

Waranga News

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

Published fortnightly since 1978

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A community newspaper
staffed by volunteers

Thursday 28 March 2024

Easter is Rushworth's time to shine

A sunny Easter weekend is coming up and Rushworth's famous festival is back to a two day event!

On Saturday morning, from 8.30 am, the fun begins. The market will be packed with stalls offering produce, plants and all manner of goods from throughout the region.

There will be added attractions throughout the morning to entertain all ages – a big red dragon, an animal farm, mini golf, face painting and heaps of other fun for the kids, including, of course, the ever popular Easter egg hunt at the Community House Garden at 9am.

There will be plenty of entertainment for the adults too, with live music by True Country and the majestic Colonial Clydesdales offering cart rides around Max's Maze all day for a gold coin donation.

A highlight this year will be the return of the wood auction, now raising funds for Shearing for Kids with Cancer. This will commence at 11am at Hilder's block.

The popular Dog Show at 10am is back again so bring along your pooch to try for a prize in one of the variety of competition categories. If creativity is your strong point you will have a chance to win a 'best Easter bonnet' prize at 12pm – although, be warned, it is very competitive!

To top it all off the traditional Parade will commence at 1 pm., with the wonderful Moora Horses in the lead, followed by the Wizard and an array of vintage steam machinery, trucks and cars.

Timetables and location maps will be visible in most shop windows. Please refer to the Public Notices for details of High Street road closure for the day.



Working horses back at Moora

On Sunday, the Moora Working Draught Horse Muster will be back at Moora Reserve to continue the Easter fun.

Gates open at 9.30 am and demonstrations begin at 10.30 am with an obstacle course, ploughing, log snigging, loading wool bales and horses pulling vintage machinery. A highlight will be the appearance of a 5-horse team.

Entertainment continues throughout the day with stalls, demonstrations of

blacksmithing, horse-shoeing and rope-making. We have face painting for the kids and music by Callum Gleeson.

Food and coffee available all day. Entry by gold coin donation.

All bought to you by Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival and Moora Working Draught Horse Committees.



INSIDE THIS EDITION



New tanker for Rushworth CFA - p3



Colbo Primary School Market Day p2,21

Landcare display at Colbo PS market

Colbinabbin Market Day has always been a joyful occasion to celebrate community and this year the team at the Primary School welcomed the Waranga Catchment Landcare Collective to the fray.

The display of taxidermied native animals, birds, insects and landholder information attracted lots of interest from people of all ages and the kids loved making name badges out of little slices of branch decorated with pictures of animals and flowers.

From the collection of critters on display, a lot of people had seen the micro-bats (in real life) living in barns and sheds and were amazed to learn that these tiny creatures can eat hundreds of mosquitos a night!

Waranga Catchment Landcare Collective is a local volunteer organisation providing education and support for environmental projects throughout the Waranga catchment.

Keep a look out for the team throughout the year as they visit other markets and schools in our district.

WCLC's next event will be 'Walking amongst the Grass Trees' - a GV Pride event for members and allies on the 28 April. (Note that 'allies' means friends of the LGBTQI community)

Thanks again to the Colbinabbin community for fun, food and sunshine last Sunday.



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 St Mary's School Rushworth

Tanker details for the technically minded

Rushworth’s new medium tanker has a proven design that has been in use by the CFA for more than a decade. In fact, the brigade operated one of these vehicles for several years prior to the arrival of Big Red, its current heavy tanker. Built on a twin- axle Hino cab and chassis, the truck and its fittings are a powerful fire-fighting weapon that can operate in a wide range of operational locations and conditions.

The new medium tanker carries 2850 litres of water in a baffled, centrally mounted tank on its rear deck. 500 litres must always be kept in reserve for its crew protection spray system that would be activated in case the vehicle became trapped in flame.

Crews can deploy multiple hoses and branches while working from the rear deck on either the side of the tank.

For on-ground work, the tanker’s rear panels contains multiple water delivery devices (*image at right*). Triple taps provide connection points for canvas or duraline (rubber lined) hoses.

Unloading hoses from lockers, unrolling them and connecting them to the taps takes time, so the truck includes a so-called “live reel”, which is available for use as soon as the main pump is activated. Mounted high on the left rear of the tanker, the live reel and its flow-controlled branch (nozzle) are often the first tools deployed at a fire.

When the new truck arrived, Rushworth Brigade members were delighted to find that it was also fitted with an ultra-high pressure water delivery wand and dedicated pump. Able to penetrate materials where a normal branch cannot, the wand is invaluable for blacking out hot spots after a fire.

A mighty monitor

The new tanker also sports a powerful water delivery “monitor” bumper-mounted at the front of the vehicle.

Remotely-controlled from within the crew cabin, the monitor can deliver a powerful jet, stream or fog anywhere in front of the vehicle.

The image at right shows the brigade’s previous Hino medium tanker using its monitor against a fire in a tree, a common aftermath of a fire in bush or scrub. The vehicle can stay well away from the tree that is burning, an important defence against falling branches or tree collapse.



The previous Hino tanker was also photographed at Battery Dam during a multi-brigade training exercise a decade ago (*bottom left*).

Rushworth’s medium tanker is equipped with crew protection equipment including an internal crush-proof roll cage, drop-down radiant heat reflecting curtains, worklights and a rear-vision video camera

As with all CFA tankers, it also features a water spray protection system that can instantly envelope the cabin in a dense mist to protect the crew.

In the event of an imminent burnover, all tanker crew members cluster in the truck’s cabin, drop and secure the radiant heat curtains, cover themselves with woollen blankets and activate the main pump and sprinkler system.

These are proven crew safety features which work and work well.



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Have your say!

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

More of Rushworth's heritage streetscape to go?

On learning of a move to demolish the old weatherboard buildings on the corner of Moora Road School Street, Rushworth reader Samantha Cherchi felt moved to research their history.

With the demolition of the weatherboard buildings on the corner of Moora Road and School Street seeming an imminent inevitability I thought it timely to offer up the history of these buildings prior to their demise.

Now identified as 2 School Street, Rushworth, this plot of land commenced its Anglo-European ownership on 4 June 1860 when a half-acre allotment between Moora Road (Moora Street) and Heily Street (Cemetery Street) was ordered to be temporarily reserved for a Roman Catholic church and school purposes; an order that became permanent on 11 May 1863.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to unearth any photographs of this early church, but the white picket fence on the right side of photograph below, c.1900, shows its location adjacent to what was then known as the Cricketer's Arms Hotel, now the Rushworth Hotel or 'bottom pub'.

By the time of this picture the new St Mary's Catholic church in Phillips Street had been built, and the Catholic Church had sold the Moora street allotment in 1899 to Mrs Alice M Wilson, the wife of Daniel Wilson, of Essendon.

The speculative and entrepreneurial Daniel Wilson (whose name is painted above the Rushworth Variety Store at 1 High Street) arrived in Rushworth in late 1894, taking up the leasehold, from Eliza Jane Rosevear, of the shop and dwelling at 7 High Street (the original 1887 building at which still stands today), and commenced trade as a draper and store-keeper.

Wilson had made a fortune and lost a fortune through land speculation during Melbourne's boom and bust of 1883 to 1889 and his arrival in Rushworth was in an effort to rebuild his shattered finances. His business practice was to buy bulk bankruptcy stocks in Melbourne to retail in Rushworth, and the property in Moora street, described in the rates books as 'Building & Land' at a valuation of £25, was surely used to warehouse his goods.



From 1907 Thomas Tulloch paid the rates on this property, with his occupation recorded as 'Manager' therein.

Tracey Bons in the second volume of her *Rushworth Businesses & Their Owners* identified that Thomas Tulloch was the manager of Daniel Wilson's store from 1914, but the rates books would indicate that a relationship was established much earlier, in 1907.

The employment of Tulloch as a manager of Wilson's Store made business sense considering that Daniel Wilson maintained his home (and electoral role address) as the 1880s mansion of 'St Olaves' in Pascoe Vale road, Essendon, throughout his tenure in Rushworth and through to his death in 1919. Wilson credited his wife for her perseverance in retaining their stately home despite his financial embarrassment.

In 1912 Wilson split the Moora street allotment in two, selling the front half to James Harrison Taylor, and the rear, Cemetery Street portion to the neighbouring hotelier Archibald Samuel Darby in 1914.

Still described in the rates books as 'Building & Land' at a value of £20, it is unknown how Taylor, a retired blacksmith, used the property, which he kept for four years, selling to Edwin Andrew Muhlhan the Rushworth Chronicle printer in 1918.

Later that year Muhlhan divided off the tiny 53m² plot between the existing weatherboard building and the pub, selling it to Mrs Margaret S D England, the wife of Rushworth solicitor and politician Egbert F S England. Built in 1922, this diminutive office housed England's legal practice until he moved, later that year, to Caulfield, transferring his business, his home in Horne street, and seemingly, his position as the president of the Rushworth Football Club, to his successor Harold H Secomb.

It is unknown what use Muhlhan made of the property, with it continuing to be ambiguously referred to as 'Building & Land' in the rates books, however, Tracy Bons found a reference to Adamson & McCrae running a motor garage from the site as early as 1918, and by 1925 James Dixon Chandler was leasing the property from Muhlhan, with a rated value of £60, for his motor garage business. For the next 40 odd years the property continued as a motor garage under successive ownerships. The tiny office which became Ned Kinsman's Barber shop, has succumbed to time, but the lives of the other two extremely rustic, yet long-lived buildings are no doubt remembered by some of our longer term Rushworth residents.

Samantha Cherchi
Rushworth



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.

Campaspe outdoor pools future decided

Campaspe Shire Council has made a landmark decision committing to an Aquatic Strategy that aims to deliver improved aquatic facilities and wet play areas across the Shire for the next 15-20 years.

The decision comes after more than ten years of debate about the financial viability of providing aquatic services to the seven towns of the Shire with outdoor pools.

In 2020 Council announced that five of the pools would be closed at the close of the current summer season and all would have ceased operation by 2025.

The announcement sparked immediate opposition throughout the Shire, with each community rallying support for a 'Save Our Pools' campaign and submissions to Council emphasising the essential safety and social benefits of the local pool.

In 2022 the decision to immediately close was put on hold. Over the past two seasons free entry has aided a more accurate assessment of pool use when entry fees were not a barrier.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Rob Amos said community engagement had demonstrated how important pools are to communities across the municipality.

"We have heard the community's concerns, and each town has demonstrated that residents highly value their local pool, so we will work with communities across Campaspe to deliver this strategy to meet our

residents' needs and expectations.

"This is a great outcome for the whole shire that has been over a decade in the making," Mayor Amos said.

The future of the Rochester pool was a topic for further discussion. Council also allocated up to \$500,000 for the demolition of the Rochester Pool following extensive community consultation that took place in 2023.

"We have approved the Rochester Aquatics Functional Brief, which reflects the desires and aspirations of residents garnered through extensive engagement activities.

"Officers will progress with getting a detailed design and costing for a new facility in Rochester, so that the project is 'shovel ready' when funding becomes available.

"We will strongly advocate to the state and federal government for funding for a new aquatic facility in Rochester," said the Mayor.



Colbinabbin Preps and Grade 1 display their 'Save our pools' signs.

Moving forward with community planning

The commitment to continue financial backing of aquatic services in shire towns is significant in the progressing of town's place-based-plans, as retention of the local pool featured prominently on the wish-list of most of the towns' plans.

Council also requested that Officers provide a report to a

future Council briefing on the status and future approach to the development of integrated masterplans incorporating Township Facility Plans for townships across the shire.

"We need to be looking to the future and delivering community infrastructure that not only meets the needs of the present but also contributes to the health, wellbeing, and vibrancy of future generations," Mayor Amos stated.

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Rushworth Eucalyptus oil - our liquid GOLD!

How many new residents to the area know that Rushworth has its very own eucalyptus distillery providing eucalyptus oil, 'liquid gold', to the area and beyond. The Rushworth Eucalyptus Distillery was established in 1880s. Situated off Whroo Road, the distillery has been operating for over 110 years.

In the beginning

After her husband died, Ann Eliza Jones brought her family of seven children, (Alec Jones, Gert Schumann Jones, George Jones, Arthur Jones, Thomas Jones, Winifred Locke Jones and Skeeles Jones) to Rushworth from Inglewood after purchasing the running eucalyptus distillery in 1909 from Mr Phillip Jones, who was no relation.

Most people remember Arthur, 'Art', and his brother Thomas running the distillery.

It has been in the Jones family for four generations and is still in the Jones family to this day.

Cutting

In the early days eucalyptus bushes were laboriously cut by hand with a sickle and carted to the in-ground vats by two draft horses and a dray, to be steamed.

Around 1970 Kevin, (the son of Art) and Amy Jones moved to the farm and started their days working at the factory.

Kevin, being a clever man, built a device for his tractor, which was used for the slashing and raking of the eucalyptus patches to rejuvenate the plants for better eucalyptus oil production. It also saved a lot of time.

