

Waranga News

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staffed by volunteers

Thursday 29 February 2024

Rushworth's creative capital

Kez R Art's schedule of Creative Workshops for young and old are just one example of Rushworth's activities that lead it to being known as the 'Arts' town of the region.

Held at the Rushworth ART Depot, Kerrie Raglus has developed her popular workshops ranging from adult art journalling to kids' craft, offering a creative outlet for anyone with the motivation, regardless of skill level.

ART Depot exhibitions, workshops and activities, together with the successful Rushworth business of talented ceramic artist Angie Russi, have all contributed to putting the town on the 'arts trail' map.

The recently released draft of the Rushworth's Place-Based Plan has also noted the town's potential to attract both visitors and residents interested in arts and crafts, with one of the priorities listed as 'Support for the development of an arts precinct'.

Residents are being asked to offer feedback on the proposed Place-Based Plan, either by completing an online survey or attending one of the drop-in sessions (see page 26).

Read more about the ART Depot and Kez R Art in our Arts & Tourism - page 8.



KEZ R Art's Kids Kraft sessions have proved so popular participants can't wait to start up again for 2024. Luckily it's nearly time - this Sunday 3 March at 11 am at the ART Depot.

Campaspe Shire to become ONE

Campaspe Shire is one of the 39 Victorian municipalities facing changes to their electoral structure at the coming October council election.

Following the recommendations from an electoral representation advisory panel, the shire will move from the existing five ward structure (Echuca, Western, Rochester, Kyabram-Deakin and Waranga) to an unsubdivided structure with all nine elected members representing the whole municipality.

The electoral changes were based on feedback provided by constituents to an independent electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne.

The review began in 2020 when preliminary submissions were called for from local residents and groups. In 2023 an initial report was issued, proposing three models for consideration, offering another opportunity for community submissions.

There were ten preliminary submissions

given, including from the Kyabram Deakin Ratepayers Residents and Development Group Inc and the Stanhope and District Development Committee. After the 2023 report, two residents made submissions, and they both chose the first model.

"These new ward boundaries will be in place for the local government elections this year – an important step in our work to reform local government and meet the expectations of communities right across Victoria." Minister Horne said.

Campaspe Shire council CEO Pauline Gordon said the panel had considered the shire's history of uncontested elections and low candidate numbers for single-councillor wards under the current structure.

"Their recommendation concluded that an unsubdivided structure would remove the risk

of uncontested elections, provide a greater selection of candidates for voters and could also encourage a more diverse council," Ms Gordon said.

Of the three models identified in a preliminary report, the panel considers an unsubdivided structure to be the best model for promoting fair and equitable representation for voters in Campaspe Shire, and consequently facilitate good governance under the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.

The local government elections are due to take place in October with nominations for candidates opening in the coming months.

For more information about the electoral structure reviews visit:

<https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/electoral-representation-advisory-panels-eraps>

GV Health Waranga News



February 2024

WELCOME, GRADUATE NURSES

The Goulburn Valley Health Graduate Nurse Program offers nursing graduates the opportunity to transition from being student nurses to becoming confident practising registered or enrolled nurses in a safe supportive environment.

Each graduate completes three four-month rotations across speciality areas with support provided by clinical area educators, clinical support nurses and preceptors.

We welcome Waranga Health's newest graduate, enrolled nurses Chelsea Harris and Esra Gunes, who will be working here until June 2024.



Chelsea Harris (far left) and Esra Gunes (far right) with Clinical Nurse Educator Sadie Vale (middle).

RAISING AWARENESS

February is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

Each year in Australia about 1,815 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer. In most cases the cancer will be diagnosed at an advanced stage, where it is very difficult to treat.

Waranga Health staff recently dressed in teal to show their support and raise awareness of ovarian cancer throughout the month of February.



To complement their outfits, staff enjoyed yummy teal-coloured cupcakes.

NOTICEBOARD

Community Walking Group

When: Thursday
Where: Meet at front of Waranga Health, 14 High St Rushworth
Time: 8am-9am
Cost: No cost
All abilities welcome.

Rushworth AA group

When: Thursday
Where: Waranga Health
Time: 7pm
Cost: No cost
Phone: Jenny on 0430 103 145 for more information.

Carer Support Group

When: Thursday, March 7
Thursday, April 4
Time: 2pm-4pm
Where: Rushworth Community House
Phone: (03) 5851 8026 for more information.
New members welcome.

Women's Health Clinic

When: Wednesday, May 29
Where: Waranga Health
Time: 2pm-5pm
Cost: No cost
Phone: (03) 5851 8000 to make an appointment.

Hearing Checks

When: Friday, March 22
Where: Waranga Health
Time: 10.30am-2.30pm
Cost: No cost
Phone: (03) 5851 8000 to make an appointment.

CONGRATULATIONS, MICHELE!

Congratulations to Waranga Health's Community Health Co-ordinator Michele Hanson, who was recently awarded Rushworth's Citizen of the Year. Michele was nominated for her selfless involvement within the community that extends beyond her role at Waranga Health.

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

Light supper provided.



Michele active and passionate about her role promoting 'Share the Dignity.'

WARANGA HEALTH - COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE PHONE (03) 5851 8000 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
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Waranga Campus Rushworth | P: (03) 5851 8000
E: waranga.admin@gvhealth.org.au | www.gvhealth.org.au



You can keep up to date with what's happening at Waranga Health on Facebook. Like our page at [facebook.com/warangahealth](https://www.facebook.com/warangahealth)



Celebrate women’s contribution on IWD – *Inspire Inclusion* on 8 March

International Women’s Day celebrates the achievements of women, acknowledging the work of those pioneering women who fought for the right of women to vote serving to remind us of the many challenges that remain in realising global gender equality.

The campaign theme for International Women’s Day 2024 is *Inspire Inclusion*.

When we inspire others to understand and value women’s inclusion, we forge a better world. And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there’s a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment.

It’s this goal of inclusion that has inspired some Rushworth women to ensure the spirit of IWD is alive in our community this year.

“Breaking Barriers: Women Making it in a Man’s Domain” is the inspiring and empowering topic for Rushworth’s International Women’s Day talk.

As International Women’s Day is a time to celebrate the achievements of women and to highlight the challenges they still face, especially in a still gender-segregated workplace, the topic speaks to the resilience and determination of women who have succeeded in environments where they are the minority. This theme not only recognises their accomplishments but also inspires others to strive for success in similar circumstances.

These women are trailblazers who have overcome numerous obstacles to reach the top of their fields. By sharing their experiences, they can not only inspire others but also

provide practical advice and guidance.

One such successful ‘barrier-breaking’ Rushworth woman is Lou Costa who will be offering an insight into her experience of breaking into the heavily male-dominated landscape construction industry. Her story serves as inspiration for those facing similar challenges, showing them that success is possible with determination and hard work. Lou’s journey, filled with triumphs and setbacks, may well resonate with others in the audience, making her message all the more impactful.

By highlighting the achievements of women like Lou Costa who challenge gender boundaries in the workplace, this event celebrates women’s successes and provides valuable insights and support for those seeking to follow in their footsteps.

Everyone is invited to the Rushworth district International Women’s Day event which will be held at **6pm on 8 March** at the Senior Citizens/Band Room.

The ‘Breaking Barriers’ talk will be followed by some collective sharing – of experiences, thoughts and refreshments.

‘Breaking Barriers’ is sponsored by the Waranga News.

Born in the Goulburn Valley, Louise Costa left home to gain a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture at RMIT before extensive overseas travel.



In 1997 Louise started a landscape design and construction business - Design By Nature - specialising in drought tolerant garden design and creating landscapes that inspire human interaction with nature.

Louise worked in the construction industry on many large-scale landscape projects across the Goulburn Valley, including Harmony Village, Shepparton, Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton - ‘Weaving Garden’ and ‘Children’s Garden’, St Mary’s School Rushworth, Mooroopna North Primary School, St Joseph’s Primary School Nagambie, Shepparton East Primary School, Euroa Arboretum, Winton Wetlands, along with many small and large private gardens.

On these projects, Louise has employed local people and worked alongside earth-moving contractors, stonemasons and fabricators - and she does all her own paving!

Projects prioritise connectivity and are combined with bespoke features and large-scale sculpture made from recycled materials. Design By Nature celebrates public open space as part of the greater environment.

Louise has also held several roles within public advocacy, state-based and regional committees and volunteer organisations where she prioritises community consultation, education and protection of the natural environment.

Meet the authors on IWD at Echuca Library

In celebration of International Women’s Day on 8 March, two guest authors, Hazel Edwards OAM and Karen Mills will be at a special Campaspe Libraries event.

Australian author, speaker and literacy ambassador Hazel Edwards OAM writes for all ages and has published over 220 books across a range of subjects and genres ranging from young adult fiction, adult mysteries, non-fiction and writing guides.

Ms Edwards is best known for her children’s book ‘There’s a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake’ which evolved into a series of seven ‘Hippo’ picture books, inspired a junior chapter book, classroom play scripts, a musical stage production and a short movie.

Also appearing will be local writer, poet, artist and researcher Karen Mills. Mrs Mills will be speaking about Edel Wignell, the author who inspired her to self-publish her first book ‘Precious Artwork’. Mrs Mills is also the president of the Campaspe Murray Writers group, which meets monthly at the Echuca Library.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Rob Amos said Council is honoured to be a platform for female authors on International Women’s Day.

“Welcoming these exceptional women authors to our library not only celebrates their literary contributions but also highlights the importance of fostering a culture that champions women’s voices and stories,” Mayor Amos said.

Books will be available for sale courtesy of Collins Booksellers and both authors will sign purchased copies for attendees. This is a free event, with afternoon tea provided but bookings are essential for seating and catering purposes.

International Women’s Day author visit and afternoon tea. Time: 2pm

Date: Friday 8 March 2024

Location: Echuca Library

THE IDEA OF HAVING AN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY WAS FIRST PUT FORWARD AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY AMID RAPID WORLD INDUSTRIALISATION AND ECONOMIC EXPANSION THAT LED TO PROTESTS OVER WOMEN’S WORKING CONDITIONS. THE FIRST IWD WAS OBSERVED ON 28 FEBRUARY 1909 IN THE UNITED STATES.

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

Death trap

I refer to two emails sent in 2019 and again in 2024 to the Shire in relation to the dangerous, if not lethal, road conditions on the last 500 metres of the Rushworth-Whroo Road, which has again turned to chalk/bulldust, as it does every year, and is again in need of another round of urgent remedial works.

I am concerned that this road, which has twice previously been marked by Council for sealing with bitumen, has not been sealed, and given the considerable traffic, status of the road as primary access use by multiple eighteen-wheel semis (pig feed and livestock), and vehicular traffic, it possibly should be!

With plumes of bull dust, one cannot see and with eighteen-wheel transports on a 100km/hr stretch flying over the hill into this desert like road, which is a whiteout, someone will get hurt. I understand the inspectors have twice recommended this stretch of road be sealed but nothing has been done yet.

The cost of annual remedial works is approx. \$15k every year, after allowing for a grader, water truck and roller plus lolly-pop men but the cost to seal (bitumen) same (just 4m wide over 500m long) is only \$40k, and this negates annual remedial maintenance of \$15k for at least 20 years.

It appears Council would save \$300k over 20 years for a cost of just \$40k spent now. These figures are based on conversations with various local shires about sealing just 500m of road four metres wide.

Why does the Council not apply for a federal grant under the Roads-to-Recovery program for \$40k? Or a Tourism grant for \$40k to safely get tourists to Whroo? Or ask your finance team to make a cost benefit decision of sealing which pays for itself in three years!? Or will the Council continue to spend \$15k on remedial works every year or get a Federal grant?

Multiple eighteen-wheel pig trucks (feed and transport) drive up the bitumen hill and hit the brakes over the crest to slow down for the intersection, ripping up the surface, and creating a white-out.

On-going traffic creates the same whiteout such that subsequent traffic cannot see on-coming traffic creating a perfect storm for head on collision which is sure to be fatal.

It would seem to me the prudent and responsible thing to do both financially, legally and ethically is to seal the road – four metres wide for 500m long – creating a safe passage for all drivers.

The local councillor has seen this issue firsthand and acknowledges it is “dangerous”. I hope you will please consider this issue seriously and take action before someone gets hurt.

Capex programs such as this require community support via submissions to Council when the draft opens for public comment in six weeks time in April. Would a better road support tourism, safety and long term financial viability of ratepayer funds?

