

# Waranga News

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A community newspaper  
staffed by volunteers

Thursday 11 April 2024

## Festival Fun brings record crowds to Rushworth

Rushworth was the star of the show on Easter Saturday! The town was buzzing with visitors from far and wide as people came in droves to enjoy the annual Easter Heritage Festival.



Once again there was all the fun of the fair, with an Easter Market packed full of traders and local businesses going the extra mile to greet visitors, their wares spilling over to outside stalls in the warm autumn sunshine.

As always, the competitions were a popular part of the festivities, with proud owners showing off their clever puppies and some spectacular creations modelled in the Easter Bonnet parade. And, of course, no festival is complete without a huge dose of sugar!

(Photos by Sharon Perry - more photos on page 33)



# Not everything goes to plan!



Is there a mechanic in the midst? On a nasty hot day those old cars are not always so reliable. But mates are! Thongs and all, a good push is all you need. Unfortunately this happened during the parade, stalling the process. Idling in the heat can cause problems so other vehicles gave him a wide berth before the 'thong brigade' arrived.



Sunday May 5th, 11am - 3pm

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# Fun of the Fair at Rushworth

While the adults enjoyed their retail therapy at the Easter Festival, there was plenty for the children to do too. After a great turn-out for the egg hunt at the Community House, the competitions attracted lots of entries and onlookers.

Thirty dogs of all breeds and sizes were entered in the dog competition. And then the pooches were almost outdone by the number of children who appeared at midday wearing some of the most creative Easter Bonnets ever seen!



Clair Roberts and Leah Truran were happy to be a part of the volunteer workforce so essential to the success of the festival. Clair comes from Melbourne to lend a hand and this is her third year of volunteering for the Easter Festival!



In a very popular move the traditional wood auction was revived this year by Shearing for Kids with Cancer. This was very well supported and a great success. (See report on page 4.)

(Photo by Sharon Perry)

President of the the Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival Committee Lyn Reade thanked everyone who came along to shop at the many stalls and local businesses and those who took part in the events of the day and stayed to enjoy the parade.

“A special thank you goes to the amazing team of volunteers who worked tirelessly over two days to make this year’s Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival the success that it was,” said Lyn.

## Moora Muster revival

On Easter Sunday we welcomed back the Moora Working Draught Horse Muster at Moora Recreation Reserve.

The day was a huge success with over 1,000 people taking advantage of the beautiful weather to see the magnificent draught horses in action.

The crowd browsed the stalls and were treated to demonstrations of teams of horses completing obstacle courses and working to traditional methods of farming that are rarely seen today.

One of the more unique features was a working team of five horses as seen in the photo (right), beautifully captured by Kylie L Van Den Brink.

The food and coffee vans and green shed BBQ were kept busy with many of the visitors relaxing over lunch in the shade of the gum trees whilst enjoying the entertainment provided by Callum Gleeson.

Many thanks to everyone who came along and enjoyed the day, and a special thanks to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the day the success that it was.

Hope to see you out at Moora again next year.

*Lyn Reade - Secretary  
Moora Working  
Draught Horses*



Crowd pleaser: the working horses display is a highlight of the Moora Muster Easter Sunday event.



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# Have your say!

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

## **Congratulations to REFH**

Through your pages I would like to congratulate the committee of the Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival for the marvellous event they organised for Easter Saturday.

It was a great day with lots of interesting stalls, coffee, food, children's entertainment, and activities. The wonderful street parade had something to interest everyone and the man on the microphone gave a great commentary on every part of the parade. He was very knowledgeable and easy to listen to.

Everyone I met concurred about what a great day it was. It certainly puts Rushworth on the map as visitors come from near and far to experience the weekend. We are looking forward to next year!

Thank you again to the committee and the huge number of volunteers involved. Well done!

*Christine Dicketts Stanhope*

## **Rushworth SES says thanks**

The Rushworth SES would like to thank everyone for their support over the Easter weekend and especially at the Saturday BBQ.

SES members were 'employed' to be doing security for the early arrival of Friday night stall-holders and the First Aid for the Sunday Moora Muster. It certainly was a long weekend for some of our members.

The Saturday BBQ takings were beyond expectations! We sold out of sausages and egg and bacon muffins by 1pm and drinks by 2pm! It was a full weekend for the small Rushworth Unit.

### **Special thanks**

The unit would like to take the opportunity to thank Matt Horne for his generous donation to the weekend takings. We certainly don't get many large donations except for the ongoing support of Paul Archer, for which we are very, very grateful. Paul has supported the unit for a long time now and we have managed to buy special equipment with his ongoing generous donations.

If you would like to know more about what the SES do for the community please call in to the unit in Barlow Avenue on a Wednesday night or contact me on 0428561962. We are always looking for keen people to join our small group and learn new skills. You might be amazed what you can learn!

*Ray Barber  
Rushworth SES Controller*

## **Thanks from the Shearing for Kids with Cancer team** **Well, what a ripper of a day it was in Rushworth for the market held on Easter Saturday!**

Mother nature really turned the weather on for us with a beautiful day had by everyone.

The Shearing for Kids with Cancer Committee decided to bring back the wood auction and the people in this community loved to see it back. The organisers of the event, Katrina and Billy Ogden, would like to thank a lot of people for helping us cut the wood, stack it into trailers and deliver it.

We would also like to thank the people who donated trailer loads of wood as well. Without the help of these wonderful people we wouldn't have been able to have this event: Ralph Barlow, Bruce Wootton, Mark and Brian Barlow, Harry Rathjen, Sam and Slim Perry, Mark and Riley Cusack, Matt Caton, Cleave and Cabe Roberts, Mitch Wakefield, Tim and Will Ledeux, Ike and Whil Jones, Billy Barlow, Jake, Sharni and George Lloyd, Matt Martin, Chris Boseley, William, Heath and Thomas Ogden, Denis Ogden, Ben Fraser, Kaylene and Peter Raglus,

John Raglus, Huey and Jeremy Fraser, Rob Colliver, Matt Barlow, Joe Atherton, Shane Clarke, Moora Recreation Reserve and Rushworth Machinery Shed.

We also would like to thank our auctioneer for the day Nigel Starick. He did a great job and we very much appreciate it.

We had a total of twenty-six loads of wood as well as grain, kindling and little squares of hay, clover and lucerne. The top trailer load of wood went for a massive \$2050. The total that was raised for the Shearing for Kids with Cancer was \$18,505!

We would again like to thank everyone who helped before, during and after the day. It was truly very much appreciated.

We look forward to seeing everyone on 26 July for our tenth Shearing for Kids with Cancer Shearing Day. More details to come later.

*Katrina and Bill Ogden*



**Auctioneer Nigel Starick - in good voice to help bring in funds for the Kids With Cancer.**

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## Remembering heroes

Federal Member for Nicholls, Mr Sam Birrell MP, has welcomed more than \$21,000 in Federal Funding to local organisations to support projects which remember veterans and their families.

Numurkah and District Historical Society Inc, Waaia Community Plan Committee Inc, and Cobram Barooga RSL Sub-Branch Inc. have been awarded funding through the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program Round 2, 2023-24.

- \$10,000 will support Numurkah and District Historical Society to restore the Strathmerton Methodist Church Honour Board.

- \$4290 will support Waaia Community Plan Committee to install a First World War plaque in Waaia.

- \$7040 will support Cobram Barooga RSL Sub-Branch to install a new War Memorial to commemorate locals who served in the First and Second World Wars.

Mr Birrell said the funding will assist local people to create meaningful projects that honour our heroic service men and women.

"I want to thank and acknowledge these local groups for their time and efforts which have gone into making these important projects a reality," Mr Birrell said.

"Each project will help educate locals and visitors for decades to come about the service and sacrifices of local war heroes and their families.

"It's important these groups are supported to ensure veterans have a lasting legacy in our regional communities," he said.

Mr Birrell said he looked forward to seeing each project develop and encouraged other community groups wanting support for similar projects to apply for the next round of grant funding.

"Two grant opportunities are available and include up to \$10,000 for local community projects and activities and up to \$150,000 for major commemorative projects," Mr Birrell said.

The funding supports groups and individuals to promote appreciation and understanding of the experiences of service, the roles that those who served have played and to preserve or provide access to information about Australia's wartime heritage.

**Stanhope Monster Garage & Car Boot Sale**  
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*A Stanhope and District Development Committee Project*

## Communication feedback sought by Council

Campaspe Shire Council is seeking feedback on the Campaspe Times newsletter and other communication channels via a survey for residents.

Delivered to approximately 17,000 households, the Campaspe Times newsletter is produced nine times per year and is a major source of communication with council residents, alongside social media posts, the council website and advertising and media release through local media outlets.

Mayor, Cr Rob Amos said it's important for Council to be able to evaluate how effective these communication channels are, understanding that people like to receive news and information in various ways.

"We know one particular source of communication isn't necessarily right for everyone, and we are mindful of having an array of information and communication channels to inform residents about what is happening in the shire. Our newsletter has been a big part of that in the past, but it also comes with some challenges in terms of critical timelines and distribution. We're keen to hear from residents about what works for them, what we can do more efficiently and what hits the mark."

Council is undertaking a short survey to


find out more about how residents access the newsletter and what information they enjoy reading, as well as other communication channels with plenty of opportunity for input and ideas. Communications is a rapidly changing environment with new methods and channels available all the time, but we want to ensure we are creating a suite of materials that meet the needs of the community.

"So, tell us what you think and you go in the draw to win one of three \$100 prepaid visa gift cards. We want to hear from you," Cr Amos said.

The survey can be filled out online via the council website, a hard copy is available at any of our service centres or for those who want some help with the survey, please call customer service on 5481 2200. The survey closes at 5pm on Friday, 3 May.

Each edition of past Campaspe Times newsletters can be accessed on the Campaspe website.

For more information, visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-council/Now-open/Newsletter-Survey](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-council/Now-open/Newsletter-Survey).



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# Eucalyptus oil - Rushworth's liquid gold!

(continued from last edition)

A short summary of the process of making the oil and a little history was mentioned in the last edition. With some old photos (because a picture tells a thousand stories) Tony Ford has delved deeper into the history, the people and the processes that have preceded the still thriving production of 'liquid gold' today.

## More early info

Eucalyptus oil distilling has taken place in Parramatta Gully, Rushworth since the early 1890s. A Scot, by the name of William Begg was the first to distill the eucy at Rushworth.

Begg was a businessman and entrepreneur, who came to Rushworth from Spring Creek (Graytown) in the mid to late 1870s. He was a successful general merchant in High Street, Rushworth, advertising in the local paper from 1878 to 1889, before moving to Armadale in Melbourne.