Amy worked alongside her husband for hours each day helping in the long and enduring process of carting and making the oil.

Nowadays Jim and Karen run the distillery with some of the original equipment in use. The process hasn't changed much over the years.

Uses

There are many uses: mopping floors, cleaning sticky surfaces, cleaning kitchen surfaces, putting in washing for sheets / towels / dog beds, air freshener mix, cleaning bathroom / toilets, potpourri, blocked noses, aromatherapy, rubbing on aches and pains, dog wash (very diluted), in puddles after rain to get rid of mosquitos....just to name a few.



The Jones brothers: Back row - Skeeles, Thomas and Arthur. Front left, George and right, Alec.

The eucalyptus tree

The type of eucalyptus tree used to extract the oil is called eucalyptus polybractea (blue mallee) which is common around the area and it takes about a day to harvest the leaves from plants in the forest. Then the leaves

are steamed for at least three hours. The quality of the leaves affects the colour of the oil. It can be a rich gold colour, hence the name, 'liquid gold'.

During the year over 2000 litres of oil can be produced and this sells out very quickly!



In the seventies the tractor slashed and raked with a device created by Kevin Jones.



Blue mallee trees found locally for oil.

Photos supplied by Sharon Perry.

Where do you find the 'liquid gold'?

While Rushworth's eucy oil can usually be purchased from some of the shops in Rushworth, this weekend they will have a stall at the Rushworth Easter Festival Market on Saturday.

You can purchase your eucalyptus there, or you could head out on the Whroo road to the distillery and educate yourself on how the oil is made and its unique history. The old equipment is amazing to see and you won't believe how ingenious the process is!

Over the next two editions of the Waranga News we will bring you a pictorial account of the distillery's process from start to finish.

Rushworth Market

Village Green High st, Rushworth

Easter Saturday - 30 March
8.30am onwards,

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Campaspe Shire grants awarded in February and March

Campaspe Shire Council has announced the successful recipients of grants programs for the months of February and March. These grants aim to support and empower local community organisations and groups in their valuable work to enhance the quality of life for residents throughout our region. Council's grants programs provide financial assistance to a diverse range of projects and initiatives that contribute to the social, cultural, environmental and economic development of the Campaspe community. Council received numerous applications for funding, each displaying the passion and dedication of local groups and individuals towards improving our vibrant community.

The grants that were awarded in February and March include:

Community Event Sponsorship

Council provided approximately \$8,500 of financial support for upcoming community events across the shire, including:

- Rich River Rod & Custom Club Inc. to assist with hosting the Rich River Rod Run on 16 and 17 March.
- Colbinabbin & District Historical Society Inc. to go towards hosting the Colbinabbin Silo Art Picnic and Wine Festival on 5 May.
- Kyabram Lawn Tennis Club Inc. to assist with hosting the annual Easter Tournament from 30 March to 1 April.
- Echuca Steam Preservation Society Inc. to go towards hosting the Echuca Moama Steam Iron and Trades Revival from 7 to 10 June.

Community Equipment Grants

Council provided approximately \$5,500 of community equipment grants to provide financial assistance to community groups and sporting clubs. The funds were distributed to:

- Echuca Moama Pride Inc. to purchase a marquee and signage for events across the shire.
- Rushworth Football Netball Club Inc. to assist with buying essential equipment to encourage junior participation in the club.
- Kyabram & District Men's Shed Inc. to purchase a range of weights and accessories to help introduce a strength training program at the Men's Shed.

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



Welcome funding for the Colbinabbin Silo Art Picnic and Wine Festival to be held on 5 May.

Sam
BIRRELL MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NICHOLLS



INATIONALS
for Regional Australia

Temporary Road Repairs

= Not Good Enough

Every day I speak to frustrated locals about the state of roads across our electorate. The road network is a mess and drivers deserve better, safer roads.



Recently in Parliament I once again demanded the State and Federal Governments stump up the funding needed to make meaningful repairs to our roads. At the moment, they've got this game of patching up potholes, reducing speed limits, erecting rough surface warning signs, and it could be many months of dodging damaged roads before even temporary repairs happen. These temporary repairs then seem to wash out. Adequate funding is urgently needed, and the Albanese Government must invest in regional Australia and its infrastructure.

From the Ground

The 2024 season has begun, and I'm back kicking my goal to train with every football and netball club in our electorate. With more than a dozen clubs under my belt last season I have opened this season by training with Undera, Stanhope, Yarrawonga Masters and Rochester Football and Netball Clubs. Sporting clubs are at the heart of many regional communities. Training with the clubs allows me to hear what matters to locals and keep up to date about what's happening in your town. I'm continuing to call for more funding for sporting clubs to improve their facilities. Changerooms have long been neglected and both female and male players need and deserve adequate changerooms.



Fresh Food Tax

Labor's new fresh food tax will hurt local producers and further drive up the cost of Australian grown food. I spoke in Parliament this week about the levy which will charge Aussie farmers the for the biosecurity costs of foreign importers e.g. their own competitors. This tax is fundamentally flawed and hurts not only the farmers that drive jobs and economic growth in our region but does nothing to relieve cost of living pressures for locals. Farmers will have no choice but to pass on the costs and it's expected to see prices rises for Australian produce. It is the importers who pose the biosecurity risk that should pay.



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

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Annemieke Mein - well worth a trip to Sale

Annemieke Mein is a Dutch born Australian textile artist who has drawn acclaim nationally and from around the world for her intricately accurate recreations of native fauna and flora. She was the first textile artist to be made a member of Wildlife Art Society of Australasia and the Australian Guild of Realist Artists.

The subjects of her sculptured textiles range from frogs, fish and birds through to insects such as moths, dragonflies, wasps and grasshoppers. Her fondness for insects and her highly detailed works, often greatly enlarged and showing normally invisible colours and textures, have revealed new aspects of the everyday natural world.

Exhibition in Gippsland until 26 May

Her life's work, which is being exhibited at the Gippsland Art Gallery in Sale until 26 May, as she celebrates her 80th birthday, is a must see for everyone.

Pictured are some examples of Annemieke's lifetime of works.



Leslie Edwards - art quilts at Kyabram Town Hall



Colour and Form is the name of Leslie Edwards textile art exhibition which can be seen at Kyabram Town Hall Gallery until 4 April.



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.

Time to solve a local cat problem

Waranga Catchment Landcare (WCLC) wants action on feral and roaming cats

In Australia, there are known to be between two and six million feral and roaming cats in the landscape on any given day. They account for the deaths of more than 800 native animals, birds and insects per cat, per year.

All cats hunt and kill, regardless of whether they are loved and well-fed or not. It is their natural instinct. It is not enough to just keep a cat locked up at night - many animals are also killed during daylight hours.

The Waranga catchment is surrounded and intersected by bushland and wetland systems that provide refuge to our diminishing woodland bird species, reptiles and arboreal nocturnal animals. All of these species need to find a safe haven in the pockets of remnant vegetation across the landscape but among other pressures, are predated upon by feral and roaming cats.

"The current Campaspe Shire policy on feral and roaming cats is minimal with no focussed policy on reducing or removing feral cats from the landscape," said WCLC Convenor Louise Costa.

"Provision of cat cages is 'currently suspended' and there are restricted routine patrols due to lack of staff."

The Shire provides 'Cat confinement brochures' but they only appeal to responsible pet owners and are difficult to locate for those looking to be proactive.



"These management strategies do not do enough to address the ever-increasing population of roaming cats in the district," said Louise.

For cat owners, there are a number of benefits of confining your cat. Not only does it help to protect endangered wildlife, but, according to the Australian Veterinary Association, "A pet cat kept safe at home can live up to four times longer than a cat left to roam."

For those looking to learn more there is an abundance of resources and information on the Safe Cat Safe Wildlife website - www.safecat.org.au

Proposed strategy

The Waranga Catchment Landcare Collective is looking to commence a proactive program to decrease the number of feral and roaming cats in our catchment, but would be keen to hear feedback from the community.

The process would be as follows:

WCLC members would be able to borrow a cat-trap to capture unwanted feral and roaming cats on private property (to borrow a trap, you can simply become a Landcare member for a one-off \$5 payment).

After a cat is trapped it would be the responsibility of the landholder to contact the Shire Ranger so that the animal can be collected and taken to Campaspe Animal Shelter in Echuca where the owner has an opportunity to claim it if the cat is registered.

When claiming a cat, the owner is given an information pack on roaming cats and how to construct cat enclosures.

Note, this strategy has not yet commenced and is currently under review. WCLC would welcome constructive feedback from the community.

Shire Resource Recovery Centre safety upgrades

Works on the Colbinabbin, Toolleen and Lockington Resource Recovery Centres will be taking place from March to May, upgrading key areas of the facility to make it safer and easier for the community to use.

Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Rob Amos said the works will help improve the useability of the Resource Recovery Centres.

"It's great to have eight Resource Recovery Centres across the shire, giving residents a range of options and locations for disposing of waste. The Resource Recovery Centres are located in Colbinabbin, Echuca, Gunbower, Kyabram, Lockington, Rochester, Rushworth and Toolleen.

"The three sites, Colbinabbin, Toolleen and Lockington will all be operational during the works. There may be some delays and

detours at each of the sites, but they will still be open.

"Just a reminder, you can visit any of the other five Resource Recovery Centres to dispose of your waste," Cr Amos said.

Works have already begun at Colbinabbin, with Toolleen expected to start late March and Lockington early April.

For more information on opening hours of all eight Resource Recovery Centres, please visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-services/Waste-recycling/Resource-Recovery-Centres/Locations-hours.

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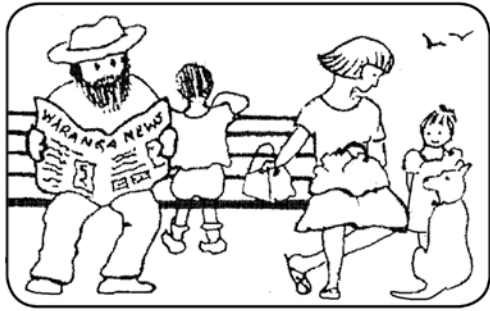
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Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns



Around Rushworth

Congratulations to Flynn Clarke

At just 15 years old, Flynn Clarke has won first place in the learner's division of the 2024 Deniliquin Show Shearing Competition. Flynn is the son the son of Julian and Hayley Clarke.



nbn Local barbecue and info



Ready with the info: Charlene Donovan, Community Engagement Specialist, and Emily Peel, Head of nbn Local Victoria were pleased with the success of the day.

On Friday 22 March, nbn Local hosted a free barbecue (cooked and served by the Rushworth SES) on High Street Rushworth, with an added serving of community information and advice on how to switch on to our new FTTP NBN service.



Locals speaking to advisors from Telstra about plans and options available.

New loos open at Lions Park

The Campaspe Shire Facebook page tells its members that the power and water is now connected to the new facilities at the Rushworth Lions Federation Park.

Site irrigation and landscaping works will be happening soon and the amenities will remain open whilst works are completed.

Slow down on the roads

With high visibility at night because of the full moon kangaroos are travelling more and it is easy to hit one unexpectedly.

Please, if you hit a kangaroo, don't just leave it to die! Please take the time to call Police if on the road or Help for Wildlife on 0477555611 or Wildlife Vic on 03 84007300.

School Holiday Campaspe Libraries fun in April Rushworth

- Tuesday, 2 April**
10.30am til 12 noon - LEGO and Games
- Thursday, 4 April**
10am - Bird Feeders
- Tuesday, 9 April**
10.30am til 12 noon - LEGO and Games
- Thursday, 11 April**
3pm - Paddle Boats
- Colbinabbin**
- Wednesday, 3 April**
10.30am - Wooden Garden Wind Chimes

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Colbo Tit Bits

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School holiday fun

School holidays at Colbo - here's a fun craft opportunity - make wooden garden wind chimes. Class will be held in Colbinabbin library hall annexe on Wednesday 3 April 10.30am-11.30am (1 hour). Age 5+. Book 5481 2400 or online. Places are limited.

Colbinabbin Group

At the recent annual meeting the money raised over the past two years was distributed as follows:

Colbinabbin General Store \$5000.00

Colbinabbin Pre School \$700.00

We would like to thank those who volunteered their time to work at the field days to help raise money for the local community

Election of Office Bearers

Chairperson: Rob Ryan. Secretary: Shane Ryan. Treasurer: Marg West.

Cornella Care AGM

Office bearers elected at the Cornella Care AGM: President and Treasurer - Pam Nihill. Vice-president - Pat Kennedy. Secretary - Maree Stewart.

Save the date

• Colbinabbin Silo Art Picnic and Wine Festival - Sunday 5 May 11am to-3pm.