Your input and feedback is an important component of Shire decision making. Does this Ward deserve funding, which may come from the Roads to Recovery program? Your feedback/input is needed.

*Sam McCardel
Local resident / Road user*

Palm tree removal

The Owner’s Corporation of 65-67 High Street Rushworth last year lodged an application with Campaspe Shire to remove a dangerous, non-heritage listed palm tree from the property, which includes Rushworth Community House, three villa units and the Community Garden.

The Shire received one objection to the tree removal that we know of.

Ill-advised comments were also posted on social media, triggering widespread, unfounded ru-mours about the project scope.

Seeking to allay any local fears about the scope of the plan, Rushworth Community House last week posted a detailed analysis of the tree’s history, status and potential dangers on the its Facebook Page. Parts of this post are reproduced here:

“As required by local government processes, the Community House contacted the Shire of Campaspe to discuss the status of the palm tree and assess the possibility of its removal.

Campaspe Shire records indicated that the palm tree in question was planted after the construction of the units at 65-67 High Street Rushworth in the 1980s. Thus it is not – and never was – heritage listed.

Based on this advice from Campaspe Shire, the Rushworth Community House – acting on the request of the Owner’s Corporation – applied for a building permit to effect the removal of the palm tree.

There are several reasons underpinning the application, which has since been endorsed by Council subject to any timely and strictly relevant objections.

The offending palm tree is very close to both the unit on the southern side of the common driveway and to the exterior of the Community House’s multipurpose room. It occasionally sheds heavy fronds whose impact velocities present a clear and present danger to nearby buildings, parked cars and pedestrians using the common driveway.

The tree also sheds copious quantities of



palm nuts, which present a genuine slip and fall hazard in the area.

Despite the best efforts of one unit resident to remove the palm nuts from the driveway, they aggregate dangerously and threaten the safety of residents, ambulance community officers situated in the north eastern unit and pedestrians moving between High Street and the Community Garden along the common driveway.

The roots of the palm tree have also damaged surrounding brickwork, presenting additional hazards for people using the area.”

Rushworth Community House is committed to a greener Rushworth, but not at any price.

The safety of residents and visitors must take absolute priority when considering the retention of the tree, and while its removal may impact the visual serenity of some locals, that is more than outweighed by the need to keep both people and property safe.

As stated above, the tree is not heritage listed and it is potentially very dangerous. For every-one’s peace of mind, it must be removed at the earliest opportunity!

*Cass Alexander
President
Rushworth Community House*

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Place-Based Plan 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

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.

Waste survey to gather community habits

Council's waste team is conducting a survey of residents to find out more about their recycling and waste disposal habits, with survey respondents in the running to win some prizes.

Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Rob Amos said such insights will be valuable for future decision-making and are necessary for developing and implementing upcoming projects.

"The survey will form baseline data for some exciting upcoming projects. The team is working on a year long educational campaign on what goes in what bin and services available at the resource recovery centres.

"Residents who complete the survey will also go in the draw to win a \$100 prepaid voucher as well.

"The survey closes at 5pm on Friday, 8 March. We look forward to hearing about your waste habits.

"Our waste team are dedicated to supporting the community. They rely on the data from these surveys to understand how people use the services and what can be improved for future use," Cr Amos said.

To complete the survey, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/MJSK3CK.

New book on Whroo's gold rush of 19th C

District historian and long-time Waranga News contributor Alan McLean has just published a new book. "Rushing to Whroo, 1853-1880" is a 230-page review of the once-thriving town which had all but disappeared within another 70 years.

"Books have been written about gold-fields which prospered, like Ballarat, Beechworth and Bendigo, but the gold-fields which faded away have had little coverage. This book gathers up the eye-witness accounts of the hectic early years, when diggers rushed to Whroo seeking the fortune in gold which the first reports suggested was there for the taking," Alan said last week.

"It is a book about people, the men who worked on the surface and those who went deep underground, looking for veins of quartz to bring up for crushing in the search for what was once the world's most valuable metal.

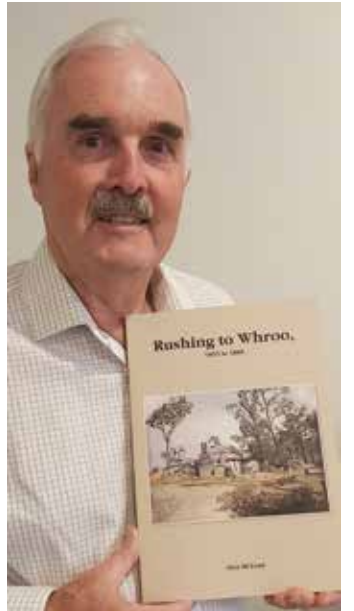
"The book has gathered up newspaper reports of the day, revealing the dangers in the mines, the loss of life and

the injuries, and the hazards of horse travel on the rough tracks.

"I have also included information about the school, the churches, the concerts and the dancing as people made their own entertainment, often to raise funds for a worthy cause, like a bereft family," Alan explained.

"The picnics and the sports, the role of the Chinese and the impact of illness sweeping the township regularly taking the lives of small children, the crimes and the punishment are key features of the early years, and strange to say, there was serious talk of a railway line being constructed to Whroo!" Alan added.

Copies are for sale at the Waranga News office, Rushworth Community



Enquiries may be made directly to Alan on 0412 143660.

House, the General Store Rushworth and the Colbinabbin Community Co-op Store.

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Weeds, Waste and Invasive Species - information sessions happening in Campaspe

Campaspe Shire Council's Flood Recovery and Waste and Environment Departments are hosting four Weeds, Waste and Invasive Species information sessions in March, including one at the Rushworth Shire Hall.

The sessions, also to be held in Gunbower, Toolleen, Tongala and Rushworth, will feature a range of guest speakers on relevant issues to assist people with the prosperity of their property.

Mayor, Cr Rob Amos said the sessions will help educate the community on how to care for their land more efficiently and aims to provide tips and advice for landowners.

"The four sessions have been planned in collaboration with Agriculture Victoria, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and Goulburn Murray Landcare Network.

Sessions will feature a presentation by Jim Castles, a consultant who specialises in pest plant and animal control, habitat protection and enhancement and threatened species projects. He will be providing information on his recent assessment of weeds and native vegetation in the region and how to identify weeds and control methods.

Other presentations will include:

- The One for One Program from North Central Catchment Management Authority.
- Available biosecurity and agriculture services from Agriculture Victoria.
- Grants available in the northern region from Agriculture Victoria.

"There's a great range of topics being covered in the presentations, particularly with increased weeds and waste across our shire as a result of the flooding events over the past few years," said Cr Amos.

"Community members will be encouraged to join in a Q&A segment at the end of the presentations and there will also be opportunities for one-on-one discussions with presenters. The sessions are free, however bookings are required for catering purposes.

Bookings can be made via the listings in the Events Directory on Council's website.

For more information, call the Campaspe Shire Recovery Hub on 1300 666 535 and press 2.

Session information:

Gunbower Weeds, Waste and Invasive Species Information Session – Tuesday, 5 March. 6 – 8pm at Gunbower Soldiers Memorial Hall.

Toolleen Weeds, Waste and Invasive Species Information Session – Thursday, 7 March. 6 – 8pm at Toolleen Hotel.

Tongala Weeds, Waste and Invasive Species Information Session – Tuesday, 19 March. 6 – 8pm at Tongala Shire Hall.

Rushworth Weeds, Waste and Invasive Species Information Session – Thursday 21 March. 6 – 8pm at Rushworth Shire Hall.

Clean Up Australia Day 2024

Clean Up Australia Day is back! Join local groups on Sunday, 3 March to clean up Campaspe.

In 2023, over 760,000 Australians stepped up to help our environment and show their community spirit!

Help to keep your town clean by picking up litter at one of the 2024 Clean Up Australia Day events happening across Campaspe Shire.

Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Rob Amos encouraged everyone to join a clean-up crew in their community.

"Community groups, businesses and individuals across our region have done a fantastic job organising Clean Up events. We have

continued to support these events by providing essential resources.

"As always, there's fantastic uptake from the local schools and businesses in the region, who support the Clean Up initiative through the dedicated Clean Up Australia schools and business days.

"If you're interested in registering for an event but haven't done so, there's still time to create an event of your own. Visit the Clean Up Australia website," Cr Amos added.

Campaspe Shire Council Director Sustainability, Michael Sharp said it's a great initiative for Australia and there are fantastic benefits for the shire.

"With the support of the community, we work towards stopping litter from ending up in our public spaces, bushland and waterways. If there's less rubbish around on the ground, people are less likely to litter.

"Rubbish that is thrown away, even in small amounts, can still do great damage to

our native wildlife and affects the appearance of our neighbourhoods," Mr Sharp said.

Clean Up Australia will be sending starter kits including bags, gloves and other resources to those who register to host an event.

For more information on events being held, visit the Clean Up Australia Day website and search your postcode to join an event. Clean Up Australia Day events in the Shire, with meeting points are listed below.

Rushworth

• **Sunday, 3 March from 10am**

Meeting at the Farmhouse at 71 Slaughterhouse Road for roadside cleaning.

Kyabram

• **Sunday, 3 March from 8.30am**

Meeting on the corner of Allan Street and Breen Avenue junction, Kyabram for roadside cleaning.



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Old school classes get together

The Colbinabbin Country Hotel was a lively place on Saturday 17 February. A reunion of the Rushworth High School Form Five of 1970, the Form Five of 1971, and friends who by-passed those years after starting their secondary education at the school, was held, involving some of the partners of these clever and gifted students.

Also joining in were retired High School teachers Brian Souter, Roger Barnes and Ted Shanks, who warmly shared their recollections of time spent at the school.

One former student had departed the school in 1968, and not been seen by classmates for 56 years! Others have been regular participants in about six such reunions since schooldays ended.

The interaction initially was wonderful to watch, and even better once people had worked out the name of the person they were speaking with! After happy chats over a pub meal, participants game enough to recall particular school events took turns on the microphone, prompting lots of laughter.

Old photos of schooldays action were displayed by Julie (Jones) Sefton, Barry Maxwell and Alan Hammond, and proved extremely popular.

Other ex-students participating were Nola (Johnson) Roberts, Cynthia (Norman) Finch, Val (Perry) Barlow, Ian Laurie, Kevin McTaggart, James Bell, Geoff Hawking, Gordon Emmett, and Michael Quinn from the 1970 class.

Gail (Cleary) Wootton, Christine (Damon) Schipper, Val (Haw) Burns, Bev (Gray) Rogerson, Kathlyn (Rhodes) Lucas, Jenny Rhodes, Dianne (Roberts) Lavender, Rosalie (Hawking) Harrop, Bruce Wootton, Barry Ellis, Clem Tuohey, Ross Shanks, Gerard Stewart, Barry Thompson and Shane Ryan were also involved.



Happy with recalling 1970 in Form Five are seated from left: James Bell, Kevin McTaggart, Barry Maxwell, Ian Laurie. Geoff Hawking, Michael Quinn. Standing are Alan Hammond, Val Perry, Nola Johnson, Julie Jones, Cynthia Norman and Gordon Emmett. (Footnote: Alan Hammond and Geoff Hawking are in both class photos because they enjoyed Form Five so much in 1970 that they came back for more in 1971!)



Smiling at recalling their school days together are seated from left Sue Fitzgibbon, Val Haw, Jenny Rhodes, Christine Damon, Kathy Rhodes and Dianne Roberts. Standing from left: Shane Ryan, Barry Thompson, Bruce Wootton, Bev Gray, Geoff Hawking, Rosalie Hawking, Gail Cleary, Alan McLean, Alan Hammond and Clem Tuohey.

Shane thanked organisers and hosts Sue (Fitzgibbon) Olsen and Alan McLean for their time spent in creating such an enjoyable event for all participants.

Brian Souter (left) was senior master at Rushworth High School in the late 1960s. He played tennis, umpired junior football, produced school theatre productions of "The Mikado", "Pirates of Penzance", and "H.M.S. Pinafore", and had a rare soprano singing voice. Brian is 88, and lives in a retirement village in Shepparton.



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Developing Rushworth's Art profile on Place-Based Plan agenda

Tourism has long been cited as a basis for boosting Rushworth's economy. As a heritage town in a bush setting, with a large expanse of water available for fishing and boating, there is certainly plenty to build on to develop a thriving tourism trade. But in the past few years, as the town's arts community has come together to collaborate on projects, the town has been making a name for itself in another field that appeals to tourists and residents alike.

