. We are pretty sure some sewing goes on too! In fact two of our ladies finished their quilts late last year. If you know anything about quilting this is no mean feat. We look forward to a fun year with this group and hope very much to welcome some new members! Don't be shy – contact the House today!



## Digital Essentials

This course has been going great guns for two weeks already with our talented Mitchell leading the class. More and more people are learning the basics of the wonderful world of technology making it all seem less scary and overwhelming. What a satisfying feeling to come away from a class feeling technologically empowered. We are delighted to say the course is booked out. If you are interested we may consider running another one at the end of the year so please let us know.



# NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.**

Lots of activity at the Op Shop as the volunteers make the most of a quiet patch while the streetscape is completed. The works are giving everyone time for a good sort and clean up.

The furniture shed is also undergoing a makeover, with many thanks to Graeme and new volunteer, Trevor. Unfortunately, three trailer loads of broken and damaged good have been taken to the tip. Please check before you leave your donations at the op shop ask yourself ‘would I buy it?’ or ‘would I expect my friends or family to buy it?’ If the answer is no, please don’t expect us to sell it.

The cost of tip fees comes out of the money that could go to buy food for the community.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Foodbank workers (welcome new member Cameron!) are gearing up for the big move back to their home at 33 High Street – not long now. Watch out here for more news coming!**

## A bit of Op Shop history – with a nod to Wikipedia

A charity shop (British English), thrift shop or thrift store (American English and Canadian English, also including for-profit stores such as Savers) or opportunity shop or op-shop (Australian English and New Zealand English) is a retail establishment run by a charitable organization to raise money.

One of the earliest known charity shops in the United Kingdom was set up by the Wolverhampton Society for the Blind (now called the Beacon Centre for the Blind) in 1899 to sell goods made by blind people to raise money for the Society. During World War I, various fund-raising activities occurred, such as a charity bazaar in Shepherd Market, London, which made £50,000 for the Red Cross.

were opened. A condition of the shop licence issued by the Board of Trade was that all goods offered for sale were gifts. Purchase for re-sale was forbidden.

The entire proceeds from sales had to be passed to the Duke of Gloucester’s Red Cross or the St John Fund. Most premises were lent free of rent and in some cases owners also met the costs of heating and lighting.

However, it was during the Second World War that the charity shop became widespread. Edinburgh University Settlement opened their “Thrift Shop for Everyone” in Edinburgh in 1937 and the Red Cross opened up its first charity shop at 17 Old Bond Street, London in 1941.

The first Oxfam charity shop in the United Kingdom was established by Cecil Jackson-Cole in Broad Street, Oxford, and began trading in December 1947.

For the duration of the war, over two hundred “permanent” Red Cross gift shops and about 150 temporary Red Cross shops

## The Granny Square Rug

The bright, bright colours, the wonky squares,  
The textured patterns, the wool that tears.

I sit on the railing – all forlorn  
Thinking back to when I was born.

Someone’s mother, someone’s nan  
A sweetheart who makes a rug for her man.

The colours chosen to suit a bed  
So a loved one is thought of when you lay down your head.

Each square is crafted with love in her fingers

And the hope that her love for you will always linger.

But many years have passed since then  
And now I’m not in fashion,  
So here I hang, my colours old, and white is now the passion.

Machine made throws in beige and taupe, the young ones much prefer,  
But, oh, the love they miss out on when buying modern gear.

*Heather Wellington*



## Be a joiner!

**Would you like to be more involved with your local community?**

**Many local clubs and organisations are looking for new members.**

**What you can find:**

- good fellowship
- chance to meet people
- lasting friendships
- service to community
- new skills
- leadership
- personal development
- ... and more!



## *Fifty Years ago in our district...*

Looking through the pages of past 'Rushworth Chronicles'  
.....compiled by former district resident Alan McLean



### **Slim pickings in February of 1974**

Finding highlights from Rushworth Chronicle's first two editions in 1974 is mighty difficult. There was so little news. A full page advertisement for Rushworth Printing Company, which printed the Chronicle, was used to fill space. One edition had tennis teams on the front page! Another issue had a map of the site of a scout jambouree near Adelaide! Also published was a hand-drawn map of the local swamps and reservoirs, to assist local duck-hunters.

The opening of duck season featured fine enterprise by Colbo Football Club which sold hamburgers on the Saturday morning from a caravan in the main street. A bright local was heard to ask, "Why do they call it Two-Tree Swamp?"

A fuzzy photo was published showing Neville Toohey in his job as a fire spotter at the top of the Growler's Hill. "Neville is a full-time Forest Commission employee, now in his fourth summer on the tower." There was no cabin on the tower to protect from wind and rain. There was a phone to the Rushworth telephone exchange to raise the alarm, and a radio unit capable of speaking to other regional fire towers including Mt Ida (Heathcote) and Mt Hickey (Seymour).

Murchison branch of the State Savings Bank of Victoria had a new manager, Mr Graeme Murray.

### **Schools**

Woodburn Camp near Yea was descended upon for a week by 28 students from Rushworth Primary School, after being given a little chat by Mr Mackinder, the headmaster. Teacher Mr Cogan led the way, accompanied by mothers Heather Hawking and Mary Beck.

St Mary's school welcomed Robert Tupa, a teacher from the U.S. state of North Dakota. His new wife Virginia came to teach at the High School. Miss L. Kaldor also joined High School staff from North Dakota, as did Mr D. Stimson from London.

### **Community**

Rushworth CWA had celebrated Australia Day at the home of Mrs Fenton, and a competition to identify a group of famous Australian women from their photographs was won by Mrs Lotte Kennedy. (Mother of Elaine Francis.)

Rushworth Scout Leader, Keith Taylor, had taken scouts Peter Damon, Wes Draper, Peter Rhodes, Ross and Noel Perry, and Malcolm McLean to Woodhouse near the Mt Lofty Ranges in South Australia. 12,000 scouts attended the ten-day jambouree. Obstacle courses, creek crossings, canoeing,

rock-climbing and many other physical routines were taught and practised. (*Imagine the collective smell of the socks!*)

Rushworth Guides had been collecting and baling waste paper. Peter Cleary's semi-trailer took ten tonnes to the Australian Paper Mills plant at Broadford, and the Guides made \$100.

The Rushworth Old Boys and Girls Association was due to hold its annual picnic gathering near the kiosk in the middle of the Fitzroy Gardens. (*Today a picnic may only be held there with a City of Melbourne permit.*)

### **Personal**

Rushworth doctor, Torrance Crosgrave, was found dead at his residence in Esmonde Street, aged just 37, leaving his widow Norma and three boys. He had been active in tennis, golf and Apex Clubs, and part-owned racehorses. (*I well recall the shock around the town and district at this news.*)

Also passing was Eva Martin (nee Mason), a daughter of John and Annie Mason who had once occupied "Paringa Vale", the property at the south end of McEwen Road.

### **Advertisers**

Jack and Norma Hartney were the licencees of the Rushworth Hotel. G. Risstrom and Sons were timber merchants. Jones' Bakery at Rushworth advertised that "It's gotta be Home Pride bread, Fred". Cyclone products were available from A. W. Sleep.

At Murchison, Vin Hare's Murchison Newsagency and Milk Bar promoted their ice creams, cold drinks and sandwiches (which would not have come as a shock from a milk bar) and added "Try our frozen foods" (*which may have been tricky until they had thawed out*).

### **Sport**

Doing well for Rushworth Bowls Associates were Mary Bradley and Val Tuohey of Colbinabbin, Adele Home, Beatrice Borger, Lucy Barlow, Florence Perry and Jean Jessup.

Rushworth Football Club delegates walked out of a meeting of the Heathcote District Football League, after failing to gain approval to play three ex-radius players, reporting that several local players had left the district. Delegates from the other clubs voted to continue as a five-club league if Rushworth made good on its threat to leave.

RFC president Eddie Gleeson announced plans to call a public meeting to endorse the committee decision to leave if the rule about players was not altered.

See! I told you the February 1974 Chronicles were undone for news!

### **Names from The past**

## **Cochrane name goes back to the gold era**

The recent passing of Mrs Kennedy broke a link in the chain of the Cochrane family, a genuine name from the past. Older residents in the Stanhope district will recall sporting stalwart Gilbert "Gilly" Cochrane. Gilly was a pall-bearer in 1933, for the burial of one of his grandmothers. Mrs Susan Cochrane's story was told in the Rushworth Chronicle of 5 May of that year.

"The death occurred on Monday, April 24th, of one of the old and highly respected pioneers of this district in the person of Mrs. Susan Charlotte Cochrane, relict of the late Mr. Donald Cochrane, and mother of Cr. W. E. Cochrane, Stanhope, President of the Shire of Waranga.

The late Mrs. Cochrane was born in Wellington, N.Z. on 14th July, 1853, being well on in her 80th year at the time of her death. She came to Victoria with her parents in 1854 and therefore a colonist of 79 years.

In the "gold rush" days, her parents (Mr. and Mrs. John Clarke) came to Rushworth, where Mr. Clarke carried out a blacksmithing business about the spot where Dr. Heily's surgery stood later. Later on John Clarke opened the famous Welcome Reef at Redcastle, where he also had a hotel and stores for many years. The building is now occupied by Miss McKee.

The late Mrs. Cochrane was married to the late Mr. Donald Cochrane, of Costerfield, in Heathcote, on July 14th, 1875, and after living in Costerfield, moved to Bailieston, where she lived the remainder of her married life, Mr. Cochrane dying in August, 1898.

Some few years after the death of her husband Mrs Cochrane, with her daughters, lived in Nicholson street, Rushworth, where she took an active interest in the Methodist church, being well remembered for her work in that connection.

About 22 years ago she built a home in Essendon, where she resided until five years ago with her daughter Nellie. The illness which eventually caused her death necessitated her removal to Sister Anderson's Private Hospital, in Flinders Lane, where she was until a few weeks prior to her death at the Aged Care Home in East Melbourne.

She was known and loved by a wide circle of friends, and it can also be said that the whole of her life was spent in doing good in whatever direction she could, and anyone in trouble or distress always had a word of comfort or a helping hand from her.

The respect felt for her was evinced by the number who came long distances to the last rites, from Moama, Numurkah, Nagambie, Seymour, Melbourne, Costerfield and Heathcote, as well as the many who knew her from the surrounding district.

The Rev. Mr. Dawes, of Diamond Creek, Methodist minister, conducted the burial service at the Whroo Cemetery, and came all the way for the purpose.

Two sons (Donald and Gilbert) predeceased her, and the living are William Ernest (Stanhope), Lillian (Mrs. Horsburgh, Ascot Vale), Nellie (Upwey) and Eva (Mrs. Davies, Canterbury).

Crs. Walbran, Taylor, Borger and Finlay and four grandsons of deceased (Messrs Leslie, Gilbert and Keith Horsburgh and Gilbert Cochrane) acted as pall bearers.

*Alan McLean*

# 天体联系 **CELESTIAL** **CONNECTIONS** 天体联系

## STORIES OF CHINESE IMMIGRANTS TO THE **WARANGA AREA**

Compiled by Tony Ford

### Murchison Footstone

Like Rushworth, Murchison cemetery has only one Chinese footstone. The only word recorded in the cemetery trust records is Toylock. This is problematic, because it could be interpreted in a number of ways e.g. one word (Toylock) being the name, or two words (Toy Lock) or the prefix Ah could have been used before one or both words as the surname.

We do not have a date of burial. On the footstone itself, there are nine Chinese characters which have not previously been translated. With the assistance of a researcher at the Golden Dragon Museum in Bendigo, Leigh McKinnon, an interesting story has emerged about Toy Lock. A market gardener called Toy Lock certainly had a long association with Murchison, but it seems that he is not buried in this grave. The most likely explanation is that Toy Lock originally purchased the grave site, but the burial is of someone else, possibly a relative.