Dinner for Four at CCH

Last chance to win a Dinner for Four at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel with two bottles of Kennedy wine. Tickets at just \$2 each are available from Glen 0429 329 215 or Maree 0413 029 012- with all money going to Caritas Australia. Drawn Easter Sunday.

LIBRARY

Wed 3 April Heather Woodman
Wed 10 April Pam Nihill



Cemetery Trust

Mowing Roster (lawn section only)
April - Emily McFadzean

FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

March 31 Bill Johnson, Gerard Stewart
April 7 Matt Ryan, Martin Borger

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.

Colbo Diary

Tuesdays - Colbo Pub Choir 5pm

Thursdays - Men's Community Shed

April

Wed 5 Kids' craft class at hall 10.30am

May

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

The McTaggart boys were in town

One could be forgiven for thinking there was a major event happening in the sleepy little town of Colbo last weekend.



Back row (L-R) Glen, Colin and Andrew. Front (L-R) Ian and Kevin.

The line of cars outside the McTaggart home resembled just that! The McTaggart brothers, families and friends descended on Kevin's house (formerly Ron and Nellie's) for an extended weekend of catching up. There was also a special birthday to celebrate for Kev - little brother Ian shares the date with him, and the family enjoyed a birthday dinner at the Colbo Pub before all going their separate ways.

If you're Irish, come into the parlour

St Patrick's Day couldn't pass by without some celebrating and singing at the local pub. (At right) The EMUS (Echuca Moama Ukelele Society).



'St Pat's Day' celebrations went well into late afternoon last Sunday at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel. The crowd dined on Irish fare such as beef and Guinness pie, corned beef with cabbage, lamb shanks and fish chowder; and of course plenty of mashed potato! The large throng of people from places near and far were dressed in green, and enjoyed Irish tunes a-plenty by the talented and very entertaining EMUS led by Liz Quinlivan of Echuca. It was obvious how much the group had practiced, and everyone also enjoyed the annual performance of The Unicorn Song by Glyn Jenkins of Echuca. Echuca was well represented, with Amanda and Dave Wilson (pictured left) winning best dressed for the day. 'Twas a grand celebration to be sure, to be sure!



Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

Phone (03) 5856 1295

Email:

admin@rushcomhouse.org.au

Website:

www.rushcomhouse.org.au

Facebook:

Rushworth Community-House

Office Hours:

Mon, Tues Thurs : 9.00am to 3.00pm

Wed, Fri : 9.00am to 1.00pm

Your local access point for Medicare, Centrelink and other Australian Government services.



Wicking beds - the full story

Our story about Wicking Beds in the last edition of the Waranga News prompted several phone calls from people asking for more information about this Australian garden technology and the extraordinary success that people are having using it to grow a wide variety of fruit and vegetables at home.

Wicking beds are very different to conventional beds. They are usually constructed in a strong metal or wooden box which is fitted with an internal waterproof liner sheet.

During construction, pipes are placed in the box to allow for "bottom-up" watering - instead of the usual hose and sprinkler used in conventional garden beds. A water outlet/overflow pipe is also fitted.

Sand or gravel is laid in the box, filling it to about half full.

A permeable sheet is placed over the gravel, then the rest of the box is filled with good quality garden soil.

Water is then added through the filler pipe, together with liquid nutrients such as an organic fertiliser. Capillary action carries the water solution through the gravel or sand, then through the permeable layer into the soil.

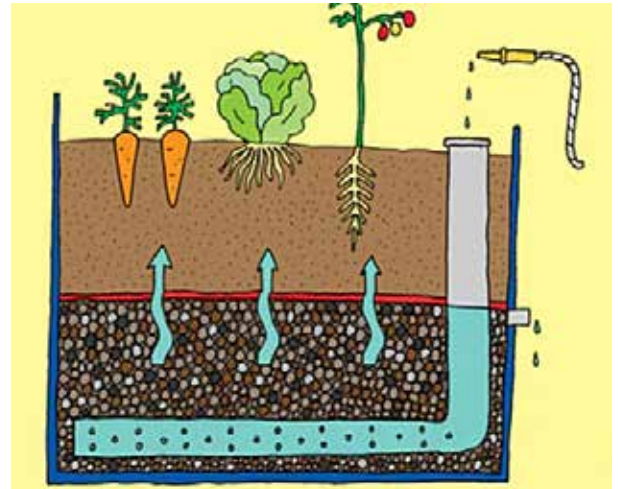
Seeds or seedlings are then added at the top of the soil, with wicking moisture soon at play to help their development.

Because the water is added under the soil layer and separated from the soil by a permeable sheet, water remains within the wicking box for lengthy periods after water has been added.

Intervals between waterings as long as a month have been reported in some cooler climates.

Rushworth Community Garden now has two wicking beds, thanks to a generous grant from Campaspe Shire. The beds are higher than conventional top-watering beds laid out around the garden.

The beds will soon be planted out to serve as demonstration beds for members of the community to call in and check out this innovative Australian technology.



Wicking bed diagram courtesy Little Veggie Patch



Yoga instructor wanted

RCH is still looking for a qualified yoga instructor to conduct future classes at the Community House.

Yoga produces many health benefits, including improved cardiovascular fitness and blood pressure, better muscle tone and reduced stress - that's why it's so important.

If you or someone you know would like to join the House's team of specialist instructors please call our Manager Anita Pirie on 56581295 during office hours.

RCH Term Two Guide

The Community House's activities guide for Term Two is now available.

Printed copies of the guide are available free of charge by calling into the Community House during office hours.



Alternately, you can access the Term Two guide by going to the Community House's Facebook page entitled "Rushworth Community-House".

For more information about courses and other activities - or to register for a course or an activity - call the House on 58561295.

New to town?

If you've recently moved into our historic town, you may be a bit bewildered about settling in, getting to know people and finding out what makes Rushworth tick.

The Community House is a great place to start. with lots of helpful information and advice on hand.

Please call in, have a cuppa with the friendly folk at reception and find out just how easy it can be to settle in and become a 'Rushworthian' in no time at all.



The comfortable ambience of RCH reception

NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.

Spotted outside a Melbourne church/foodbank was a little cupboard, with a sign ‘help yourself’ – what a great idea!

Last year at a foodbank discussion, it was felt that there are still members of our community who are not feeling the benefit of the Rushworth Foodbank. This could be for various reasons, one being lack of accessibility after hours. Foodbank workers set out to explore this anomaly.

Modifying the opening hours was one suggestion, not an easy option when the foodbank relies on their volunteers to give up their time in order to stay open.

The second suggestion was easier access to non-perishable items out of hours/in emergencies.

The foodbank has, therefore, modified the access hours and is now open on three days a week, Monday Wednesday and Friday from 10 am – 12 noon. An extra day offers more consistent access while the later start gives

volunteers time to get the shelves stacked and ready for clients.

The ‘little help yourself pantry’ was viewed as a brilliant idea to stretch the access hours even more. The foodbank needed one – and along came Steven Gregory with an old fridge and an idea to convert it.

Steve has done an amazing job (see photos) converting the old fridge into a beautiful little weather-proof cupboard for us – with more than an aesthetic nod to the old ‘back yard dunny’! Don’t be put off! This is going to be a great service for our clients, stocked with essentials and accessible 24/7.

Just one request from the foodbank – please can someone paint us a sign for it? “The Little Help Yourself Pantry” - in case locals wonder what it is there for. If any local artists could oblige we would be so grateful.



Once a fridge



. now a sustaining food pantry!

Op Shop
9 High Street Rushworth
Open: Mon, Wed & Fri 9 am - 2 pm
Saturday - 9 am - 12 noon
AND
OPEN over Easter weekend

Foodbank
33 High St Rushworth
Open : Mon, Wed & Fri
10 am to 12 noon

Be a joiner!

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

Many local clubs and organisations are looking for new members.

What you can find:
 good fellowship, chance to meet people
 lasting friendships, service to community,
 new skills, leadership
 personal development
 . . . and more!

Check out your community opportunities NOW!

EASTER

It’s Easter and the Rabbit’s near,
 Hopping here and hopping there,
 Running on his little legs,
 With lots of lovely chocolate eggs.
 Our Festival is up and running
 Weather good, the sun is sunning.
 Pull the stopper out of kegs
 And count up lots of Easter Eggs.
 See the stall and maze and hats
 Daft dogs who love your friendly pats
 Who’ll wag their tails and sit and beg –
 And did I mention chocolate eggs?
 So don’t get blue and don’t get sad
 Eating chocolate is not bad.
 This Sunday’s when you can beg
 ‘Pleeeeeease give me one more Easter Egg!!

Heather Wellington

Op Shop open over Easter weekend

The Op Shop volunteers continue with their amazing efforts to keep the stock turning over and the shop looking great.

The biggest weekend of the year in Rushworth – Easter – is almost upon us and preparations have been underway for weeks to offer the best range of bargains and goodies for visitors and townsfolk alike. Call in and see, visit and grab a bargain! The shop will be open over the long weekend.

A final note – please do not leave donations outside the back door of the op shop when it is closed.

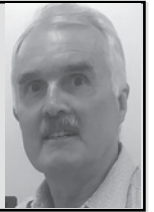
This practice causes a great deal of stress and work for the staff when they have to wade through sometimes discarded rubbish before they can make a start on preparing the shop for the community.

They are happy to accept donations of sellable items while the shop is open and welcome your kindness. However, they really do not appreciate the small majority who consider dumping their unwanted and unsaleable items at the back of the shop, out of hours. If you wouldn’t buy it, we can’t sell it and it takes hours and costs money to dispose of it.

Thanks from the Op Shop team

Fifty Years ago in our district...

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



New buildings for pre-schoolers and senior citizens

Moving into April of 1974, the happiest man in the district was Digger McArdle of Rushworth, the winner of a new Kingswood sedan in a lottery known as Queensland Boys Town Art Union. Wife Kathleen had bought a book of tickets, selling them to family and friends. One number either side of the winner were tickets held by Kath and by their son Gerrard. *(Bad luck mate!)*

Rushworth Senior Citizens Club won Department of Health approval of a grant which enabled building of new clubrooms. 29 squares of building, \$59,000. *(Sounds cheap to me.)* Plans included air-conditioning, and a kitchen for preparation of hot meals.

"Lone Person Units" were to be built at Stanhope, and similar accommodation was at the planning stage for a block on Parker Street.

Rushworth's new kindergarten in Esmonde Street was nearing completion, so 50 year recognition must be coming up.

Schools

Rushworth Primary reported Grade 5 learning that Mr Flinders and Mr Bass sailed around Tasmania to prove it was an island. An egg-sac of spiders owned by Wendy had seen lots of spiders hatch but not escape!

Grades 2 and 3 had a new news board, painted by Giselle, Merryn and Claire.

Grade 6 had a butterfly collection and prep boy Darren Jones gave the class a swallow-tail butterfly with a wingspan of 10.5 centimetres.

St Mary's school swimming sports saw a win for McKillop House over Woods House, with House Captains Phillip McEvoy and Catherine Barlow accepting the trophy from Father Collins. Champion boy swimmer was Jim Morgan, champion girl Genevieve Barlow. "Most improved" swimming trophies went to Robert Geisler and Kathleen McArdle.

Community

Rushworth Scouts heard that Queensland floods had destroyed Scout halls, so they held a car-wash at Peter Draper's garage on Moora Street. The Guides also wanted to help and a "fun night" was held. Associated competitions for a wall hanging were won by Wes Damon, Ray Barber (pavlova), Teresa Barlow and Stephen (hookey competition). *(Well done Teresa!)*

Stanhope Brownies were preparing for Thinking Day, which always makes me wonder what they did on the other 364 days.

Tired of reading about the sporting complex fight over the past year or so? Bad

luck. A Government Grant of \$63,000 was announced for a sports building at the High School. Provided the Shire found \$24,000, the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation \$24,000 and the school \$13,000. The last bit was the hard part, and the Chronicle editor Peter Davidson called on various local warring parties to dig a hole and bury the hatchet.

Rushworth Youth Club, in the RSL Hall (removed 1975), was offering activities for girls on Wednesday evenings, juniors at 6.15 p.m., seniors at 7 p.m. A trampoline was popular.

Senior Citizens Clubs across the Goulburn Valley held a zone picnic at Nathalia. The bus from the Rushworth Club was full of happy folk, so the caption of the grainy photo said.

Malcolm McLeod had a Fiat 411R petrol motor tractor for sale, labelled "good tyres and good mechanically". *(How much did you get for it, Mal?)*

In a rural fire brigades demonstration, he Moora brigade's Robert Raglus led Collbinabbin's Buster Hammond, and Simon Fraser also hit the lead for Moora in the hose event.