Two areas of focus of the recently developed Place-Based Plan are 'Tourism, events and business' and 'Health, wellbeing and culture'. Providing an opportunity for creative activities for townspeople while showcasing local talent to the outside world ticks the box for both of these goals.

An important project in recent years that has contributed to this development is the Rushworth ART Depot. The following is an excerpt from the Waranga News 30 July 2020:

A Sign of the times in Rushy

Redevelopment of the old Council Depot in Horne Street recently passed another milestone with the erection of this spectacular sign at the Rushworth ART Depot. Inspired by the area's native flora, the sign was commissioned by ART Depot mentor Helen Grigg and sponsored by Rushworth and District Financial Services (our own Community Bank) as part of their on-going generous community support.

The sign is a collaborative effort by husband and wife team Les and Lou Pelle through their respective businesses 'Pellican' and 'Design by Nature'.

Lou created the design, then she and Les prepared the many floral shapes from recycled materials.

A plasma cutter was used to cut the oval shape and letters from the metal base. Corrugated iron was then applied behind the base to highlight the lettering.

With its many flowers firmly attached, the weighty sign was relocated to its new Horne Street home with the generous advice and assistance of Workmate's Brett Petersen and his heavy equipment.



The ART Depot was established using seed funding from the Shire of Campaspe. It is run by Rushworth Community House and is one of many activities that the House conducts at the southern end of Rushworth.

The Community House was recently granted *Committee of Management* status over other Crown Land parcels in the area.

DELWP, the Victorian Government's Land Management Authority, offered management of the expanded area to the Community House and the proposal was readily accepted. The area includes both the town's historic Court House (next to the current Police Station) and the tiny old

Police Lockup.

The Community House hopes to develop the expanded area for use by townsfolk across a wide spectrum of interests.

Possible uses for the Court House include theatrical productions, an electronic media hub, a small film studio and as a uniquely atmospheric meeting place. People with a passion for the arts, history and meeting people are urged to contact the Community House and become a valued volunteer.

Remember to give your feedback on Rushworth's Place-Based Plan - submissions close on Sunday 31 March.

Kez R Art Kids - back for 2024

Kez R Art workshops are back for the young and young at heart in 2024.

Kez R will be holding a Kids Kraft session on the first Sunday of the month from 11.00 am til 12.15pm.

These are a fun session for kids to get creative each month, with different activities each month. These have been a very popular activity with the young children in the communities, near and far!

Then in the afternoon on the first Sunday of the month, Art Journal Club is held from 1.30 till 4.00pm.

This group explores creative ideas and challenges each month, just for the pure fun of it, but sometimes also to pop in an Art Journal. If you want a chance to get creative and some 'time for you' this could be it!

Kez R Art will be offering other workshops throughout the year, so watch this space!

If you are interested in any of these workshops, get in touch with Kez R Art by following her social media accounts or contact via email at kez.raglus@icloud.com.

**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.**

Girgarre is a-buzz!

In a few weeks time, world-renowned percussionist, composer and novel music guru Graeme Leak is returning to Girgarre. Graeme, an Australian now residing in Scotland, is well known in avant-garde circles for his alternative and unique take on music.

Graeme studied percussion in Australia at the Sydney Conservatorium High School at an early age followed by advanced studies in New York.

Career highlights include touring the Spaghetti Western Orchestra around the world for ten years, performances in the Royal Albert Hall, UK and at the Montreal Jazz festival. He was also the creator of the interactive installation, The Musical Fence in Winton Qld and he composed and presented a specially commissioned piece for the closing of the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

In 2018 Graeme was invited by the Girgarre Development Group to produce a community-based orchestra to celebrate the opening of the Soundshell. The orchestra, dubbed the 'Junkestra' attracted 25 participants from as far away as Bendigo, Nathalia, Shepparton and surrounding districts.

Although many of the players had never played an instrument before, Graeme and a team of volunteers manufactured simple instruments from 'junk'. Empty olive oil cans became stringed instruments, metal rubbish bins turned into double basses and plastic cherry barrels made wonderful, resonating drums.

The orchestra rehearsed diligently, perfecting an original piece, 'Spirit Rising', a haunting piece that evoked the Girgarre



photo: Liz Arcus

Graeme works to coax beautiful music from the junkestra.

countryside. The Junkestra, alongside other musical groups, performed 'Spirit Rising' for the official opening of the Soundshell and again in Nathalia. They received a standing ovation following a gala performance in the Deakin Edge Theatre, Melbourne in 2019.

Once again, the Junkestra instruments are being dusted off, and Graeme is looking for people who would like to take part in another incredible Junkestra experience. There will be six weeks from the middle of March to perfect a new piece, culminating in a concert on Sunday afternoon 28 April at the Girgarre



Rehearsal time.

Soundshell.

No musical experience or expertise needed, just plenty of enthusiasm. Rehearsals require some commitment, but days and times are staggered to accommodate everyone who would like to take part.

More information, or to register your interest with Graeme, contact via the Web: <https://graemeleak.com/contact> or with Lyn Cosham E; kenlyn23@bigpond.com/M: 0407 931 417. Irene Labbett



Opening concert at the Soundshell in 2018 – the culmination of weeks of commitment and practice.

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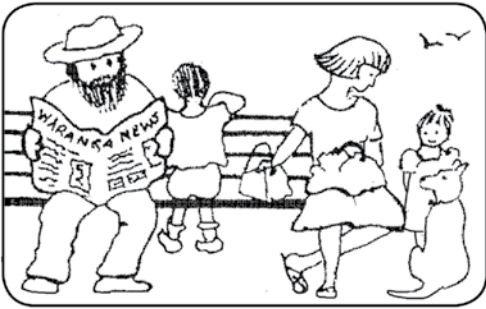
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Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns



Around Rushworth

Hostel Raffle Winners

The friends of the Hostel Christmas raffle went well, raising over \$968. The petrol vouchers were won by Wendy Laurie and Rose McIntosh's Christmas cake was won by Jim Burrows. Thank you to all who supported the raffle.

Thank you

The Friends would like thanks the Beggs family for donating an extra \$400 at the Christmas lunch for the residents.

The Friends of the Hostel are planning to have another raffle for Mothers Day and will start selling tickets at the Easter Festival.

Easter Festival coming up soon

Easter Festival Planning is well under way for this year's Easter Festival on Saturday, 30 March and the Moora Working Draught Horse Muster on Sunday, 31 March.

On Saturday, High Street will be buzzing with stalls and lots of free entertainment for the kids.

Highlights of the day include the highly popular fun Dog Show which will be held on the Railway Line at 10.00 am - bring your canine friend along for some fun and prizes

At 11.00am Shearing for Kids with Cancer will run the Wood Auction at the corner of Moora Road and School Street.

And at 12.00 noon, back at the railway line, the Easter Bonnet Competition will include prizes for both children's and adult's bonnets. Start working on your fabulous creations now and come along and join in the fun.

At 1.00 pm be in High Street for the traditional parade which includes the Easter Bunny, the return of the Moora Horses and, of course, the Wizard steam engines and vintage cars and trucks.

Flyers and a full program of events will be available in local shops in the next week.



Don your best Easter bonnet and come along to downtown Rushworth for the Easter Heritage Festival.

Sunday too!

On Sunday out at Moora Reserve, there will be lots to see. Fabulous draught horses will be featured pulling vintage machinery and working throughout the day.

Demonstrations begin at 10.30 am including an obstacle course, long-reining, horse-shoeing, blacksmithing and rope-making.

Food will be available all day from the food van or the green shed BBQ and entertainment will be provided by Callum Gleeson.

A great family weekend!



Hunting for Easter eggs is always a highlight!

Stanhope Monster Garage & Car Boot Sale
Birdwood Avenue, Stanhope
Sunday 10 March
From 8.30 am
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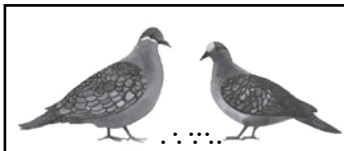
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Grandchild

Pam Hassell has a great grandson and Sue Hassell, a grandson with the birth of Wheatley to Courtney Elgar and Josh Neale in Elmore.

Jude in U18 Pioneers

Congratulations Jude Ryan on being selected in the U18 Bendigo Pioneers squad for 2024.

Save the date

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

Looking after us . . .

With the Colbo Store being closed for two weeks during renovations, the Colbinabbin Country Hotel will be opening from 8am for coffees, hot and cold snacks and drinks, milk etc. to help the community and tourists survive. We should really appreciate the Store by the time it re-opens with limited services on 12 March, building up to fully operational by Thursday 14 March.

Happy Big-0 birthdays

We hear there have been more celebrations of the decades with Ralph Barlow and Peter Hamilton both entering their 80s. Happy Birthday!

Welcome to 2024 Colbo Coaches!



It's the Lillys (Lilly Cattanach and Lilly McArdle) 2024 Under 13s coaches



Mardi Ryan - 2024 Under 15s coach.

Packing up and moving out . . .

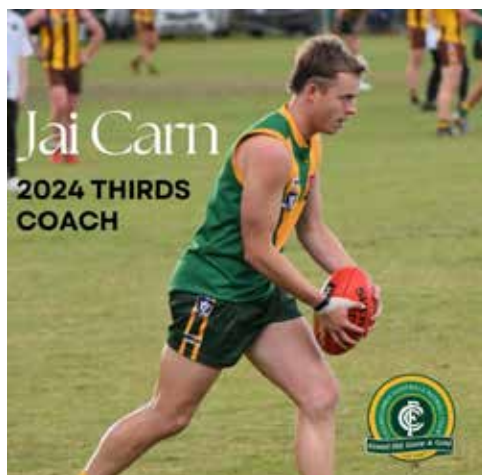


Manager Nat and Rhonda Risstrom get stuck into packing up ALL the goods at the Colbinabbin Community Store in preparation for the repair and renovations.

With the help of many young volunteers and some more mature ones, the shop contents were entirely removed and put in storage for the two weeks that works will be carried out. We're certainly going to miss the daily services and look forward to when the store will re-open with restricted service on Tuesday 12 March and hopefully in full swing by Thursday 14 March.

Ecumenical Lenten group

Colbinabbin's ecumenical Lenten group meets at 2pm on Mondays at John and Glen Avard's. You're welcome to come along for some faith sharing, prayer and a nice hot cuppa to finish off.



2024 Under 18s coach, Jai Carn.

Another date to circle on your calendar: This year's Colbinabbin Primary School Market Day will be held on Sunday 24 March 2024. Circle the date on your calendar now.

Colbo Diary

Tuesdays - Colbo Pub Choir 5pm
Thursdays - Men's Community Shed
March
 Mon 4 Ecumenical Lenten group 2pm
 Tues 12 COLBO STORE RE-OPENS!
May
 Sun 5 Silo Art Picnic and Wine festival 11am-3pm.

Cemetery Trust

Mowing Roster (lawn section only)
 March - Ray McEvoy

FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

March 3 Robert Brown, Sam Brown
 March 10 Paul Tait, Oliver Rathjen
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 6 March	Pam Nihill
Wed 13 March	Lynn Rathjen

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We're in full swing!

As we approach the middle of term one, we are delighted to say that things are humming along happily here at the House!

So you know what has been keeping Craig busy, but what about Anita? Well you may not know this but Anita is a creative soul. Lately she has been spending a lot of her own time working on macramé projects. Come and see a few of her creations that adorn the walls of the House. They're absolutely beautiful. If we ask her nicely she might agree to run a class or two!



Volunteers

Speaking of volunteers, we had a very successful 'We Love Volunteers' afternoon tea here at the House, appropriately, on Valentine's Day. Thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy day to join us. It was lovely having the opportunity to introduce you all to each other, not to mention thank you for the tireless work you do at the House. We really would be lost without you and so would the wider Rushworth Community. As I heard my mother-in-law say to someone recently 'your blood is worth bottling'.



The Arts

Theatre Group has had a couple of very successful sessions so far. Our teacher Julie is keeping us busy (and laughing) with hilarious warm up exercises, character building tasks and script work. This week's focus will be

music and singing. We are at capacity this term so if this sounds like something you would like to get involved in, ring the House and express your interest for term 2!