The following advert was a Trademark label of William Begg – 1894

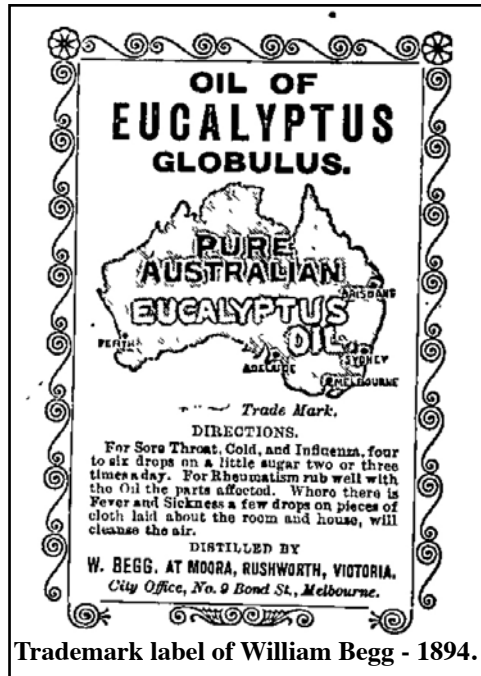
William retained an interest in the Rushworth area, and the Rushworth Chronicle (30.9.1892) reported that he had taken samples of blue mallee (*Eucalyptus polybractea*) and green mallee (*Eucalyptus viridus*) from the Rushworth area to have tested in Melbourne. The result showed that high grade eucalyptus oil could be extracted from the local mallee.

Begg then set about obtaining the necessary licence to cut 'eucy' over an area of "about two square miles of scrub." He "selected a site in the Parramatta Gully where-upon to erect the factory. The excavation of a dam is being rapidly proceeded with, and as a good portion of the machinery is now on the ground, active building operations will soon be commenced."

The Victorian Police Gazette of 6.4.1893 noted that William Begg had been granted a licence to distil eucalyptus oil at Parramatta Dam, Parramatta Gully, Rushworth.

## Trademark label

A trademark for a label was successfully applied for and listed in the Victorian Government Gazette of 25.5.1894. The place name "Moora, Rushworth", listed on the bottom of the label, refers to the parish of Moora, where Parramatta Gully is located, not the settlement of Moora 7 km west of Rushworth. The use of the term name *Eucalyptus Globulus* was a misnomer, as this was the scientific name of the Tasmanian Blue Gum. Perhaps Begg reasoned that the potential market was more familiar with that name.



Trademark label of William Begg - 1894.

## Selling to a Jones

Founder, William Begg, sold the business to Phil Jones, a successful and established distiller from Inglewood in central Victoria which had a thriving industry at the time. Like Rushworth, Inglewood was founded on gold, and as the rush ended, people looked for other ways to make a living.

However, this was NOT the beginning of the current Rushworth Jones dynasty - they were no relation!

## Phil Jones Senior

Phillip James Jones was the first of three generations of eucalyptus distillers who operated continuously in Inglewood until the 1980s. The old distillery is now the basis for the eucalyptus oil museum on the Calder Highway just north of Inglewood. This distillery is also on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Around 1900, there was a mild boom in the eucalyptus oil industry at Inglewood, with six factories in active operation, or in the course of erection. This increased competition for the natural resource in the area (blue mallee) may have prompted Phil Jones to look further afield. He came to Rushworth to expand his existing operations.

Jones' eucy oil was so good, he won a prize at the Paris International Exhibition in 1900, shortly before he moved his Inglewood operation to the new factory site on the Calder Highway. Like many good bushies, Phil Jones could make just about anything, including much of his unique harvesting and distilling equipment.

Phil Jones' son Ernest continued in his footsteps at Inglewood, and he in turn was followed into the business by his sons, Phil Jr and Albert.

## William Begg Obituary – 1904

An obituary for Begg appeared in the Rushworth Chronicle after his death – "News was received in Rushworth during the week that Mr W Begg, a one-time resident here, had died at Beaconsfield, near Perth, WA, on Monday. It would appear that Mr Begg, who was about 75 years of age, had died rather suddenly, as his relatives over this side had no idea that he was ill. The cause was heart failure. About 25 years ago deceased opened a store in Rushworth, which he carried on for a matter of 10 years. He eventually sold out to Messrs Sydenham and Early, taking up his residence at Armidale (sic). This was about 16 years ago. He resided at Armidale for some time, but some eight years ago he returned to Rushworth and established a eucalyptus factory in Parramatta Gully, where he treated most successfully a large quantity of the eucalyptus bush growing in that locality. Two years later, however, he went to West Australia, where he resided until the time of his death. Deceased, who was the father of Mrs J C Walbran (ed. Nellie), leaves a family consisting of two sons and four daughters to mourn their loss. Deceased was well and favourably known throughout this and the Graytown district, and general regret will be held for his demise."

Next edition: The other Jones family comes to Rushworth.

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W. B. Begg to thank the inhabitants of Rushworth and the surrounding district for the kind support they have given him for the past year, and trusts still to secure a share of their favours, by continuing to supply Goods of the best quality at the lowest possible rate.

The following lines on hand, viz., Groceries, Drapery, Ironmongery, Stationery, Crockery, and a General Assortment of Fancy Goods; also a Splendid Lot of Concertinas, from 7s 6d to £4 4s.

N.B.—Remember a penny saved is a penny made.

# Give a new beginning in your local community – support the Salvation Army’s 60th Red Shield Appeal

The Salvation Army in Victoria’s Goulburn Murray Waters region is urging the local community to get involved in this year’s Red Shield Appeal, which will raise vital funds to continue supporting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our region.

Across the country, the Salvos are aiming to raise \$38 million for the Red Shield Appeal, which is Australia’s largest and longest-running door-knock appeal. This year, Australia’s most trusted charity is celebrating 60 years of the Red Shield Appeal.

“Times are tough. We are seeing more people come through our doors every week, new families who have never done it this tough before, and people are feeling the pinch. They are skipping meals, unable to afford utility bills or medication for their kids. This is why we need your support,” said The Salvation Army’s Major Warren Elliot.

There are many ways you can get involved – collections in shopping centres or other key locations, door-knocking, online fundraising or organising a collection at your workplace, school or sporting event.

“There is no better way to support your community than through volunteering and we would love to have you as part of our Red Shield Appeal army this year. Grab a mate,

some work colleagues or the entire family and join us. We can’t do our work in the community without you,” said Major Warren Elliot.

The Red Shield Appeal weekend is 25 and 26 May, but there are many volunteering opportunities throughout the month of May. If you are able to give some of your time, please reach out to your local Salvos by visiting [salvationarmy.org.au/red-shield-appeal](http://salvationarmy.org.au/red-shield-appeal).

Major Warren Elliot said: “The Goulburn Murray Waters region needs your support more than ever. The Salvos are grateful for the generosity we have received over the past 60 years of the Red Shield Appeal and we hope to see our community come together again this year as we seek to make it another 60 years.”

All funds raised locally will remain in the local community, allowing the Salvos to meet the specific needs of the most disadvantaged and marginalised members of our region.

Across Australia last year, through the Salvation Army’s network of over 400 centres and 2,000 services in areas such as homelessness, family and domestic violence, youth, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, financial hardship and much more, the Salvos provided:

- Assistance to one person every seventeen seconds
- More than 1.67 million sessions of care to over 250,000 people in need
- Over 1.2 million bed nights to those who needed accommodation
- More than 1.63 million meals to those who accessed our homelessness services.

To donate or volunteer for the Salvation Army’s Red Shield Appeal or if you need support from the Salvos, visit [salvationarmy.org.au](http://salvationarmy.org.au) or call 13 SALVOS. You can also donate at any Salvos Store.

## Community Facilities and Meeting Spaces Policy

At the March meeting, Campaspe Council adopted and endorsed the Community Facilities and Meeting Spaces Provision Policy. The policy ensures Council facilities and meeting spaces are sustainable, fit for

purpose and effectively managed. Council will continue to engage with community to plan, deliver and activate community facilities as part of the policy.



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## Turtles on parade

Did anyone catch the parade at the ART Depot on Sunday 7 April?

A little army of turtles marched through the depot grounds after Kez R Arts recent Kids Kraft Workshop!

Fifteen young creatives from the local area joined Kez in creating their own turtle, some even doing some collage on their turtle shells.

It was a fun morning and it was great to welcome some new members to the club.

It was also a little sad to say goodbye to Edi who is moving to WA. Thanks to Edi and her family for their support and we hope you will continue to be creative in WA.

Along with her Art Journal Club these Kids Kraft Sessions are held on the first Sunday of the month.

If you want to join in the fun, get in touch with Kez R on 0413351276.



Not to be outdone by the young creators in the community Art Journal Club members also joined in the turtle mania craze.

## Altered States exhibition Echuca

This exhibition builds on the group show held at the Shepparton Art Museum (SAM) in 2023. The SAM exhibition, "After the Rain" was a response to the river and floods of 2022.

"Altered States" includes a group installation piece using sandbags, found items that have morphed into objects both beautiful and thought provoking, textiles, printmaking, collage, mixed media, painting and sculpture.

The Tuesday Junction Group have been

meeting for almost twenty years and this will be their eighteenth group exhibition. Their exhibitions are usually themed and often include a collaborative installation work.

Exhibiting artists are Robyn Berry, Carole Cavarella, Jill Kenley, Anne Mawson, Bronwyn Morton, Carolyn Rolls, Penny Silver, Jan Taylor, Rebecca Wells and Kerry Williams.

Hours are 10am - 4pm Foundry Art Space Esplanade Echuca seven days a week.

## Kyabram Town Hall Gallery Exhibitions

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- LYN WEEKS Textile Art - Opened 8 April
- SPLINTER CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS - 'A' is for Animal
- SUE HOURIGAN - Ovens Gallery artists Opened 2 April

5852 1546 or 0490 371 641  
[www.kyabramtownhall.com.au](http://www.kyabramtownhall.com.au)

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.



# Be the change in a young Rushworth person's life and support local learner drivers!

The CCLLEN TAC L2P program has successfully been partnering with the Rushworth P-12 College in supporting three local Learner drivers to achieve their required 120 hours - and there is a waiting list!

The biggest risk to the Rushworth-based program is the willingness of local volunteers to become Mentors.

The program provides local learner drivers with a suitable car, a mentor to drive with and up to seven lessons with a driving instructor paid for. Mentors receive training from TAC-Qualified instructors, and full support from CCLLEN as the program provider in the region.

Be a part of our team of local volunteer driving mentors who give their time to help local young drivers to not only achieve their "P" plates but to help keep them safe for years to come.

## Calling all volunteers

Are you a fully licensed driver over twenty-one years old and interested in road safety? The program is looking for enthusiastic people who can commit 1-2 hours a week to help a learner driver to get their licence.

The TAC L2P Program helps young learner drivers who don't have a supervising driver or a vehicle and helps them complete the 120 hours of driving experience they'll need before taking their licence test.

A driver licence opens up new opportunities for education and employment. As a volunteer mentor, you'll contribute to

your community by helping a young person take their next steps toward independence.