Churches

Father Howarth, a young curate in the local Catholic parish for two years, was presented with a gift by Mick Morgan of Colbinabbin, prior to leaving for the Northern Territory. Speakers at the farewell included Herb Barlow (Rushworth), Norm Wright (Cornella), Leo Calley (Stanhope), Mick Carey (St Mary's School), Harry DeKlijin (Murchison), and Doreen McArdle (St Mary's Mothers' Club). Father Howarth had been guided by Father Collins. *(Two priests would be a luxury these days.)*

Father Howarth had obtained his Bronze Medallion swimming award and taught numerous children to swim. He had also educated the parish alter-boys.

The Presbyterians were planning an open-air church service at Stanhope South, at the dairy farm of Ross and Jeanette Murray.

Personal

Stephen and Elizabeth Hopley, formerly of Kyabram, escaped the rat-race and purchased the Stanhope Pharmacy from Chris and Mary-Ann Bridge, who moved to Geelong.

Best photo in the paper was a smiling Kathy Clarke, nee Grigg, whose firstborn with husband Eddie, was Adam Gerrard. (Fiftieth birthday greetings to Adam.) Kathy had come to town with her parents, her father being the postmaster for a number of years. Kathy never left.

Bowls

Murchison Ladies Nancy Harrison, Gloria Baker, Gloria Polkinghorne and A. Jones took home the trophies, donated by Nancy on her President's Day. *(Take the trophy to bowls, then take it home again!)*

Murchison Bowls tournament fours event went to Rushworth's Cec. Bradley, Vic Cruz, Clive Wootton and Geoff Beck. The paper said that Don Perry and Jack Laurie were in the final of the mixed pairs but it did not say which one wore the dress!

Roy Barrett and Bill Malins of Stanhope were five shots behind in the Bendigo Country Week pairs final, with one end to play against Kyabram's Herb Prior and S. Moller. They scored the five to tie the match, winning by two on the extra end.

Rushworth bowlers had to conduct the annual tournament at the Stanhope club as the local greens were out of action, thanks to locusts.


Tennis

Rushworth's A-2 tennis team reached the preliminary final against Tatura A-3, but the following week's paper failed to report the outcome. Team captain was John Brown of Wanalta (now Kyabram), with other team members not named. The club was finalising preparations for the big Easter tournament, after the locusts had created havoc on the lawn courts. *(Wouldn't 200-300 tennis-playing visitors be good for the district over Easter these days?)*

Football

Three Murchison juniors, Darryl Wright, Dick Feehan and Gary Whitford showed the way in a senior Footy practice match against Undera. Dave Dixon, Ken O'Brien, Peter

Rushing to Whroo,
1853 to 1880



\$25
Sullivan and Max Burls were mentioned.
Alan McLean
0412 143 660
Books available:
Waranga News office and General Store Rushworth

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STORIES OF CHINESE IMMIGRANTS TO THE

WARANGA AREA

Compiled by Tony Ford

A lucky escape

Calvin Chong, one of the sons of 'Tommy' and Emma Ah Chong of Moora who were mentioned in a previous story, was lucky to survive an incident that took place on New Year's Day, 1888. It was every parent's worst nightmare scenario. As a four-year-old, Calvin had wandered away from home and got lost in the bush, which was full of old mineshafts. The family were out desperately searching for him.

Fortunately for him and his parents and siblings, a Mr Mullaney and friends from Rushworth were having a horse and gig drive through the bush west of Rushworth. "They were horrified to see what appeared to be the dead body of a child lying on an ant-hill and covered with ants."¹ Calvin had walked about four miles (6.5 km) from home before he collapsed, exhausted.

"One of the (Mullaney) party jumped out and recovered what were at first thought to be the remains, but was delighted to find the little fellow was not dead. He was stripped of his clothing, and the ants brushed off him, and Mr Mullaney and his friends then drove the child to a splitter's hut in the vicinity, to make inquiries."¹ Soon after, there was a joyful reunion with family.

The life of Calvin

Calvin went on to live a long and productive life, dying as a 76-year-old bachelor in 1962 and being buried in the Rushworth cemetery. All of the Chong children were given European names. Although he was christened Calvin, he was better known as 'Tommy', the same moniker that had been adopted by his father. This may have been because he followed in his father's footsteps as a market gardener at Moora.

When Ah Chong died in 1911, some of the family went over to Western Australia while Calvin and his brother Alfred continued growing vegetables. During World War 1, they donated vegetables as part of community fundraisers to provide support to such things as the soldiers' 'comfort fund' and the French Red Cross.² Calvin lived in Stanhope in the 1930s and '40s, continuing to pursue his career as a

gardener until he retired into Rushworth, while Alfred worked as a wood cutter in the Rushworth forest.

The matriarch

After a brief sojourn in Western Australia, Emma came back to Victoria. In May 1914, she was thrown from a gig and broke her wrist.³ Accidents involving horse-drawn vehicles were common at the time. But Emma was made of tough stuff. Her father was a miner who seemed to be constantly on the move in the latter part of the 19th century. After Emma was born in Dunolly, the family moved through a succession of other mining towns – Ararat, Inglewood, Tarnagulla, Raywood, Kangaroo Flat and Sandhurst, before turning up in Whroo in the mid-1870s.

It would have caused something of a sensation in the local area when the teenage Emma married a Chinese gentleman more than twice her age. They probably experienced their fair share of racial discrimination as they started and raised their family. Some of the children went to the Moora South State School, with two of the boys serving in World War 1. More about them in a later story.

To Western Australia

Emma spent the last part of her life living in Western Australia. She died in Perth in 1947 at the grand old age of ninety and is buried in the Anglican section of Karrakatta Cemetery. It is unclear whether she had any relatives living in Perth at the time. She had survived her Chinese husband 'Tommy' Ah Chong by thirty-six years.

Following in her mother Elizabeth's footsteps, who had twelve children over a twenty-year period, Emma had seven or eight children of her own. The first two children, her only girls, sadly died in infancy.

Then she lost her husband and son Walter in 1911. Despite those setbacks over the years, Emma survived as the matriarch of the extended Chong family.

Sources: 1 Ovens and Murray Advertiser 7.1.1888; 2 Murchison Advertiser, sundry dates; 3 Murchison Advertiser 22.5.1914; Other sources – Ancestry, NAA, AWM, WA BD&M and Trove websites.

A Name from the Past

Alexander Spence - worked in gold and timber

Scratch the surface of history at Rushworth and Stanhope and the name Spence will soon appear. Members of the family were associated with the early gold and timber activities, including Alexander Spence, who came to Rushworth in 1857 and whose passing was shown in the Murchison Advertiser of 2 July 1909.

"It is with feelings of regret that we chronicle the death of Mr Alexander Spence, of Old Lead, Rushworth, which sad event occurred at St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, on Saturday morning last.

Sometime about three months ago, the deceased became afflicted with a head trouble, which gradually became worse and caused him intense suffering. His medical attendant (Dr Christie) concluded that he had some disease of the brain, and after consultation with Dr Heily, his removal to the hospital was recommended, and he was taken there on the Tuesday evening prior to his death.

Mr Spence was a well-known identity and carried the esteem of all with whom he became associated from the fact that he was of such a kind, obliging nature and regret at his demise will be widespread.

He was a member of the old Sandhurst Mining Board for years up to the time of its disbandment. He was also a manager of the Waranga United Common for very many years, secretary of the local branch of the Sleeper Hewers and Sawmill Employees Association and also a member of the local foresters' Lodge.

Although not a native of Rushworth he was very nearly so, arriving here from Bendigo with his parents when scarcely two years of age. Thus he was a resident of over 52 years, being 54 years of age.

He was a married man, and leaves a sorrowing widow and a family of eight (seven girls and one son) to mourn their loss. The family are, however, grown up. The remains were brought to Rushworth for interment and the funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, when there was a very large attendance of sympathisers.

The Rev. J. Weir conducted the funeral service. The funeral was led by a large number of fellow members of the Foresters' Lodge, whose service at the graveside was read by Bro. T. G. Anderson."

Anyone on the trail of ancestors is invited to first visit the Rushworth cemetery website to find a large collection of obituaries, and the Rushworth Museum website where a smaller collection of obituaries of people buried at Whroo may be found. Thank goodness for old newspapers for students and researchers of family history!

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.

Aussie Magpie

Recently an Australian magpie was surrendered to Queensland wildlife authorities after being kept in captivity for around three years. The magpie in this case was obtained by picking it up as a brancher/fledgling, just as many people do, with the assumption or story that it was 'abandoned' by its parents. The Gold Coast couple did not contact local wildlife rescue for assistance and this bird was raised alongside dogs and people, becoming humanised and treated as a pet bird.

Right from the word go this couple have created digital content in the form of a social media page which includes ongoing videos of the magpie interacting with both them and their dog as part of the family. They went viral. From appearances on national television, overseas media interest, selling merchandise and even a publishing deal for a book, their story has become well known.

When the house this couple were renting was put up for sale, a crowd funder with GoFundMe was begun with the claim this would enable them to purchase said home to enable them to keep the bird, dogs and people all together.

A lot of money was raised. The couple actually moved, taking the magpie with them to their new residence to continue to release media content to the masses.

Sound like a good news story so far? It's actually far from it.

Licensed wildlife carers in the area had contacted the couple at the start when the viral videos were showing a bird who needed to be rehabilitated correctly and not be exploited as wildlife click bait on social media. They refused to get the bird the help it needed and blatantly and publicly flaunted the wildlife laws in the state of Queensland. The videos kept coming and the popularity kept growing.

After a number of people got behind a push to Queensland authorities to step in and address the situation accordingly, the bird was surrendered at the start of March. Video content continued to go up, albeit reshaped footage but nought was mentioned of the magpie no longer being in the possession of this couple.

Media outlets have released articles of the situation within the last week and it has created a storm of people claiming the magpie was ripped from its 'family', namely the dogs it was frequently recorded as 'playing' with. Threats are being made to wildlife carers who have pushed for this bird to get into appropriate care and for it to have a hope of successful rehabilitation and return to its wild home.

As with any story, there are usually facts and fiction which need to be determined.

As someone who has worked closely with these birds for thirty years, I can put forward some facts about this situation which may help people understand why this story is not all it seems.

Magpies are highly territorial birds. They will defend their territory to the death if they

discover an intruder. Generally a male may have one or a few female birds in their territory who they will father chicks with, although they usually only assist one of these females in nesting duties. Young magpies are looked after by parent or parents for quite a few months. Female young are sometimes allowed to stay in the home territory until they find their own mate and venture further afield but male young are generally evicted from the home range and will join up in small flocks with other males who will often float around the edges of breeding territories, kind of like a magpie no man's land, until they themselves establish a partnership with a female and begin protecting their own nesting territory. Some of these males may never actually hold a nesting territory.

Each season we raise a large number of nestling magpies. Our patients are raised in groups according to age and size. As soon as they are of fledgling age they are moved to outdoor enclosures which give them enough room to fly and strengthen their wings. This is the time the young birds learn to forage for themselves with us only visiting the enclosures to provide fresh food and water.

The birds also learn how to interact with their own kind, this is a great time for us as carers as we see all the playful antics of these intelligent birds.

Upon release, which also happens as a group, this play and interaction between both fledglings and our wild locals continues. Young birds learn the rules in regards to existing successfully within their release territory and go on to eventually find their own way in the world.

Female birds will be accepted into the area until they find their own partners and shift territories and the males vacate before the next breeding season to join the bachelor flocks on the fringes. We raise these birds from tiny nestlings and they are not encouraged to enter our house once they are released, they fly away from the dogs in our yard if they happen to be foraging there and a dog approaches.

Birds that saw my family and I as their parents while they needed to be looked after cannot be caught or petted. Usually there are one or two who seek out human companionship even after being released and may try to sneak in an open door of the house. These are often birds a member of public has kept for a period of time and tried to raise before handing in to the shelter. These birds eventually cease that behaviour as, although we will interact with them if they land on us or seek us out, we do not take those interactions any further and do not encourage humanised behaviour so in the end, the need to seek us out disappears. As they mature they are let be what they are.

The sad reality of birds such as the one mentioned at the beginning of this article is that the only one who suffers the most in the end is the bird.

The Gold Coast bird cannot fly properly as it



was not given appropriate veterinary treatment and care when it was first found. It has zero social skills with other magpies and is out of its home territory so could only go outside the house under human supervision or it would get attacked by the local flock.

Another characteristic of our Australian magpie is that when they are humanised by people from nestling or fledgling/brancher age, and then grow into mature breeding age birds, they often turn aggressive. Often not to the people who raised them but to every visitor or passer-by in what they see as their territory. This is because they see humans as one of their own and what do magpies do to one of their own kind when one enters their territory. They beat it up and try to kill it if it doesn't vacate quickly. Over the years, we have rehabilitated quite a number of magpies which people have raised and kept for a few years then contacted us to take the bird in to rehabilitation due the bird becoming aggressive with visitors. The other common reason for people contacting us is that when they tried to release the bird, it has almost been killed by their resident magpies.

These birds end up spending more time in care than would have initially been necessary and some, sadly, because they have health issues that were not addressed when needed or have had poor diet and housing leading to incurable conditions, have to be euthanised and we are the ones who have to deal with that, not the people who caused the problems in the first instance.