Community Transport Service

One thing that must be celebrated this edition is how busy our Community Transport Service is this year. It's wonderful to see the community car constantly out and about; ferrying people to their medical appointments and back again. Craig is doing a phenomenal job co-ordinating volunteer drivers with daily trips and keeping our clients happy. If you are a member of My Aged Care or HACC and need assistance getting to a medical appointment, give us a call.

That's it from us for now. Have a great couple of weeks and see you at the House!

Container Deposit Scheme – Community feedback sought

The House recently received Board approval to move ahead with an opportunity to become a Container Deposit Scheme drop off point. (Currently the nearest points are Murchison East and Stanhope).

The plan is for the drop off point to be our Horne Street site;

staffed by a minimum of six volunteers over the week. But we want to know what you think! Is this something you would appreciate having in town? Let us know your thoughts by emailing the house at reception@rushcomhouse.org.au

NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.

News from the Op Shop

The volunteers were asked “what is a day at the op shop like?” – Heather replied in verse, as usual. Jean, sent in some lovely photos of the goodies in store and the following: *Day in the life of an op shop worker*

Early mornings, rise and shine with sunny smiles all the time. We open the door with a cheery hello and ‘come and see’, greet our customers with chat and a laugh.

We accept donations throughout the day, sorting, pricing and packing. We are here to help our community, so please call in and see us and we will help you find a treasure before you go.



Foodbank news

Manager Christine thanks all the lovely people who have been donating fresh produce to the foodbank. If your garden is overflowing please donate the excess, it will be put to good use.

Donations of fresh produce can be made during opening hours, Wednesday and Friday 9am -12pm.

Do you need some fruit and veg? Check out the new Rushworth Foodbank facebook page. (Rushworth Food Bank) and see what is available during opening hours.

The foodbank is still located at the Shire Hall for a couple more weeks, eagerly awaiting re-location to refurbished premises at 33 High Street, next door to the Library.

Those who volunteer tend to have less anxiety, depression, loneliness and social anxiety, as well as a sense of purpose.

*Keep Sharp.
Dr Sanjay Gupta*

VOLUNTEERS

It's Monday so hip hip hooray,
Today's my volunteering day.
It's off to the op shop with hope and cheer
With visions of teapots, books and gear.
I burst through the door with bouncy step
(This day always starts with plenty of pep).
Hello Jean, hello Claire,
Hello Esther – and Margaret's there.
This is the 'crew', they're such a laugh,
We sing and joke and even dance.
We sort through bags, display things well
Put things together so they sell.
Shoes are something Claire and I
Love to try on, sometimes buy
With colours bright and sparkles too.
(Her daughters cry out 'NOT for you!!)
So come along and give a hand
And welcome to our merry band.

Heather Wellington



History of Foodbanks in Australia

Foodbanking was brought to Australia by Jeanne Rockey AM, who had seen a food bank in Los Angeles in 1991. She pitched the idea to her close friend, founding philanthropist Charles Scarf.

In 1992 he established the Sydney Foodbank in partnership with John Perrottet and St Vincent De Paul, with generous donations from notable figures including Frank Lowy, David and Colleen McIntosh and the NSW Labor Government.

In Victoria material aid and food relief had commenced in 1930, with the State Relief Committee responding to widespread distress caused by the Great Depression.

In 2006, the then Victorian Relief Committee merged with Foodbank to become VicRelief Foodbank. It formally changed its name to Foodbank Victoria in 2011.

Source: <https://www.foodbank.org.au>

Fifty Years ago in our district...

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



Popular Murchison policeman retires in February 1974

Senior Constable Bernie Robins retired from the force after a little over sixteen years at Murchison, he and wife Edith moving to Shepparton.

Biggest news in the district was the Shire Health Inspector's recommendation that six houses in and near Rushworth should be demolished, unfit for habitation. Council agreed but an appeal process could win a twelve-month reprieve and Housing Commission homes had to be available for those displaced.

The North-Central Region Hanslow Cup, awarded for soil conservation practices resulting in surface stability, increased fertility and consequent high stocking capacity was won by Toolleen farmers Graeme, Rod and Ewan McRobert. They had improved a 3365-acre (1340 hectare) property.

A threat to downgrade postal services at Rushworth and Murchison was withdrawn after wide backlash at an announcement.

Chronicle staffing

Miss Margaret Weaver was appointed to run the Chronicle office at Murchison.

Schools

Rushworth Primary preps class reported, "We are big now and we go to school", but news warmed up from there. They watched a film about policemen and enjoyed it so much that they watched it again!

Grades 2 and 3 were in a single room, taught by Miss Havekin, with Grade 4 having tuition from Mr Ross. Miss Havekin took a short break to marry Rushworth High School teacher Roger Barnes in Bendigo, both photographed in the paper with her god-daughter and flower-girl Margaret Hogg. *(Fifty years married. Congratulations to you both. Roger was my senior maths teacher, and old footy and cricket team-mate.)*

Grade 3's Simon had found a "stinging" joey grub, now housed in a shoebox on a gum-leaf diet, while the classroom spider had been named Charlotte, as the class had just read a book called Charlotte's Web.

At the swimming sports, the stars were Wes Damon and Claire Meagher. *(Congratulations to Mrs Campbell, when you see her around town.)*

The big trip to Woodbourne Camp near Yea was covered by ace reporters Neville Borger and Donald Potter, with photos by Gina Howard and Lisa Whitehead. The lads started by reporting on the bus encountering roadworks on the way there, the open windows letting in dust, which must have been exciting. The report then moved to the rush to pack up and clean the rooms before departure. Some happier news followed, of

rafts and rope bridges over the Murrindindi River, waterfalls, a lyre-bird sighting, and a pink-and-orange sunrise.

Community

Young Farmers around Colbo were far too busy to farm. The club entered a raft race down the Campaspe, below Lake Eppalock. The next week they visited radio 3BO in Bendigo to see how a radio station worked. Member voices were taped but the host advised the farmers to stick to their day jobs.

Reader Lois Steen submitted a letter dismayed at weeds in Rushworth Cemetery, suggesting Trust members "spray periodically to sterilise the ground thus eradicating the weeds for some time".

Rangers, Guides and Brownies marched to the Shire Hall, where mothers had breakfast ready in the supper room, and Susan Coyle read from a guide book.

Murchison Guides were being guided by Mrs Begg, Mrs Anderson and Mrs Muirhead.

Rushworth RSL Ladies Auxiliary was led by Mrs Win Hageman, Mrs Rose Le Deux, Mrs Nell Quirk and Mrs Lorna Moylan.

About 80 German people interned at the various camps near the Basin in World War II returned for a visit, followed by lunch at the RSL Hall in Murchison. Tongala man Heine Homann, formerly of Rushworth, met up with Hans Pexa, who had escaped three times and "once stole a motorbike from an escort to a cabinet minister visiting the camp".

Received by Rushworth Historical Society was a document from the estate of Mr Andy Wilson, which set out provision of an ambulance shelter to be built across from the Top Pub, dated August 1923. On roster to open the museum were Mrs Crute, Peter Draper, Mr Bolden, Mrs Heather Wall and Bill Jacobson.

Personal

Dick O'Donnell advertised shoes for men, women and children, all for sale at half-price.

Rushworth man Terry Gleeson had set up in the trucking game with his truck "a 6 cylinder, 180 hp Cummins engine coupled with a 10-speed transmission and a spread bogie", for the statistically minded. He had been to Sydney and back twice the previous week. *(Two months earlier, I was on the back of his truck carting hay from Wanalta to Stanhope.)*

Selling woolly lambs in Bendigo, C. L. Wootton and Son fetched \$19 (per lamb, not per kilo), W. Pepperell and Sons, \$16.75, Mrs Putland of Colbo getting \$20.88 for each shorn lamb, J. H. Barlow of Wanalta \$20.30, V. S. Barlow of Wanalta \$20.10, G. L. Weeks of Toolleen \$19.95 with L. D. Wootton and Sons of Rushworth realising \$19.45. Vealers were the thing to own, going out of the sales pen for around \$160, F. and J. Brown of Colbo being near the top of the market.

Passing was Herbert Capewell from near Elmore, with one son Bill being an occasional Colbo Young Farmer. Also noted was the death of Mrs Ellen Beale, of Rushworth, and formerly Wanalta, leaving four children including Ron, known to most as Roger. Valda, Lorna and Nancy were his sisters.

Mary Heath of Wanalta was engaged to Tom Hayes of Elmore.

Sport

No junior tennis player could hold a racquet to 13-year-old Stephen Barlow who won a club tournament final against Chris Geisler. Judy Meagher beat Karen Oliveiri, Cathy Poulson and finally sister Wendy Meagher to take the girls title.

Mrs Mary Furphy was champion of Rushworth Bowls Associates and was doing well in the Champion of Champions event, knocking out Tatura and Nagambie champs.

The Rushworth B-grade men bowlers were warming up for finals, as A-grade colleagues were hiding their flat shoes in the back of the wardrobe until next summer.

Peg Brady defeated Helen Shepard to win the coveted title at Murchison.

Rushworth Football Club delegates had another fight at a Heathcote League meeting, finally being allowed two ex-radius players, Colbo permitted to play eight. Tiger training was to start on 12 March under new Captain-coach Alec Horne, who had won a Cheatley Medal for the League Best and Fairest in 1973, but who had not been very fond of training. Signing on again was popular high-leaping, bandy-legged forward, Mick O'Sullivan. *(The Bendigo man was later to kick 100 goals in season 1977 and play in the premiership.)*

Rushing to Whroo,

1853 to 1880



Alan McLean

\$25

Alan McLean

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

Compiled by Tony Ford

Rushworth Chinese Footstone

Many Chinese people were buried in local cemeteries in the latter part of the 19th century. Where there was a large Chinese population, in places such as Beechworth, White Hills, Bendigo and Castlemaine, the sections containing Chinese burials are extensive. There are a large number of footstones, and sometimes infrastructure such as a burning tower.

With a smaller Chinese population here, there is just one Chinese footstone in the Rushworth cemetery. It commemorates a man called Ah Chou (a name which has various other spellings). Back in 2009, Wim and Dorothy Rosenberg from Stanhope arranged for a translation of the Chinese characters on the headstone by a Chinese scholar, Dr Kok Hu Jin.¹

When translating from Chinese characters to English, there are all sorts of complications. For example, one Chinese character can have more than one meaning in English. There are also multiple variations in the Chinese language. The official dialect today is Mandarin, but even now 30% of Chinese speak other dialects. One of these is Yue (or Cantonese). Most of the diggers who came to the Waranga area were from Guangdong province, often referred to in gold rush days as Canton. However, even within Cantonese there are local dialects which can render speakers of two dialects unintelligible to each other.

Ah chou

The headstone reveals that, like so many of his compatriots in the Waranga area, Ah Chou came from the Guangdong (Canton) province in south-eastern China. The district that he came from is known as Xinhui, which is not far from Macao and Hong Kong. There is a strong chance that the port of Hong Kong was Ah Chou's exit point when he left for Australia.

Unlike many European headstones in the cemetery, Ah Chou's footstone does not mention dates. The Rushworth Cemetery Trust records also do not mention the date of burial, but a relative, "Thomas" Ah Chong was buried in the same grave in 1911.

Chinese people were rarely granted an obituary in the local papers. If so, it was usually only a couple of lines, even if the person had lived in the local community for decades. If an obituary did appear, it was usually not much more than a report on how the person died. Often, it did not even include a name.

Sadly, there was no obituary printed in local papers for Ah Chou, so we know little about his life. Some references say that he was a storekeeper at Whroo. There are other references to an Ah Chow (perhaps the same person) on

the Whroo Cemetery Trust website and also in the Rushworth Chronicle, the latter stating that he was before the courts on occasions. The Chinese were required to have (and pay for) a residency ticket. If they could not produce a current ticket, they were in trouble with the law. This may have been the case with Ah Chou. There is no suggestion that Ah Chou was less than scrupulously honest in his regular business dealings.

There is an obituary for Ah Chou's relative "Thomas" Ah Chong, which states that as a "very old identity of Moora (he) was a very quiet old man and was well respected. He leaves a widow and large family to mourn his death." He had married Emma Branson in 1875. They had eight children together and ran a market garden.

Secret society

At the top of Ah Chou's headstone is a circle, which Dr Kok suggested was a symbol representing "a blazing sun and is used to decorate the distinguished member of the Hung League."¹ The Hung League was also referred to as the Heaven-Earth-League, which was a secret society known in Chinese as Thian Ti Hwui.