The TAC L2P Program will work with you to:

- Match you with a learner driver
- Provide you and the learner with regular access to a learner-friendly car
- Arrange a program induction, coaching on best-practice driving supervision and the support of program coordinator in your local area

## Volunteer Mentor Requirements

- Be over 21 years of age with an interest in helping young people
- Hold a full, current Victorian driver's licence
- Undertake a screening process by your local TAC L2P Program

Having a license in Regional Victoria is a critical passport to work, education and connecting with people. Not all Learner Drivers have access to a car or to a fully licensed driver to supervise them.

We have young drivers who need support, but we need people who can contribute an hour to two a week to help," said Rushworth Secondary College's Curtis McDonald

"The L2P Program has been an invaluable program for our College and the community. It has not only given students an opportunity to learn new skills, but it is putting safe



Wilf is happy to help Sharmayne get her hours up on the road.

drivers on our roads."

Be the person that makes a difference and join the team!"

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## Legislative Council Sitting at Echuca Library

Victoria's Legislative Council, the upper house of the Parliament of Victoria, will travel to Campaspe for its sitting on Thursday 18 April at the Echuca Library.

The regional sitting not only gives the local residents an insight into the inner workings of the parliamentary system, but it also provides parliamentarians with a great opportunity to connect with the people of regional Victoria.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Rob Amos said that it was an honour for Campaspe to be selected for the regional sitting and would be a fantastic way to showcase the municipality.

"We are thrilled that the Legislative Council is coming to Echuca as this allows members of parliament to connect with their regional constituents and better understand issues faced by rural communities," the Mayor said.

In 2023 Campaspe Shire Council made a successful submission to host the Legislative Council sitting in Echuca. Upper House MPs from across the state will come to Campaspe to engage with our community in the continuing recovery following floods in 2022.

The sitting will be held at the Echuca Library and streamed live on the Parliament's

website. Members of the public will be able to attend and watch the Parliament in action.

As well as the sitting, community members will be given the opportunity to participate in a range of other activities across the course of the week including school visits, youth forums and committee hearings.

The Legislative Council has previously held regional sittings in Bright in 2021, Bendigo in 2012, Lakes Entrance in 2008,

Colac in 2005, Benalla in 2002 and Ballarat in 2001.

During the week of the sitting, the Echuca Library will be closed from Saturday 13 April, reopening Saturday 20 April.

Library patrons are reminded to keep their library items until the Echuca Library re-opens on the 20 April and that all library loans have been extended so loans are not due during this time.

## Rushworth Market

Village Green High st, Rushworth

Saturday 20 April

8.30am - 1pm

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

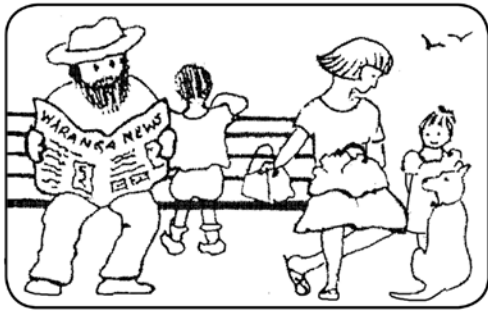
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**Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns**



**Around Rushworth**

**Winner winner chocolate dinner!**



**Congratulations to Margaret Perret for winning the Coghlan's IGA Easter Raffle held over the last few weeks. Coghlan's IGA hopes all had a fantastic Easter and appreciates the community's continuing support.**

**Place-Based Plan news coming soon**

We hear on the grapevine that the PBP committee will be meeting next week to discuss community feedback submitted on the draft plan - so hoping to bring news soon!

**A walk in the garden for Garden Lovers**

A well-attended day was enjoyed by Rushworth Garden Lovers for their last meeting when they took a walk in Carol McMillan's garden during lovely autumn weather. Thank you to Carol.

The next meeting will be held on the 18 April and members will be going to Rochester, meeting at the Shamrock Hotel for lunch at 12 noon. (Please notify Pat if you are going).

Lunch will be followed by a wander through the garden nurseries.



**Carol McMillan's delightful garden - full of nooks and crannies and surprises!**

**Back by popular demand**

**The Girgarre Junkestra is giving a free concert to be held in the Girgarre Soundshell on Sunday 28 April from 1.30 pm.**

It promises to be bigger and better than ever, featuring a triumphant return to the Soundshell with a brand new piece that Graeme Leak has devised with the Orchestra. If you missed seeing them in 2018, now is your chance.

**Old Time Gospel Singalong**

Also on 28 April at 10-11am, in the Girgarre Hall is a gospel singalong, led by the Jigarre Jammers. It is also free entry and followed by a cuppa.

**Tatura's Monster Garage Sale**

Tatura's popular town-wide garage sale will take place on Saturday 4 May, 8am to 1pm. Residents can register their sale (for the bargain price of \$20) so there will be plenty of bargains to choose from!

Registrations close on 1 May.

**Tat Community House Harvest Table**

Productive gardeners can take their excess fruit along to the harvest table in the foyer of the Tatura Community House, just out the front of the Library. Then people in need can then access some yummy, locally grown produce.

It's a fantastic and healthy way to reduce food waste, help people and give back to your local community.

**Murchison Mothers Day**

For an interesting Mothers Day activity on 12 May check out Mothers Day at Days Mill [https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf\\_event/mothers-day-at-days-mill/](https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf_event/mothers-day-at-days-mill/)

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# Colbo Tit Bits

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## Save the date

Colbinabbin Silo Art Picnic and Wine Festival – Sunday 5 May 11am to 3pm. Only four weeks to go and tickets are selling fast! Don't miss the opportunity to attend this years Picnic and Wine Festival at the Colbinabbin Silo Art Precinct.

There will be lots of entertainment for all ages, including an opportunity for wine tastings from our local prestigious vineyards, food stalls, live music and activities for the kids including jumping castle and face painting.

For further enquiries, contact Sadie Vale or Demi Taylor via email at colbinabbinsiloarttrail@gmail.com

See the event advertisement in this edition of the Waranga News for all the booking details.

## Our sympathy

To Rhonda, Chill, Sam and Kate Hill and families on the loss of husband and father and grandfather, Stuart Hill.

### Cemetery Trust

**Mowing Roster** (lawn section only)  
April - Emily McFadzean

### FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

April 14 Ray McEvoy, Pat Tuohey  
April 21 Graeme Reid, Bill West  
*If unable to attend for duty, call Chris/Leo.*

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

### LIBRARY

Wed 17 April Lynn Rathjen  
Wed 24 April Pauline Wilson



### Colbo Diary

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

**May**  
Sun 5 Silo Art Picnic & Wine festival

## Good Friday RCH appeal



The Weppner family were once again out and about and doing their best for the Good Friday Royal Children's Hospital Appeal. Photo above left: Matilda, daughter of Tamara (née Ryan) and Josh Tuohey. Photo above right: Carley, Renée and Joe sold from the well-stocked street stall stacked with home-made goods and flowers. Altogether the 'shakers' and the street stall raised \$3550.

## Maryann had a dream for a mural

Saturday night was a very happy occasion in Rochester, when the eight finalists of the Rochester Mural Festival unveiled their works to a delighted crowd of locals, interstate and overseas guests.

The artists were invited to share a description of their work, the theme being 'I Have A Dream'. Pictured is former Colbinabbin-ite, Maryann Jenkins (née Wright), who presented her interpretation of 'The Drover's Dream'. She recalled finding a copy of it in husband Glynn's Scout Jamboree Handbook of 1955!



'The Drover's Dream' was written by Alan Scott, and the song became the A-side on the first 10" 78 disc released by Australian revivalist bush band the Bushwhackers in 1955.

## The Ryan's annual Easter Barefoot Bowls tournament at Colbo . . .



The winners this year, after a tie and a play off, were Kristy, Toby, Ollie and Nathan.



# Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

Phone (03) 5856 1295

Email:

[admin@rushcomhouse.org.au](mailto:admin@rushcomhouse.org.au)

Website:

[www.rushcomhouse.org.au](http://www.rushcomhouse.org.au)

Facebook:

[Rushworth Community-House](https://www.facebook.com/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.

## Become a valued team driver

Are you looking for a way to make a difference in your community? The Rushworth Community Transport Service is here to help! Our service is becoming increasingly popular among people in Rushworth and district who do not have access to transportation. However, to maintain our availability and reliability, we are asking for help from the community we serve.

We are currently looking for more drivers to join our team, and the poster designed by Community House transport coordinator Craig Seamer shown below highlights the many benefits that being a member of the team can bring.

Our transport service regularly takes local people to and from medical appointments in Shepparton, Echuca, Kyabram and (occasionally) Bendigo. Being able to attend these appointments without the worry of "How do I get there and how do I get back?" reduces stress and improves patient outcomes.

People providing that transport are also rewarded with the knowledge that they are making a real difference to the health and well-being of their "clients".

Rushworth Community Transport Service also takes locals on social outings and shopping excursions to regional cities and towns, allowing them to meet with like-minded folk and enjoy the thrill of bargain hunting in specialist stores that are not represented in Rushworth.

If they use their own car for an excursion, drivers are reimbursed at a standard rate.

Alternatively, they may also use the House's seven-seat Community Car if their own vehicle is not suitable for service use or

they would prefer not to use their own vehicle.

So, if you or someone you know has a few hours to spare and enjoys driving, please call (or ask them to call) the Community House on 5856 1295 and talk to Craig or Anita.

Your help can make a real contribution to the health and wellbeing of our community, and as we are often reminded "healthy people make healthy communities!"

## RCH Genealogy Group - tracing family histories with mutual assistance

For more than a decade, a group of dedicated people has met at the Community House each Friday morning to explore their family histories and other notable themes in a convivial, mutually supportive atmosphere.

Genealogy is now the Community House's longest running weekly activity, first convened when Lyn Rumble was the Manager of the Community House "way back when!"

Since those early days, members may have come and gone, but the spirit of exploring the past using modern high speed computers with access to the world's great document databases and support from an experienced group of colleagues lives on.

Genealogy Group members have ready access to sites such as ancestry.com, historic government records and newspaper archives. With on-site help, they quickly learn how to negotiate these and other powerful databases.

In a future edition of the Waranga News, Genealogy Group leader Tracey Bons will relate some personal insights and stories about this rewarding and highly enjoyable pursuit. In the meantime, anyone interested in exploring their heritage is invited to contact the Community House during opening hours.

Or better still, come along any Friday morning at 9am, see the group in operation and do a little bit of exploring yourself.

You're sure to be made most welcome.

## Kids rate 2024 Easter Egg Hunt a huge success

Early on Easter Saturday morning, crowds of youngsters and their parents descended on Rushworth Community Garden for the House's popular annual Easter Egg Hunt.

By 9 am, the path between the Garden and High Street was packed with people, and when the gate was thrown open, quiet chaos ensued!