### Toy Lock

From various records, it is “apparent that this Toy Lock was born c.1868/9 (in China) and arrived in Australia c.1887 as a young man.” It is unclear whether he came straight to Murchison, but by 1899 he was definitely there, as his vegetables won prizes at that year’s Murchison show, then again in 1902. Earlier stories have reported on the effect of floods on Chinese market gardeners, and in 1906 “the extensive garden of Toy Lock has been inundated, and he will be a heavy loser.”

In 1909 Toy Lock returned to China for a visit, indicating that he had achieved a measure of financial success through his gardening. At the time, he applied for and gained a Certificate of Exemption from the Dictation Test (CEDT), which would facilitate his return to Australia. After Federation, the Australian government had introduced the White Australia Policy and the Dictation Test was a way of precluding most Chinese from entering the country. The only exceptions were those who had lived here for some time before going overseas.

### Long term Victorian resident

Toy Lock remained in Murchison until at least 1922, during which time he had two further visits to China in 1915 and 1921. During the Great War, he contributed to the war effort by supplying clothes for Belgian refugees.

Then it appears Toy Lock moved to the Wimmera, as he was a resident of Warracknabeal when applying for CEDTs for three further trips to China up to 1930. In 1939, at the age of 70 and still listed as a market gardener, he left Melbourne for China for a final time. Many Chinese people had very strong associations with the village of their birth, wishing to return there for their death.

This may have been the case with Toy Lock.

### An early death

The person who is most likely buried in the grave at Murchison is Fung Sing, a 32 year-old labourer. A man of this name died in Murchison in March 1896. He had lived in Australia for two years, having left a family, including a six year old son in China. Perhaps he was seeking employment opportunities in Australia with a view to returning home after making some money. It is not clear whether he worked for Toy Lock.

Chinese characters on the footstone reveal that the grave is that of Choi (Toi) Fong Sing. The other characters denote that he came from Naam Chou village in Ning County. This county has been known as Toishan (or Taishan) since 1913 and is situated on the Pearl River Delta in Guangdong Province, south-eastern China. Many of the Chinese who came to the gold rushes in the Waranga area had come from this part of China.

There is a strong likelihood that Fung Shing had relatives from his local area living in Murchison when he arrived in Australia. Toy Lock could well have been one of them. Being an older relative, and an apparently prosperous market gardener, may have prompted Toy Lock to purchase the grave site in which Fung Sing is buried. The circumstances of the tragic early death, and its potential impact on Fung Sing’s family back home, may also have contributed to the desire to memorialise his death appropriately with a footstone.

*Source: Notes by Leigh McKinnon, Golden Dragon Museum 8.3.2023. Sincere thanks to Leigh for his assistance with this research.*



### Names from The past

### An Irish Kennedy was a pioneer

The name Kennedy is prominent in our district, but I don’t know if any of the present crop are descended from our John Kennedy featured here. To have come as a land selector to the Colbinabbin district in 1875, and lived to the age of 93 would have given him a huge bank of stories of life in those early days. Does any present-day Kennedy claim John as a branch on their family tree?

The Rushworth Chronicle of 2 October, 1925 told of his life.

“One of the oldest residents of the Colbinabbin district, in the person of Mr John Kennedy, passed away at his residence, Phillips Street, Rushworth, on Wednesday, 23rd September, at the age of 93 years, after being in ill-health for some time past.

He had a remarkably strong constitution and never had a day’s sickness until about five years ago, when the death of his son affected his health, and he had been in ill-health ever since.

The late Mr Kennedy was born in Tipperary, Ireland, and came to Victoria in the early fifties, and spent some time in Melbourne and Donnybrook. He then moved to Tallarook. After residing there for some years, in company with the late Messrs Egan and Healy, selected adjoining blocks on what then formed part of the Colbinabbin Estate in 1875, where he resided until eighteen months ago, when owing to failing health, he removed to Rushworth.

The late Mr Kennedy was very much esteemed and respected, and although he had lived more than the average span of life, his death is deeply regretted.

He leaves a family of five sons and two daughters, one being married (Mrs J. Howe), also 25 grandchildren and great grandchildren, two sons having predeceased him.

The remains were interred in the Colbinabbin Cemetery on Friday last week, the Rev. Father Tehan officiating at the graveside. The coffin was borne to its last resting place by his six grandsons (John, Thomas, Gerald, J.C. and T. Kennedy, and J. Howe).”

*Alan McLean*

# Waranga Catchment Landcare Collective

The Waranga Catchment Landcare Collective was officially launched in October 2022 when a group of around 40 people gathered on the Village Green, then headed to the Growlers Hill Wildflower Sanctuary where botanist Sally Mann led a walk and talk about the native plants growing in the reserve.

The fledgling group was launched as a member of the Goulburn Murray Landcare Groups, and on returning to the Village Green, participants were treated to lunch and an introduction to some of the mini-beasts which live in our local area from Goulburn Murray Landcare Network President and local bug expert John Laing.

Since that time the collective has been active in organising a series of small projects and events in the catchment community, with the aim to keep the momentum going with at least one activity each month.



In November, the Colbinabbin Kinder and Primary School spent a day learning environmental literacy from the team at the Goulburn Murray Landcare Network. The children had an up-close look at some insects, arachnids and indigenous arboreal animals (albeit taxidermic) They also learned some fancy latin as they sang 'Eu-cal-ypt-us cam-al-du-len-sis' (River Red Gum) in harmony on the banks of the Cornella Creek.



To show the wider community that the conservation movement is not all serious work, we celebrated with a bush-dance and challenged our co-ordination skills. This attracted a different cohort and increased our membership as we realised we all share a sense of humour!



Golden Guineas, Showy Parrot Peas and Waxlip Orchids were all out in full flower for participants to enjoy.



## Would you like to join?

If you have an interest in protecting our natural environment, would like to be a part of these activities and receive regular updates about projects and events coming up, you can join the Waranga Catchment Landcare Collective - it's just a one-time \$5 registration fee when you join to become a lifetime member!  
Contact Lou Costa  
louise-costa@hotmail.com

Some fine Autumn weather in April was perfect for a walk around Doctor Swamp near Murchison with Sally Mann. Sally spoke at length about the problem of monoculture through over-population of red-gum (and other eucalypt species) and we discussed the idea of creating a WCLC project focussing on ecological thinning.

(This project proposal was finalised later in the year and is under consideration by the GBCMA and Trust For Nature).



# 2022 - 2023 activities



Winter solstice saw the addition of around one hundred understory and wildflower species in the Colbinabbin Silo Precinct.

Planted by the Colbinabbin Kinder and Primary School (both keen to stay involved with the Waranga Catchment Landcare Collective), the plants were chosen to demonstrate what the area would have looked like prior to European settlement.

The space is being maintained by the Silo Art committee.



In September we were joined by St Mary's School for a 'Welcome to Country' at the Rushworth Railway Reserve by Taungurung elder, Aunty Jo Honeyset who told us about the making of her possum skin cloak and the importance of keeping tradition alive and taking care of nature.

The children planted fifteen *Eucalyptus tricarpa* (Red ironbark) along the pathway to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee.



Our final project for 2023 involved around sixty students from the Rushworth P-12 college hand-pulling the insidious *Crassula tetragona* from the area of forest directly behind the school.

We removed over two tonne of the invasive plants which was disposed of at the Rushworth tip. Incidentally, this plant should not be placed in green waste but must be general waste as it will regenerate from the tiniest segment of leaf or root. Considering all that, it is readily available from most Melbourne nursery wholesalers!

The most exciting part of this project was meeting a very enthusiastic group of children who are super keen to start a 'Junior Landcare Group' at the school! We will endeavour to give them as much help as possible.

*We also joined a community-led action to clean up around the Waranga Basin on Clean Up Australia day!*

## ON THE BRINK *by Neil Laurie*

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

### Climate 101

A common threat to many of the species covered in this column is climate change. It would be good to write a column explaining how the different phenomena impact upon our climate, but that would require more than a newspaper column....a lot more, so here is a very brief overview.

The biggest climate driver is the Sun and how it reacts with the atmosphere and oceans. Most changes in climate are a result of changes in how the Sun's energy is absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere. The changes alter atmospheric temperatures causing many flow-on climatic changes.

Some of the phenomena are cyclical. For example, the Earth's orbit is not stable. It moves closer and then further away from the Sun in a 112,000-year cycle. The tilt of the earth (currently 23.4 degrees) varies in a 41,000-year cycle and the earth has a wobble that has a 25,771-year cycle. These cycles affect the amount and intensity of sunlight heating our earth as well as the seasons. The eleven-year sun spot cycle does not greatly affect our weather but does cause auroras.

Some of the phenomena are random. For example, a giant meteor strike or a large volcanic caldera explosion can fling huge quantities of dust into the atmosphere, making temperatures drop dramatically and causing a mass die-off of species.

Greenhouse gasses act like a blanket, trapping more of the Sun's energy and causing the weather to become warmer.

Most of the temperature changes caused by these events are usually very small. For example, an El Nino event is caused by a rise of only 1-2 degrees of ocean surface temperature. This small change has a big effect on our weather because it causes the west-east trade winds to drop further south, resulting in hot, dry weather (usually).

These phenomena do not necessarily work in isolation. If there are three concurrent

events, the overall effect will be the sum of the three events. For example, the current El Nino event is warming the ocean by a degree or so. But the Indian Ocean is experiencing its equivalent of a La Nina event which is cooling the Indian Ocean and the temperature of the Southern Ocean is higher than normal. The net result is the usual weather pattern has become quite disrupted with low pressure systems forming to the north west of Australia bringing rain as they drift across Australia. The real danger comes when different events come together in a perfect storm.

The Earth's climate has always worked like this and for the most part life on Earth can weather whatever storm is thrown up. However, the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by human activity is like pouring petrol onto a fire. They trap more of the Sun's energy in the atmosphere, heating it up. It is projected that by 2030 the Earth's temperature will increase by 2.7 degrees, greatly disrupting the Earth's climates. Modelling clearly shows that Victoria's climate will be hotter and drier. Some results of this will be more severe bushfire conditions and water shortages. Heatwaves will be devastatingly hot. It is also anticipated that weather will become more extreme.

Many of the predictions of climate changes are already happening. Glaciers are receding, icecaps are melting and sea levels are rising, all at unprecedented rates. It is too late to stop these changes. The most we can do is to modify how we live to minimise the changes and to put in place the means by which we can live with them. The big danger is that if we do nothing, the Earth's climate will reach tipping points where changes escalate by feeding into themselves.

For many of the Earth's species, already affected by human activity, existence will become even more tenuous.

# Cooks Column

## Gin and Tonic Loaf Cake

### Cake Ingredients:

200gm unsalted butter, softened  
 4x eggs beaten  
 200gm self raising flour  
 1/2 tsp. baking powder  
 1 lime finely zested  
 75ml gin.

### Syrup and Topping:

125gm caster sugar  
 125 ml tonic water (\*)  
 3 1/2 tbs gin  
 2 x limes, sliced lengthways into 1/2 moon slices.  
 100gm icing sugar.

### Method:

Pre heat oven 160. Grease and line loaf tin.  
 In a large bowl beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy; about 5 minutes. Gradually add eggs one at a time. Beat well after each addition.

Fold in flour, baking powder and lime zest followed by gin. Spoon into loaf pan and bake for 55-1 hr(\*)

### Sugar Syrup

In a small saucepan gently heat caster sugar and tonic water until sugar dissolves. Turn up heat and boil for 1 minute.

Spoon 2tbs of syrup into a small bowl add 2 tbs of gin (will be used to soak loaf). Set aside remaining syrup.

Once loaf is cooked, poke holes in top of cake and pour over reserved gin syrup. Cool in tin on a wire rack.