A researcher at the Golden Dragon Museum in Bendigo has cast some doubt on this interpretation and an internet search does not reveal the symbol as one of significance for the Heaven-Earth-League. However, this does not necessarily mean that Dr Kok's interpretation is incorrect. Many Chinese who came to Australia were members of such societies, which have been likened in some quarters to Freemasonry, where ritual, secrecy and loyalty are regarded as important characteristics of members.

One of the main functions of the societies was to look after the members, who were often from the same clan and/or geographic region of China.

Sources: 1 *Waranga News* 22.10.2009 p 15; *Other - Ancestry website*



A Name from the Past **Frederick LeRoy** - tragic death 148 years ago

Several generations of families by name of LeRoy have lived in the district, with the females taking on other names by marriage. The LeRois were early residents at Whroo in the gold era, and suffered a tragic bereavement when young Frederick, (official name Alfred Joseph) was found dead in a swamp. The Waranga Chronicle of 3 February, 1876, told the story.

"CORONER'S INQUEST.

An inquest was held on the 28th January, by Dr. J. V. Heily, Deputy Coroner, at Murphy's Shamrock Hotel, Warring, on the body of Frederick LeRoy, of Whroo, aged 17 years, who was accidentally drowned while shooting ducks at the Four Mile Bend, near Paris's (almost certainly Parris's) farm.

The evidence went to show that on the 26th inst. the boy took a gun from Mrs Schooler's (almost certainly Scouler), where he was on a visit, and went down to the above-mentioned swamp. Not returning towards dusk, Mr Schooler and Mr Paris went and found the boy's clothes lying on the bank with the loaded gun. They made search all round, and not finding the boy, early next morning renewed the search.

Mr Paris took a boat over the swamp, and finding some dead ducks opposite the clothing kept paddling round and round until he espied the body of the deceased about six inches below the surface of the water, and almost in an erect position, the hands were full of weeds. He did not disturb the body from its singular position until assisted to do so by Mounted-constable Commons, of Nagambie.

Other witnesses present and Mounted-constable Commons confirmed this evidence, and the open verdict usual on such occasions was returned. Much sympathy is felt for Mr LeRoy, senior, and his family who are old residents of Whroo."

No reference has been found of any burial of Alfred Joseph (Frederick) LeRoy at Whroo or Rushworth, with Nagambie cemetery records not yet checked.

Alan McLean



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.

Corella rescue

Wildlife rescue takes me to many different places and many different habitats from fully urban, artificial environments to completely isolated, rugged bushland environments.

One of the most disappointing aspects of wherever I go is the amount of human rubbish I always find in my travels. I specialise in difficult entanglement cases and the damage our rubbish is causing to both habitat and our wild creatures is absolutely staggering. I've attended a spate of entanglement cases again recently, some with good outcomes, others have not been so lucky. From snakes stuck in aluminium cans left on the bushland floor, birds hanging upside down in trees thoroughly caught up in discarded fishing line, bailing twine or string, to turtles with hooks stuck down their throats. Many of these cases are extremely challenging rescues and there are groans all around when I say to my kids, 'we have another entanglement case'.

When the Goulburn River was again at the top of its banks recently, a poor Corella was reported to be stuck over the river, high in a tree branch. It was high but not so high that I couldn't reach with my poles from the right vantage point. It was still a few poles up but the problem was that once I brought the branch down there was no way I could safely retrieve the bird from the water. Usually, I'd stand in the water to shorten the amount of poles needed and even if having to work from the bank, once we bring the branch and bird down, I would go for a swim to retrieve it, day or night.

The river at this time was not a welcome place to swim. Full trees, fence posts and all sorts of other large debris was coming down the river at a great rate and the water itself was full of swirling currents that were way too dangerous for the strongest swimmer to face safely. We contemplated tying a rope to me so I could be pulled back in to shore. We also had the kayak, again with a rope tied to shore so I could be pulled back in.

After discussing the options and safety issues, it was decided that the safest thing to do was call an aborist to assist. The only way this bird could be brought down safely was to climb but the height and tree required an experienced climber with safety ropes and gear to do it. Being at the start of January all the aborists who usually come to help (on the rare occasion climbing is the only option), were all away for their summer holidays. I did discover that Queensland is the place aborists retreat to when they get away as they all seemed to be up there!

Finally I managed to contact Jarrett Tree

Service. Although after hours, Shannon and his wife travelled over from Rushworth to help out. Shannon scaled the tree (with skill which made it look like a walk in the park), got safely out to the overhanging branch which was well over the water and managed to cut the branch, bringing it back down to where I could safely reach it. No bird nor human got wet feet and no one got swept away in the turbulent river.

Every rescue is different. I have put myself in positions for rescues which require wits and careful planning to avoid getting hurt, often it may appear dangerous to onlookers but every scenario is carefully thought out and the safety of my rescue team and myself always has to come first. This was one of those times that I made the call not to risk it. I felt confident that I could bring the bird down but despite going over every possible way, I knew retrieving the bird in that water before it was swept away out of reach only to go barrelling down the river was next to impossible. Even with the kayak it was going to be difficult and if I didn't grab the bird in the water as soon as it hit, all would be lost.

I carry out many rescues on my own, many difficult rescues, but the secret of success in a difficult rescue where you require a team, is that the team works together in a way that keeps everyone safe. I am grateful for my small team of Bohollow rescuers; without them it would be impossible to pull off some of the rescues we manage to do.

A massive thank you to Shannon at Jarrett Tree Service, his wife for driving him over to Shepparton and to Craig and my son Daniel for helping me out, especially in the decision not to jump in the water unless I could not find an aborist first! At the end of the day I would have if all else failed but there were a lot of safety measures which would have been put into play. If any small thing went awry, I'm confident I would have kept myself safe but would have lost the bird, only for it to be drowned, stuck to the branch in fishing braid, further down the river. Not the result I wanted.



I also got a pleasant surprise when a couple of days later a donation of the exact amount of the aborist cost appeared in the Bohollow account. Thank you Melissa!

The unlucky Corella had some damage from the line but went on to recover and be released back to his wild home.



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

ON THE BRINK *by Neil Laurie*

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

Extinction and evolution

Nature is a marvellous thing. If there is a niche then something will evolve to exploit that niche. The end result of this evolution is a rich and complex arrangement of species, all meshed together in an interdependent web of life. Extinction is an integral part of the evolutionary process. As the Earth and its climate changes, species that cannot evolve to live with those changes become extinct. Also, new species with a competitive edge evolve and cause inferior species to also become extinct. This is how it has been for the last 3.7 billion years. If this did not happen, we would still be a primitive single celled species. It is estimated that 99.9% of species that have ever existed over all those years have become extinct.

This web of life is not static. Sometimes conditions may cause a species to boom, but usually there are checks and balances to restore equilibrium. Should a single species become extinct the whole system can be thrown out of balance. Sometimes another species will take over the vacant niche, sometimes a new species will evolve (a process that can take millions of years). Often the whole web shifts and changes until a new balance is achieved.

One example of this is the extinction of the steppe mammoth. The steppe was a massive grassland extending across northern Europe, present day Russia, North America and the North Sea (sea levels were much lower). In many ways the steppe was similar to the African savannah of today, supporting a huge amount of grazing wildlife and associated predators. Like the African elephant, the steppe mammoth would bulldoze trees and trample shrubs, effectively creating open grassland. With the extinction of the mammoth, probably due to a combination of climate warming and hunting by humans, the mosses, shrubs and trees started to take-over the grasses, forming a totally new ecology: the tundra. There was quite a shift away from grass-eating species to those that browse on moss, shrubs and trees, such as caribou. The tundra can only sustain one tenth of animal biomass compared to the steppe.

The tundra has in turn become a finely tuned ecosystem. Steppe remnants indicate that it could survive in the warmer climate.

Every extinction will create a vacant niche and will to some degree upset the balance of its ecosystem. The United Nations Intergovernmental Science -Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services estimates as many as one million species are at risk of extinction if we don't act to save them, including 40% of all amphibians, 33% of corals and 10% of insects. Some species are becoming extinct before they are even 'discovered'. Nearly all these extinctions can be put down to the actions of humans and this is what sets the current wave of extinctions apart from those of the past.

The number of species saved from extinction varies according to the source; one source stated that 48 birds and animals have been saved from becoming extinct. The number of extinct species brought back is zero. The easiest way to save a species from extinction is to preserve its eco-system and leave the rest up to nature. Once a species is critically at risk of becoming extinct more interventionist measures such as captive breeding are required. Finally, should a species go extinct, it is gone.....forever.

The prospect of a million species going extinct is frightening. Whole ecosystems are at risk of collapsing. But it is not all doom and gloom. There are many examples of reserves being established to protect endangered species. Rewilding and the reintroduction species have brought balance back to some ecosystems. In more extreme cases, individual species have been saved from extinction.

On my way to Stanhope I am regularly seeing brolgas in a paddock close to the road. On my daily walk in the bush I saw a young wedge-tailed eagle being mobbed by choughs. Last week I saw a goanna, and we have just had one in the garden. These are for me wonderful, enriching experiences. It is heartbreaking to think we may be leaving a greatly impoverished world for future generations.

Taking to the sky to tackle invasive weeds

An innovative approach to tackling invasive weeds clogging Gunbower Creek is set to reap environmental, recreation, and agricultural benefits.

The Victorian Government's \$100,000 investment has allowed North Central CMA and Goulburn-Murray Water to trial drone-spraying technology to tackle the invasive pale-yellow water lily in the creek.

Pale-yellow water lily is an invasive weed that reduces creek capacity for irrigation and water for environment delivery and restricts sections of the creek for recreation such as boating, fishing, and kayaking.

It can also impact threatened native plant and fish species, including the critically endangered silver perch and the threatened golden perch and Murray cod.

North Central CMA Project Manager Amy Russell said the drone can hold forty litres of fish and frog-friendly product and enables crews to spray weeds that are inaccessible from boats or the shore.

"The community is behind our goal to reduce the impact pale-yellow water lily has on the creek and prevent it from entering nearby wetlands such as Reedy Lagoon," she said.

"It's a challenging weed to treat, and using a drone this year will be a big step forward."

"This technology could prove invaluable to the management of pale-yellow water lily in the coming years.

North Central CMA and Goulburn-Murray Water have begun spraying around 80 kilometres of the creek between the National Channel and Koondrook Weir, with the drone-spraying technology used in a trial area.

"Gunbower Forest is protected under the International Ramsar Convention, which makes the management of the bordering creek a key priority for us," Ms Russell said.

"Gunbower Creek is important economically, culturally, and environmentally to this region, which is why managing pale-yellow water lily is so important.

"This drone trial will give us another important tool to tackle this invasive weed."

Managing the weed in the creek will also prevent pale-yellow-water lily spreading into the Gunbower Ramsar site.

The spraying program is part of a \$248 million investment by the Victorian Government to improve the health of waterways and catchments across regional Victoria.



Annabelle
CLEELAND MP

Member for
Euroa

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Benalla VIC 3672 03 5762 1600 Annabelle.cleeland@parliament.vic.gov.au

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Cooks Column

One of our daughters lives in Shepparton in a court of about a dozen houses and they get together for the occasional cuppa or something more celebratory on special occasions.

The system is: they are pre-warned of a cuppa morning coming up and then when they hear the sound of a horn blow, everyone grabs their mug and heads to the home of the horn blower! Simple.

Recently the occasion was more celebratory (might have even been a pre-Christmas get-together) and some nibbles were required to go with something a little more intoxicating than coffee.

And so this is what my daughter came up with and it must've been AOK as it was all eaten.

Bite-sized Caesar salads

Ingredients - more or less

- Cos lettuce
- 4 hard-boiled eggs
- 5 rashers of bacon cubed and fried
- Croutons (fry them in the bacon fat with some extra olive oil and garlic)
- Parmesan cheese (fresh shaved pref)
- Dressing made with Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, mustard, anchovy sauce and olive oil (or you can simply put a good squiggle of mayonnaise on top or buy some Caesar dressing straight off the shelf).
- Anchovy fillets (not everyone likes them but I LOVE them).

Assembly

I don't think you really need instructions to assemble them. You wash and dry your lettuce leaves and arrange them in a single layer on a platter. Then you start assembling them with bacon pieces, a quarter of an egg, some croutons, a squiggle of dressing, a tiny strip of anchovies if you're using them and top off with some shaved parmesan cheese.

If you want to, you could give them a grind of salt and pepper.

They looked good and tasted just fine.