Hundreds of chocolate eggs purchased by the Community House for the occasion were secreted among bushes, in garden beds and under rocks and stones. A few were even hidden in plain view. Needless to say, they didn't last very long! *Photo above Cass Alexander*



Photos Sharon Perry



# NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.

## Are You a 'Fixer'?

The Rushworth Op Shop is a place where your unwanted goods are magically transformed into someone else's wanted goods, and we would like to increase the magic by taking recycling up a notch with a 'Get It Fixed' volunteer workshop, a bit like Santa's Workshop, but local and warmer!

'Get It Fixed' aims to keep reusable items out of landfill, overcome planned obsolescence by providing a venue for people to gather in a welcoming social environment where tea and scones may be involved, repairing objects of everyday life, such as furniture, electronics, mechanical devices, computers, bicycles, clothing, toys etc.

If you're in need of getting something fixed, the only requirement is that you must be able to carry or wheel it in. Repairs are

performed by volunteers at no cost; however there may be a cost if parts need to be purchased.

'Get It Fixed' can re-ignite the do-it-together spirit, strengthen social cohesion of our community and probably making new friends in the process.

Everyone knows how to fix something, but without Fixers we can't run the workshop!

If you can sew a button, fix a clock, weld a bracket, pump a tyre, glue a chair leg, knit up the hole the dog chewed in that favourite beanie, or any other handy skill, then we would love to hear from you.

The expectation is that the 'Get It Fixed' volunteer workshop will operate once a month and probably on a Sunday afternoon. We will iron out the details later!



Photo provided by Moonee Valley Repair Café.

Oh ironing, there's a skill someone might need for that kilt that's been hanging in the back of the wardrobe all those years!

If you're a fixer, pop into the Op Shop, grab a registration form, fill it in with your contact details and what your particular skill or skills are, drop it back in the box, and we will be in contact.

*Graeme Hanigan*

*Rushworth Community Support Inc.*

*Sponsor of Rushworth #9 Op Shop and*

*Rushworth Foodbank*



The girls at the Op Shop had a very busy Easter. The Shop opened over the weekend and all the volunteers and staff worked extremely hard, it went to the heads of a few! Esther, Claire and Janis took time out to model some wigs found in the donations as they paused for a light-hearted moment.

### Autumn

The weather's cooled, my brain has too, the words will now appear.

So here I am to give advice on winter wear, my dear.

So first, some jackets bright and thick to keep you cosy, that's the trick

But hurry down you must be quick.

And next some jeans or tracky daks, we have a lot there on our racks.

And how relaxing, how delightful (although some say – oh no, how frightful).

My tracky daks are warm and stretchy, when wearing them I am not tetchy

But lounge around our front room fire with books and chocolate (beware spare tyre!)

We've socks and scarves and even hats

And jumpers, boots and sometimes macs.

So welcome one and welcome all, come and spend some money.

We like to laugh and like to chat – you'll make us happy bunnies!

## Campaspe Library seeks community input

Campaspe Library Service is inviting residents to participate in shaping the future of their community's libraries by taking part in a survey aimed at informing the development of the 2024-2029 Campaspe Library Strategy.

The survey, accessible both online and in-person at all Campaspe libraries, aims to gather valuable insights and feedback from residents about their library usage, preferences, and future

aspirations.

In addition to the survey, the library will host a series of "Listen at the Library" sessions, where residents can drop in to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns directly with library consultants, Ian and Jacqui Phillips as well as library staff.

The scheduled 'Listen at the Library' sessions include:

- Rushworth – 9 - 11am, Thursday, 18 April
- Stanhope - 11.30am -12noon, Thursday, 18 April
- Girgarre - 12.15 - 12.45pm, Thursday, 18 April
- Kyabram - 1.30 - 4.30pm, Thursday, 18 April
- Colbinabbin – 2 – 2.30pm, Wednesday, 5 June

# Fifty Years ago in our district...

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



## News still scarce in Personal April 1974

There were very thin weekly Rushworth Chronicles in April 1974, with some lines of type repeated and others obviously missing. Full-page advertisements appeared in each edition.

Northern Victoria was hit with concern about Murray Valley encephalitis, and the Easter tennis at Rushworth was very heavily reduced as many players who had entered from distant parts withdrew just before the tournament. Round-robin social tennis was played.

The Waranga Boat Club regatta was also much reduced, Shire assistant engineer Byron Grey and wife Ann sailing off with a prize.

Anglican minister Rev Warren Graco and wife Mary were farewelled after several years at Rushworth, and presented with a portable barbecue by Anglican church member Cr. Len Coyle. Speakers included Rev White (Presbyterian), Father Collins (Catholic), Rev Goodwin (Methodist), John Teasdale (Kindergarten committee), Mrs Budd (Church ladies) and Mrs Eileen Barlow (Hospital). The Graco family moved to Rochester.

At Murchison, free blood pressure tests were available to all.

At Rushworth, the blacksmith business of Bill Corner, on the Tatura Road, was to be auctioned but the date was not displayed in the advertisement. Available was a large range of vintage machinery.

## Community

There was to be a meeting of the High School and the Shire about the never-ending Sports Complex saga. It seemed likely to be built at the school with "a main hall, gymnasium, courts for basketball, badminton and squash, a small meeting room, a room for Scouts and Guides, kitchen facilities, full changing rooms, showers and toilets." All for \$100,000. Yeah, right!

Rushworth Senior Citizens played "wogs", won by Mrs McDonald and Mr Geddes. (*I don't know the game either, but back then it may have been better to have a different name.*)

The Moora Recreation Reserve lease for three years was to be sold by Elders, and allowed the leasee to "only graze sheep". (*Another rule was that no timber was to be removed, but as the next-door neighbour, I recall seeing more than a few sticks taken away.....*)

Colbinabbin Young Farmers visited the Artificial Insemination and Herd Testing headquarters at Rochester, addressed by Mr Geoff Wilkins.

Frank Mortimer's 90th birthday was celebrated by visiting family members, mainly from Melbourne, at his home in Murchison Road.

Mrs W. Raglus's 80th birthday was celebrated by her large family at Moora. One of the games played during the evening was won by Norma Morgan, and the cake made by Mrs Eileen Johnson. (*Best greetings to you both, 50 years later.*)

At Stanhope, Alan and Carrol Nurse welcomed Graeme, who must now be fifty! Twins Matthew and Danielle arrived to "Rhonda and Robert", but the notice did not favour them with a surname.

Robert Borger married Christine Bell, with their bridal party including Jenny Bell, Kerrie Harvey, Robert Miller and William Barlow. (That was the way back then. No weddings during footy season!)

Passing was Fred Rumble of Moora Road, mourned by sons Stan, Bernie and Fred. Wife Trixie had pre-deceased him.

Winner of the Rushworth Netball Club Easter Egg competition was April Lloyd.

## Cricket presentation night

Rushworth cricketers held a dinner dance at the Criterion Hotel with trophies presented to Graeme Johansen (batting), Geoff Hawking (bowling), Ian Cruz (catches) and Geoff Wall (fielding). B-Grade winners were Geoff

Cruz (batting and fielding), Ross Williams (bowling) and Terry Schade (catches).

## Golf

The season began at Rushworth, with Ron Risstrom as President and Ray Cheatley the new captain. Graeme Muir and mother Betty won the day, ahead of Mr and Mrs Jack Borger, and Mr and Mrs Reg McIntosh. Ron Risstrom was nearest the pin. There was concern that people had been riding horses around the golf course.

Les Muir's 78 became 54 once his handicap of 24 was included. Bill Cruz shot 80, netting 58 after deduction of 22.

## Bowls

Murchison Ladies welcomed a busload of ex-Presidents of city bowls clubs for a day of play together, organised by captain Dorothy Kenny.

## Football

Practice matches were being played locally. Gigarre (KDFL) beat Rushworth (HDFL) easily in wet conditions. Getting a kick were David Perry, John Lambden, Mick O'Sullivan and Noel Lloyd, (*but his was only in the leg.*)

Rushworth then beat Murchison (KDFL) who had only appointed playing coach Roger Bullen, 42, a couple of weeks previously.

See! I told you the Chronicles were thin. Above you see the highlights from editions of 11 and 18 April, 1974.

## How many diggers came to Whroo?

People have long debated how many people lived at Whroo at its peak, with one distant writer claiming a quite ridiculous 50,000. A local is on the printed record claiming up to 20,000! The true figure turns on the single word, "water". Even allowing each of 20,000 people just one litre of water daily, where would 20,000 litres have come from?

Not from Whroo's couple of small dams. Not from Rushworth, previously named Dry Diggings. Not from the Waranga diggings lagoon, (which became Waranga Basin fifty years later). Not from the Goulburn River at Murchison, brought by horse and buggy. River water was certainly taken to Whroo by couriers, but not sufficient for those suggested population figures.

Having trawled through all early Victorian census data, no confident true peak figure is revealed. Some of the counts in the district in the gold years just tallied the miners, the men, without mention of women or children.

I have learned that Goulburn Diggings Gold Commissioner Richard Horne, who named Rushworth, wrote that the peak figure in late 1853 to early 1854, was an estimated 9,000 people for ALL of Rushworth, Whroo and the diggings at Waranga. Numbers fell from that time on, by all census notes and reports in the Public Records Office of Victoria.

I can only peg the top figure for Whroo at between 4,000 and 5,000, and just for a very few months. When the essential matter of water is factored in, that range of numbers seems far more plausible.

The matter of population peak numbers has a single chapter within the book "Rushing to Whroo, 1853 - 1880". Copies of the book are just \$25 and are available from the Waranga News office and the Colbinabbin Store. Jasmin Le Deux's General Store Rushworth has copies with a small mark-up for her kind handling. The Le Deux family were pioneers at Whroo, and Jean-Claude Le Deux is buried in the cemetery.

Alan McLean

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

## STORIES OF CHINESE IMMIGRANTS TO THE

### WARANGA AREA

Compiled by Tony Ford

## Crime and punishment

Contemporary accounts suggest that the Chinese on the goldfields were generally law-abiding citizens. With the numbers involved, there were always going to be some offenders and disputes arising between various parties. Probably the most common offence was not paying the various taxes that applied only to Chinese miners, such as the residency tax. This may have been more a form of protest at an unjust tax than a crime per se.

A report in a local paper stated that "The Chinese, of whom there were many on the field, gave little trouble, but Hong Song, Ah Chow, Cong Too, and others of the fraternity were before the court on occasions, for failure to have a current resident's licence."<sup>1</sup> From 1855, the licence was one pound p.a., paid on top of the widely hated fee for a miner's right.