### To make candied lime slices

Reheat sugar syrup until boiling add lime slices in batches. Simmer 10-12 minutes until translucent. Remove using a slotted spoon and place on baking paper. Sprinkle liberally with caster sugar leave to dry.

### Icing Mixture:

Mix together icing sugar (100gm) with remaining gin (1 1/2 tbs). Remove cooled cake from tin remove paper, pour over icing mixture decorate with candied lime slices. Leave cake to set.

\*Note, use a good quality tonic water for best flavour. Lemons may be substituted for limes.



Check cooking times and temp as my cake was a tad over cooked.

Serve with a dollop of yoghurt or cream and of course a G&T. Or your favourite cool beverage.

Bon Appetite  
 Pauline

# Garden Hints & Tips

## Looking to fill a space in a garden bed?

Now is the perfect time to plant fragrant lavender, ready for springtime flowering.

### Five top tips for growing lavender

1. Choose a full sun position in a free draining soil for growing lavender.
2. Select a lavender that suits your climate. English and French lavenders are good choices for Victoria's colder winters and also tolerate frost.
3. Plant lavender to attract beneficial pollinators into your garden – you may even spot the beautiful native Blue Banded Bee amongst the flowers.
4. Short on space? Look for small growing varieties of lavender - they are perfect for growing in pots.
5. Most lavenders should be pruned back by two thirds after they've flowered to help maintain a bushy form.

Lavender prefers a sunny spot in well-drained soil. The planting hole should be twice as wide as the original pot and have the same depth. Fluff up the soil at the bottom of the hole and mix a little soil improver through the original soil at the bottom of the planting hole.

Gently remove the lavender from the nursery pot and tease the roots lightly if they are compact. Plant into the prepared hole and backfill around the plant. Water in well.

Lavender will need fertilising once every six months in late winter or early spring with



an all-purpose slow release fertiliser.

Lavender is relatively pest and disease free. However, if fungal diseases occur, it could be because of high humidity - remove lower branches to open up the plants and improve airflow.

Whitefly, aphids and scale can sometimes cause a problem - remove some of the lower leaves to improve light and air circulation around the plants and spray any infestations with pyrethrum insect spray if needed.

### Handy Hints - from Lyn Rumble

*Hi there,*

*Well post-Christmas and New Year and then school holidays, and now this heat – we all deserve a bit of R & R, so I'm hoping these few tips help you to recover a bit! Here's some hints for help with the laundry, a bit of time spent cooking, and something that is always a pain in the mouth - bad breath and mouth ulcers!*

*Have a good week.*

*Lyn Rumble*

\* **Lipstick stains** – Lipstick is oil based, so therefore any cleaning liquid like dishwashing soap or washing liquid will help and remove the lipstick stain for you. There are a few other methods, but this seems to be the easiest way with ingredients everyone would have on hand.

\* **Bicarb and gargling** – If you ate too much garlic last night and this morning you still reek of it, try gargling 1 teaspoon of bicarb in 1/2 glass of cold water, stir until dissolved, and then have a gargle. This should neutralise the odour and will help relieve pain from mouth ulcers too!

\* **Sticky rice** – when you do not want it to stick! Add a spoonful of lemon juice to the boiling water when cooking. When rice is cooked, let it stand for a minute or so after

draining and then fluff with a fork before serving.

\* **Reuse those sauce and pickle jars** – Yes, you can reuse them but you need to get rid of the strong odours first! Add 1 teaspoon of dry mustard to 1 litre of water and fill the jars, letting them stand and soak overnight. In the morning, empty and wash in warm soapy water as normal. Odour should be gone!

\* **Bay leaf uses** – Having a bay tree in your garden is so useful. Apart from the use of adding to stews and casseroles, bay leaves are a real deterrent for ants who just seem to love things in your pantry cupboard! If you put in sachets of bay or sage leaves, cinnamon sticks or whole cloves, they should all act to keep the ants away!

# Health and Wellbeing

## Celebrating 30 Years Of 'Slip, Slop, Slap'

With the new school year underway, students and parents are reminded of the importance of being sun smart in the schoolyard, as UV levels reach record highs.

The back-to-school warning follows the release of new research that highlighted the major impact exposure to UV radiation during childhood can have on skin cancer risk.

Skin cancers including melanoma are preventable by using sun protection and educating children at a young age about the dangers of UV exposure and how to stay safe in the sun.

With the back to school routine in full swing, the advice to parents is clear on how to keep their children safe:

- Teach them to apply their own sunscreen, so they know how to do it independently before and during school
- Attach sunscreen to their backpack, so it can be an easy reminder to reapply at school
- Label their child's hat, so they can easily grab it before heading outdoors
- Encourage their child to look for shady spaces while outdoors.

This important and timely guidance comes as the Labor Government celebrates



Games are much more fun for SunSmart kids!

a major milestone, marking 30 years of supporting the Cancer Council's SunSmart Victoria School Program.

Established in 1994, 90 per cent of primary schools now participate in the

program – reaching almost 462,000 primary school students and their families, ensuring they remember to Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide.

Over the past three decades, Victoria's hardworking teachers and educators have played a significant role in reducing the risk of melanoma and skin cancer by implementing SunSmart policies that reduce students' UV exposure at school and teaching sensible sun protection habits from an early age.

Prior to the SunSmart School Program in 1994, only 19 per cent of primary schools reported hat wearing. Today that figure is 100 per cent of primary schools – showing that simple and consistent messaging works to help educate the next generation how to be smart while out in the sun.

The SunSmart program has received ongoing investment from the Labor Government for more than 30 years, helping to deliver programs to prevent skin cancer and save lives.

## Business at the front, party at the back!

**Black Dog Institute is calling on Australians to show they're all ears by growing a mullet and participating in Mullets for Mental Health. Growing those luscious locks is a great way to show support for the one in five Australians experiencing mental illness each year.**

Mullets for Mental Health is the national virtual challenge taking place in April 2024 where participants shape and grow their mullets to help raise funds for Black Dog Institute's crucial mental health research and support services here in Australia.

"In Australia, suicide is the leading cause of death for people aged 15-44. For every single suicide death, there are 20 times the number of attempts," says Black Dog Institute researcher Dr Sandersan Onie.

"Recent research has shown most people who attempt to end their life don't want to die and are looking for any reason to continue living. What that tells us is any intervention, whether it's a tap on the shoulder, a text message or even an internet pop-up, holds the potential to

save someone's life."

Since 2020, over 30,000 participants have grown mullets and raised close to \$12 million to support Black Dog Institute's groundbreaking mental health research. This puts digital services and education into the hands of people who need it the most.

"Mullets for Mental Health is a fun and engaging way to start those important mental health conversations that are critical to supporting your mates. It's a great way to show your fellow Aussies that you're all ears for better mental health and suicide prevention in our communities," says Campaign Manager at the Black Dog Institute, Tom Farrar.

Funds raised by Mullets for Mental Health



participants this year can support novel and innovative suicide prevention programs, assist in the research and development of digital mental health tools and apps for adults and children helping community presenters reach school students to talk about mental health in schools and how to get support.

Show you're all ears and help create better mental health for all Australians. Register online today at: [mullettsformentalhealth.org.au](http://mullettsformentalhealth.org.au)

### Headspace Shepparton seeks members to join a Youth Advisory Committee

headspace Shepparton is looking for young people aged 15-24 to join its Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). The Committee comprises 10-15 young people from diverse backgrounds who are passionate about youth mental health and wellbeing and want to make a positive difference in the community while making new friends.

#### Who can apply?

Anyone aged between 15 and 24 years who is passionate about youth mental health and wellbeing and wants to make a positive difference in the community.

To express interest in becoming a member of the Youth Advisory Committee, please scan the QR code and complete the registration form by 29 February 2024.



**MUD HUT YOGA**  
*Peace ~ Flexibility ~ Strength*

For class times & information contact Sue Barlow  
0438 523 415

[sue@mudhutyoga.com.au](mailto:sue@mudhutyoga.com.au)  
[www.mudhutyoga.com.au](http://www.mudhutyoga.com.au)

"To ensure good health: eat lightly, breathe deeply, live moderately, cultivate cheerfulness, and maintain an interest in life."

-William Londen

# Kids Corner

- interesting things to know!

**Hey Kids!**

Did you know that the sun's harmful rays can damage your eyes if you don't protect them?

Along with Slip, Slop Slap and Seek, don't forget to Slide! You need to protect your eyes with a high-quality pair of sunglasses that block 100% of the sun's ultraviolet rays. Here are a few fun facts about sunglasses:

1. The term "sunglasses" isn't correct—at least, not anymore. While the lenses of sunglasses were once made from glass, today's high-performance plastic lenses add various improvements, including lighter weight and shatterproof lenses. However, "sunplastics" just doesn't sound as cool, so let's keep calling them sunglasses.

2. Sunglasses have history ... They were first seen around 2,000 years ago in a very snowy climate. The Inuit Eskimos created snow goggles from animal bone, wood and leather. The resulting eye covers featured small slits that they could see through—and which minimised the blinding glare of the sun's rays reflecting off the snow.

3. A long history! Roman Emperor Nero, around 50 CE, reportedly wore polished emeralds to watch the epic Gladiator fights in the colosseum. This helped him see more comfortably on sunny days under the bright Mediterranean sun!

4. The first "modern" sunglasses were Foster Grants. They were sold in 1929 in Atlantic City, USA, by Sam Foster, who initially went into business to make combs. He soon found out that his sunglasses were far more popular than combs!

5. Pilot program. Year after year, one classic shape of sunglasses remains incredibly popular: Ray-Ban's Aviator frames. They were originally invented in the 1930s to protect military pilots' eyes from the harmful high-altitude

rays of the sun. The designers even added a slightly droopy lens shape to protect pilots when they glanced down at the instrument panels in their planes.

Though originally tinted dark green to absorb light in the yellow spectrum, today's aviators come in all different tints and often have mirrored lenses.

6. Wayfarers rule. Wayfarers are known as the world's best-selling sunglasses of all time.

7. Get a spare pair. Sir Elton John, the English songwriter and singer, is reported to have the world's most extensive collection of sunglasses. He reportedly has more than 1,000 pairs! And most of them are outrageous: Some have "awnings" to cover the eyes, some are bejewelled with rhinestones, others have feathers and different shapes for each lens. He has them in every imaginable colour, frame size, and shape to accessorize his creative stage outfits.

8. Judges in 12th century China were the first recorded examples of using tinted lenses. They were said to have used a piece of smoked quartz to shield their faces to help disguise their reactions to people on trial.



**Why not have a go at the sunglass themed wordsearch!**

J	K	S	U	N	G	L	A	S	S	E	S	L	E	N	S	P	S
S	H	A	T	T	E	R	P	R	O	O	F	M	R	N	P	L	A
F	N	B	X	A	M	T	B	S	T	C	O	L	O	U	R	A	G
P	R	O	R	A	Y	S	I	R	H	X	D	I	V	H	B	S	O
G	L	A	R	E	O	F	F	N	I	A	P	W	X	I	S	T	G
H	E	E	M	O	D	E	R	N	T	G	P	O	L	L	Q	I	G
U	Y	N	F	E	J	L	L	C	X	E	H	E	P	N	K	C	L
X	E	Y	M	T	S	S	U	N	N	Y	D	T	S	U	O	B	E
W	S	A	J	L	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y	P	F	A	L	R	S
S	H	I	E	L	D	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	I	O	N	A	R
N	M	Z	S	K	J	A	V	I	A	T	O	R	U	H	U	B	R
K	U	L	T	R	A	V	I	O	L	E	T	F	V	P	E	B	W

Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| AVIATOR<br>BRIGHT<br>COLOUR<br>EYES<br>FRAMES<br>GLARE<br>GOGGLES<br>HISTORY | LENS<br>MODERN<br>PLASTIC<br>POPULAR<br>PROTECTION<br>RAYS<br>SHAPES<br>SHATTERPROOF | SHIELD<br>SUNGLASSES<br>SUNNY<br>TINTED<br>ULTRAVIOLET |
|--|--|--|

*Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our*

# Exciting term coming up at St Mary's

St Mary's staff and students are thrilled to be back for the 2024 school year! St Mary's has some new and exciting things happening this year that we as a school community are thrilled about.