The moral to this story is if you find injured or orphaned wildlife, regardless of how cute, cuddly, or cool it is to have an animal bond with you or interact with you in a way you did not think possible, regardless of all the emotions this evokes within you or your children, please do the right thing by the animal and contact the nearest wildlife rescue service or shelter.

These animals deserve the chance to get back out into the wild in a way that gives them the best chance possible at surviving out there. Wildlife carers pour their heart and souls into injured and orphaned animals but at the end of the day, we do it for the benefit of the animal and that means we must put our own emotions to the side, no matter how strong and how difficult it is, to ensure we do the right thing. We ask that people please do the same and always call for help and get wildlife to the appropriate licensed shelters as soon as possible.

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.

As it once was

The countryside we see today around Rushworth is very different to how it was prior to European settlement. Even the surrounding box-ironbark forest is very different. It once had a fraction of the trees it has now and most of the trees were large, mature trees (not like the trees now). But what about the flat plains to the north?

There is very little recorded about what the country was like prior to the Europeans. The first settlers were squatters and came to the northern plains with one thing in mind: to make money by running sheep. They did not buy the land. Instead, they were granted licences to take up land by the Commissioner of Crown Lands. They would take up land around permanent water, effectively denying other graziers the use of adjacent land. In this way a squatter's run could be extended beyond the land he was licenced to occupy. Initially it was a tough life and so little thought was given to recording what the land was like, other than if it was good for grazing.

A few clues can be gleaned from the memoir of Edward M Curr¹, one of the first squatters in the district. Major Mitchell's accounts of the plains country went little beyond extolling its value for grazing. Other clues can be found in the rare scraps of much degraded remnants of the early landscape.

The plains had three types of ecosystems. There were swamps, lakes, rivers and creeks, there were open woodlands and open treeless areas.

The swamps, lakes and creeks were often ephemeral and even though they would dry out from time to time, they usually retained some water in pools. They were fringed with redgums. Most trees were mature, being hundreds of years old. Flooding produced thickets of new redgums along the highwater line. These saplings grew thickly and competition was fierce. Only a very small percentage grew to maturity. Lines of mature trees signify high water marks of ancient floods. These areas were valuable food sources for the First Nations people.

The open woodland consisted of scattered trees, about 30m apart. Grey box was predominant with black box being dominant in the northern and western regions. Sheoaks were also common, often occurring in clumps. The ground was covered with scattered tussocks of coarse kangaroo grass with herbaceous plants such as



myrnong (yam daisy) growing in between.

The open areas consisted of kangaroo grass and the herbaceous plants. It is not known if these open areas were natural or the result of fire regimes practised by the First Nations People. However, it is clear that following a fire, the regrowth made for excellent grazing. The First Nations people would have known this and it is highly probable that they would have used fire to improve grazing for their prey species. It was the excellent regrowth following a fire that spurred Curr to take up a new run at Colbinabbin.

By the time the squatters arrived many of the Aborigines had either died of 'white man's diseases' or had been forced onto the Protectorate at Murchison. Along with dingos, they were 'gotten rid of'.

Any remaining Aborigines were viewed with suspicion and often shot at. Kangaroos and even possums were seen as vermin and every effort was made to eradicate them.

The ecology of the northern plains changed rapidly. In just a few years the sheep had up-rooted and eaten the mynong and other plants, leaving the way open for grasses and introduced weeds to take hold. According to Curr the once soft soil and the creek beds became hard and compacted, causing rainwater to run off, rather than sink in.

Once the system of selection was established, land previously occupied by squatters was systematically cleared, as required by the government. In only 50 years the whole ecology of the northern plains had been permanently altered.

Today, if you know where to look, there are places where, with some imagination, you can envisage the plains as they once were: swamps such as Stewart's Swamp near Corop, grey box remnants around Diggora and the plains wanderer reserve near Mitiamo. Increasingly farmers are fencing off land to protect what is left of the original vegetation.

1. *Recollections of Squatting in Victoria*, Edward M. Curr, Melbourne University Press, 1965.

Weeds, Waste and Invasive Species

Campaspe Shire Council's Flood Recovery and Waste and Environment Departments hosted a Weeds, Waste and Invasive Species information sessions in Rushworth Shire Hall last Thursday.

The range of guest speakers included representatives from Services Australia, Agriculture Victoria and Rural Aid - a philanthropic charity that supports farmers and rural communities. (Programs include 'Farm Army' - a team of volunteers that assist with on-farm works after natural disasters.)

Jim Castles was the keynote presenter who was hired as a consultant by the Shire to assess 3775 km of Shire roadsides for noxious weeds and native species.

In the Campaspe Shire, Jim mapped twenty-four noxious species and noted that with limited funding for addressing weeds, the maps helped to target infestations in sensitive areas. He suggested Bridle Creeper was a species that we should target in Rushworth.



Jim also spoke about the practice of broad-spraying and said this activity alone would not eradicate weeds but rather create areas of bare earth which would only become spaces for other weeds to colonise. Follow-up revegetation of sprayed areas is the best solution to out-compete weed growth in the long term.

The evening was presented by the Campaspe Shire in collaboration with Agriculture Victoria, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and Goulburn Murray Landcare Network.



Cooks Column

This is an easy chicken recipe, using chicken breasts, skin on. However any cut of chicken would work well. Recipe is for four serves.

Roasted chicken breast with lemon, thyme and garlic Ingredients

- 4 chicken breasts skin on
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 teaspn finely chopped thyme leaves
- 2 teaspn dried oregano
- 1 lemon zest and juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, plus extra to serve
- 1½ baby cos lettuce, leaves separated
- Lemon wedges to serve

Method

Pre-heat oven to 200° C

Season chicken generously with salt and pepper. Heat oil in a large frying pan (oven proof) over medium-high heat. Seal the chicken, skin side down for three minutes or until the skin is golden and crisp. Turn over and seal other side for one minute. Turn chicken again and transfer pan to the oven for five minutes.

To make the marinade, place garlic, thyme, oregano, lemon zest and juice and olive oil in a small bowl and whisk.

Remove pan from oven and pour the marinade over the chicken. Continue to roast the chicken for another five to six minutes until cooked through. Set aside and rest five minutes, then thickly slice.

Divide cos lettuce onto plates. Add the chicken and spoon over pan juices. Drizzle extra olive oil over each plate and add a wedge of lemon.

I found this recipe to be light and refreshing for a summer meal. I served it with a tossed salad.

*Bon Appetite
Pauline*



Garden Hints & Tips

It's tree planting time again

Well, our summer months have brought some unexpected conditions this year, with no major heatwaves and a very abundant summer rainfall. In fact you could say we have had a perfect climate with consistently warm days, cooler nights and enough rain to cut down on the watering requirements (as long as you weren't in the flood zones of course!). The extra rainfall does call for a different summer gardening regime, with mowing and weeding still well on the agenda.

With autumn now well underway, it's time to clear out the tired looking summer veggies and start preparing for the winter crops.

It's also an excellent time to be planting out new trees and shrubs, especially natives, as the soil is still warm but the days not so hot as to stress the newly transplanted specimens. If well watered and mulched now they will get off to a good start and acclimatise well before the winter cold sets in.

For best success for new plantings it's a good idea to choose wisely for our area as this will give them the best chance of survival in the years to come.

And what better place to select for the local garden than from the volunteers at the Goulburn Valley Tree Group. As they

say, "Well, it's that time of year again. Tree planting weather has arrived!"

With some rain we will be looking at a perfect opportunity to get plants and trees thriving at your place.

At Goulburn Valley Tree Group Native Nursery in Tatura they have already been busy with sales - some species have already sold out.

Their stocks are all native and many being species that are indigenous to this area so they should thrive in our local conditions.

There are plants and trees for both paddocks and town block, many varieties of Eucalypts (both large and small), Banksias, Wattles, Melaleucas, Callistemons, paper daisies, lush grasses and more.

Volunteers work tirelessly every year to produce quality plants from seed so you can purchase healthy plants at very affordable prices – all plants are grown from seed.

GV Tree Group nursery is currently open on Tuesday mornings and from 6 May will also be open Saturday mornings.

So prepare your soil and pay them a visit. Goulburn Valley Tree Group Native Nursery is at 6 Kerferd Stree Tatura.



An abundance of native trees, shrubs and grasses awaits you at GV Tree Group Nursery.

Health and Wellbeing

Advance Care Planning at Waranga Health

Waranga Community Health hosted an Advance Care Planning information session for community members during Advance Care Planning week with guest speaker Loretta Lilford Advance Care Planning Coordinator from Kyabram District Health Service.

National Advance Care Planning Week was held 18-24 March 2024 - a week-long campaign to raise awareness of advance care planning. All Australians are encouraged to share what matters most about your future health care wishes and preferences.

Advance care planning is an on-going process of shared planning for current and future health care. It involves talking about a person's values, beliefs and preferences so they can guide decision making when the person cannot make or communicate their decisions.

Everyone should consider advance care planning, regardless of their age or health. It can be particularly important for people living with a chronic or life limiting illness. Advance care planning provides comfort for people as you just never know when something could happen, such as a motor vehicle accident or serious fall, that leaves you unconscious and in need of health care. Your advance care plan will give you a voice if these or other life events were to happen to you

Advance care planning gives you the opportunity to think about, discuss and record your preferences for the type of care you would like to receive and the outcomes you

would consider acceptable. It helps to ensure your loved ones and health providers know what matters most to you and respect your treatment preferences.

If you haven't documented your preferences or identified a substitute decision-maker and you become seriously ill or injured, doctors will make treatment decisions based on their assessment of your best interests. This may include treatments that you would

not want. An advance care plan ensures this doesn't happen and will be referred to when a person is unable to make or communicate their decisions.

For more information visit the Advance Care Planning Australia website which offers many useful resources including case studies, fact sheets, guides and forms, or phone 1300 208 582 between Mon-Fri from 8.30am-4pm (AEST).



Advance Care Planning for security in health care.

Foodredi - Healthy eating for everyone learning and cooking together

Expressions of interest are being sought for the Food REDi program which runs for six weeks (two hours per week) from 11am – 1pm in various local community house venues.

Groups are active, fun and informative, blending nutritional information with teaching practical cooking skills.

The FoodREDi six week program helps people aged 18+ years to:

- Choose health foods and drinks
- Plan to buy affordable food when shopping.
- Make healthy meals for one or more

Education topics

- REDI and Safe – Food safety, storage, hand hygiene and general kitchen safety
- REDI to Eat (1) – Plate portion size, handy serve sizes and Aust guide to healthy eating
- REDI to Eat (2) – Discretionary items (reducing salt/sugar/saturated fats) and the 5 food groups
- REDI to Save – Unit pricing, shopping lists, food wastage and home-made vs takeaway

- REDI to Choose – Supermarket psychology, ingredient lists, nutrition panels and label reading

- REDI to Cook – Ingredients swaps for healthier meals and sugary drinks vs water

The format

Each week a main meal recipe is selected to cook from start to finish using a team approach.

For each recipe, a participant "Head Chef" is selected to guide the other participants in the preparation, cooking and clean-up duties (with full assistance of GV Health staff) in a small group environment (limited to six participants).

All group participants sit down at a table to share the meal and review what worked or didn't work(chew the fat so to speak).

When and where?

Dates: block of 6 weeks, once weekly – dates to be advised in 2024

Time: 11am – 1pm

Venue: Rushworth Community House, 67 High Street Rushworth 3612

Cost: \$42 per person (includes 6 sessions and 6 lunchtime meals)

Bookings are essential: Contact Shelley or Leanne, Community Health @ GV Health Ph: 1800 222 582 select option 4), Monday to Friday from 8am -4.30pm



MUD HUT YOGA
Peace ~ Flexibility ~ Strength

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

Kids Corner

- interesting things to know!

Hey Kids!

Easter is celebrated around the world in a surprising variety of ways. Read all about these traditions, and then have a go at the Easter Foods word search!

FRANCE

One of the main French Easter traditions is the Easter bells or les cloches de Pâques. On Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter, church bells across France are silenced to mourn the death of Christ and they remain silent until Easter Sunday. According to legend, the bells would fly to Rome to be blessed by the Pope. They would then begin their journey back to the French churches, but would pick up eggs along the way before scattering them into the gardens. The bells would then ring on Easter Sunday to announce the Resurrection of Christ and therefore 'return'. So in France it is the bells rather than the Easter bunny delivering the Easter eggs.

As with many national holidays it is a French tradition to have a family meal at Easter. Often this will include lamb as the main course, which is a symbol of spring and new life. Usually, dessert is chocolate-based and, as with all good French meals, there is a cheeseboard.

BRITAIN

There are many Easter food traditions from Britain. Simnel is a light fruit cake decorated with 11 or 12 marzipan balls to represent the 12 apostles, excluding Judas.