## Victims of Crime

The Chinese were more likely to be victims of crime, rather than the perpetrators. Sometimes this appeared to stem from racist attitudes held by some of the European miners. For example, an Irishman named James Ryan went berserk in the Chinese camp at Whroo in August 1860. He attacked many of the occupants, with seven being injured, some seriously. There were no police on hand to arrest Ryan, so a citizens' arrest took place. He escaped and attacked an innocent Chinese passer-by. With the help of two Rushworth policemen and some of the Chinese, he was finally subdued and put in the lock-up.<sup>2</sup>

Children on the goldfields were sometimes influenced by the attitudes of their parents. At Whroo in 1867, "Stone throwing at Chinamen by mischievous young rascals is now becoming common, and several serious accidents have happened." For once, a local newspaper editor was sympathetic, recommending "their being summon(s)ed and the best punishment would be a sound flogging."<sup>3</sup>

Theft from the Chinese was not uncommon. Bushrangers were active on the main roads used by all diggers moving between the various goldfields. In 1857, two bushrangers held up and robbed several parties of people near the Campaspe River on the "Goulburn-road"<sup>4</sup> (i.e. the road between Bendigo and Beechworth, passing through the Waranga goldfields and crossing the Goulburn at Murchison). One party was a group of Chinese from whom they stole 62 pounds (\$124), a huge sum at the time. The

offenders were caught shortly afterwards at Amherst.

Another group of Chinese were "stuck up" by three bushrangers near Tait and Hamilton's Halfway House at Cornella and relieved of the gold they were carrying, along with other property. A mounted constable managed to single-handedly arrest the bushrangers soon afterwards, recovering property including "a massive gold ring which had been taken from a Chinaman, on which some ineffectual attempts had been made to erase some celestial characters engraved thereon."<sup>5</sup> Constable Crofts proudly escorted his prisoners to the Rushworth lock-up.

## First suspects

In a culturally hostile environment, the Chinese were often considered to be the first suspects if a crime was committed. It was a similar situation to what is regrettably still sometimes seen today with so-called "African gangs", Aboriginals and other minority groups.

For instance, the *McIvor Times* reported in 1864 that "The Chinese are suspected of stealing a bag of rice from Mr Baud's store"<sup>6</sup> at Whroo, with no evidence to support the claim. In 1867, "spurious gold is being sold in Whroo in small quantities, supposed by Chinamen."<sup>7</sup> (More about "spurious gold" in a later story) The following year, after a burglary at Whroo, "a search was made amongst the Chinese tents...without success, and up to this time no clue has been obtained."<sup>8</sup> Targetting the Chinese first in searches was not uncommon.

Much later, in 1887 at Murchison, there was a robbery at a market garden about a mile (1.6 km) from town run by Ah Hung and his unnamed brother. "By dint of hard work and economy for the last eight years" they had accumulated a substantial amount of cash (85 pounds or \$170) after investing heavily in "improvements and irrigation works." Immediately, it was concluded that "a Chinese lately in their employ is suspected of having been the thief."<sup>9</sup>

Sources: 1 *Grant, Alan, article entitled Waranga - Epitome of Evolution in Walkabout magazine 1.3.1968*; 2 *Bendigo Advertiser 31.8.1860*; 3 *Bendigo Advertiser 26.11.1867*; 4 *Bendigo Advertiser 6.5.1857*; 5 *Mount Alexander Mail 16.12.1857*; 6 *McIvor Times 23.9.1864*; 7 *Bendigo Advertiser 16.10.1867*; 8 *Bendigo Advertiser 21.2.1868*; 9 *Herald 11.2.1887*

## A Name from the Past Tragedy near Whroo for the Mason family

The name of Mason has been prominent in the district for generations, and the name was initially associated with Bailioston, when it was known as Coy's Diggings. The death of little Alice Mason is an example of the challenges faced with doctors so few and often quite a long horse-ride away, if another rider was sent to fetch help.

In this case, Alice's father sought to find a doctor himself. Alice's passing was reported in the *Rushworth Chronicle* of 18 January, 1889.

## Magisterial inquiry

A magisterial inquiry was held at Dyer's Junction Hotel, at Whroo on the 15th inst., by W. Wigg, Esq., J. P. touching the death of a child Alice Violet Mason, who died rather suddenly at Coy's Diggings on the previous day.

The evidence of Mrs Mason, mother of the child, went to show that [words obscured] 1 year and two weeks old, and since her birth had been sickly. She had cut 10 teeth, and was at the time of her death cutting her eye teeth. On Sunday, the 13th inst., the child was seized with vomiting and purging, and these continued until about 4.30 p.m. on the following day, when she was seized with violent convulsions, and died before they had time to call in medical aid.

Thomas Mason, father of the deceased, stated that he was a sleeper cutter, residing at Coy's Diggings, and gave similar evidence to that of his wife, adding that they had left home for Rushworth with the child after she was seized with the convulsions, but she died before they had been ten minutes on the road.

Senior-Constable Bennett stated that Mr Mason called at the Police Station, Rushworth, on the 14th inst., and informed him of the death of his daughter.

Dr Heily, who made a post-mortem examination of the body, stated that there were no marks of violence. The child appeared to have had proper care taken of her. He was of opinion that death was due to venous apoplexy, caused by teething, and attended with acute convulsive fits, as stated by the mother.

Mr Wigg returned a verdict that death was caused by venous apoplexy, as stated by the doctor."

Alice's name may be found within the Whroo cemetery list, shown as aged 18 months, but if this newspaper report is correct, 12 months should be the figure.



# 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.*

## This is a sad week for Victoria's wetlands

After an extensive independent enquiry as to whether duck shooting season has a valid reason to continue in Victoria, the decision has been made to go ahead. The findings of the enquiry were clear cut in the reasons, backed with evidence, why shooting native ducks is not sustainable nor wanted by the majority of the public, yet here we are again.

Species everywhere in Australia are declining at an alarming rate. Populations of once common species are declining, even becoming locally extinct in areas yet this is a 'sport' which those in power back to continue?

A simple decision backed up by evidence could have easily been made to stop the decimation of our wetland habitats and species who occupy them but yet again, decision makers have caved in to a minority who believe it's their right to shoot native species and disrupt the entire ecosystem of our wetland environments.

### Loch Garry is my home

More importantly, Loch Garry is also home to a plethora of wildlife. It is a significant breeding site for many wetland species as it is a seasonal floodway fed from the Goulburn River which is heavily treed with a Red Gum/Box forest.

The bird life in there is astounding. The trees standing both in the water and around the water's edge support breeding colonies of Australian Darters, Little Pied, Pied and Black Cormorants, Nankeen Night Herons, White-

season. Currently the Loch is buzzing with activity from all these different species. Much to our excitement, a few Rakali have also recently been seen feeding in the waters of the Loch. Once abundant here, our native water rats disappeared for many, many years in this area, only to recently return.

If you think this special place sounds like an environmental paradise for a diverse range of species, you would be right...it is.

Until duck season opening 10 April at 8am sharp, this wetland will be shot up by the duck shooters who are already gathering in camps just over the levee bank. Our house sits barely a kilometre from Loch Garry. The sound of gunshot will reverberate around us, reminding us that there is nothing we can do to protect the creatures who we otherwise protect all year round. My children always ask if there is anything we can do, the answer is always the same. We tried to stop it.

This year is no different. We have tried to stop it. We have submitted our concerns to the Conservation Regulator, the Game Management Authority, ministers and relevant officials to no avail. The people who live here, protect and respect our unique wetland cannot even set foot within 50 metres of the water without possessing a hunting licence once the season begins. Unless you have witnessed it personally, the only description that is apt is one of akin to war zone. The gunshot is a continual shocking



**Juvenile Sea Eagle, taken in Loch Garry mid November last year. Two adults and one juvenile were seen inside the Loch about a week ago as Loch Garry is their breeding and hunting territory. Being shy birds in this area, they will move out of the area tomorrow when the shooting starts.**

200 meters away.

Loch Garry borders a National Park. No fences. One side of the main track is National Park, the other side of the main track is Game Reserve. Loch Garry was State Forest slated to be included in the Lower Goulburn National Park. It was, without any community consultation or transparency, quietly excluded from the original plans and handed to the Game Management Authority to appease the shooters as Reedy Swamp was another wetland which became protected under the new National Park. Reedy Swamp sits right in Shepparton, is more visible to the public eye and certainly less acceptable to have shooters causing havoc. The locality and isolation of Loch Garry, could be why this is an acceptable shooting ground of native species. Environmentally, the Loch is possibly more important than Reedy for both habitat and diversity of species recorded. When we are faced with constant misdemeanours and bad behaviour from shooters, calling officials is faced with, 'sorry, we do not have the resources to send any one out there. Don't approach them yourselves though as they are obviously armed and potentially drunk'. Where do we go to get assistance? Officials put in a brief appearance and once they are gone, the shooters know they are free to do as they please.

If we wish to protect these environments there needs to be public outcry. Just like our forests are disappearing through the death of a thousand cuts, these areas which are open to shooting are dying through the death of a thousand shots.

It's cases like this and government decisions which continue to ignore the evidence that is put before them, cause me to ponder whether we have come as far environmentally that we purport to have come. From where I stand, I see continual government support of the destruction of our wild places and the native diversity which depend on their protection.

This week is indeed a sad time for Victorian wetlands.



faced Herons, Egrets, including the endangered Great Egret, Grebes, different species of water hen and ducks, Black Swans, Pelicans and numerous raptor species. This wetland is home to a breeding pair of White-bellied Sea Eagles and their offspring is currently still honing its hunting skills inside the Loch right now alongside its parents.

A breeding pair of Peregrine Falcons were successful in getting young through this season as were a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles. The Loch Garry Whistling Kites have also been very successful in getting young through this

disturbance for everyone and everything within earshot. Outboard motors roaring from one end of the wetland to the other, captained by men with a gun in one hand, a can in the other...and the cans are not of the soft drink kind.

Wood removal, littering of both spent cartridges, toilet paper, bird remains and general human rubbish is always left.

Once the season is over, we go out with heavy hearts, kayaking where there was life everywhere only to be faced with an eerily silent wetland. The few birds which may remain take flight when they catch wind of a human

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.

### Whales and Molly

Whales are wonderful examples of how endangered species can be brought back from the brink of extinction. All it took was an international ban on whaling (no thanks to Japan though) and a few decades and most whale species have made a comeback. However, there may be a new threat to some whale species, namely the baleen whales.

Instead of teeth, baleen whales have comb-like filter plates. They can only feed upon small fish, krill (tiny shrimps) and plankton. The largest marine creatures feed upon the smallest. Baleen whales generally have large distending throats enabling them to swallow a vast amount of food-rich water and then force it back out of their mouth through the baleen and then using their tongues to swallow the trapped food. Baleen whales migrate to the polar regions where there is an abundance of suitable fish, krill and plankton. They must consume a colossal amount of these tiny organisms to put on enough blubber reserves before migrating to tropical and sub-tropical seas to calve. When the calves are big and strong enough, the whales return to their polar feeding grounds. They do not eat during this time. All up, whales have one of the longest migrations, and they do it both ways without eating!