Last year we farewelled Mrs Catherine Fraser who was our Principal for fifteen years. We wish her all the best in her retirement and thank her for all her hard work and dedication to our school and wider community.

Mr Vin Ryan has stepped into the role as St. Mary's Principal having come across from Holy Rosary in Heathcote and previously St. Liborius in Eaglehawk. Vin has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know staff, students and families over the past couple of weeks.

Along with Mr Ryan we also welcome Ms Kat Parry who will be teaching Performing Arts, Mr Damian Kerrins teaching STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) and Kathy Ryan our new Education Support Officer. We can't wait to learn some new and exciting things from our new educators.

Lastly, our newest and most important people to our school are our 2024 Foundation students

We wish them all the best as they begin this new and exciting learning journey.

*Angela Brockett*



Grade 5/6 girls are happy to be back with their friends.



Welcome to Foundation students Lexie, Matilda, Ella, Lylaa, Noah, Jensen, George and Oliver.



Grade 3/4 class enjoying STEAM with Mr Kerrins.



F/1/2 students enjoy Performing Arts with Ms Parry.

**Volunteers wanted  
at the  
Waranga News**

You will be welcomed and trained for a job that suits you

eg proof-reading, page formatting, reporting, news gathering, advertising sales and more.

5856 1120 or [wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)

*Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our*

## Welcome back to 2024 from Rushworth P-12 College

As usual it has been a busy but positive start to the new school year, with many changes across the college.

Students returned to see the remainder of our old Technology wing removed as well as the portable between the main and primary buildings, where we used to hold our breakfast program. Other changes to our building and grounds include a new classroom in the library and a refurbished art room.

There are some changes to staff, including new teachers, returning teachers and myself acting in the principal role until the position is advertised and filled.

Our college food program has already made a much welcome return, providing students with free meals every lunchtime, as well as having some food available for recess and breakfast.

There will be a lot of exciting events and developments this year that I look forward to sharing with you all here so watch this space!

*Peter Bovell  
Acting Principal*

## H.O.P.E : Hands On Practical Education

Rushworth P-12 College is looking for a person who would enjoy working with our students supporting our newly created H.O.P.E. program.

We are looking for a skilled person to work with small groups of secondary students in a supporting role to compliment the classroom teachers' skills in this area.

This is a casual position, and we will be running the H.O.P.E program every Wednesday. The hours are 9.00am to 3.20pm with a 30-minute unpaid lunch break.

You must hold a Current Employee WWCC and preferably have excellent knowledge of the safe handling and use of power tools. First Aid Skills would be looked upon favourably but not essential.

If you think this is the position for you, please pop into the College and see the Acting Principal, Peter Bovell or the Business Manager, Therese Cossens.

They will be happy to answer any questions you may have or give the College a call on 0358 561 230.

## P-12 welcomes 26 new students this year

Welcome to . . .

Lily, Crystal, Tolly, Jonathan, Hudson, Erick, Desmond, Sophia, Eli, John, Rory, Samuel, Kaitlyn, Billie, Kaley, Dusty, Neveah, Shawn, Angus, Lailah, Aiden, James, Tyra, Noah and Shaelea.

We hope that they and their families enjoy their time at the college.

Pictured (l - r) are Huddy, Tolly, Jonathon, Katya, Crystal and Lily.

### And welcome to new staff

Rhonda Saltmarsh (English/Humanities)  
Shona Janky (Agriculture/Horticulture)  
Steve Rix (VCE/VM Teacher)  
Michelle Bailey (Numeracy Coach)  
and staff, Rebecca Welsh, Elli Duthie and Renae Irwin, all returning from family leave.



**Keep up to date  
with the WARANGA NEWS**

**Annual subscriptions \$65.00 posted - \$30.00 online  
wnews@iinet.net.au**

**Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.**

*Malcolm X*

*Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our*

# Primary students' positive start to the year

The first high achievers for 2024 have been named and received primary Awards:

**Desmond Curtis** – Respect - For settling in well at his new school and showing respect to all staff and his peers.

**Douglas Wick** – Aspiration - For starting the year off with a positive attitude and wanting to do well.

**Lily Collyer** – Kindness - For showing kindness to her peers in the classroom and in the yard.

**Tolly Gleeson** – Pride - For being proud of his efforts with the Prep assessment and all his class work.

**Whyatt Hawkins** - For working hard in mathematics and improving by multiple levels.

**Zac Marshall** - For being a polite and well-mannered member of the classroom and following expectations.

**Gypsy Harrison**- For completing all of her work to a high standard and in a timely manner.



Congratulations to the first Primary Award winners for 2024.

## Food R.O.C.K.s

### Rushworth Onsite Community Kitchen program

At Rushworth P-12 College we support all our students by providing them with nutritious foods at breakfast, recess and lunch times at Food ROCKs.

We have a fully qualified chef that oversees our Food ROCKs program. We utilise the learning outcomes of our VCE -VM students to create a healthy and wholesome foods approach within the program. Our students learn about nutritious foods to fuel the body for brain power and the required energy levels for concentration from Foundation (Prep) to Year 12. Our VCE-VM students are participating in meal planning, meal costings, advertising and marketing, data analysing, social media, sanitation, mathematics, English, various cultural requirements and customer service as part of the program.

Every level of the College has the opportunity to try new foods and give feedback. We listen to the feedback and make changes when appropriate, ensuring our students have a healthy outcome. Food ROCKs has been created with the aim to

empower our students from Foundation through to Year 12 to make healthy food choices and know what they are putting in their bodies. We also acknowledged that some of our families would not have the opportunity to provide a variety of foods on a weekly basis for a variety of reasons.

Rushworth P-12 College is fortunate to be in a position where we can support our community. This support benefits the student's educational outcomes giving every one of them the opportunity to be ready for the real world and all the amazing things that lay ahead for them.

\*\*We are currently advertising for an ES 1-2 to join us with this program for 30.4 hours per week. If you have hospitality experience and a WWCC please contact Therese Cossens at the college before the 21/02/24 to discuss the position.

## Food Technology

It's been a big start to 2024 in the kitchen. The Year 11 Food Studies students are learning about ancient grains and produced red hot cakes with poached pear and apple.

The Year 9/10 Cafe culture students created a Cobb salad with a main focus on hygiene, safety and presentation.

The primary students in F-3 put their listening skills to the test and made cup and saucer biscuits while the 4-6 students made chocolate crackles.

The Year 8 Food students are focusing on sustainability this term and created sausage rolls with a twist and their own tomato chutney.

Taylah Baldi





**Annabelle**

**CLEELAND MP**

25 Bridge St, Benalla VIC 3672    03 5762 1600    Annabelle.cleeland@parliament.vic.gov.au

Member for Euroa

@Annabelle4Euroa

Proudly supporting the local community | annabellecleeland.com.au

**SPREAD YOUR NEWS IN THE WARANGA NEWS**  
**5856 1120 OR WNEWS@IINET.NET.AU**

# Dr Lowitja O'Donohue R.I.P

**Lowitja O'Donohue AC CBE DSG, who was an Australian public administrator and Indigenous rights advocate, has died.**

She was the inaugural chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission from 1990 to 1996.

Many have reason to give thanks for the life and legacy of Dr Lowitja O'Donohue AC CBE DSG. She was a proud Yankunytjatjara woman and former Australian of the Year.

She is being remembered as an outstanding and courageous leader who fought tirelessly for justice and equity for First Nations people. Dr O'Donohue was a member of the Stolen Generation, taken from her mother at two and placed at the Colebrook Children's Home, an institution established by the United



**Dr Lowitja O'Donohue.**

Aboriginal Mission in SA.

Throughout her life, she defied barriers placed before her, first as a nurse, then in state, national and international affairs.

The Australian people send their condolences and prayers to the family and wider community mourning her passing and pray to embolden efforts toward equity and justice.

## Uniting in Prayer for 2024

**Uniting in Prayer is on for the second year in 2024! The national prayer event, organised by the Uniting Church, will take place from 19 May-22 June and draw on the theme for the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly, 'Threads of Love'.**

Those who want to be part of the event will be able to participate through daily prayers gathered from around the church,

prayer and worship gatherings and a national prayer chain.

The Act2 team is seeking prayer submissions in a variety of creative styles, so whether you feel inspired to contribute a poem, song, artwork, video or beautiful written prayer, they'd love to hear from you.

Use the sign-up form on the Act2 website.

# Blessings are for everyone

*~ Pope Francis*

**People who act shocked that a priest would bless a gay couple but have no problem with him blessing a crooked businessman are hypocrites, Pope Francis has said.**

*Source: NCR Online.*

"The most serious sins are those that are disguised with a more 'angelic' appearance. No one is scandalised if I give a blessing to an entrepreneur who perhaps exploits people, which is a very serious sin. Whereas they are scandalised if I give it to a homosexual – this is hypocrisy," he told the Italian magazine *Credeire*.

## Blessing

The pastoral meaning of blessings allows for priests and other ministers to offer informal, non-liturgical blessings to gay couples and couples in 'irregular' marriage situations as long as it is clear they are not blessing the couple's union.

"I don't bless a 'homosexual marriage', I bless two people who love each other, and I also ask them to pray for me," Pope Francis said.

"Always in the confessional, when these situations come up, homosexual people, remarried people, I always pray and always bless.

The blessing should not be denied to anyone. Everyone, everyone, everyone."

## District Church Times and Contacts

### Anglican

- St Paul's, Rushworth: 0419 512 632  
- 9.30am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month - lay led service  
- 9.30am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month - Communion
- Christ Church, Murchison: Rev Andre du Plooy  
0458 155 930  
-10.30 am Thursdays Holy Eucharist  
-11am service every Sunday
- St Matthews, Stanhope: 0419 855 964 (Church Warden)
- St John's, Colbinabbin: 0428 329 344 (Mick Clayton)

### Presbyterian

- St Andrew's, Rushworth: Sunday 9am: Minister Kalpan Vasa 0477 241 042 or Elder Gary Dunstan 5856 1332.
- St Andrew's, Stanhope: 5831 6494 (Rev Kyung Rae Ee)

### Catholic

St Mary's Parish. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays: Cornella 9am; Stanhope 10.30am. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays: Rushworth 9am; Murchison 10.30am. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: One Parish Mass - Rushworth. Contact a team member on the parish mobile phone: 0478 820 960. Sunday Mass continues online from St Kilian's Sundays 10am.

### Shine Church, Stanhope

Sunday services at 10am at the Stanhope Community Hall. All COVID restrictions abided by. Kids church running as well during service. More info call Wal Sinapius 0408 393 398.

### Living Waters Rushworth:

Sunday 3.30pm coffee: 4pm service 0428 323 631 (Pastor Peter Guerra)

### Generations Church, Tatura

5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

### Salvation Army: 5852 3875

### Uniting Church

Waranga Uniting Churches – Rushworth, Colbinabbin, Murchison and Tatura. Service Times: Weekly at 9.30am (with the 'room' open for a chat at 9am)

Every congregation is open for services which will be streamed each week into all four of our church buildings.

Each week one congregation will host the service with people in other congregations participating in leading the readings, sharing news and fellowship via the magic of Zoom.

You are welcome to join us in person or from your lounge room via Zoom.

The link for the Zoom service can be found on our website [warangaunitingchurches.net.au](http://warangaunitingchurches.net.au) or can be emailed to you each week.