Glen



Garden Hints & Tips

From little things big things grow

From little things big things grow - so the song says - and that's exactly what's happening in Tatura.

Goulburn Valley Tree Group's Native Nursery is ready for the selling season in just a few weeks.

Our busy volunteers have been working very hard to produce healthy strong native plants for your Autumn planting.

From colourful hardy paper daisies, drumsticks, showy callistemons through to towering red gums there are plants and trees to suit all gardens, hobby farms and large acreages.

This year's sowing has included more local species whilst still selling the stunning smaller sized mallee eucalypts that often work well in a larger town garden.

Start preparing your soil now with deep ripping for rural properties.

Our Facebook page will keep you updated with what is happening at our incredible local community nursery run by our team of committed volunteers.



Volunteers work to prepare stock for autumn planting.

Our gates will open every Tuesday morning from 19 March and every Saturday morning from 6 April.

Our stock is very well priced with discounts for bulk quantities.

Our friendly volunteers look forward to seeing you at 6 Kerferd Street soon.

Happy planting!
Bruce & Deb



Handy Hints - from Lyn Rumble

Hi there,

A bit of an assortment this week; garden watering, laundry and wardrobe, as well as fresh summer fruit cooking and going out on the town – that's a pretty good coverage for five hints! Have a great fortnight, stay cool, safe and healthy!

Lyn Rumble

* **Keeping pot plants damp for a bit longer** – This is a real issue with our hot weather at the moment, but if you are re-potting anything at present, try putting an old sponge in the bottom of the plant container before filling it with soil. As you water your plants the sponge will absorb additional water and will release it in a slower fashion than just straight drainage.

* **Clothes slipping off your coat hanger** – Easily fixed! Just put a couple of elastic bands around both sides of the coat hanger, and wrap around several times so nice and taut and leave there. When you put the t-shirt for instance on the hanger, the shoulder seams will hold on the sides of the coat hanger and not move / slip off!

* **Addition to your coat hanger** – If you have some trousers that would normally go over the bottom bar of the coat hanger, but it leaves a hard mark where the bar creases the clothes, then get some empty toilet roll

cylinders, make a cut along the long edge, and slide over the bottom rail. Should take about three cylinders. Then hang your trousers as normal and they will not crease any longer. If you want to pretty them up you can add fabric to the roll, but it's not really necessary!

* **Ladies – want to take your door key out with you but don't have a pocket or take a bag?** - Get a thin elastic scrunchie band and thread through the hole in the end of the key, and wrap the loop inside out. Then wrap the scrunchie loop around your bra strap and thread through, and the key will stay around your bra strap until you detangle it (hope that explains it correctly!).

* **Are you using some cherries but the pips are still in them?** – No need for a fancy gadget to remove the stones. Get a lollipop wooden stick and just push the stick into the end of the cherry and the stone will come out the other end.

Health and Wellbeing

GV Health says 'Beat the Bite'

Recent heavy rains and flood waters have created a perfect environment for mozzies to thrive across Northern Victoria.

Warm and wet weather can mean more mosquitoes breeding and biting, including the ones that can carry diseases that make you sick.

Your only protection against mosquitoes and the diseases they can carry is to avoid mozzie bites.

Mozzies can bite through tight clothing, so . . .

- cover up – wear long, loose-fitting clothing.

- use mosquito repellents containing picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin.

- limit outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about.

- remove stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed around your home or campsite.

- on holidays make sure your accommodation is fitted with mosquito netting or screens.

- use 'knockdown' fly spray, mosquito coils or plug-in repellent where you gather to sit or eat outdoors.

Don't forget the kids – always check the insect repellent label. On babies, you might need to spray or rub repellent on their clothes instead of their skin. Avoid applying repellent to the hands of babies or young children.

People in high-risk areas are eligible for a free Japanese encephalitis vaccine which is available at local GPs, Aboriginal health organisations, community pharmacies and local councils.

For more information go to:

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/mosquito-borne-diseases> and

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis>

When was your last skin check?

In addition to self-checking regularly, you should have a professional skin check once a year (or earlier if anything suspicious appears between your annual check-ups).

Doctors use a number of tools and techniques to examine the skin thoroughly; beyond what the naked eye can see.

Skin cancers and melanomas that are detected and treated early are cured in 90% of cases.

To assist our local community in accessing this valuable and lifesaving service, Waranga Community Health has secured a small group booking at GV Skin and Specialist Centre on Wednesday 6 November 2024.

Transport via bus to and from Shepparton will be provided free of charge - leaving Rushworth at 8am and Stanhope at 8.15am.

For further information or to secure an appointment, please contact Waranga Health on 58518000.

Why are hearing checks important?

It is better to get your hearing checked regularly even if you do not have any problems or hearing loss.

A regular hearing screening can help you identify gradually developing hearing problems before they can significantly impact your hearing ability and become more difficult to treat.

Hearing checks are free.

Please call 58518000 to book an appointment.



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For class times & information contact Sue Barlow
0438 523 415
sue@mudhutyoga.com.au
www.mudhutyoga.com.au

Parents - a secret weapon in tackling teen vaping

A comprehensive, Australian-first research project which aims to deeply understand teenagers' experiences with vaping has revealed that parents hold more power and influence in tackling vaping than they might realise.

The Influencing Gen Vape study involved surveys and in-depth conversations with more than 3,500 teenagers across Australia. As part of the research, online surveys and in-depth conversations were held with 3,699 teenagers 12-18 years from across Australia between July – September 2023.

The results have been used to create 'Talking to your teen about vaping', an evidence-informed conversation guide for parents and carers. The guide helps decode a teenager's motivations, attitudes and behaviours towards vaping and understand

what messages resonate most.

Key insights - A parent's opinion really matters and a tailored approach is needed. Many teens start vaping and increase how often they vape for mental health reasons – coping with stress, managing their anxiety, helping them to relax. The teenager who is curious but hasn't tried vaping needs a different conversation and different information to the teen who is experimenting or the one who is addicted.

Anyone wanting support with vaping can access Quitline.



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Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our

P-12 College Council elections and AGM

We are seeking expressions of interest from parents/ guardians or interested community members in filling some vacancies on our College Council.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their

children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in

your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Nomination forms are available from the friendly staff in the Administration office closing at 4.00pm on Tuesday 12 March.

The AGM of Rushworth P-12 College Council will be held on Monday 18 March at 6.00pm. ALL WELCOME.

Design Technology students making the most of the changes

With the building of the new Technology Centre occurring, things are a little different in the Design Tech classes this term.

This week students in Year 9/10 have been working hard on assembling their chosen STEM kit the College purchased for the interim period.

Students are learning to adapt their already developed skills to be working on these smaller, intricate models.

Anne Maree Klinberg



Above: Archer is building a 'working' Combine Harvester in Design Tech this term.



Above right: Ellis is a picture of concentration as he builds a hot rod racing car.



Left: Charlie is working on building the working comb on his model harvester

Below: The models all have working parts and can move distances 'powered' by rubber bands as seen in Tarkyn's model.

Below right: Kaelee quickly got the concept of building a bridge using Da Vinci's method that she learnt about in a recent Maths lesson.

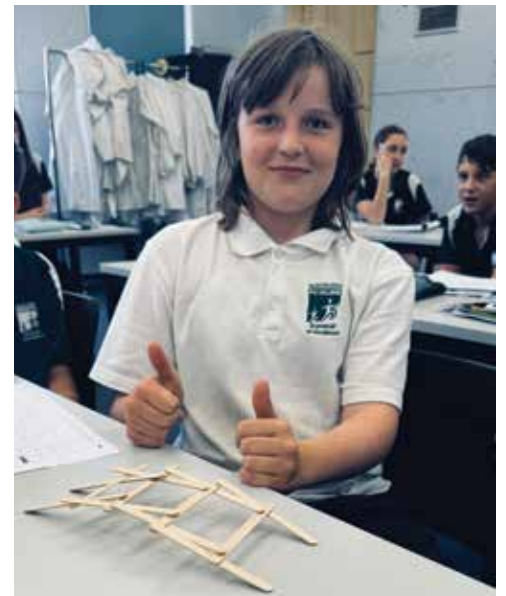


A bit of Da Vinci in Year 7 Maths

Students in Year 7 Maths had to construct a Da Vinci Bridge (self-supported bridge) using just icy pole sticks with no glue or other materials.

This was quite a difficult task but was enjoyed by the class as an introduction to a new topic in maths. John and Kaelee produced some excellent bridges.

Scott Ilsley



Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our

A welcoming start for everyone at Girgarre PS

It has been a busy and productive start to the 2024 school year.

We've welcomed Izabella into Grade Prep and Noah into Grade 1. Both students are settling in beautifully.

We've also welcomed Ann Bell as the P-2 classroom teacher. Tracey Roberts has returned as 3-6 classroom teacher and Kirsty Rankin has also returned from family leave and is providing tutoring and wellbeing support.

Deb King continues to support students in class and Nina Slade is taking some well-earned long service leave. Peter Caldwell couldn't stay away for long and is teaching across both classrooms on Tuesdays, while Noel Mattei ensures that our grounds look amazing!

I am now officially into my first few weeks as principal of Girgarre PS, having shared the role with Peter last year, and am looking forward to being able to continue to support our team and to drive excellence in our teaching and wellbeing programs.

John Melhuish is teaching student cricket this term as part of the Sporting Schools program and we've started learning Auslan. Students are embracing this new language which has replaced Indonesian in our learning program. Cooking continues to be a crowd favourite and is something that we do every Friday.

Our Welcome Night was well attended and provided everyone with an opportunity to reconnect. It was the first opportunity for our new school captains, Taylor Hine and Ruby Marjoribanks, to perform in their roles. They did a stellar job. Zara McKenzie has been elected as sports captain, alongside Evie Patten-Boers. Olivia Williams will be capably leading our junior school council



Amelia, Olivia and Taylor enjoy toasties for lunch.

with Roxanne Clark, Jayden Cauchi, Vitani Summers and Ryan Davies also being elected as members.

We look forward to keeping you updated with all of the happenings at Girgarre Primary throughout the year.

*Ashleigh Buckland
Principal*

(Right) Ruby and Taylor greeted everyone on Welcome Night.

(Below) Caitlin, Isaac and Matthew Godwin at Welcome Night.



Izabella during a cooking lesson, with Mrs Bell (and Roxanne looking on in the background).



Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools

St Mary's students very busy learning

The students of St Mary's have had a busy few weeks and the highlights include:

Shrove Tuesday

On Tuesday 13 February, the students at St Mary's prepared for Lent by celebrating Shrove Tuesday. The students enjoyed eating pancakes that were supplied by the Parents and Friends.



Evie (left) and Conor (right) enjoying their Shrove Tuesday pancakes.

Lent

On Wednesday 14 February, the season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday. The students of St Mary's participated in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy, where they received ashes on their forehead.



Tannah receiving the ashes from Mrs Brook on Ash Wednesday.

Digital Safety

Digital safety is an important component of the curriculum at St Mary's. We have engaged Inform and Empower to again lead e-safety learning through termly virtual incursions. Over the past two weeks, all classes participated in their first session, where they learnt about what the internet is, their digital footprint, rights and responsibilities online, and what to do if they see something concerning on the internet.

Police incursion

On Wednesday 23 February, St Mary's were visited by Officers Roberts and Moreland. They went into each classroom and talked to the students about what police officers do, safety and answered their questions. All the students were excited about the visitors and we are very grateful that they were able to come in and support our students' learning.

*Thea Parry
F/1/2 Classroom Teacher*



Above: F/1/2s dancing the informational songs in their digital safety session.

Below: The Grade 1/2s with Officers Roberts and Moreland



Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our

A great start to 2024 at Stanhope Primary

Stanhope PS students have settled quickly into another year of learning.

We welcome two new Prep students, Alexis and Oliver and a new Grade 5 student, Xyla. This year sees the school well supported by our Wellbeing Officer Simon, Tutor Allison, and Classroom Aide Jody. We also welcome Fiona Wallace as our Acting Principal for term 1.

Michaela Rosenberg



Students who 'cleaned up' the awards at our first assembly.



Acting Principal Fiona enjoyed a stint on the school crossing!



Welcome to new students (l-r) Alexis, Xyla and Oliver .

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Extra voices singing at Cornella



The singing from Cornella Church lately has been added to by the presence of five Fijian workers who are staying in Colbinabbin and working on Stu Hill's tomato crop. Music is very much part of their culture and they sing in harmony - and unaccompanied. In a word: Beautiful! Late news: our Fijian friends sang at St Mary's, Rushworth last Sunday.