Climate change is very much a mixed blessing for these whales. The warmer polar seas and thinner sea ice provide better conditions for krill and plankton, increasing the whales' food supply. For an animal that needs to gorge itself on food, this is a good thing.

There are several downsides to global warming for the whales. The plankton and krill occur mainly near the edges of the polar ice caps. As the ice caps recede, the whales have further to migrate to reach the feeding grounds. While adult whales can go the added distance, their calves are struggling. With the thinner and more broken sea ice, orcas (killer whales) are now able to range further into the polar seas. They hunt in packs and are more than capable of killing a whale. Whale calves are particularly vulnerable. Another consequence of global warming is that some species need warm, shallow seas when calving. Rising sea levels will mean that the whales' 'traditional' calving grounds may no longer be suitable. It is uncertain what the impact of this will be on the whales.

It hard to judge what the net effect climate change will have on baleen whales. It is known that following the last ice age the warming climate caused an increase in whale numbers due to an abundance of

their prey species. Based upon this, the whale populations may be set to continue growing -providing they can overcome the associated dangers.

All this is an example of how complex the issues surrounding global warming can be. One of the things that may save the whales is their ability to migrate vast distances without eating. Other species, especially those living on the land and cannot move around so freely, may not be so fortunate.

The controversy surrounding Molly the magpie has continued. The magpie is one species that has adapted to the urban environment. For magpies to maintain their population, each breeding pair must raise two chicks to maturity. Considering magpies live for twenty or so years and around Rushworth and will raise two to three chicks each year, we should be smothered by magpies! The reality is that the world is a hard place and nearly all chicks do not survive into adulthood. In the natural environment they are easy prey, especially when they first leave the nest as 'branchers'. In the urban environment they can end up in backyards where they fall victim to cats and dogs or end up on the streets and killed by cars. These young magpies need a lot of feeding and the adults spend all their waking hours looking for food to feed them. They cannot afford to be hanging around the 'branchers'. Within a few days the chicks can fly and stay close to the adults, nagging them constantly for food. It is claimed that Molly had fallen from the nest, ended up in a dog park and was deserted by her parents. Molly had probably simply decided it was time to leave the nest and jumped out (many species of birds do this before they can fly). That the parents were not in sight did not mean they had abandoned Molly. They were probably in a nearby garden finding food for her. The 'rescuers' could have just moved her to safer nearby spot; the parents could quickly home in on her squawking. Better still, they could have called a wildlife rescuer and left it to an expert. The decision to keep her not only deprived the bird of its natural life in the wild, but was also illegal. Anything else is mawkish, selfish and entitled.



## The Great Global Cleanup

### Ways being zero waste and owning less can make you happier

Did you know that being zero waste and owning fewer things can actually increase your happiness and well-being? In honor of International Day of Zero Waste, EARTHDAY.ORG invites us to join in trying out the zero waste lifestyle and learning about how we can simplify our life and reduce our carbon footprint... and our stress!

#### Less Really is More

A big part of living a zero waste lifestyle includes buying and owning less stuff. The average 'first world' person owns thousands of possessions. We have so many belongings that we collectively spend millions of dollars just on storing it. (\$38 billion a year in the US alone!)

Every item we own has to be produced, be it the free t-shirt we get at an event that we never wear, the kitchen gadget we bought at a sale that we don't really use, or the souvenir keychain in the junk drawer. The materials economy (ie the economy generated by producing stuff), accounts for almost half of all global emissions.

Owning too much stuff is also an inefficient distribution of resources. If we have something in our home that we're holding onto unnecessarily, we're preventing someone else from using it. And sadly, most things we own will someday end up in landfill, so being intentional with what we own puts less pressure on the planet.

It also puts less pressure on us! Research shows that owning too many things can make us feel stressed, anxious and depressed. The accumulation of clutter and objects in our surroundings creates a "silent to-do list," a concept from Fumio Sasaki in the book *Goodbye, Things*. Every item we own is sending a message: plants are asking to be watered, knick knacks to be dusted, clothes to be worn. Our mind is constantly scanning our environment, noticing unfinished projects and things that need to be organized. Over time, this takes a mental and emotional toll.

On the flip side, owning less and simplifying has been repeatedly linked to increases in well-being. And the more peaceful environment that results can actually help us sleep better, which also contributes to increased happiness.

To learn more about ways to become 'Zero Waste' go to <https://www.earthday.org/5-ways-being-zero-waste-and-owning-less-can-make-you-happier/>

**Earth Day 2024**

**April 22**

**Let's unite in our efforts to protect the Earth today and for generations to come.**

# Cooks Column

**Don't you love going to meetings where you are asked to bring a plate? You get to pick and choose whatever looks good to eat and then have the opportunity to do a bit of detective work to find out new recipes (look to see if there's a name on the bottom of the plate, f'rinstance).**

That's how I tracked down this recipe for a gluten-free loaf recipe. Moist, delicious and although it was served buttered, it didn't need it - in my humble opinion.

## Pear and Raspberry Bread

### Ingredients

- 2 eggs
- 2 tspn vanilla
- 1 cup panela (or brown sugar)
- 1 1/2 cups GF self-raising flour
- 1/4 cup almond meal
- 80g butter, melted
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 460g ripe pears (2) chopped and mashed
- 1 cup frozen raspberries
- 1/4 cup slivered almonds

### Method

Set oven on 180°C (160°C fan-forced). Grease and line cake tin.

Beat eggs, vanilla and sugar for three minutes. Stir in flour, almond meal, butter and buttermilk. Then fold in pears and raspberries. Pour into prepared pan, sprinkle with almonds and bake approximately 60-75 minutes.

*Pam Nihill*



## Do you enjoy cooking?

Do you have a favourite recipe you'd like to share with us?

It could be that special cake that always brings loud applause each time you bake it. Or a slice, maybe biscuits? What about an interesting casserole?

If you'd like to share, make it, take a photo of it (must be about 1MB) and send it to us at the News Office. [wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)

# Garden Hints & Tips

## Enjoying autumn

Not surprisingly autumn is voted the favourite season of so many gardeners - the days are usually sunny but just pleasantly warm, and there's that little bit of freshness in the morning air. It doesn't take much to entice us outside where it's so enjoyable that attending to the many garden chores doesn't seem at all onerous.

But as well as being a pleasant time of year it's also quite a busy period in the garden. We need to finish clearing out those tired looking summer veggies and to add some organic manures into the beds to prepare for winter crops. This could be compost, manures, even some autumn leaves will add to the mix soon.

Another way to get organic matter into the soil is to sow a green manure crop. Special green manure mixes of efficient nitrogen-fixing plants can be purchased, or you can use old left-over seed you might have (especially legumes), and just sprinkle it thickly and water well. Before it flowers or sets seed just

dig it over and work it into the soil - or you can even just leave it on top of the soils and cover with more compost. (Also a very handy use for those leftover sprouting seeds you buy to add to your salad!)

Perennial plants and herbs, such as salvias, oregano and lemon balm can now be cut back to new growth to prevent them becoming woody.

As we have mentioned over the past few weeks, 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.

And as we have also mentioned - an excellent place to find those local trees and shrubs ready to plant out in your garden is the Goulburn Valley Tree Nursery in Tatura.

**(Below) Those hard-working volunteers have lots of stock ready for you to choose from .**



## Handy Hints - from Lyn Rumble

*Feeding our families, looking after pets and keeping our homes safe and clean is always a big task to do – but hopefully these few hints & tips can help a bit this issue.*

*Have a great fortnight, stay cool, safe and healthy!*

*Lyn Rumble*

\* **Itchy bites** – This time of year seems that every insect is out to bite you, whether flies, wasps, bees, mozzies etc. If you can spray with personal repellent then that's the best, but also wearing long sleeved shirts and trousers can help. Failing that and you do get bitten, smear the bite with one of these should help: Vicks Vapour Rub, eucalyptus essential oil, lavender essential oil or Thars antiseptic ointment.

\* **Shopping for household goods** – one of my past hints said that it's great to have a picture on your mobile phone – to show pics of samples and measurements of items you want from big stores like Bunnings etc. Well I've found that in addition to this, a small retractable tape measure is very handy to have in your pocket/handbag for last minute checks on sizes and comparisons. Saved me a couple of times having to exchange goods from a supplier.

\* **Computer USBs and external hard drives** - I have many of them – and not all same brands, so remembering what's on which one is difficult! A small piece of masking tape marked with pen the general contents – or even a white paint-pen marker, makes them so much easier to identify. With external hard

drives, I usually identify the folder names like a list on the top – and I can see easily which drive is required.

\* **Five things you can use an old telephone book for:** (1) you can use it to wash your windows and mirrors; (2) make your own unique envelopes for your letters; (3) let your kids use it for paper mache; (4) make yourself some paper beads (for a necklace); (5) make seed starter pots for your new garden venture. You can find out more on the internet how to do these things by checking out YouTube if needed.

\* **Ceramic gas cooktops can be a pain to clean.** I use two Teflon BBQ non-stick cooking sheets. By cutting each half and then shape around each of the edges to suit the shape of your cooker - then put a hole in the centre for the gas connection. These sheets are non-flammable, and when dirty, can be just washed in your washing-up water and rinsed and dried.



# Health and Wellbeing

## Whooping cough surge – why? and how can we protect ourselves?

Laurence Don Wai Luu

Lecturer and Chancellor's Research Fellow, School of Life Sciences, University of Technology Sydney

(article originally published on *The Conversation*)

Australia is facing a whooping cough outbreak. Some 2,799 cases were recorded in the first three months of 2024. Cases are highest in Queensland and New South Wales, with more than 1,000 recorded in each state.

The last time Queensland recorded more than 1,000 cases in three months was the first quarter of 2013. This was at the tail end of a significant outbreak that spanned 2008 until 2012 – Australia's largest reported outbreak since the widespread introduction of whooping cough vaccines in the 1950s. More than 140,000 cases were recorded during this period, with the number peaking at 38,748 in 2011.

There was a smaller outbreak between 2014 and 2017, with more than 60,000 cases in these years.

So what is whooping cough, why are cases rising now, and how can you protect yourself?

### It's most dangerous for babies

Whooping cough is a serious and highly contagious respiratory disease. Also called pertussis, it's caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*.

The initial symptoms of whooping cough resemble other cold and flu-like symptoms. These include runny nose, sneezing, mild cough and fever. However, as the disease progresses into the second week, the coughing fits become worse and more frequent. After or between bouts of coughing, patients may gasp for air and produce the characteristic "whoop" noise.

The disease is also sometimes called the "100-day cough" as it can last for 6–12 weeks. It's especially serious and can be life-

threatening in newborns who are yet to receive their vaccinations. In older children who are fully vaccinated, as well as adolescents and adults, the disease is normally less severe. However, even in adults, the coughing can lead to fractured ribs.

Antibiotics are used to treat whooping cough but are most effective when given during the initial stages of the illness. The best protection in the first instance is vaccination, which prevents most cases of serious illness, and reduces the spread of whooping cough in the community.