*As you gather around the dinner table, join hands to give thanks to God for all his blessings.*



### GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Knife and fork, plate and spoon,  
May the meal be here soon.

Spoon and plate and fork and knife  
Thank you, God who gives us life. Amen.

## CLIVE COVENTRY FUNERALS

*Providing an individual funeral to celebrate life's journey*

Servicing Colbinabbin, Murchison, Rushworth, Stanhope, Tatura & district

*Reasonably priced funerals to suit all budgets*

**5852 1619**

Locally owned and operated

**5831 3922**

92 Allan Street, Kyabram

113 Corio Street, Shepparton



living the  
**GOOD LIFE**

**The twisted tree**

**I went to a small, 'three teacher school' at Yarra Glen for my Primary Schooling. The long-serving headmaster taught Grades 5 and 6, his wife taught Grades 3 and 4, and usually a recent female graduate teacher taught Prep, Grades 1 and 2.**

The headmaster and his wife, pillars of the community, guided our young minds with a blend of rigour, warmth, and sadism, the latter aspect often reserved for the art class led by his wife. Her approach to teaching art, however, was emblematic of a broader worldview that I've come to question and reflect upon throughout my life.

Her insistence on conformity, on painting the world with a uniform brush, literally and metaphorically, taught me, early on, about the damage that domineering people with limited imagination can inflict on others, especially those they have power over

If a child was hesitant, showed abstract inclinations, or stepped too far from her paradigm, my Art teacher would take their paintbrush from them and use it to paint a couple of sweeping lines to represent the horizon, and to outline any other key landscape features that she thought would "help" the student. She would then give the paintbrush back to the student.

The trees we were encouraged to draw, with their perfectly rounded canopies and straight trunks, bore no resemblance to the twisted, resilient trees in the paddocks of our family farm.

My home in Cornella is over one hundred years old. Like many settler homesteads in the area, it has several drought-hardy peppercorn trees around it. Over the years these have been cut back, damaged by storms, chewed by sheep and horses, had laughing children climb them and swing on their branches.

The tree at the back of my home has a long curved lateral branch that forms a low archway over the pathway to the back door. It is so low that most people need to duck their heads, and many an inattentive visitor has bumped their head. Peppercorn trees have their share of detractors but on a hot summer's day they provide shady respite.

After suffering damage, peppercorn trees

sprout new growth, sometimes from their point of injury, and sometimes buds push forth from their base. The resulting shape of these trees is nothing like the drawings of my Primary School art class.

Reflecting on this dichotomy, I'm reminded of a Chinese proverb that beautifully captures the essence of my musings: "The twisted tree lives its life, while the right tree ends up in planks." This saying speaks to the inherent value of individuality, resilience, and the beauty found in imperfection; values that have sustained me throughout my seventy years.



The twisted peppercorn tree at Cornella.

The peppercorn trees at my home, with their gnarled branches and uneven canopies, tell a story of survival and adaptability that no straight-plantation tree could.

My journey has been akin to that of the twisted peppercorn tree. Life has thrown its fair share of storms my way: career setbacks, physical injuries, and personal betrayals. Yet, just like the tree, I've learnt to bend without breaking, to find new pathways of growth amidst adversity.

This journey has not been a solitary one. As minister for the past decade with the Waranga cluster of Uniting Churches, I've witnessed the strength and resilience of communities who, much like peppercorn trees, survive and sometimes thrive despite, or perhaps, because of their imperfections.

Psalms 1 offers a vision of flourishing that mirrors my experiences:

"They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."

This imagery of a thriving tree, nourished by its environment, serves as a powerful metaphor for life, teaching us that growth and prosperity are not about conforming to a prescribed shape, but about finding

nourishment from our unique circumstances.

Drawing from another Chinese proverb, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is today.", I'm encouraged to look forward, planting seeds of hope and resilience for the future. The wisdom of this Chinese proverb speaks to the importance of taking action now, of nurturing our communities and ourselves, regardless of any missed opportunities in our past.

As I reflect on the lessons to be learnt from the twisted trees in my backyard; I see the beauty in diversity, the strength in facing adversity, and the perpetual promise of growth and renewal.

Our lives, like nature, tell stories of resilience, of thriving, not in spite of challenges, but because of them. The twisted tree, with its unique form and character, stands as a testament to the richness of life fully embraced, each sunrise and storm welcomed with equal fervour.

The story of Zacchaeus would not have been told if not for the low twisting branches of the Sycamore tree. Zacchaeus, a wealthy tax collector, climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus due to his short stature and the surrounding crowd blocking his ability to see Jesus.

Jesus noticed him and decided to stay at his house, causing onlookers to criticise Jesus choosing to visit a sinner's home. Jesus responds by declaring that he had come "to seek out and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10)

Life is rarely like the picture painted in primary school. But no matter how twisted our lives become, there is always the possibility of new life and second chances. God celebrates the beauty of the twisted tree in each of us.

This is the Gospel and it's good news.

*Brian Spencer, Minister  
Waranga Uniting Churches.*

**PRAYING FOR OUR  
COMMON HOME**



*Based on Pope Francis, 'On Care for Our  
Common Home,' Laudato Si. Para 77*

**God of Love and Life**  
May we, who are also your beloved  
creatures, share you love and care for  
all that you have made. Amen.

**VALLEY FUNERALS**

*'The caring people'*

**Tatura and G.V. Areas**

**5824 1180**

Locally Owned  
Affordable Funerals

**Kyabram & District Funeral Services**

**Serving our Community - Contact Colin and Susan Moody**

Serving Rushworth, Stanhope, Girgarre, Colbinabbin, Corop, Toolleen, Murchison  
Nagambie and Tatura.

Elva Moody is our Rushworth Representative

**Phone: 0428 859 593**

**119 Albion Street, Kyabram 3620**

**Phone: 5852 1061 Mobile: 0409 935 375**

# WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

## DEATHS

### HAWKING, Howard John:

Passed away peacefully on 8 February, 2024.

Aged 90 years.

Youngest son of Roy and Bessie (both dec).

Brother to Ron and Graham (dec).

Devoted, cherished and dearly loved husband of Rosemary for almost 68 years.

Cherished, loved and admired father of Joanne and Greg (Steen)

Devoted and adored Pa of Tahlia and Dustin; Olivia

Proud and loving Old Pa to Luther

Cherished, loved and admired father of Peter and Amy

Devoted and adored Pa of Leizal; Keegan

Cherished, loved and admired father of Wendy and Chris (Morgan)

Devoted and adored Pa of Steven; Timothy (in heaven); Daniel and Hannah; Georgia and James

*Your life was a blessing,  
your memory a treasure,  
you are loved beyond words and  
missed beyond measure.*

**Forever in our hearts**

**HAWKING, Howard:** The Rushworth RSL Sub Branch mourn the passing of their esteemed member Howard Hawking. We extend our deepest sympathy to Rosemary and family. May he rest in peace.

## FUNERAL

### HAWKING:

A graveside funeral service for Mr Howard John Hawking will be held at the Rushworth Cemetery, Heilly Street, Rushworth on Friday, 16 February, 2024 at 1pm.

**CLIVE COVENTRY**  
Kyabram 58521619  
[www.clivecoventry.com.au](http://www.clivecoventry.com.au)

## IN MEMORIAM

### McARDLE, Charles Henry - 28/1/1987.

In loving memory of our much loved father, grandfather and great grandfather. Happy warm memories of our youth in Rushy so long ago. Thanks for the wonderful times of our childhood. Special times.

Lots of love from Trevor, Moyra, Sean, Travis, Megan and the 8 grandies. You live on in them!

*Rest easy Dad.*

## PUBLIC NOTICES



## TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

High Street Rushworth  
Northbound Lane followed by  
Southbound Lane between Moora  
Road and Wigg Street from 19<sup>th</sup>  
February to be completed prior  
to Easter as part of the Rushworth  
Streetscape Stage two works.  
Road users to follow detour signs.

## Rushworth RSL Sub-Branch AGM/General Meeting

The next Meeting of the RSL  
is to be held on

**Friday 1 March 2024**

commencing at 10am

at the "Cottage" 1 Murchison Road

All members are requested to attend  
as this is our AGM. To be followed by  
our first General Meeting for the year.

Apologies to Secretary on either:  
58567231 (Home)  
0408 664 607 (Mobile).

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Community invitation

Waranga Health Community  
Reference Committee

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 6 March 2024 at 6:00pm

The meeting will be held at Waranga Health  
Multipurpose Room at 14 High Street,  
Rushworth.

Please RSVP by Monday 4 March  
if you would like to attend to:  
[dlwarangaadmin@gvhealth.org.au](mailto:dlwarangaadmin@gvhealth.org.au)

Light supper provided.



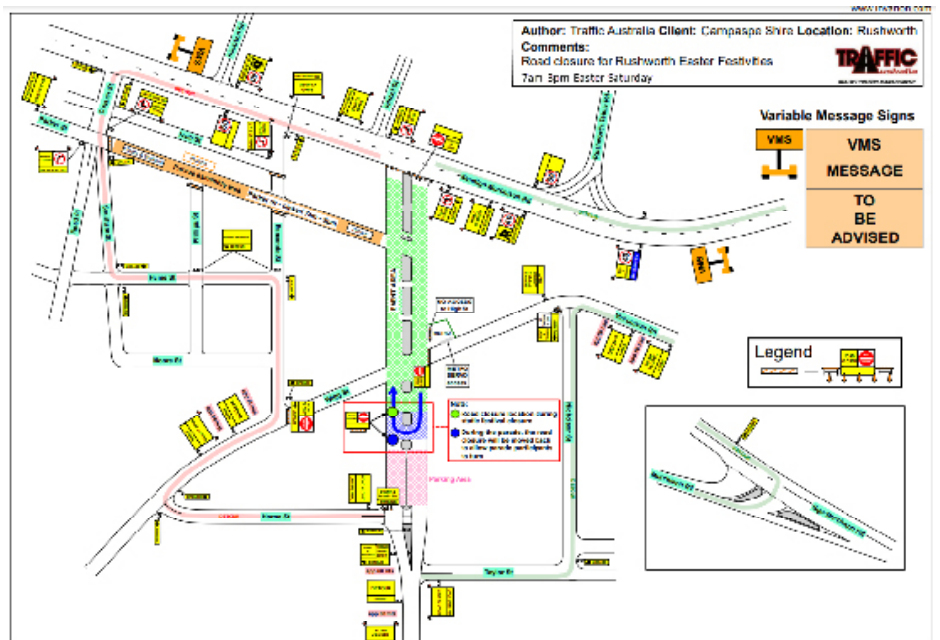
## CUT N TIME

 **Hairdresser  
Rushworth**

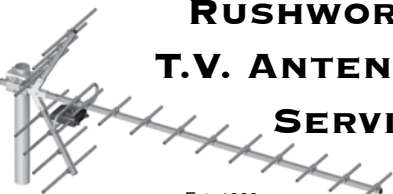
**0419 314 590**

## Road Closure – Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival

Please note in the interest of public safety, both sides of High St will be closed from Moora Rd to up to and including Wigg St from 7am till 3pm on Saturday 30th March 2024. Please see attached map.