World Day of Prayer ~ 1 March 2024

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical day of prayer led by Christian women on the first Friday in March.

Each year, it is an opportunity for local churches to come together to pray for a particular place in the world. This year, the host country is Palestine. With all that has been unfolding in Gaza, it is a timely opportunity to pray for the Holy Land.

This year, St Brigid's, Murchison, will host the service with Fr Michael Grace to give the homily. All are invited to come.



Artwork by Palestinian artist Halima Aziz, representing three Palestinian women praying together in a peaceful place.

Fasting for Lent

~ Pope Francis

Pope Francis has spoken about fasting during Lent - it's not just about fasting from food. He gave some suggestions that might resonate with people.

- Fast from hurtful words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

District Church Times and Contacts

Anglican

- St Paul's, Rushworth: 0419 512 632
 - 9.30am 2nd Sunday of month - lay led service
 - 9.30am 4th 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. 1st and 3rd Sundays: Cornella 9am; Stanhope 10.30am. 2nd and 4th Sundays: Rushworth 9am; Murchison 10.30am. 5th 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 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

Thank you for the rice that sustains our bodies; Thank you for the love that sustains our souls. Amen.

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living the GOOD LIFE

Seeds, clones and spiritual grafting ~ a reflection on growth and belonging

In the heart of a farming community, where the cycle of life is as predictable as the rising and setting sun, there's an ancient practice that has not only shaped the landscape but also the way we think about growth, renewal, and belonging. This practice is the art of cultivation, particularly through planting seeds, using clones and grafting rootstocks.

These methods, while deeply agricultural, resonate with the spiritual teachings of Jesus and the writings of St. Paul, offering us profound insights into the nature of spiritual growth and community.

Planting Seeds: The Parable of the Sower

The grain harvest is over, but already farmers are smashing up the Canola stubble and getting ready to burn the wheat stubble as they await the Autumn break to commence planting this year's crops. Planting seeds is a practice as old as agriculture itself, symbolising the beginning of life and the potential for growth.

Jesus often used seeds as a metaphor to illustrate spiritual truths, most notably in the 'Parable of the Sower' (Matthew 13:1-23). In this parable, the Sower scatters seeds that fall on diverse types of ground, representing the various responses of individuals to the word of the Kingdom of God. Just as seeds require the right conditions to grow—good soil, water and sunlight—our hearts need openness, understanding and nurturing to truly accept and flourish spiritually.

This parable invites us to reflect on the condition of our own "soil." Are we receptive to innovative ideas and teachings that challenge our preconceptions? Like farmers who patiently tend to their fields, understanding that not all seeds will take root, we need to cultivate patience and persistence on our spiritual journey, nurturing the seeds of faith, hope and love within ourselves and others.

Cloning and Rootstocks: Grafting into the Family of God

My vineyard is home to about 20,000 shiraz vines, but only four clones. These clones have unromantic names such as R6WV28, PT23, and SA1654 which derive from the Viticulture Research Station where they were created.

While planting seeds is about starting anew, the use of clones and rootstocks in agriculture, and especially in viticulture, speaks to the idea of continuation, preservation, and unity. Cloning through cuttings allows for the exact genetic replication of a plant, ensuring the preservation of desirable traits. Grafting, on the other hand, involves joining the rootstock of one plant with the shoot of another, combining the strengths of both.



Vincent Van Gogh, The Sower, 1888.

The Apostle Paul uses grafting as a metaphor to describe how Gentiles, that is, non-Jewish believers, are incorporated into the family of God (Romans 11:17-24). Just as a branch is grafted onto a new rootstock and becomes part of the vine, receiving nourishment and growing together as one, so too believers, regardless of their background, are grafted into the rich heritage of Israel, becoming part of one spiritual family. The process of grafting not only highlights the inclusivity of God's kingdom but also the transformative power of faith which transcends cultural and ethnic boundaries.

The Common Ground: Growth, Renewal, and Belonging

Planting seeds and using clones or rootstock teach us valuable lessons about spiritual growth and community. Planting seeds reminds us of the importance of beginnings, being open to growth and the potential within each of us for transformation.

The practices of cloning and grafting, where a new plant is joined onto an old

Project Compassion ~ a time for giving

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal.

During the six weeks of *Project Compassion*, millions of Australians come together in solidarity to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

This year, *Project Compassion* focuses on the stories of women from three different corners of the world; from the Philippines, from Samoa and from Malawi. They all face vastly different challenges, but who are united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for

plant, speaks to our connection to the past and to each other, emphasising continuity, preservation, and the strength that comes from unity.

These agricultural practices, used in the teachings of Jesus and St. Paul, remind us that we are all part of a larger community, a family of believers grafted into the vine of Christ. In this family, there is diversity yet unity. There is individual growth yet collective strength.

We are reminded that our spiritual journey is not just about personal enlightenment, but it is also about growing together, supporting one another, and contributing to the overall health and vitality of our communities.

As we reflect on the lessons of seeds, clones, and rootstocks, let us embrace the challenges and opportunities of spiritual growth. May we be mindful of the soil of our hearts, open to the nurturing teachings of Jesus, and committed to strengthening our bonds with one another, celebrating the diverse ways we are grafted into the family of God.

In doing so, we honour the legacy of those who have come before us and lay a foundation for those who will follow us, nurturing a community that is rooted in love, flourishing in faith, and abundant with the fruits of the Spirit.

Through the parables of Jesus and the writings of St. Paul, we are invited to see beyond the surface, to the deeper spiritual truths that these agricultural practices symbolise. They offer us a blueprint for living in harmony with the earth and with each other, embraced by God's enduring love. In the rhythm of planting and tending, dying, and rising, we find the essence of life itself—a cycle of renewal and belonging which mirrors the eternal promise of the Gospel.

This is the Gospel and it's good news.

*Brian Spencer, Minister
Waranga Uniting Churches.*

all future generations.

Supporting *Project Compassion* is a way to proclaim the faith that is in our hearts and help our brothers and sisters in need. <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion>.

St Mary's Parish is once again holding a raffle for *Project Compassion* with the prize of Dinner for Four at Colbinabbin Country Hotel (thanks Julie Price) and two bottles of wine (thanks John and Pat Kennedy). Tickets available at \$2/each. Raffle drawn after 10.30am Easter Sunday Mass at Cornella.

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119 Albion Street, Kyabram 3620

Phone: 5852 1061 Mobile: 0409 935 375

WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

BEREAVEMENT THANKS

HAWKING, Howard John

Rosemary, Jo, Peter, Wendy & families wish to sincerely thank all family and friends for the cards, flowers, phone calls or personal messages of condolence following the sad passing of our loved Husband, Father, Pa and Old Pa.

The family are very grateful for your support, kind words and tributes during this sad and difficult time.

Please accept this as our personal thanks.

FOUND



Prescription sunglasses found at Avard's, Colbinabbin. Ring 0459 329 215.

GARAGE SALE

**BIG \$2
Garage Sale**
Saturday 2 March
8am - 12 noon

14 Davis Street, Rushworth
(off Tatura Road)

Bric-a-brac, garden stuff, storage
cabinets, ladies clothes

CUT N TIME

 **Hairdresser**
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PUBLIC NOTICES

**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).

Thinking of buying
or selling???

Classifieds: \$2.75 per line (min. \$11).
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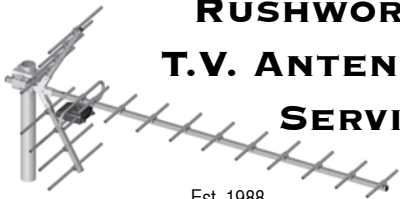
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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

FEBRUARY

Thu 29	Rushy Place Based plan drop-in session 1-3pm Rushy IGA
---------------	--------------------------------------------------------

MARCH

Fri 1	Rushworth RSL Sub Branch AGM - 10am The Cottage
Sun 3	Clean up Australia Day, Meet 10am at 71 Slaughterhouse lane
Sun 3	TatFest Mactier Gardens, Hogan Street, Tatura 10am-4pm
Fri 8	Rushy Place Based plan drop-in session 10-1pm Gus & Ollies
Tue 12	Rushworth P-12 College Council AGM 6pm p-12
Thu 14	Rushy Place Based plan drop-in session 11am-2pm Rushworth Bakery
Sat 30	Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival - High street, Rushworth
Sun 31	Moora Working Draught Horse - Moora Racecourse Recreation Reserve

MAY

Fri 8	IWD Talk "breaking barriers, Women making it in a man's world 6pm at Senior Citz's room
--------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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, 1st and 4th 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
Stanhope5857 0452
West Goulburn Comm Health....5857 2400
Murchison Medical Centre.....5826 2575

HOSPITAL:
Waranga Health5851 8000

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

SUPPORT SERVICE:
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Project Update

Works to replace the public amenities at Victoria Park Boat Ramp in Echuca have started. The replacement toilets will include three unisex cubicles, of which two will be ambulant and one will be accessible.



Coming Up ▶ Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 19 March | Echuca Civic Centre

Meetings can be streamed live: campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming

Now Open

For all projects and applications open, visit campaspe.vic.gov.au/nowopen

Campaspe Kerbside and Resource Recovery Survey

Council's Waste Team are conducting a survey of residents to find out about their recycling and waste disposal habits. The survey will form baseline data for some exciting upcoming projects, and those who complete the survey will go in the running to win a \$100 prepaid voucher. Scan the QR code or visit our website to complete the survey today. Survey closes 5pm on Friday, 8 March.



2024-25 Fees and Charges Open for Submission

The community is invited to provide feedback on the proposed fees and charges for the 2024-25 Council budget. Complete submissions online, visit our Service Centres or call our Customer Service Team on 1300 666 535 for a hard copy of the Fees and Charges submission form.

Weeds, Waste and Invasive Species Information Sessions

Campaspe Shire Flood Recovery and Waste and Environment Departments are hosting the Weeds, Waste and Invasive Species Information Sessions in Gunbower, Rushworth, Toolleen and Tongala in March. The sessions will feature a range of guest speakers, including:

- Jim Castles – weed presentation and Q&A
- Nick Hunter – rabbit control and community programs
- Shenandoah Bruce – NCCMA One for One control program
- Elizabeth Alsop – Agriculture Recovery Officer AgVic
- Pippa Kay – grants available in the region

The sessions are free, however bookings are required for catering purposes. Scan the QR code to register or call 1300 666 535.



Echuca Moama Discovery Day

Campaspe Libraries will be hosting the Echuca Moama Discovery Day on Saturday, 16 March between 10am – 1pm outside the Echuca Library. Application forms for community groups who wish to participate can either be picked up from any Campaspe Library or by emailing libraries@campaspe.vic.gov.au. Stallholder applications close Friday, 1 March.

Animal Shelter Temporary Reduced Adoption Fees

Campaspe Animal Shelter will be reducing adoption fees from 21 – 29 February. There is a range of kittens, puppies, cats and dogs looking to find forever homes. Take a look at the animals available on our website and direct any enquiries to the Animal Shelter on 5480 3005, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/adoptananimal



Clean Up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia Day is happening on Sunday, 3 March. Across Campaspe there is a range of clean up events to keep public spaces clean and rubbish out of bushlands and waterways. To find a clean up event or sign up for your own event, visit www.register.cleanup.org.au/join-a-clean-up.

Planning Drop in Visits

Council's Planning Team will be trialling a new drop-in service from March until June. Each Thursday, from 10am – 1pm, a member of the planning team will be available at the Echuca offices for dedicated face-to-face sessions with community. Drop in for any planning enquiries, no bookings are required. As always, Council's Planning Team can be contacted on 1300 666 535 for verbal or written enquiries and to organise dedicated face-to-face meetings.

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:

- 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

Visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/RushworthPBP or scan QR code for more information.



Rushworth Streetscape Stage 5 & 6 Road Pavement

Works have now commenced on Stages 5 and 6 of the Rushworth Streetscape project. 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 Projects page on Council's website.

P-12 School preparations for the bushfire season

~ A message from the Acting Principal, Peter Bovell

As a college we thought we should share with the community the policy behind the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) as it does impact on the community as we have experienced already this bushfire season. These guidelines are set by the Department of Education, and we are directed by them in regard to whether the school is open or remote learning on any high risk days. If you have any queries or concerns regarding these guidelines, please feel free to contact me at the College.