Christians in the UK and the Republic of Ireland have been serving Simnel cake on the middle Sunday of Lent, when the fast is broken, since medieval times.

A hot cross bun is a spiced sweet bun made with currants or raisins, marked with a cross on the top, and traditionally eaten on Good Friday in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and some parts of the Americas. The bun marks the end of Lent and different parts of the hot cross bun have a certain meaning, including the cross representing the crucifixion of Jesus, and the spices inside signifying the spices used to embalm him at his burial.

POLAND

In Poland, the Easter brunch buffet table is plentiful, showcasing some of the country's best dishes. One of the staples you will find is faszerowany jajka, which are stuffed eggs grilled with a breadcrumb topping. They have a delicious filling of ham, cheese, sour cream, and mustard, making them hard

to resist.

A white borscht soup, called either biaty barszcz or zurek wielkanocny, is also a Polish tradition.

Chatka is a braided egg bread that is very popular in Poland. It's slightly sweet and dotted with raisins. A yeast dough of warm milk, butter, sugar, eggs, flour and raisins is left to rise and then divided into three pieces to be braided. The loaf rises again and then is baked until golden.



Babka wielkanocna is a true representation of the celebration of rich foods after the Lenten fast. It is a yeasty cake made with a whopping fifteen eggs!

LITHUANIA

After church on Easter morning, Lithuanian families return home to enjoy a special breakfast along with the foods from their blessed food basket. The family either shares an egg as a sign of unity or each enjoys a hard-boiled egg to symbolise rebirth. The main meal is dinner, complete with several traditional dishes. The entree is either a roast pork, chicken, or lamb and you will most certainly find vedarai, a type of sausage made of potatoes. It may either be meatless or contain bacon, depending on the family's recipe. An Easter dinner in Lithuania will also often include cepelinai. These delicious dumplings are also called zeppelins as they are shaped much like the famous airships.

GREECE

Although Greek Orthodox Easter falls on a different day than the Western Christian Easter holiday, that doesn't mean there is a shortage of delicious delicacies. The Greek Easter feast actually begins after the midnight church service, but the main event is held on Easter Sunday.

On every Greek household table, you will find lamb, red eggs, and tsourekhi, an orange and spice-scented bread. The dough is braided and then dyed red eggs are nestled on top before baking, making for a festive and unique looking bread.

ITALY

Easter is one of the important holidays in Italy, which is also reflected in the country's food traditions, as illustrated by the many different foods that are consumed almost exclusively during that period of the year.

Lamb (symbolising life) and eggs (symbolising rebirth) are always part of the celebration, either as part of the Easter lunch or as gifts (chocolate Easter eggs).

Pastiera napoletana is a typical Easter cake made of a shortcrust pastry with a filling of ricotta cheese, eggs, and cooked wheat berries, flavoured with orange flower water.



Torta Pasqualina is a salt pie made of 33 layers of filo pastry sheets (the number of years of life of Christ) following an ancient recipe believed to date back to 15th century Genoa. It is stuffed with chard or artichokes, eggs and seasoned with marjoram or other herbs.

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

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

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|------------|
| BAKING | DINNER | GENOA | LENT | RECIPES | TRADITIONS |
| BELLS | DUMPLINGS | GOOD | LITHUANIA | RICOTTA | YEAST |
| BORSCHT | DYED | GREECE | MARZIPAN | ROAST | |
| BRITAIN | EASTER | HOLIDAY | ORANGE | SIMNEL | |
| BUNNY | SUNDAY | HOT CROSS | PASTRY | SOUP | |
| CHALKA | EGGS | BUNS | POLAND | SPICE | |
| CHOCOLATE | FASTING | IRELAND | POTATO | SYMBOL | |
| CROSS | FRANCE | ITALY | RAISINS | TABLE | |
| | FRIDAY | LAMB | | | |

Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our **'On Ya Bike' at Stanhope Primary School**

Stanhope Primary School was very grateful to Kyabram and District Health Services and staff from the local Sportspower store, who visited the school on Wednesday 20 March to deliver a bicycle repair workshop.

Three students were taught how to locate a leak in a flat tyre, what tools they would need to repair it, and how to complete those repairs.

Two students brought their own bikes along and repairs were carried out on them as well. Thank you to the families who took part. Kyabram and District Health Services have also kindly donated a puncture repair kit to the school to keep on hand.

Students Cass and Mercedes (pictured) learned some fantastic skills to keep their bikes in safe repair.



Colbo kinder kids are out and about!

Finally the weather was cool enough to take the kinder children for a lovely walk into town. The children visited the Colbinabbin Men's Shed where they were shown around. Lots of wood to look at and Jeff's dog, Rick, was happy to see the children. The children then ventured on to the silos and ended the visit at the re-opened and refurbished Colbo shop for a Freddo Frog!



Market day fun at Colbinabbin Primary



Colbinabbin PS Market Day was once again a great success. We have lots of great photos of the day (thanks Robyn Ryan) so watch out for these in the next edition of the Waranga News!

Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our St Mary's PS Earth Hour, fundraisers and NAPLAN

LaTrobe student teachers

In Term 2, we will be welcoming Placement Students from LaTrobe University. These students are in the second year of their teaching degrees and will be teaching in the Grade 3/4 classroom. The students are very much looking forward to having student teachers in their classrooms!

Earth Hour

On Friday 22 March, students participated in Earth Hour where they turned off all lights and refrained from using technology. This is part of the 'Sandhurst Switches Off' initiative that encourages everyone to turn off their lights and any other electronic devices for part or a whole day. This action is symbolic of our commitment to the preservation of God's fragile creation. It is also symbolic of our solidarity with those who are suffering due to climate change. Let us reimagine our partnership with all of creation.

'If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs'. *Laudate Si, Pope Francis, p. 17.*

Project Compassion fundraiser

In Term Two, students will be continuing their Project Compassion fundraising by having the following events:

- Friday 26/4/24 Crazy Hair Day - Project Compassion fundraiser - gold coin donation led by Gr 5/6.
- Friday 3/5/24 Students and staff come dressed as something/character starting with 'C' for Compassion - Project Compassion - gold coin donation fundraiser led by Gr 3/4.

NAPLAN

Over the past two weeks, our Grade 3 and Grade 5 students have sat their four NAPLAN tests. They showed great maturity, resilience and independence and should be very proud of their efforts!

Ride 2 School Day

On Friday 22 March, we celebrated National Ride2School Day by encouraging all students to ride or scoot safely to school. A small group of riders and scooters made their way to school from the Bakery whilst the others came from all different directions! The parade showcased all our modes of transport on the day and proved to be lots of fun!

Students of the Week

Congratulations to our Week 7 and Week 8 Student of the Week Award winners! Keep up the great work!

- Week 7 Amara, Thomas and Charlii.
- Week 8 Isaac, Indi and Heath.
- Principal Award Week 7: Jaida Rose.

Footy Tipping

The AFL season is back which means our tipping competition is back! \$2 per entry and enter as many times as you like. Tipping sheets are available at Rushworth IGA Perrys Butchers, Colbina Bin Community Store, Stanhope Post Office and the school office.

F/1/2 Science

Last week in Science, the F/1/2 class made 'Flying Fish', incorporating our learning about forces, pushes and pulls.

Students decorated strips of paper which were then cut and constructed into fish.

We then had lots of fun flying these in the amphitheatre. We experimented with different ways of flying the fish and came to the conclusion that throwing the fish forwards proved the best way to make them fly!



F/1/2 Science and their flying fish. (The flying fish were very hard to see as they were flying fast!)



Grade 3/4 . In a recent lesson, the Grade 3/4s learnt about the importance of giving detail in their instructions. They all took turns giving the next instruction for making fairy bread. We all had a good laugh and enjoyed eating a delicious snack We will use this skill as we start our unit on procedure writing.



Week 7 - Students of the week winners Amara, Thomas and Charlii, and Principal's award winner Jaida Rose.



Week 8 - Students of the Week: Isaac, Indi and Heath

Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our
St Mary's focus on Easter and Harmony Day



Grade 5/6 liturgy. 5/6 Palm Sunday/Holy Thursday - The Last Supper Liturgy

The Grade 5/6 class performed a fantastic re-enactment of Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday - the Last Supper. They should all be proud of their effort and teamwork during the liturgy.



Harmony Day - everyone belongs!

On Thursday 21 March, students celebrated Harmony Day. Students were encouraged to wear a 'touch of orange' to celebrate this year's theme of 'Everyone Belongs,' celebrating unity and diversity, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Students completed activities over the day to promote inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all.

In Performing Arts, the songs and dances students learned included:

- Funga Alafia (West Africa/Nigeria)
- Inanay (Yorta Yorta people, Australia)
- Throw, Catch/ Jikeleza (Zulu language, Southern Africa)
- Indo Eu (Portugal)
- Shoemaker's Dance (Denmark)
- Troika (Russia).



Parents and Friends AGM

On Friday 8 March, our P and F held their 2024 AGM. We are incredibly proud of such a strong group of parents who volunteer to do their part to allow our school to have lots of great opportunities. Congratulations to Katrina for being voted President, Brittney as Vice President, Melissa as Secretary and Sarah as Treasurer. Thank you.

Save the dates

- Halloween Disco - Friday 1 Nov 2024.
- School Fete - Friday 15 Nov 2024.



Ride to school

Cornella Care and foot care at AGM



Pam Nihill (left), President and Treasurer of Cornella Care with guest speaker, Nicole Murphy (podiatrist) at the AGM.



Nicole Murphy (right) had plenty of questions to answer from Cate Furphy about what to look for when buying footwear and general foot care. The Cornella Care AGM was held at Colbinabbin Country Hotel. Maree Stewart was elected Secretary.

Palm Sunday rallies focused on refugees

Palm Sunday has been an ideal time to contemplate refugee issues as Jesus himself was born in makeshift accommodation and later became a refugee in Egypt.

During his time on Earth, Jesus emphasised the importance of helping all people in need, including those from other countries such as refugees and people seeking asylum.

The St Vincent de Paul Society continues to focus on the injustice of how refugees to Australia are being treated.

The Society appreciates that more than 12,000 people have received permanent visas after a decade living in uncertainty and disadvantage on temporary visas.

However, Vinnies' National President, Mark Gaetani, states that 'We are very concerned that thousands of others are still unable to seek permanent protection. The 'fast-track' refugee assessment process is highly discriminatory, with many people destitute because they are unable to work and receive no government support. They must be fairly assessed and assisted if they are unable to work.

'After a decade in limbo, over 1,000 people brought here from PNG and Nauru for medical treatment are still on temporary visas, most having no path to permanent settlement. They must be settled permanently,' Mr Gaetani said.

The Society continues to seek justice for refugees and asylum seekers held offshore, notably those who've been in PNG for over



This Easter buy slavery-free eggs

By buying chocolate with one of the three slavery-free labels (FAIRTRADE, Rainforest Alliance or UTZ) you can be sure that the cocoa beans used in the chocolate's production have been sourced ethically, from farmers who engage in good labour practices. It's all up to you: take time to read the label on Easter Eggs this year and buy slavery-free.



a decade and are destitute and struggling with health issues. They should be moved immediately to Australia while they await resettlement.

These people have fled their homelands in fear of their lives and we are obliged legally and morally to offer sanctuary and provide the support they need while their claims are being considered.

St Vinnies maintains that 'The Government should ensure these people have a valid bridging visa with associated work and study rights and are linked to Medicare while they await decisions on their protection application, including by automating the bridging renewal process.'

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

For every cup and plateful,
Lord, make us truly grateful.
Amen.

CLIVE COVENTRY FUNERALS

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living the GOOD LIFE

from Water to Wonder

In the heart of a vineyard, amidst the rustle of leaves and the sweet scent of ripening grapes, there lies an age-old tale of transformation and renewal. It's a story that begins with the simplest of elements: water.

This narrative isn't just about the physical process of winemaking; it's a reflection on how we, too, can find depth and richness in the blending of our lives' most basic components.

This vintage has been warm and quick. The previous two years have been cooler, and we have had a hard time getting the grapes to ripen and to get the sugar levels winemakers are seeking. But not this year.

After a cool start to summer and heavy rains in December, the new year has seen warm days, no rain and grapes ripening quickly. Sugar levels (Baumé) are also high.

Turning water into wine isn't just a biblical miracle; it's a practice rooted in the very real challenges of winemaking, particularly when dealing with high Baumé grape must ('must' is the fermenting crushed grapes) For those unacquainted, Baumé is a measure of the sugar content in grape juice or wine, indicating potential alcohol content. High Baumé levels suggest a concentration of sugar that can lead to wines of great intensity and strength. Yet, this gift of nature's bounty comes with its own set of challenges.

When the sugar content is too high, the fermentation process can stall, and the yeast, overwhelmed by the sugar's abundance, may fail to convert it all into alcohol. This is where the addition of water plays a pivotal role, not

unlike the biblical account of turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana.