# TRADE & SERVICES DIRECTORY



**RUSHWORTH  
T.V. ANTENNA  
SERVICE**

Est. 1988  
*Servicing Rushworth  
and surrounds*

**Ray Pooley: Ph. 0419 319 296**

**Rushworth Variety  
(and Rushy Hire)**

**New trading hours:**  
Monday 10am – 4pm  
Tuesday 10am – 3pm  
Wednesday - Closed  
Thursday 10am – 4pm  
Friday 10am – 4pm  
Saturday 10am – 2pm  
Sunday - Closed

**Phone No: 0432 491 176**

**DAVID BRANSON  
LANDSCAPE AND  
GARDENING SERVICES**

- Hedgecutting and mowing
- Pruning and handweeding
- Property maintenance
- Residential and commercial

*Prompt and excellent service*

**Contact David: 0456 062 287**

**Tatura Landscaping &  
Garden Supplies**

2635 Tatura – Rushworth Rd 3616

Sand & Gravel	Small and large Truckloads
Coloured stones	Dingo Bucket & Bobcat for Hire
Mulching & Topsoil	
Concrete Mixers	

**Phone Peter Kennedy  
0419 117 310  
ttatura@bigpond.net.au**

**www.farriervet.com**

**Dr. Judith Mulholland  
BSc. BVMS**



**Phone:  
58 522 000**

**Mobile:  
0408 565 528**

Email: judith@farriervet.com  
P.O. Box 295, Kyabram 3619 Victoria

**MJ Glew Transport P/L  
Rushworth**

ABN 70078721561

**Water Cartage from 18,000  
litres to 21,000**

**Phone Malcolm  
0419 556 239**

Shire of Campaspe No- 0026090



**NED BARLOW  
ELECTRICAL  
CONTRACTING**

*Domestic - Commercial - Industrial*

**Servicing: Rushworth, Stanhope,  
Murchison and surrounds**

**Phone: 0438 348 110  
(REC: 27429)**

*Peter Knobel*    Rushworth

**Cabinet Maker**

Ph/Fax 5856 1309  
Mob 0419 196 164

*Kitchens – Solid Timber Furniture  
Furniture Design – Bars  
Handcrafted Cabinetry & Furniture  
Wrought Iron Work*

**Advertise Your  
Business Here**

**for just \$27.00 per fortnight**

Contact Vicki at the Waranga News

**Ph. 5856 1120**

**Or email: wnews@iinet.net.au**

**Jaq's Bookkeeping  
Services**

I am a registered Bookkeeper/  
BAS agent and I specialise in small  
business bookkeeping.

Payables, receivables through to  
all of your BAS/IAS and SRO  
requirements.

**Phone: 0401 186 636**

**Workmate Earthworks**





**Brett Petersen**

**0409 001 239**

Email: work-mate@bigpond.com  
ABN: 75056053431

Bobcat, 10t Excavator, Bulldozer,  
Tandem Tipper, Mini Tipper,  
Grader Attachment, Various Augers,  
Trencher, Vibrating Roller & Slashing.

**AUTO GLASS**

- WINDSCREEN REPAIRS
- WINDSCREEN REPLACEMENTS ON ALL  
MAKES AND MODELS
- TRUCK AND MACHINERY

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

BEN NORRIS 0429070032  
JESS NORRIS 0400681290




**Septic Tank  
Cleaning**

PROMPT SERVICE

Contact:  
**ANTON DAMEN**  
**0429 843 443**

**MORGAN FUEL**



**COLBINABBIN**

**OPEN 24/7 - SELF SERVE  
ULP, DIESEL & ADBLUE**

# DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

## WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

### FEBRUARY

<b>Thu 15</b>	Garden Lovers meeting - high tea at Senior Citizens rooms 1.30pm
<b>Sat 17</b>	Rushworth Market, High Street 8am-1pm Rushworth Speedway Rushworth Place Based Plan drop-in session Rushy Market 8-1pm
<b>Feb-30 Mar</b>	Kyabram Town Hall - Angie Russi Exhibition
<b>Tue 20</b>	REHF General Info night - Community House 7pm
<b>Wed 28</b>	Community House AGM 7pm
<b>Thu 29</b>	Rushy Place Based plan drop-in session 1-3pm Rushy IGA

### MARCH

<b>Fri 1</b>	Rushworth RSL Sub Branch AGM - 10am The Cottage
<b>Sun 3</b>	TatFest Mactier Gardens, Hogan Street, 10am-4pm
<b>Fri 8</b>	Rushy Place Based plan drop-in session 10-1pm Gus & Ollies
<b>Thu 14</b>	Rushy Place Based plan drop-in session 11am-2pm Rushworth Bakery

## Meetings & Activities - around the district

- Rushworth SES training: Wednesday evenings at 7pm
- Rushworth CFA: Tuesday nights
- Rushworth Food bank: Wed 9am to 12pm and Friday 9am to 12pm
- #9 Op-Shop: (Summer hours) Mon, Wed and Fri - 9am - 2pm Saturday 9am to 12pm
- Rushworth Community Garden every Wednesday
- Rushworth Community House - Genealogy, every Friday from 9.30 to 12.30pm
- Colbinabbin Library: Wednesdays
- Colbinabbin Community Shed: most Thursdays (old Shire Depot), 10am
- Rushworth Band practice: 7.30pm every Monday night
- Stanhope Monster Garage Sale: 2nd Sunday of month - from 8.30am
- Rushworth Market: 3rd Saturday of month - 8.30am to 1pm
- Murchison CFA: Meeting 1st Monday 8pm - training on 3rd Monday 6.30pm
- Rushworth Museum: every Saturday 10am-12 noon, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11am - 1pm
- Rushworth & District Community Bank Board: meets 1st Tuesday monthly, at 6pm
- Rushworth Events Inc: meets bi-monthly, third Wednesday at 7pm
- Community Walking Group: Thurs 8 - 9am meet at front of Waranga Health
- Stanhope Mens Shed: Mon - Wed - Fri 9am - 12 noon
- Murchison Mens Shed: Wednesdays 10am - 3pm
- Rushworth Garden Lovers Club meet 3rd Thursday Month 1.30pm at old Senior Citizen's building
- Friends of the Hostel: Third Monday 1.30pm monthly

Local clubs or groups who would like to display their event, occasion, community service, entertainment, meeting or opening times, give Waranga News a call or email to be included in our events calendar.

## EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

**POLICE or FIRE.....Emergency.....000**  
Non-emergency 13 1444

**AMBULANCE.....Emergency.....000**  
Non-emergency...13 3009

SES: (storm & flood).....13 2500

**DOCTORS:**  
Rushworth Medical Centre..... 5856 1329  
Waranga Medical Centre..... 5851 8400  
Stanhope .....5857 0452  
West Goulburn Comm Health....5857 2400  
Murchison Medical Centre.....5826 2575

**HOSPITAL:**  
Waranga Health .....5851 8000

**POLICE:**  
Rushworth.....5856 1000  
Murchison.....5826 2222  
Stanhope.....5857 2507  
Colbinabbin.....5856 1000

**SUPPORT SERVICE:**  
St Vincent de Paul.....0417 597 468

**WARANGA NEWS OFFICE.....5856 1120**

## ADVERTISING DEADLINES

### NEXT EDITION

**Display Ads: Friday, 23 February**

**Classifieds: Noon Monday,**

**26 February**

wnews@iinet.net.au

## Waranga News



### A Voluntary Community Newspaper

Printed by Maxam Printing, Shepparton

Published by Mary Jo Fortuna OAM,  
of 3 Phillips Street, Rushworth, 3612 for

**Waranga News Incorporated**

(ABN 45 086 403 564)

Office Hours: Mon, Wed & Fri

9.30am - 5.30pm

(All day Mon & Tues of production week)

33 Moora Road, Rushworth.

Postal address: **PO Box 53, Rushworth, 3612**

**E-mail address: wnews@iinet.net.au**

**Website: www.wnews.org.au**

Advertising & Accounts: (03) 5856 1120

Editor: 0407 561 311

**Annual subscription: Online \$30;**

**Posted \$65.00 (inc cost of postage)**

**Advertising in the Waranga News supports your business AND your community call 5856 1120 or email wnews@iinet.net.au**

Aerodrome project works have started with site preparation for the new helipad currently underway.



Coming Up ▶ Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 20 February | Echuca Civic Centre

Meetings can be streamed live:  
[campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming](http://campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming)



## Rushworth Streetscape Stage 5 & 6 Road Pavement Works

Works will start on Stages 5 and 6 of the Rushworth Streetscape project on Monday, 19 February. Road pavement works will take place along both the east and west side of High Street. High Street will be closed in stages and the works are expected to take five to six weeks to complete. Fencing and signage will be installed during these works. Please observe and obey all signage. For more information, visit the project page on Council's website.

## Rushworth Draft Place Based Plan Drop-in Sessions

Rushworth residents will be able to provide feedback on the draft Rushworth Place Based Plan at drop-in sessions in the town and online until Sunday, 31 March. The draft plan and online submissions can be viewed by scanning the QR code, or visit Council's Community Development team to give your feedback at one of the following sessions:

- Saturday, 17 February from 8am - 1pm at the Rushworth Market
- Thursday, 29 February from 1 - 3pm at Rushworth IGA
- Friday, 8 March from 10am - 1pm at Gus and Ollies
- Thursday, 14 March from 11am - 2pm at Rushworth Bakery



## Immunisation Sessions

### by Appointment Only

Register at <https://portal.cirv.vic.gov.au>.

If you are feeling unwell or have any cold or flu like symptoms, you must cancel or reschedule your appointment.

### Wednesday, 14 February

9am - 9.45am | Kyabram Senior Citizens Centre

### Thursday, 15 February

5.30 - 6.30pm | Echuca Library

### Monday, 26 February

9am - 9.45am | Tongala Service Centre

Having difficulty making an appointment? Please call Council on 1300 666 535 - we are here to help!

## Kath Koschel - Kindness Factory

Council is hosting an inspiring community presentation by Kath Koschel, founder of Kindness Factory, a global not for profit organisation and movement which inspires ordinary people to do extra ordinary things. A former professional cricketer and Iron Man competitor, Kath has defied all medical prognoses by teaching herself to walk on three separate occasions. Despite facing other serious personal, mental and physical setbacks, her resilience allowed her not only to overcome these challenges, but also see the good in the world when most others couldn't.

**When:** 7.30pm start, Wednesday, 21 February

**Where:** Echuca Paramount Cinema, 392 High Street, Echuca

**Cost:** Free (limit 4 tickets per person)

Light supper provided.

Tickets available by contacting Bobbi Aitken, Executive Assistant Communities 5481 2206 or email [b.aitken@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:b.aitken@campaspe.vic.gov.au)

## Employment

### #campaspecareers

- Business Support Officer - Sustainability
- Early Childhood Educator Co Worker - Casual
- Early Childhood Educator Room Leader - Casual
- Environmental Health Officer
- Executive Assistant - Communities
- Group Fitness Instructor
- Maternal & Child Health Nurse - Casual
- Supported Playgroup Facilitator - Casual

For all positions currently open and application details, visit Council's website.

## Active Stadiums Pilot Program

Campaspe Stadiums will begin a pilot program in February, trialling five months of daytime activities to revitalise the stadiums in Echuca, Kyabram and Tongala.

Activity sessions include:

- Pickleball for seniors
- Strength conditioning for seniors
- Bubs physical activity session
- Dodgeball for people with a disability
- Indoor soccer for people with a disability

For more information, visit Council's website.

## Now Open

For all projects and applications open, visit [campaspe.vic.gov.au/nowopen](http://campaspe.vic.gov.au/nowopen)

### Youth Action Group (YAG)

Young people are invited to join Council's Youth Action Group (YAG). YAG members will provide a youth perspective on our key plans and strategies, direct youth funding towards desired programs, activities and events, and brief community groups, businesses and Council on issues that significantly impact young people in Campaspe. To be eligible for Youth Action Group membership, you must be a resident of Campaspe Shire aged between 12 and 25 years old. If you are under 18 years, you will require parent/guardian permission.

### Port of Echuca Market EOI

Campaspe Shire Council is seeking expressions of interest from incorporated and co-operative organisations to host markets in the Port of Echuca precinct for the 2024-25 financial year. The EOI process will determine what markets are able to take place in the Port of Echuca for the upcoming year. Applications for commercial market holders will not be considered. All markets must support locally made or grown produce and products, second hand, crafts and handmade goods. Resellers are also not permitted at these markets.

Applications close Sunday, 18 February at 11.59pm. For more information or to submit an application, visit the Now Open page on Council's website.