It's recommended children are given six doses of a whooping cough vaccine (which is combined with vaccines for other diseases) between the ages of roughly two months and 13 years. Vaccination is free under the National Immunisation Program for children and pregnant women. Vaccinating women against whooping cough during pregnancy protects newborns in their first months of life.

Immunity from these vaccines wanes over time, so it's also recommended adults receive a booster, particularly those who may come into frequent contact with babies.

### Why are cases rising now?

Whooping cough outbreaks generally occur every 3–4 years. Due to COVID measures such as border closures, social isolation and masks, the number of cases declined dramatically during 2020–23. If trends had followed the usual

outbreak cycle, this might have been

around the time we'd have seen another outbreak.

Missed routine whooping cough vaccinations at the height of the pandemic may mean Australia is more vulnerable now. Reduced immunity in the population could be one of the reasons we're seeing a rise in whooping cough cases in Australia and other countries including the United Kingdom and the United States.

In Australia, cases have been particularly high during this outbreak in children aged 10–14.

### A potential superbug

Over the past two decades, whooping cough has been getting better at evading vaccines and antibiotics. Most vaccines used in Australia and other developed countries stimulate your immune system to recognise and target three to five components of the bacteria.

Over time, the bacteria that causes whooping cough has been slowly acquiring mutations in these genes. These mutations make the bacteria look slightly different to the one used in the vaccine, helping it better hide from the immune system.

Most of these changes were small. But in 2008, a new strain appeared in Australia that no longer produced pertactin, one of the components targeted by the vaccine. This means your immune system, like a detective, has one less clue to recognise the bacteria.

This new strain rapidly increased from 5% of strains found in 2008, to become the dominant strain in less than ten

years, making up 90% of strains by 2017. This pertactin-negative strain was shown to survive better in vaccinated mice and may have contributed to the high number of cases in the 2008–12 outbreak.

Worryingly, since 2013, antibiotic-resistant strains of whooping cough have become widespread in China. While there are other antibiotics available, these are not recommended for infants younger than two months (the age group at most risk of serious disease). These resistant strains are increasingly spreading through Asia but are not yet in Australia.

### What next?

It's too early to know how big this outbreak will be or what strains are responsible for it. Greater tracking of whooping cough strains, like we do with COVID, is needed to inform future vaccine design and treatments.

Importantly, although the bacteria is evolving, current vaccines are still very effective at preventing serious disease and reducing transmission. They remain our best tool to limit this outbreak.

To protect oneself, vulnerable newborns, and the wider community, everyone should ensure they are up-to-date with their whooping cough vaccinations. You can check this with your GP if you're not sure. And anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms should stay away from infants.

<https://theconversation.com/whooping-cough-is-surg-ing-in-australia-why-and-how-can-we-protect-ourselves->



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# Introducing AI from *Find Your Feathers*

Find Your Feathers founder AI Trethowan brings ten years of social work experience and seven years in Environmental education together, bringing the wellbeing benefits of nature to you, or you to nature. Find your way back to nature through play, wonder and adventure.

## Services include:

- Wellbeing in nature workshops for schools, workplaces and social groups
- Mindful nature walks
- Educational workshops about the benefits of nature on wellbeing
- Nature art and craft workshops
- One on one support to help you get out in nature

## Make your own nature buddy on 21 April

Join AI from Find Your Feathers for a mindful experience of tuning into natural found materials such as seed pods and dried flowers, and creating your own mini nature figurine. This workshop is best suited to adults, but we will run a kids one soon!

Sunday 21st April 10am - 11:30am Rushworth ART Depot

34 Esmonde Street, Rushworth

All materials are provided, but do feel free to bring along any gum nuts, seed pods or other natural materials that you have if you so wish!

Take some time out of your busy week to relax and spend time making craft from natural materials.

AI will lead you on a mindful journey through touching, smelling, and looking closely at a variety of gumnuts, banksia pods, leaves, feathers, dried flowers etc, then creating your own miniature figurine from these natural materials to take home. Will you make a

human? A dog? An alien? The choice is yours!

Tickets are \$25 per person and can be found at the link below.

If you're interested in this workshop for your younger ones, send me a message and we can work on setting up a workshop especially for them.

Bookings are essential via <https://events.humanitix.com/make-your-own-nature-buddy>

For further information contact AI on 0409404258 or [altretho@gmail.com](mailto:altretho@gmail.com)



AI Threthowan introduces her new business 'Find Your Feathers'. (Don't look now AI but your feathers are on your head!)



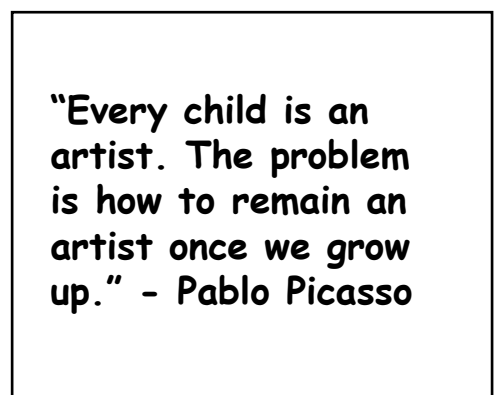
Dog figure



Quackapus



Banksia guy



## **Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our** **Students to compete in the Victorian Merino Wether Challenge**

Rushworth P-12 Year 9/10 Agriculture students are taking part in this year's inaugural schools Victorian Merino Wether Challenge. This program is sponsored by the Australian Sheep Breeders Association (ASBA) and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI).

Through this program, the students will learn about sustainable food and fibre production along with aspects of the commercial production of merino sheep. Topics will include livestock handling, animal husbandry, nutrition, genetics, sheep classing, wool typing, carcass characteristics, technology, careers and more.

The students will also be working on many soft skills such as confidence building, self-esteem, public speaking, presentation and networking with industry and commercial producers and agriculture students from other schools.

The culminating event is a friendly school showing competition where students will participate in all the judging activities, such as: helping to obtain eye muscle and fat scores to estimate the carcass value of the sheep, testing the wool



for micron and length, showing the sheep and performing wool handling duties for the shearers.

At school, everyone has been working hard to prepare a safe space to hold the sheep. The students have protected plants within the pen and are currently working on calming the sheep down in the presence of people so that they can be handled safely for showing and performing

husbandry tasks.

Reid Stockfeeds in Colbinabbin have very kindly offered to sponsor them with some feed for the sheep.

The students are keen to have a show uniform so they will be looking for sponsorship to help with the cost of these too. They will also be looking for anyone experienced in anything to do with sheep production and/

or sustainable agriculture who would be happy to share their knowledge and expertise with the students. A Working with Children card is required to attend on site, however other methods of presenting can be arranged if on site is not possible.

Please contact the school if you are able to support the program in any way.

## **Kids to hit the books for Premiers' Reading Challenge**

**Victorian children and young people are being invited to explore, learn and enjoy the world through reading as they embark on this year's Premiers' Reading Challenge.**

The Challenge encourages students between early childhood and Year 10 to read a set number of books during the year, with their efforts recorded online. A book list recommends age-appropriate texts that children might like to try, but any book counts towards their Challenge totals.

Last year, Victorian kids read a huge 3.4 million books between them – so this year's Challenge sets an even higher goal of 3.5 million books, encouraging children to become voracious readers across different genres, authors and styles of literature.

This year's 'Explore, Learn, Enjoy' theme captures the excitement and sense of adventure that reading gives us all – and the theme is also reflected in the Prep Bags given to every new student at a Victorian

government school, which also includes a range of carefully chosen books and educational play materials.

Children who have not yet started school are also encouraged to join the Challenge by reading 40 books with the help of their families – with picture books, short stories, poems or non-fiction books in any language all eligible for the Challenge.

"From toddlers to teenagers, the Premiers' Reading Challenge is about reading as many different types of books as possible – instilling a love of reading into every Victorian child," said Premier Jacinta Allen.

In 2013, the Challenge was expanded to include young children from birth to five, following strong evidence indicating that reading to young children from birth

promotes brain development and language learning.

Since the Challenge began in 2005, 4.3 million students across Victoria have read more than 60 million books. Victorian students are the strongest performers in the country for the all-important Year 3 Reading NAPLAN results.

Students participating can read books in Languages Other Than English and use alternative supports and resources.

"Many of the Challenge books can be found in our state's local libraries for children to borrow and enjoy for free," said Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne

For more information on the Challenge and to see the book list, visit [vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge](http://vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge).

## Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our P-12 eagerly awaits opening of the new building

As term one came to an end, we are all eagerly awaiting the opening of the new science and technology building, and none of us more so than the patient teachers and students who have made an excellent effort to engage with their curriculum in temporary classrooms this term.

The new building is on track to be open in the second week of Term Two, with landscaping around it currently in full swing; watch this space for information about the grand opening.

We're not stopping there, with enhancing our grounds and facilities for the students. Other changes in the pipeline include: a new bubbler tap and bottle-filling station being added to the primary building and a chilled water fountain and bottle-filling station in the stadium (which includes a dog bowl for Whroo!) and further drinking fountains to come.

There are also plans to redevelop the area in and around the stadium, including a new ramp and some dedicated cafeteria seating for our Food ROCKs program, further seating and workspace opportunities in the area behind the N-building and leading up to our new Agriculture Horticulture area, which our HOPE students have been keenly landscaping and developing already.

There are some major works which will provide dedicated sporting and recreation spots around the college, especially especially for our secondary students with revitalisation of our gymnasium room.

Finally, staff and students are going to look at how we can better use the learning space in our N-building to improve student agency, engagement and independent learning.

It is great to be able to invest in the grounds and facilities in the college for the learning and recreation of the students. By the end of the year, the college should seem like a brand new and exciting space for our learning community.

*Peter Bovell*  
Acting Principal



As the term came to an end, the new Technology wing was getting its final touches inside and landscaping had begun. When staff and students return to school on 15 April, they hope to see some BIG changes with the landscaping. Hopefully the college can get to move into this building around week two or three of the new term.

## Tatura Cubby children enjoy time in the garden

With the end of summer and harvest time, the children enjoyed watching their little cherry tomatoes gradually ripen and then picking them once they ripened. They were just so delicious to eat, especially warm from the sun and straight off the vine!

They have also had a lot of fun picking the seeds out of some large sunflowers which they had left in the sun to dry out. The children are now eagerly anticipating the local birds having a feast of the dried black sunflower seeds on the new bird feeder which they have recently constructed.

The children have liked celebrating both staff and children's birthdays and relished having fun in the hairdressing area where they practise their sharing and good communication skills.

They have also spent some time in the Library practising their skills in borrowing and returning books and were very excited to meet renowned children's author Susea Spray and listen to her nautical adventures.

They really enjoyed a reading of her first

book "A Big Blue Sea". The children then made a big boat from an old box, and each made a little boat from donated lids, which got to float their boats and learn more about floating and sinking.