In this modern parable, the water doesn't simply dilute; it revives, allowing the yeast to thrive and the fermentation to complete, transforming a potentially troubled must into a wine of balance and character.



Water into wine at Cana.

This act of adding water is more than a technical fix; it's a reminder of the delicate balances that govern both nature and our own lives. Just as the winemaker must judge when to intervene and when to let nature take its course, so too must we navigate the complexities of our lives, knowing when to add our own form of 'water' to situations that have become too concentrated, too intense, or too overwhelming.

In a broader sense, this process mirrors our journey through life. The high Baumé moments are those of intense joy, passion, and success, where everything feels concentrated and heightened. Yet, without balance, without the addition of water, these moments can

become unsustainable, leading to burnout or a loss of direction. The water we add comes in various forms—rest, reflection, humility, or the support of others—elements that dilute the intensity but, paradoxically, enhance our lives' flavour and richness.

Reflecting on this, the story of Jesus turning water into wine at Cana takes on new layers of meaning. It wasn't just about the miracle of transformation but about timing, balance, and the understanding that sometimes, what seems ordinary or even inadequate (like water in a time of wine) can become the source of renewal and joy. This miracle speaks to the heart of the human condition, reminding us that in our own lives, the most ordinary of additions can lead to the most extraordinary transformations.

As we walk through our vineyards or navigate the landscapes of our lives, let's remember the lesson of the high Baumé grape must. Let's appreciate the moments of sweetness and intensity, but also recognise the value of balance and the importance of adding water when necessary. This process isn't just about making wine; it's about crafting a life of depth, balance, and meaning.

In the end, turning water into wine is a metaphor for our ability to transform challenges into opportunities, to find balance amidst intensity and to discover that, often, the most profound renewals come from the simplest additions. It's a reminder that, in the art of winemaking as in life, the greatest miracles often arise from the harmonious blending of diverse elements, turning the ordinary into something truly extraordinary.

This is the Gospel and it's good news.

*Brian Spencer, Minister
Waranga Uniting Churches.*

Easter services

Catholic - St Mary's parish

- Holy Thursday 7pm (Rushworth) followed by Seder meal
- Good Friday. Stations of Cross at Cornella 10am, Stanhope 10.30am, Murchison 10.30am
- Easter Saturday (vigil) 7.30pm Rushworth
- Easter Sunday 10.30am One Parish Mass at Cornella, drawing of Project Compassion raffle and cuppa with hot cross buns.

Uniting Church

- Holy Thursday 7.30pm Colbinabbin
- Good Friday Rushworth 9.30am (Zoomed)
- Easter Day Tatura, 9.30am (Zoomed)

Anglican

- 10.30am Murchison
- Good Friday 11.00am Goornong, 11am Murchison
- Easter Sunday 10.00am Elmore, 11am Murchison



LAST CHANCE

The St Mary's Parish raffle for Project Compassion will be drawn after Easter Sunday 10.30am Mass.

The prize is Dinner for Four at CCH (thank you, Jules) and two bottles of wine (thanks Kennedy Wines). Tickets at \$2/each from Cornella Care or Glen Avard 0429 329 215 or Maree Stewart 0413 029 012. Raffle drawn after 10.30am Easter Sunday Mass at Cornella. Come join us for a cuppa and hot cross buns.



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WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

DEATHS

VINCENT, Ronald Brett

Passed away suddenly, 11 March at Mooropna Place.

Loved husband of Dawn, father of Angela, Julie and Brett.

Father-in-law of Steve, Erwin and Bindi.

Pop of Rory, Shannon, Ryan and Amita - Emily, Michael and Ike - Declan and Ruby. Treasured Memories.

Interred at Tatura on 22 March 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICES

HAIRITAGE

Closed for a holiday break.

**From Saturday 1 June
until Thursday 1 August.**

Helen

PUBLIC NOTICES

Community invitation

Waranga Health Community Reference Committee

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 3 April 2024 from 6-7pm

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

Please RSVP by Monday 1 April

if you would like to attend to:

dlwarangaadmin@gvhealth.org.au

Light supper provided.



PUBLIC NOTICES

ROAD CLOSURE

Please note that, due to the Easter Festival, High Street, Rushworth will be closed on both sides from 7.00am until 3.00pm on Easter Saturday, 30th March, 2024. The road will be closed from Moora Road to the Wigg Street intersection.

No traffic movement will be allowed during this period for the safety of our visitors.

If you work or live on High Street, and you will need your vehicle during the day, please make arrangements to park it elsewhere for the duration of the Festival.

RUSHWORTH EASTER HERITAGE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE.

Moora Racecourse and Recreation Reserve.

Notice is given of a public meeting

To be held at the Moora Reserve shed on **Tuesday 9 April, 2024, commencing at 7pm.**

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three (3) or more than nine (9) persons as the Committee of Management for the (Reserve Local Name) for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on 30 April 2024. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night.

Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action office or at the meeting. For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Bill McClenighan on 0408 577 263.

Helen Truran



Marriage Celebrant

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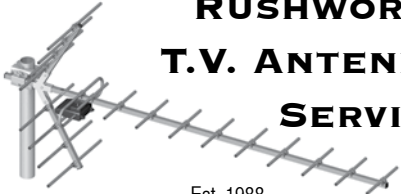
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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

MARCH

Sat 30	Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival - High Street Rushworth, 8.30-2pm
Sat 30	Easter Egg hunt, Rushworth Community Garden @9am
Sun 31	Moora Working Draught Horse Muster - Moora Racecourse Recreation Reserve 9am

APRIL

Wed 3	Windchime Making, 10.30am Colbinabbin Library Hall
Sat 13	Rushworth Speedway: Amca's, GV Open Saloons, GV Productions feature, GV Ladies feature, GV Junior feature
Sun 14	Stanhope Monster Garage Sale - from 8.30am
Sat 20	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm

MAY

Sun 5	Colbinabbin Silo Art Picnic & Wine Festival 11 am - 3 pm
Sun 12	Stanhope Monster Garage Sale - from 8.30am
Sat 18	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm

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.

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 Non-emergency 13 1444

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

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

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 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
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MEMBER 2024

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Your Council News

Project Update

Works at the Colbinabbin, Toolleen and Lockington Resource Recovery Centres will commence from March to May, upgrading key areas of the facility to make it safer and easier for the community to use.



Coming Up ▶ Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 23 April | Echuca Civic Centre

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



Employment

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- Building Coordinator
- Early Childhood Educator Co Worker - Casual
- Early Childhood Educator Room Leader - Casual
- Environmental Health Officer
- Group Fitness Instructor
- Learn To Swim Teacher
- Learn To Swim Team Leader
- Local Laws Officer
- Maternal & Child Health Nurse - Casual
- Municipal Building Surveyor
- Records Officer
- Various Engineering vacancies

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



Immunisation Sessions

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

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

Tuesday, 2 April

- 5.30 – 6.30pm | Rochester Service Centre

Thursday, 4 April

- 9 – 9.45am | Echuca Library
- 11.30am – 12noon | Stanhope Community Health Centre

Having difficulty making an appointment? Please call Council on 1300 666 535.

Now Open

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

Community Grants Now Open

Round One of the 2024/25 Community Grants program is now open. The program offers up to \$4,000 of financial support for community groups, organisations and associations with a broad range of projects to encourage participation in communities. Applications close 5pm, Friday, 12 April. Scan the QR code for more information.



Expressions of Interest - Rochester Flood Study Reference Committee

A Flood Study Reference Committee (FSRC) is to be established as an advisory committee to act as a sounding board in support of the flood study and development of the associated floodplain risk management plan. Visit the Now Open Page or call Council on 1300 666 535 for more information.

Expressions of Interest - Murray-Darling Basin Plan Community Reference Group

Representatives of business, agriculture, tourism and other industries, as well as the wider community are invited to lodge an expression of interest to be part of this new community reference group. The purpose of the group is to provide firsthand insights, information, advice and recommendations to Council in relation to social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts on Campaspe communities as a result of the Australian Government's reintroduction of water buybacks. The group will also advise on preferred methods of community adjustment to support our communities in the transition. Expressions of interest close at 5pm on Wednesday, 3 April.

Council Newsletter Survey

Each edition of our newsletter 'Campaspe Times' is delivered to approximately 17,000 households in the Campaspe Shire and is also available from libraries, service centres and on our website. We are undertaking a short survey to find out more about how you access our newsletter and what kind of information you enjoy reading. Participants will go in the draw to win one of three \$100 prepaid Visas. Head to the Now Open page on our website to learn more or call our Customer Service Team if you would like assistance in completing the survey.



YAG

LIBRARY YOUTH TAKE OVER

Food, games and a space to be you!



The Library Youth Take Over program is happening on alternate Wednesday's in Kyabram and Echuca, beginning on Wednesday, 27 March in Kyabram. The libraries will transform into hang out spaces for high school aged young people to provide a safe space for youth, encourage connection and relationship building amongst participants. For more information, scan the QR code.



SES Woman in Rescue bonding with partner agencies

This years Women in Rescue events were the biggest turnout yet with around 250 participants from VICSES and our partner agencies.

There were six events at locations held across the state with the local Rushworth SES unit enjoying the facilities at Bendigo.

The day provided a fantastic opportunity for women to come together to learn and showcase rescue skills, and become leaders in the rescue space.

Each scenario was set up within the compound and each group took turns to test their skills; a single road accident rescue, a multiple extraction event with a bus, working at heights in harness and using small equipment. The bus event involved working with the Ambulance personnel, which was enlightening and new for some.

It was great to see so many women participate and also those volunteers and staff who dedicated time to planning and hosting this important initiative.

Below: Women working together in the road rescue scenario cutting the front guard with the new equipment.

Below right: Rushworth SES member Susan Perry has a turn on the equipment.



Women from Rushworth, Castlemaine and Kyabram worked together.



Volunteering Loddon Mallee Project

Volunteering Loddon Mallee (VLM) is working collaboratively and innovatively with organisations across the ten Local Government Areas of the Loddon Mallee to support and connect volunteers from all walks of life to meaningful community life through active participation.

Managers Message

Volunteers lead with their heart and hands. They are out and about making a difference to the lives of others and ensuring community events run smoothly!

Volunteering has numerous benefits that extend beyond the act of giving back. Volunteering gives us a sense of accomplishment and purpose. Knowing that you have made a positive impact on someone else's life or contributed to a cause you feel passionate about can be incredibly fulfilling and rewarding!

As you begin your autumn recruitment drive, remember to take time to ask the right questions to achieve the right volunteers for your organisation. Understand why they wish to give their time and talents to your organisations!

We continue with our quest to create diverse and inclusive volunteer programs across the Loddon Mallee Region by providing a range of professional development to assist with breaking down the barriers to participation for some volunteers by ensuring we are informed and educated on how and

why we should adapt our programs to meet the needs of those who wish to share their time, knowledge and experiences to benefit others.

VLM are seeking a skilled volunteer located anywhere across our region to assist with social media posts. If you know of someone who may be interested in volunteering for even just a couple of hours per week send us an email.

*Helen, BVRC Manager
Volunteering Loddon Mallee Lead*

Tatura's International Women's Day Breakfast

Tatura Community House hosted a wonderful breakfast on Friday 8 March at the Hill Top Golf and Country Club to celebrate International Women's Day 2024 with two local leaders.

Over 70 women found this a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and network with other ladies and their feedback was uniformly positive.

The guest speakers were Cheryl Dedman, Chair of the board of NOFASD Australia and Erica Molyneaux, Regional Managing Lawyer of Victoria Legal Aid. Both speakers impressed the audience with their presentations, which interwove their personal experiences with a wealth of information.

Thanks for the event went to the speakers for making it such a wonderful event, to Hill Top Golf and Country Club for hosting and of course to TCH staff and volunteers for their great work. It will definitely be on the agenda again for IWD 2025.



International Women's Day breakfast in Tatura - voted a great success!

Tatura's thriving LEGO Club

Tatura's LEGO Club is growing and LEGO enthusiasts of all ages are delighted to come together and explore themed building challenges.

They share their creations during Show and Tell and swap stories of their successes.

It's a very friendly and supportive group, fostering friendship and collaboration, open to both newcomers and experienced builders.

Come along and join in the fun on Fridays from 3.45 to 4.45 pm during school term in the Tatura Library.

Don't forget to bring a gold coin donation.



Mah Jong - new in term 2 at TCH

Are you interested in learning how to play this ancient Asian game? Join the brand new Mah Jong group!

They meet every Wednesday during school term, 1.30 to 3 pm. If you already know how to play Mah Jong, come along and help teach the beginners.

Do you have a Mah Jong set that no one uses? Donations would be appreciated or if you'd just like to lend it to the community house for a while... and why not give it a go?