Bushfire At-Risk Register Policy

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

On elevated fire danger days schools in the highest levels of risk (categories 0, 1 and 2) take pre-emptive actions to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions.

These actions are based on the Local Government Area they are in and their fire risk category.

In addition, all schools and services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which include numerous Local Government Areas.

Our school is in the Northern Country fire weather district.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being in one of the highest fire risk categories - (BARR 2).

Our school will action its pre-emptive plan for, learning from home on a day forecasted as Extreme fire danger rating in our local government area (LGA), Shire of Campaspe.

Our school will also close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in Northern Country fire district.

What is the department's policy?

The department's Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy requires schools at high risk of bushfire to enact pre-emptive action plans based on LGA level fire danger forecasts. Conditions can vary significantly across the wider weather district, so using local forecasts helps us to respond appropriately to risks in our local area and maintain stability and educational continuity for our students and school community. This policy is consistent for all schools at high levels of risk and this approach is supported by emergency services.

The policy also requires that all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

When will our school enact our pre-emptive action plan?

Our school will action our pre-emptive plan to learn from home on days when the fire danger forecast for our local government area, Shire of Campaspe is Extreme.

Our school will use the LGA forecast confirmed by emergency services the day before an Extreme fire danger day in our LGA to trigger our plan. We will let you know when we are enacting our pre-emptive action plan. Please be aware that no one will be on site on days when the school has enacted this plan.

What do we do when our LGA has a different fire danger rating to the wider fire weather district?

As we respond to local conditions, there may be days during the fire season when our fire weather district, Northern Country is forecast as an Extreme fire danger rating, but our LGA

is at a lower level of fire danger. On these days our school operations will continue as normal, however we will be taking action in line with fire services advice by:

- checking our Emergency Management Plan and taking any necessary preparedness actions,
- actively monitor our local conditions and warnings
- having plans and procedures in place and if a fire starts, to support us to take immediate action.

We encourage our school community to consider their own bushfire survival plan and reassess any travel through bushfire risk areas. We encourage you to follow your family bushfire survival plan and the advice of emergency services.

There may also be days where our LGA is forecast as Extreme fire danger, but Northern Country is not. On these days we will enact our pre-emptive action plan.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will also close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in Northern Country fire district.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by updates via Xuno messages or SMS.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Also:

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our website, www.rushworthp-12.vic.edu.au, by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is undertaking learning from home and/or closed due to fire danger.

Further information can be found on the CFA's website. Enact your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are enacting your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days. If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.



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Rushworth Triples Tournament won by Tatura bowlers

A very successful Triples Tournament was held on 15 February.

Claire Campbell sponsored the day on behalf of the Meagher family in memory of Nance and Peter, club members for many years.

Below: Winners on the day were Phil Fiddes, Jeanette Overall and Robyn Downs from Hilltop Bowls Club.



Last night of Barefoot Bowls

It was another great night of barefoot bowls at Rushworth Bowls Club.

It was wonderful to see so many new faces to bowls enjoying the fun and fellowship. Hopefully we will see you all back on the greens again next season.

Thanks to all those who participated over the last four, fun weeks, and thanks to the club organizers who ran the event.



Pennant bowlers in finals

Weekend bowls

17 February

Division 3

Rushworth 104 def Kyabram 95

Rink 1, skipped by Laurie Nev Thompson Geoff Cruz and Geoffrey Hawking made a great comeback to go down only one shot.

Rink 2, skipped by Jean had a hard day with everybody doing their job to win this rink by three shots.

Rink 3, skipped by Kevin went down by four shots but were unlucky to lose the last end by five shots.

Rink 4, skipped by Greg Chandler, Noel Lloyd, Bruce Wootton, Karren Cruz winning by 11 shots to make second spot safe .

24 February

Division 3

Rushworth 85 It Seymour VRI 105

Rushy went down by 19 shots but the game was close.

Rink 1, skipped by Greg went down by 11 shots, but fought hard all day.

Rink 2, skipped by Kevin played well but did

not have a win in the last six ends to come away with a draw.

Rink 3, skipped by Laurie was in the contest all day until the 17th end. They finished going down by 19 shots, but will bounce back next week for sure.

Rink 4, skipped by Jean was soundly beaten by this rink a couple of weeks ago, now they meet again today and Jean was not going to let this happen! They were magnificent winning by 11 shots. Well done team to turn the results around.

Saturday we play Mooroopna Golf and our record this season is pretty good against them so hopefully we can continue our record.

Division 7

Rushworth 38 def Seymour 25

All rinks were fantastic.

2 March

Div 7 - Rushworth vs Eildon at Euroa in finals

Midweek bowls

20 February

Division 6

Rushworth 42 def Colbinabbin 23

First finals match - winning by 19 shots. Well

done.

Rink 1, skipped by Kay, Christine O, John and Janet were magnificent, winning by 12 shots

Rink 2, skipped by Barbara, Suzie, Colleen and Tracy, was a great result.

Division 6 now to play in the Preliminary

Final against Mooroopna Blue

27 February

Rushworth def Mooroopna Blue

Rink 1, skipped by Kay won by 7 shots and are playing well as a team. Hopefully they can keep it all together.

Rink 2, skipped by Wayne, won by 6 shots and they are looking good as well. Last year

Division 7 won the Premiership, so they are trying to go back to back.

Congratulations Div 7, who won the right to play in the Final in the last game of the year, but only two weeks ago did not think they would make the finals, but they finished the season off. Well done. What a great effort by our club.

It will be great having both divisions at the same venue (Euroa) next week, 2 March, so supporters can see both games.

Come along to support the Division 6 and Division 7 bowlers at Euroa Bowling Club on Saturday 2 March. All supporters will be welcomed.

Rushworth Football Netball Club - Amazing Race and Barefoot Bowls

RFNC are holding their first social fun event on Sunday 10 March kicking off at 10am at the Ironbark Stadium!

There will be six mystery stations set up around Rushworth, all with their own challenge. This is a race so come ready to run!

The final stop on the Amazing Race is the Bowls Club where we will finish the arvo

playing barefoot bowls.

The bar will be open and we will have a BBQ lunch.

Bowls will kick off at 1pm. If you would like to come along for the bowls only, let us know?

Please see Crystal or Daniel to register yourself. All participants must be registered so we can arrange teams. The cost is \$15 per person (which includes lunch and bowls).

Rushworth D Grade Cricketers into finals



Rushworth D Grade finished on top of the ladder and are playing in the semi final at Ironbark Stadium Saturday 2 March.

Come along and support them on the day!

Sat 6 January

B Grade It Moama

B Grade travelled to Moama and were defeated by the Moama team. Rushworth were 9/119 in the first T/20 for the year.

Batting second, Moama made 4/139.

Best batting - Liam Francis 27

Best bowler - Bradie Chillingsworth getting 2/26 from his three overs.

D Grade - bye

Sat 13 January

B Grade def BLU

B Grade hosted BLU at Ironbark Stadium. Rushworth batted first making 6/155 (cc) for the second T/20, getting BLU 7/153.

Best batting - Liam Francis 63 and Jak McMillan 41

Best bowler - Tommy Stevens with 4 wickets for 20 runs from 4 overs.

D Grade def BLU

Rushworth won the second T/20 against BLU. Rushworth 2/90, BLU all out for 89.

Best batting - Brett Pateman 31 and Peter Raglus 28

Best bowlers - Dean Shepherd took 3 wickets from his 4 overs and 2 wickets each to Jac Barrett, Brett Pateman and Heath Ogden.

Sat 20 January

B Grade It Echuca

B Grade hosted Echuca at Ironbark Stadium in the third T/20 game. Rushworth were all out for 93 and Echuca were 1/97.

Best batting - Liam Francis 24

Best bowler - Kade Dearing, who bowled the only wicket for 9 runs from 1 over.

D Grade def Tongala

D Grade played Tongala at Brose Reserve. Rushworth 4/34 defeated Tongala all out for 32.

Best batting - Brodie Shepherd made 14 (no) and Rhys Shepherd made 10.

Best bowler - Charlie McLean was the best bowler with 5/2 from 4 overs.

Sat 2 February

B Grade It Elmore

B Grade travelled to Elmore on Friday for an evening match. Rushworth made 3/151 for the final T/20 match for the season. Elmore were 4/152.

Best batting - Mick Enrico with 72 helped along by Dan Newton with 27.

Best bowler - Rhys Shepherd with 2/12 from his 4 overs.

D Grade def Stanhope

D Grade (3/93) defeated Stanhope (8/89) at Ironbark Stadium.

Best batting - Jac Barrett took the honours at being the best batsman with 37 supported Peter Raglus 24 (no).

Best bowlers - Brett Pateman with 2/12 from 3 overs and Heath Ogden with 2/10 from 2 overs.

Sat 10 February

B Grade It Moama

B Grade hosted Moama at Ironbark Stadium on the continue of the 40 over game. Moama made 7/158 (cc) beating Rushworth

who made 6/156 in a very close game.

Best batting - Bradie Chillingsworth on 36 and Dan Newton on 35(no).

Best bowler - Declan Baldwin with 4/33 from his 7 overs.

D Grade def Girgarre

D Grade went to Girgarre and played Echuca in the home game. Rushworth (9/98) defeated Echuca (7/95).

Best batting - Josh Francis on 22 and Regan Hanson not out on 20.

Best bowlers - Regan Hanson taking 4 wickets for 8 from his 6 overs.

Sat 17 February

B Grade It NU

B Grade went down in another very close game against Northern United. Rushworth making 7/196 and Goats 4/198.

Best batting - Mich Enrico was best batsman in the team for the day with 84, Dan Newton made 39.

Best bowler - Liam Francis took 2 wickets for 31 from his 5 overs.

D Grade def Cooma

D Grade played Cooma at Brose Reserve at Tongala. Rushworth (8/135) defeated Cooma (8/90).

Best batting - Jac Barrett on 33 with Josh Francis on 22 and Peter Raglus on 20.

Best bowlers - Brett Pateman with 3/10 from 6 overs and Brodie Shepherd 2/19 from his 8 overs.

Sat 24 February

B Grade It Stanhope

B Grade travelled to Stanhope for the day. Rushworth playing with ten men made 9/77. Stanhope were all out and won the game for 152.

Best batting - Mick Enrico made 32 was the top scorer for the day.

Best bowler - Rhus Shepherd with 3/35 off 7.5 overs.

D Grade def Ky FB

D Grade played host to Kyabram Fire Brigade. Rushworth (3/174) defeated Fire Brigade (121).

Best batting - Josh Francis was best batsmen on the day with Brett Pateman retired on 50, Jac McMillan 43

Best bowler - Brett Pateman capped off his day by taking 4 wickets from his 6 overs for 36 runs.



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More new blood at Colbo FNC

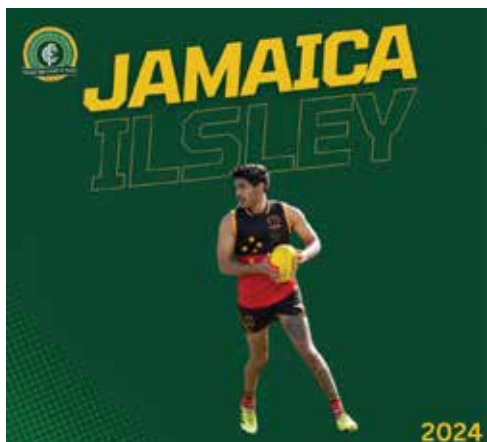
The Colbinabbin Football and Netball club would like to welcome Angus Martin to the club for 2024. Coming to us from Rochester Tigers in the GVFL.

Gus is a tall, strong and reliable player who can play in most positions on the ground.

Gus will add a lot of class to the senior side for 2024.



Jamaica Ilsey comes to us from Maribyrnong Park Lions a live wire forward who knows where the goals are.



Alex comes to us from Sandhurst FNC a young tall forward who's looking to prove himself at seniors level can play multiple positions we are looking forward to Alex joining the green and gold .



Colbinabbin tennis juniors enjoy honing their skills

Colbinabbin Division B and Division C junior teams cool down at the shop after their second last game of this season. Well done to all players, who have worked hard to improve their tennis skills throughout the season.



**KANANGRA
ACCOMMODATION**

Colbinabbin Bed and Breakfast
53 Mitchell Street Colbinabbin

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

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GENERAL STORE
CO-OP

Closed for renovations 24 Feb - 12 March

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SHOPS 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



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.