## Rochester Recovery Hub Extended Opening Hours

The Rochester Recovery Hub is trialling longer hours on a Thursday to facilitate after hours meetings for residents who cannot visit during the day.

The new hours on a Thursday will be from 8.30am - 7pm. The Rochester Recovery Hub is the primary location for people to access services and support they need to recover from the recent floods. Come along to the Hub and find out more about the services available for our community.

For more information on the Rochester Recovery Hub visit

[www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/recovery](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/recovery)

# GMW sharing knowledge with the world

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is continuing to share its knowledge with various groups looking at modernising their infrastructure to support their progress.

During December, GMW hosted separate delegations from Spain and Kazakhstan. Both groups were interested in learning more about GMW's experience modernising irrigation infrastructure to help inform their own decisions.

GMW began modernising many of its assets in 2008 when the Connections Project was announced.

The project was the largest of its kind in Australia to improve water delivery efficiencies and saving about 433GL of water losses per year.

These savings and efficiencies were achieved by various methods, including replacing old assets such as Dethridge wheels and drop bar regulators with telemetered meters and automated flume gates.

Around the world, there are now many regions looking to embark on a similar journey.

GMW Water Systems Operations manager Craig Kellow said he was glad to help ensure those doing so could make informed decisions.

"GMW and its customers have benefitted significantly from the modernised delivery network but it was an enormous undertaking and required a lot of preparation," he said.

"It is important groups considering modernising their assets understand the maintenance requirements and what different roles might be required of staff to make the transition a success.

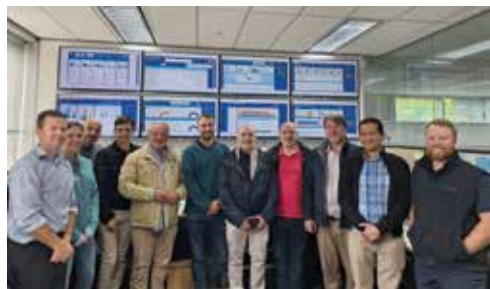
"That is where we can help them and provide some insight."

GMW has hosted a range of senior officials from several different countries throughout 2023, including deputy prime ministers and vice ministers for agriculture.

"It's something we always try to make time for when the opportunity arises," Mr Kellow said.

"We're fortunate to have the infrastructure we manage here at GMW, so it's great to be able to pass on our learnings to those who are about to embark on the same journey."

The tours have been facilitated by Rubicon Water, who are a major provider of gates and meters.



The Spanish delegation hosted by GMW.

# Farmers urged to monitor damp haystacks for fire risk

CFA is urging farmers to ramp up their hay maintenance for the remainder of the season, following a surge in haystack fires, with CFA responding to more than 50 since November.

Igniting predominantly in the western parts of the state across the Wimmera and Loddon Mallee, CFA has responded to 29 in the North West region and twelve in the West region.

The rise calls for the agriculture sector to monitor the moisture and temperature of their hay more regularly, to store in separate stacks and in sheds away from farming equipment and structures.

A recent haystack fire of over 1,000 hay bales in Arapiles on a total fire ban day in the Wimmera and the Mallee serves as a timely reminder for the agriculture sector to ensure they are implementing the appropriate management tools to prevent fire risk.

CFA District 17 Commander Lindsay Barry said spontaneous combustion is the leading cause of haystack fires in Victoria and just one damp bale is enough to ignite a whole stack.

"We are currently in the storage phase of hay season, and there are some contributing factors that lead to ignition," Lindsay said.

"Unfortunately, at the beginning of the season, some bales weren't produced to industry standard, and were stored away with too much moisture.

"Green or damp hay is



CFA deals with a haystack fire.

susceptible to overheating, so those two in combination will make a fire."

Lindsay said due to the significant rain we have received during summer, haystacks that were neither placed inside a shed nor covered with a tarp have been considerably exposed.

"The hay has been pressed for so long, and because of the summer we've had, the majority of fires are where hay has been stored outside and exposed to the elements," Lindsay said.

"Water and hay don't really mix, especially when they stack together. This creates organic decomposition which produces heat, and you end up with a hay fire due to spontaneous ignition."

Having experienced something similar this time

three years ago, Lindsay recalls farms received over 100 millimetres of rain in one storm hitting their haystacks, and a trail of fires as a result.

"For farmers who own hay, or who manage haystacks, we need them to be more vigilant and ensure they're doing regular temperature checks," Lindsay said.

"If they are warm, put measures in place to break down and separate the stacks and use machinery to put in strategic breaks if you can.

"Because of recent weather, we can only implement maintenance and management now." More information on how to prevent haystack fires can be found on CFA's website

(<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/hay>).

PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY LEGAL SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE GOULBURN VALLEY AND RIVERINA SINCE 1890

Dawes & Vary Riordan offers a full range of legal services

- Property, Planning & Construction
- Wills & Powers of Attorney
- Succession Planning
- Deceased Estates
- Agribusiness
- Corporate & Commercial
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Property Division (Matrimonial and De facto)
- Childrens Matters
- TAC Claims / Injury Law



DAWES & VARY RIORDAN | LAWYERS

TATURA: 03 5824 0300

SHEPPARTON: 03 5820 0200

[www.dvrlawyers.com.au](http://www.dvrlawyers.com.au)



## All about wildlife

*Kirsty Ramadan from BoHollow Wildlife is a wildlife rescue expert. Here she shares some of her knowledge about our very familiar wildlife neighbours.*

# Banjo Frog, aka the Pobblebonk Bohollow

The year seems to be flying by and the warmth of Summer is gradually giving way to the change of seasons. There is still plenty of food out there for our critters, lots of insect life, quite a few introduced rodents still scurrying around which benefit our raptor species, grasses for our grazing natives and recent rains have seen our natives turtles busy and on the move, particularly our beautiful Broad Shelled Turtles who are still coming out of the rivers to lay their eggs.

Our native frogs have had a really good season over Spring and Summer due to regular rains and a few weeks ago we could not move around the shelter grounds at night without a torch as every step had to be taken with great care so as not to step on a frog! It felt like we were being invaded by frogs and it was great to see a few different species in great numbers.

One of the frog species most people are quite familiar with is the Banjo Frog, otherwise known as the Pobblebonk, due to the beautiful sound it makes. It is the 'bonk bonk' sound you hear or some people describe it as a plonking sound. These frogs grow quite large and whenever I get a phone call from a person convinced they have found an introduced Cane Toad in their yard or house I always ask for a photo because every time, without fail, it is a Pobblebonk!

These frogs are burrowing creatures who you may come across accidentally while digging in your garden. They like moist environments but can stay buried in the earth

waiting for rain. They do look a bit toad-like with their rounded face and head. They can vary in colour from olive brown, grey or dark brown and can be marbled or have dark patches over their back. Pobblebonks have a distinctive white stripe along their cheek. They do not possess the webbed toes which some of our other frogs do but they do have really strong hind legs to help them burrow into the soil backwards and they also have a spade-like structure on their hind toe to make digging easier.

During breeding time, which occurs anytime from August through to April, the males have vocal wars. They use their call to attract the females when they emerge from their burrows after rain. I assume the males with the strongest and most appealing calls are the most successful suitors.

Females can lay up to a whopping four thousand eggs! They lay these eggs in a white, floating raft on the surface of the water, usually in dams, lakes, swamps and creeks, where the water is still. The female Pobblebonk does a really cool thing where she uses her front legs to beat up a foam from the clear jelly which surrounds the eggs. This foam helps keep the eggs buoyant on the surface and helps the eggs to stick to vegetation, it also helps to protect them. She also cleverly uses her large skin flaps on her fingers to transport air bubbles from the surface of the water to the foamy nest of eggs to keep them oxygenated and healthy.

Although we may not realise it, human activity can greatly impact on our frogs. Pobblebonks are considered common and are still doing reasonably well compared to some of our other frog species. A big threat to all frogs is loss of habitat, usually due to land clearing and development of land. Frogs are also very sensitive to toxins in their environment. You can help them out by being very aware of avoiding using chemicals such as herbicides and keeping any waterways like dams and creeks free of any toxic runoff. Providing refuges of fallen timber in shaded



and damp areas of your garden can give frogs somewhere to hide or burrow under.

There is also great information online on how to make a 'frog hotel' which involves using pipes in a garden bed or pot. This is definitely something on our "to do" list here on the shelter grounds as my kids love seeing the frogs around the place and if we can give them a bit more of a helping hand by providing suitable habitat, it all contributes to a healthy environment.

Also, if you do come across a frog, it is very important not to move it to another environment, not only because you may not pick the correct environment but because there is a particularly nasty infectious disease caused by the chytrid fungus which frogs can contract which can be easily spread to a different area if a frog is moved to another area. This disease can make frogs extremely unwell and kill them.

Be mindful while driving on our roads during and after rain as our frogs are always crossing roads and can often just be sitting on the road. I always try to avoid them, within reason of course, I do not want anyone crashing their vehicle in an attempt to dodge a frog! Also be careful while digging in your garden. I unearthed an unsuspecting Pobblebonk just the other day in the backyard which I gently covered back up with loose soil and apologised for my disturbance.

Frogs will also drown if they cannot get out of a container of water. In any water baths, troughs, etc, the solution can be as simple as placing a stick in the water to the edge to give small critters an escape if they cannot climb out on their own.

Bohollow EnviroEd will be at KidsTown in between Shepparton and Mooroopna on Tuesday 19th April from 10am to midday as part of a RiverConnect environmental activity for the school holidays. We will have some live critters there for people to meet and learn more about. The theme for the day is, you guessed it, frogs!



**NorthCentral**  
PLUMBING

- General Plumbing • Drainage • Hot water
- Gasfitting • Sewer blockages • Roofing

Maintenance, Renovations & Construction  
Commercial & Domestic

**04 13 370 665**  
[www.ncplumbing.com.au](http://www.ncplumbing.com.au)

For injured wildlife contact Kirsty at Bohollow on: 0447 636 953

**Advertising in the Waranga News supports your business AND your community**  
Call 5856 1120 or email [wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)

# Peter Walsh MP Visits Rushworth

by Graeme Wall

**Nationals Leader Peter Walsh and his advisor Andrew Mole visited Rushworth recently to look at the conservation work done by the Rushworth Field and Game.**

Conservation officer Graeme Wall said Peter was keen to look at the successful hen house and nest box program.

First was a trip to the Rushworth Golf Club to look at some of the parrot nesting boxes which had been successful at providing a safe breeding site for some eastern rosellas.

One of the boxes had become a breeding site for sugar gliders as well. Field and Game members and Golf Club members were surprised when doing a nest check to find three young sugar gliders in the box

Over the next few years, following on the success of last year, the Field and Game and Golf Club are looking at building on this partnership to erect more boxes in the future.

Denis Hardie and Slim Perry, representing the Golf Club during Peter's visit, were more than pleased that in the off-golf season the course would be further utilised as a safe breeding area for native birds and the surprise sugar gliders.

The next destination was one local wetland to look at some of the hen houses and nest boxes that the Field and Game had erected providing an elevated nest area that foxes and feral cats can't access. Peter was impressed with the success and the two hen houses that were inspected had clutches of eggs.

While looking at the nest sites three brolgas flew into the wetland. These were the parents and a young broлга that is now flying. The parents bred successfully on this wetland thanks to the landowner, Field and Game members who had carried out fox shoots in this area and other landowners and hunters who have worked hard to reduce fox numbers.



**Charlie Cerci, Denis Hardie, Hon Peter Walsh and Graeme Wall.**



**A sugar glider exits the nest box!**



**Peter Walsh inspects hen house and eggs.**

This year there have been four successful hatchings of brolgas in the local area that we know of - a good result which will further add to the local population.

Although Peter had an Achilles surgery in August, he was keen to pull on a pair of waders and walk in to see the conservation work done.