Cubby Children's Book Recommendation of the month - A Big Blue Boat

by Susea Spray, illustrated by Lesley Cybulka

Fun wording, rhythm and rhyme generate strong imagery in this story about a boat, a girl and the sea. Its 39 fun packed pages delivers a lot of value for a picture book and offers many learning opportunities for toddlers and pre-schoolers. At the end of the book a glossary is included to remind young readers exactly what any "hard words" mean. A Big Blue Boat is the first in a series of Award-winning books and fills the niche market of realistic sailing stories for young children, especially girls.

The Cubby children were delighted to meet Award winning author Susea Spray who is a retired Reading Recovery teacher and actually lives on a boat. They were even more thrilled to learn first-hand about her adventures, listen to her read her book and do special activities like making their own little boat from craft materials. This is what some of our Cubby kids said they liked about A Big Blue Boat:

- Maria: I liked the steering wheel on the boat.
- Frankie: I liked the anchor on the boat and the songs.
- Cruz: I liked making my boat.



Annabelle CLEELAND MP

Member for Euroa

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Euroa Show And Shine Cancelled For 2024

It is with a great deal of sadness that the organisers of the Euroa Show and Shine Inc. have made the difficult decision to suspend activities for the iconic “Last Sunday in October” event, with a view to re-visiting it in 2025.

Launched in 2002 by Euroa identity Rob Asquith OAM, recent years have seen increasingly difficult circumstances on several fronts, which have made the continuation of the iconic event unviable.

Although there have been numerous issues involved, the main difficulty has been insufficient interest by local people to fill the club’s committee.

Experience over the past years has demonstrated that there is a need of an absolute minimum of sixteen to twenty committee members to undertake the essential duties of organising and running the annual event. Unfortunately, at the 2024 Annual General Meeting, only six people attended – insufficient to achieve a committee required for 2024. To successfully run the event, lead-up time of at least six to eight months is required.

Past President Ian Langlands said that an earlier attempt to hold an AGM had failed because too few people attended to form a quorum.

He said that organising last year’s event had been a struggle too.

The 2023 show had been on the verge of cancellation, but it went ahead after committee members successfully campaigned to get more volunteers.

“I’m not critical of people not putting



The 2023 Australian National Show and Shine in Euroa’s Seven Creeks Park. Picture by Ray Read.

their hands up – everyone’s got a busy life.” Mr. Langlands said.

“But ... if we start working on it next year for 2025, and we still don’t get the numbers, it’ll be the end.”

The Australian National Show and Shine regrets this decision and extends their sincere thanks to our ongoing sponsors and supporters for previous years.

Ray Read



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Rushworth Golf Club AGM

The Annual General meeting was held on 20 March.

Sporting Club AGMs can be full of surprises and this one was to be no exception.

President, Dennis Hardie opened the meeting and announced that he would not be standing for re-election. He explained he had enjoyed leading the club for the last five years but now wanted to spend more time with his family and even do a bit of travelling.

All positions were declared open with the following results:

- President:** Garrick Campbell
- Captain:** Tony Geisler
- Treasurer:** Kelly Cheong
- Secretary:** Slim Perry

We thank those members for giving their time to help run the club. Weather permitting we aim to have our opening day on 7 April and new members will be very welcome.

Dennis Hardie



Out with the old and in with the new - Dennis (r) congratulates in-coming President, Garrick Campbell.



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Honour Board Tournament

17 March

The Annual Honour Board Fours Tournament was held on 17 March in fantastic weather.

A working bee, held the previous day, had the clubhouse and surrounds looking a picture. The Jacobson Green was in perfect condition thanks to the diligent work of the greens committee. Well done.

Greg and Di Chandler from Elmore News Agency sponsored the day and we thank them very much.

Thirteen teams entered the tournament coming from Heathcote, Broadford, Murchison, Stanhope, Colbinabbin, Tatura, Hilltop, Boort, Bendigo, Echuca, Euroa, Shepparton Golf and Rushworth with much laughter, fun and fellowship heard across both greens.

At the completion of play there was only one 4-game winner. The Rushworth team of Kevin Gilbert, Lyn Nicholson, Barry Thompson and Bruce Wootton. Greg Chandler sponsor of the day, congratulations!

As usual many great prizes in the raffle. Thank you to Bruce, Barb, Greg and Di, Jean, and Shiraz Republic for their generous donations.

Thank you to the members who worked so meticulously to provide a sumptuous lunch and afternoon tea, and also the untiring bar staff who were kept busy all day.



Above: L-R - Greg Chandler, Bruce Wootton, Barry Thompson, Lyn Nicholson and Kevin Gilbert display their winning trophy.

Below: The runners-up were Ben Fletcher, Tim Hancock, Barry Fletcher and Mark Summers from Stanhope/Shepparton Golf.

Mixed Pairs Winners

28 March

Congratulations to Lyn and Laurie Nicholson this year's Mixed Pairs winners. The final was played against Kevin Gilbert and Colleen Draper.

Excellent bowling by all four bowlers; a great display of first class bowls for the spectators.

Lyn and Laurie just a little too consistent in the final ends. Well done.



Laurie and Lyn Nicholson this year's Mixed Pairs winners



Rushworth Speedway dates and events



13 April - Amca's, GV Open Saloons, GV Productions feature, GV Ladies feature, GV Junior feature

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

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

25 May - Amca's, GP Midgets Master Series, VSC Marg Beattie Memorial, GV Open Saloons, GV Productions, GV Ladies, GV Juniors

Sports Report

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Two Rushworth footy teams

- by **Tony Ford**

With the start of a new footy season imminent, it is a good time to look back on past glories. Over the next few editions of the Waranga News, there will be some stories about the now defunct Goulburn Valley Central Junior Football League, in which local teams from Rushworth, Stanhope, Girgarre, Murchison and Colbinabbin played at various times.

Back in 1929, Rushworth had two football teams, playing in different competitions. The main team played on Wednesday afternoon, which was then a mid-week half-day holiday. Another team played in a new competition that ran on Saturday afternoon. Depending on their work commitments, some players were able to play in both teams.

The main team's achievements in the Goulburn Valley League have been well documented. They won five premierships and were runners up five times between 1929 and 1940, by far the most successful era in the club's history.

New League

A new league was established in 1929, known as the Goulburn Valley Central Junior Football League (GVCJFL). The word "junior" did not refer to the age of the players involved. It indicated that the league was a minor league, like the present-day Kyabram District Football Netball League (KDFNL). During the first season of the GVCJFL, there were four teams, all currently members of the KDFNL: Rushworth, Stanhope, Girgarre and Murchison.

There was a Kyabram district league at the time, but excessive travel was deemed to be a problem as teams did not want to travel too far to play games. In the main league, travel was by train, to play teams located along the train lines. This was not an option if teams were to play Kyabram league clubs like Wyuna and Koyuga, which were not on

the train line and, in those days, a seemingly long way away.

As well as the KDFL, there was a Goulburn Valley League Seconds competition comprising a seconds team from some of the larger towns like Tatura, as well as some district or small-town teams like Toolamba. However, travel again ruled this option out for the Rushworth "junior" team.

The other consideration was that if football was only played on a Wednesday afternoon, this precluded some Rushworth players who wanted to play competition footy. This also became an issue in the Goulburn Valley League, which in 1930 experimented with Saturday games.

GVCJFL Membership

Membership of the GVCJFL chopped and changed during the four years of its existence from 1929-32. In the second year, Merrigum and Toolamba joined to make a six-team league. Toolamba had been playing in the GVL Seconds competition and soon realised they were too good for the new competition. They won the 1930 premiership easily then promptly went back to their previous competition.

In 1931, the four teams made up the competition after Girgarre also left. Then in 1932, Colbinabbin and a "junior" Tatura team joined, taking membership back up to six teams. The league folded at the end of the 1932 season as teams opted to go their own separate ways or go into recess.

League Format

The format for the GVCJFL seasons varied a bit over time, but generally comprised four or five complete rounds i.e. each team played every other team four or five times before the final series. Finals were different to what we see today, in that the top four teams played off (1 v 3 and 2 v 4). The winners of those two games played off in what we would today call the grand final. However, if the team

that finished the regular season on top of the ladder (the minor premiers) did not compete in, or win that final, they had the right to challenge the team that did win it.

For example, in 1929, Rushworth beat Stanhope in the final, but Girgarre had finished on top of the ladder. Naturally enough, Girgarre exercised its right to challenge Rushworth with the aim of being named the premiers. Unfortunately for them, Rushworth comfortably won the challenge match and were declared premiers.

This was a big deal for Rushworth, because it represented the first football premiership for a Rushworth team in league or association competition. Their GVFL team had just played off in the big one but were beaten by Shepparton in a high scoring game by nearly six goals (17.13 to 11.14). Lack of finals experience proved costly as the Tigers made a slow start and could never breach a big quarter time gap.

There was some consolation for the town of Rushworth with the 1929 premiership win in the GVCJFL. Players who played in both Rushworth teams that year included Vic Howard, Keith Kane (best for Rushworth v Girgarre) and Bernie Collins.

Next time: Rushworth's successful GVCJFL season in 1929.

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Advertisement for footy boots in the Rushworth Chronicle, 1929.

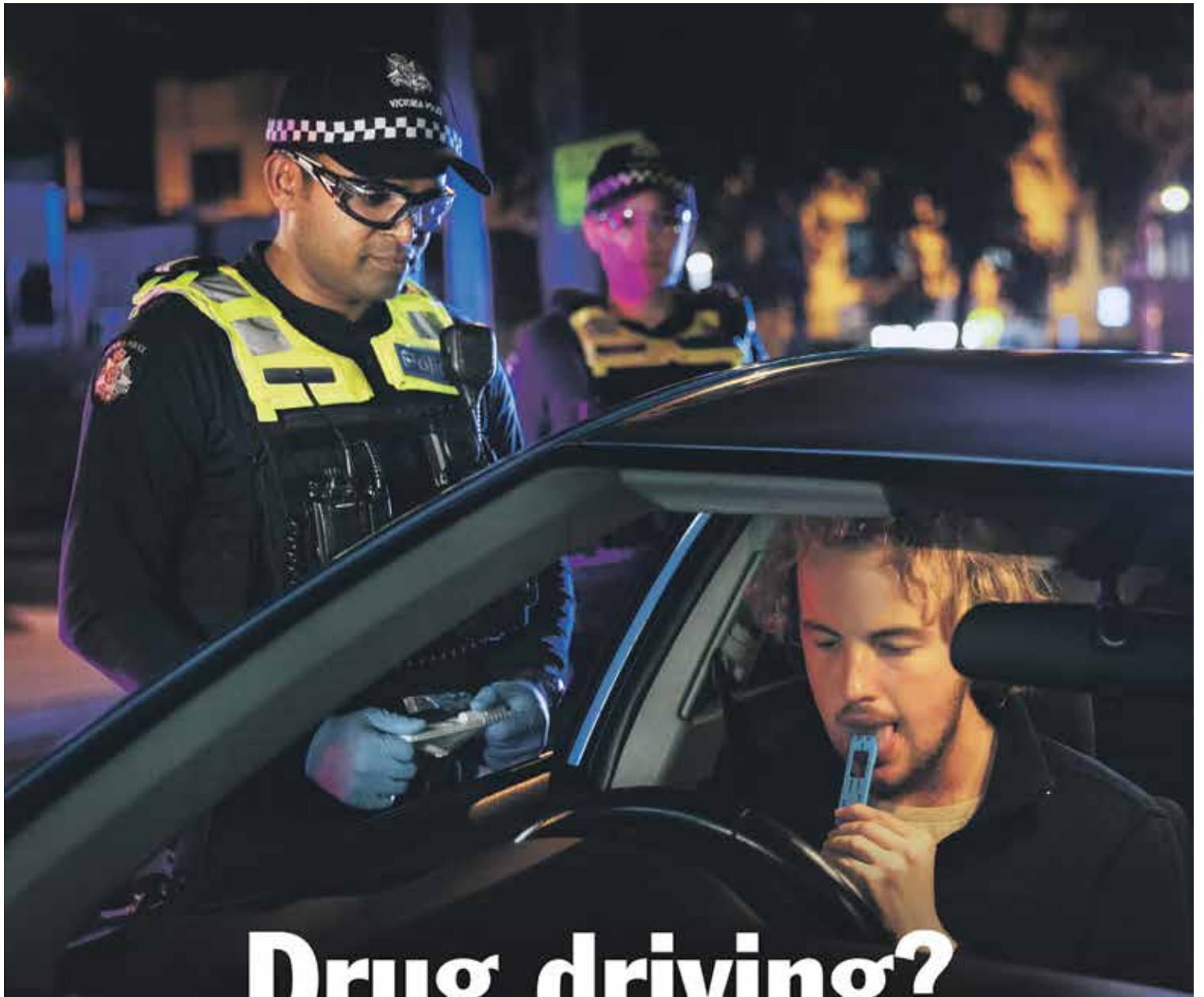
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