If anyone would like to see more photos and other stories check out Rushworth Field and Game Facebook page which also includes a story on the recent media award won by Rushworth against other Field and Game branches.

**Campbell-Smith & Associates**  
**Certified Practising Accountant**  
 ABN: 56 112 042 138  
 Principal: Don Campbell-Smith ABIA AIIA B.Bus. CPA  
**Specialising in Personal Tax Returns**  
**Local Representative: Donelle Robinson**  
 211 Nine Mile Road (PO Box 240), Rushworth Victoria 3612  
 Mob: 0400 920 850  
 Email: donelle.robinson@gmail.com  
*Give me a call for friendly professional service!*

**Rushworth Hardware Emporium**  
 22c Moora Rd

---

Gas bottle refilling . Building Supplies  
 PVC Pipe and fittings . Water Tanks  
 Electrical Supplies and appliances  
 Power tools . Key cutting  
 Stock feed . Bird seed  
 Chainsaw sharpening, chains, spare parts and hand sharpening equipment

---

**A huge range of products and services!**  
**Ph. 5856 1368**



# A legend lost to the racing world

The morning of Tuesday 23 January 2024 saw the passing of Barry Myers of Shepparton at 82 years of age.

Barry was the much-loved husband of Evelyn and father of Shane, Dennis, Cheryl and Kathryn. He will also be sadly missed by their partners and his adored grandchildren and their partners.

Barry passed away peacefully following a serious illness over the past several months. A Memorial Service took place on Friday 2 February at the Cabaret Room of the Goulburn Valley Hotel Shepparton, where an estimated 800 people attended. The GV Hotel Manager said that this was the largest crowd that they had ever had at the venue.

Best known in speedway circles as the man who created the Goulburn Valley Auto Club, now running Rushworth Speedway, Barry was involved in the sport and the club from 1966 right up to 2017.

At that time, after more than fifty years of contribution to the sport of Speedway Racing, it was reported that Barry had waved his last flag and hung up his helmet for the last time.

Barry announced his retirement from speedway at the Goulburn Valley Auto Club's presentation night at Bendigo in 2017. He was the inaugural President and the driving force behind the establishment of the G.V.A.C. in August 1966, when he called a meeting of a little group of hot rod racers to form the club. From that time, Barry together with his wife Evelyn, had worked tirelessly over a variety of positions for the betterment of the sport in the Goulburn Valley.

At that 2017 meeting, the GV Auto Club honoured Barry with a presentation certificate celebrating his speedway career and presented both him and Evelyn with a 'Gold Pass', ensuring them free entry to Rushworth Speedway forever.

In a brief speech, Barry said that of the three founding members of G.V.A.C., he was the only one remaining, and commented on the progress that had been made over the past fifty-one years. "I am bloody proud to be part of this club," he said.

Along the way, Barry had received many honours and recognition for his devotion to the sport. This commenced with a Life Membership back in the 1970s, and at the club's 40th Anniversary, he was the first inductee to the "Hall of Fame", to be immediately followed by a promotion to 'Legend' status. At the G.V.A.C.'s 50th Anniversary in 2016, Barry and Evelyn both received 50-year Gold Medallions in recognition of their continued service.

After starting his speedway racing career



Barry Myers - Picture by Inaction Photos.

in the early 1960s in a 1932 side valve hot rod called "Ramcharger", Barry progressed through a series of sedans including a shortened V8 Customline, with about 50cm cut out of the body, through to a Chev Camaro. His main love though was with the open wheeler Super Modifieds, where he earned several 'number ones' for both club and zone championships. The pinnacle of Barry's driving came in 1980 when he won the Victorian Sprintcar Championship.

But for Barry, speedway was not just about driving. He was one of those rare breeds of racing enthusiasts who also made their mark as an excellent speedway administrator.

With administrative capabilities stretching well beyond driving, Barry was club President for a period of five years up till 1970 and since then it has only been on rare occasions when he was not on the club committee. Add to this, other duties such as Chief Steward, Starter and Clerk of Course, there are few tasks that he has not undertaken.

It is an interesting fact that in view of Barry's multiple talents, the Goulburn Valley Auto Club had seen fit to issue Barry with an identification tag which simply reads 'GOD' - "Does everything." When asked how the title of GOD came about, Barry inevitably responds: "We've both been around for about the same length of time."

Barry has also been at the forefront of committees which have organised G.V.A.C.'s 40th and 50th Anniversary events, and also the "Good Old Days" speedway reunion in 2013, involving drivers from throughout the Goulburn Valley, North East, and Riverina areas.

For a period of four years in the late 1970s, he was also co-promoter of Rushworth Speedway as a founding member of the Waranga Promotions Group.

Several members of Barry's family have

been actively involved with speedway, with Evelyn a long-serving member and Life Member, from early canteen work and fundraiser on the ladies committee, through to lap-scorer and working on the entry gate. Son Dennis Myers followed his father into open wheel racing, and has achieved multiple Australian and State Championships in Grand Prix Midgets. Daughter Kathryn was indispensable to the G.V.A.C. running the lap scoring computer on race days. Grandson Alex continued the family tradition of speedway racing by taking out the Masters Series

Championship for GP Midgets 2023.

In 2021, Barry received what was probably his greatest accolade, with his induction into the Greater Shepparton Sports Hall of Fame Honour Roll at a presentation ceremony and dinner at the Shepparton Civic Centre.

Right up until recent years, he was an active member of the Goulburn Valley Aero Club. Barry was an accomplished pilot, travelling frequently around Australia with Evelyn in his own plane before giving up the skies in favour of a 4WD and caravan, with which they spent more time travelling and exploring our country at ground level.

Throughout his much-storied career in speedway, Barry had achieved a remarkable series of 'firsts' in addition to those on the racetrack.

- He was the first President of G.V.A.C
- The first Life Member
- The first Hall of Fame Member
- The first 'Legend'
- The first 50-year member (together with Evelyn)
- The first speedway sportsman to be inducted into the Greater Shepparton Sports Hall of Fame Honour Roll.

Barry was one of those very rare people who possessed just the right mix of personal qualities. An excellent administrator, without doubt a great driver, an entrepreneurial "people person," and a visionary who knew where he wanted to go, and to take others with him into the future.

Particularly in Speedway, I think that there is a tendency to over-use terms such as 'iconic' and 'legendary'. However, in the case of Bazza, he qualified easily.

Rest In Peace Barry Myers, and may you take your title of GOD with you. There may be an interesting discussion.

*Ray Read (A friend for fifty-five years)*

# Sports Report

Proudly sponsored by  
**KANANGRA  
ACCOMMODATION**

## Rushworth Pennant Finals coming

The pennant season has been a great season for our club hopefully looking forward to being in a few finals.

### Mid week

#### Division 1

30 January

Hilltop 85 def Rushworth 62

6 February

Seymour 74 def Rushworth 55

The team lost to Seymour but things are not so bad. Division one is very competitive and played against top players. Jean's rink had a win - well done. Laurie went down by 5 and Lyn's rink had a bad day.

#### Division 6 (3rd on ladder)

30 January

Mooroopna White 55 def Rushworth 32

6 February

Colbinabbin 40 It Rushworth 43

Well done Rushworth, beating our neighbours by three shots. A great team effort by the players and they are looking good for the final. All the best in the coming weeks.

### Weekend

#### Division 3 (2nd on ladder)

3 February

Shepparton Golf 84 def Rushworth 80

10 February

Mooroopna 85 It Rushworth 92

A great team effort and this consolidated second position on the ladder. Next week they play Kyabram and this will be a dangerous game.

#### Division 7 (5th on ladder)

3 February

Seymour 38 def Rushworth 30

10 February

Mooroopna Golf 29 It Rushworth 49

A good win, over third place side Mooroopna. We are in fifth place with one game to go so watch with interest what happens next week.



## Rushworth Barefoot Bowls

It was another great turnout during the week for barefoot bowls. A few new faces each week and some returning players.

The club is only putting the event on for another week. The weather has been very kind and the fun and enjoyment has been outstanding. It is only \$5 to play - 6.30 pm Wednesday night with supper provided and the bar open. Spare bowls are available if you need them. Come and enjoy the fun.



## Rushworth Speedway Events

### 17 February

Sports Sedans, VSC Unlimited Sedans, VSC Sprintcar State Title, GV Open Saloons, GV Productions, GV Ladies, GV Juniors.

### 2 March

SDAV State Title, Sports Sedan, GP Midgets Ironbark Classic and GP Master series round, GV Open Saloons, GV Productions, GV Ladies, GV Juniors.

### 13 April

Amca's, GV Open Saloons, GV Productions feature, GV Ladies feature, GV Junior feature

### 27 April

VMPA Modified Sedan series round, VSC Open Juniors, 1200 Juniors, GV Open Saloons feature, GV Productions, GV Ladies, GV Juniors

### 11 May

Compact Speed cars, Sports Sedans, Standard Saloons Paul Denton Memorial, GV Open Saloons Paul Denton Memorial, GV Production Paul Denton Memorial, GV Ladies Paul Denton Memorial, GV Juniors Paul Denton Memorial.

### 25 May

Amca's, GP Midgets Master Series, VSC Mar Beattie Memorial, GV Open Saloons, GV Productions, GV Ladies, GV Juniors.

**KANANGRA  
ACCOMMODATION**

Colbinabbin Bed and Breakfast  
53 Mitchell Street Colbinabbin

Phone: 0408 602 841  
Email: julie.prince59@bigpond.com

# Colbo bowls training Scottish celebrity guest

**Barry Cuttriss organised his friend Alex Marshall to come and join in on their training session and give a few tips;**

Alex Marshall is Scotlands most successful Commonwealth Games competitor, having won five gold and one silver medal.

He is in the top ten bowlers in the world at the moment. His other achievements include six times World Indoor Champion, eight times World Indoor Pairs titles, seven World Outdoor Champion medals in pairs, fours and singles, just to mention a few.

Alex was awarded his MBE in 2007 for services to bowls.

He is currently playing pennant for Moama and will soon be playing with the Moreton Bay Pirates in the BPL.

The word got out that it was Alex's birthday on Thursday and the evening finished up with a birthday cake made by Jenni Rathjen.



Thursday's training gang surround the Scottish Champion.



Bob McLean, John Vale and Bryon Macintosh watching on as Alex puts his bowl down.



Alex giving some advice to John Vale.

## Rathjen Invitation Fours Tournament

Rushworth & District Community Bank was the major sponsor of Finn Rathjen Invitation Fours Tournament held 11 February.

Winners were Tatura D Moreton, B Ibbot, L Nicholson, and K Smith.

Rhonda Risstrom, (right) from the Rushworth and District Community Bank, presented the winners' cheque to the team from Tatura.



# Bendigo Bank member renews success

Our local Bendigo Bank Customer Relationship Officer, Jahnae Parrish, having renewed success with horse River Valley Tiptoe a New Forest Stallion owned by Arnwood Partnership, Tatura.

A most heart moving reunion fifteen years on after Black Saturday which split up

their partnership for many years.

The reunion of the 22 year old stallion, Tippy to his friends, and a dedicated Jahnae have seen them rekindle success taking out third place in their latest event with Tippy also being presented Best of Breed for the New Forest section.

Then on the 10 February being awarded Champion Saddle and Reserve in Hand Mountain and Moorland pony at Barastoc Horse of The Year. Not only success with one horse Jahnae rides and shows another favorite horse, Tarrangaw Tango, along with her own beautiful Welsh Cobs. Congratulations.



**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE,  
BUT YOU CAN PREPARE FOR IT.**

The best way to keep you and your loved ones safe this fire season, is to make sure you have a fire plan.

Go to [fireplanner.vic.gov.au](https://fireplanner.vic.gov.au) to create your personalised fire plan now.

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?**

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