The staff at The Cubby are dedicated to providing quality care for children and ensuring that they have fun and memorable experiences.

Their license to operate covers childcare for fifteen children per day which gives the opportunity to care for families in a very individual and personal way – you become part of The Cubby family.

They endeavour to support parents beyond the regular services of childcare centres, helping with Child Care Subsidy applications with Centrelink, connecting to support services or just have an open ear for the days where it all seems a bit much.

There are a few spots left, so call to inquire about vacancies, have a chat or book a time to get to know The Cubby and staff. Children up to age six can attend and Childcare Subsidy



applies.

The Cubby is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 8:30am – 4:00pm in the orange building on Kerferd Street.

Call on 5824 1315 or 0490 117 030 to have a chat with one of the friendly staff.

# Selected wetlands closed to hunting

The Victorian Government has closed or partially closed thirty-two wetlands to hunting for the 2024 duck season to prevent losses or disturbance to significant numbers of threatened species and breeding waterbirds. Those affected include two Corop locations, Greens Lake and Lake Stewart (private land), both under full closure to protect broilga.

The number of wetlands closed to hunting in 2024 is partly due to an increase in the presence of threatened species currently present at Victorian wetlands.

The increase is due to favourable environmental conditions, including extensive flooding in late 2022, resulting in increased waterbird habitat and breeding activity. As wetlands dry, birds are becoming more concentrated in remaining wetlands.

The closure to duck hunting is to protect significant concentrations of threatened species including the Blue-billed duck, Blue-winged shoveler, Freckled duck, Curlew sandpiper and Broilga.

Other wetlands have also been closed to prevent disturbance to colonies of breeding waterbirds, and three wetlands (Kow Swamp, Reedy Lakes and Richardson

River) are routinely closed each year to reinforce their status as wildlife sanctuaries where game hunting is prohibited.

Closing wetlands or regulating hunting methods at wetlands ensures that threatened species are protected and duck hunting remains sustainable.

Signage will be installed to alert hunters to the closures and wetlands will be monitored throughout the season. If the reason for closure no longer exists, the wetland may be reopened to hunting.

Other wetlands may be closed or further regulated if significant concentrations of threatened species are found.

Hunters should check the GMA website regularly for updates to wetland closures at [gma.vic.gov.au](http://gma.vic.gov.au) or Wetland closures – 2024 duck season.



## Time and bag limits

Hunters are reminded that the hunting start time is 8.00 am every day of the season, from Wednesday, 10 April 2024 to Wednesday, 5 June 2024 (inclusive). Hunting must stop 30 minutes after sunset. The daily bag limit is six game ducks.

The Blue-winged shoveler and Hardhead must not be hunted in Victoria this year.

Hunters are responsible for understanding their legal, ethical and safety obligations when hunting, including knowing where it is legal to hunt.

GMA Game Officers, Victoria Police and Authorised Officers from DEECA, DJSIR and Parks Victoria will be patrolling wetlands across Victoria.

**For more information on game hunting in Victoria, visit [gma.vic.gov.au](http://gma.vic.gov.au).**

## Why do I see and smell smoke?

With fire restrictions easing in some parts of the State, and calm autumn conditions, hundreds of private, agricultural and planned burns are expected to take place in the coming weeks.

While current conditions are ideal for burning, weather patterns may cause smoke to linger over parts of the state overnight and through to early morning.

FFMVic Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman said it was crucial fire agencies took advantage of favourable conditions when they presented.

“Planned burning on public land is one of the tools FFMVic uses to keep Victoria safer from bushfires,” Mr Hardman said.

“While we burn to the conditions not the calendar, autumn generally gives our crews more opportunities to conduct planned burns as the weather is more stable and fire behaviour is manageable and generally predictable.

“With the current favourable weather and forest conditions, we are dedicating all available resources to deliver planned burning.

“Reducing fine fuels such as grass, leaves, bark, shrubs and fallen branches means fires are less intense and slower to spread, making it more likely that firefighters can keep bushfires small and contained before they pose a risk to communities.”

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan is urging Victorians to research and understand permit requirements before conducting private burn-offs.

“It’s your responsibility to know what restrictions are in place so if you’re in doubt, you can find out what you can and can’t do during a Fire Danger Period by referring to the Can I or Can’t I? page of the CFA website,” he said.

# New Soil Health Guide a key part of a farmer’s toolkit

A new resource will serve as a one-stop-shop for farmers and gardeners keen to understand and improve their soil health.

North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and Agriculture Victoria have teamed up to create the region’s new Soil Health Guide.

North Central CMA Sustainable Agriculture Program Manager Mandy Coulson said the guide included a physical and digital book, a step-by step website, and instructional videos on how to understand, test, and improve your soil.

“Soil is central to a lot of the challenges farmers face, so understanding the makeup of soil and how to improve it can go a long way to helping them make the right decisions,” she said.

“No matter whether you’re in a paddock, at your desk, on the lounge, or in the garden, you’ll have access to the information you need to test and improve your soil.

“These resources are perfect for our catchment, but the knowledge can be easily used anywhere around Victoria or Australia.”

Agriculture Victoria Grains Northern

Biosecurity and Agriculture Services Regional Manager Rebecca Mitchell launched the guide at Pyramid Hill today, and said the resources offered practical information and solutions.

“The Soil Health Guide is a toolkit and identifies a range of simple tests anyone can do to determine management actions to improve soil health,” she said.

“The Soil Health Guide looks at ground cover, biological activity, soil colour, pH, texture, topsoil, structure, compaction, and stability.

“The guide also discusses the valuable role played by existing soil carbon stores and how they offer great benefit to both agricultural productivity and the wider environment.”

To find out more, and to access the free resources, go to [www.ncma.vic.gov.au/projects/agriculture/soil-health-guide](http://www.ncma.vic.gov.au/projects/agriculture/soil-health-guide).

This project is delivered by the North Central CMA and Agriculture Victoria, through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program.

**WARANGA NEWS Yearly Subscriptions**  
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**5856 1120 or [wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)**



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# Quiet day and walk at the church on the hill

As St Paul's Church in Rushworth sits imposingly on a rise in a bushland setting at the end of the main street, its striking appearance always impresses.

On a Saturday morning in February, in keeping with Bishop Clarence's Ministry Plan to 'WALK with Christ and to WALK with one another', St Paul's was the setting for a wonderful service of prayer, reflection, silent meditation and meditative music, followed by a short walk down the hill from the church to the edge of town and back.

The walk in the unique setting of this church added to the calm atmosphere. The service was a very relaxed affair and during the homily delivered by Bishop Clarence, he reminded us of his first Good Friday pilgrimage up Growler's Hill in Rushworth, shortly after his and Michelle's arrival in Australia from South Africa.

About thirty people, including visiting

parishioners from Euroa, Longwood, Murchison, Shepparton and Violet Town Anglican churches enjoyed the event which concluded with a magnificent lunch provided by those who attended.

The beautifully maintained church hall was made ready for the lunch by Joy O'Donnell. There was lots of chatter over the meal as we all caught up with friends from the other churches and past priests of Murchison and Rushworth, Victor Adams, Jerome Francis and Helen Malcom.

With the weather perfect on the day, all who attended agreed it was a very special occasion.

*Anne Finlay and Kay Ball,  
Christ Church, Murchison*



The tranquil bush setting on the edge of town is a perfect setting for quiet reflection and prayer.



## District Church Times and Contacts

### Anglican

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

### Presbyterian

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

### Catholic

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

### Shine Church, Stanhope

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

### Living Waters Rushworth:

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

### Generations Church, Tatura

5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

### Salvation Army: 5852 3875

### Uniting Church

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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# living the GOOD LIFE

## Faith and Experience

**What a joy it is to live in the heart of a bustling farming community. Amidst the verdant vineyards, orchards, cereal crops and pastures, the rhythm of the seasons dictates the ebb and flow of life.**

After a few dry months, the season is turning. Rain, and follow-up rains, have made the broad-acre farmers busy: burning stubble, spreading fertiliser, preparing for sowing their winter crops. The vineyards are turning from the bright green of summer to the softer red and yellow colours of autumn.

In the orchards, vineyards, and farms of our small towns, with both the hardships of planting and the joy of harvest, there is an implicit understanding that life's truest fulfillment comes from what we give, not from what we take.

The early Christians, as described in the book of Acts, knew this too. Acts 4:32-37 shows how the first Christians lived in a way that today most people would call radical. They were 'one in heart and mind,' sharing everything they had, ensuring there were no needy persons among them. This wasn't the politics of socialism or communism. It was the practical expression of their faith, grounded by the belief that love and sharing are the essence of Christian community life.

The story of the first Christians shows us how to live a life of faith now. The lifestyle they chose is as relevant today as it was then.

In Acts 4, Joseph, known as Barnabas, became a symbol of encouragement and generosity by selling a field and laying the proceeds at the Apostles' feet. His act of selflessness is an example of the way a transformative act can give grace and animate a community of faith.

For our time, Barnabas embodies the spirit of philanthropy, reminding us that our resources, whether material or spiritual, are not solely for our personal use but are also to be used to uplift and support community life.

In the Gospel of John, the post-resurrection Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them peace and forgiveness. 'Peace be with you,' Jesus declares, not once, not twice, but three times, demonstrating that peace is a key component of the Christian message. This peace is not passive. It's a dynamic and active force which propels the disciples, including us, into the world to forgive others and provide healing.

Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, enabling them to share divine life and power and be ready to live the mission of reconciliation Jesus entrusts to them.

Many of us bear heavy burdens as we navigate life amidst challenging circumstances, deteriorating relationships, profound loss, and deep-seated disappointment. Our experiences can cause pessimism, fear of unchangeable futures, and self-reproach for our perceived roles in the situations we find ourselves in.



The notion of finding relief might seem far-fetched to us, as constant reflection on our predicaments and past choices fosters regret, shame, and guilt, yet, it is precisely during these moments that the Christian call to embody grace and forgiveness becomes paramount, offering a path to alleviate our burdens.

Today, with our world frequently marked by division and isolation, the need for peace, forgiveness, and receiving the Spirit that drove Jesus, is as urgent as ever. Even in small

communities like ours, peace, forgiveness and drawing on divine strength to face our challenges is desperately needed.

Like the disciples hiding behind locked doors because they were afraid, we too can close ourselves off from people and situations. The message of Jesus is clear: it is only through opening ourselves to others, choosing to forgive, and working for peace that we can find healing and fulfilling life.

The Bible shows us that the blueprint for a fulfilling life of faith is not found in rigid dogma or belief but in living out our faith with grace, in community, and through shared experiences.

Robin Meyers in his book 'Saving God from Religion: A Minister's Search for Faith.' highlights this: 'Consider this, in the Sermon on the Mount, there is not a single word about what to believe, only words about what to do and how to be. By the time the Nicene Creed is written, only three centuries later, there is not a single word about what to do and how to be – only words about what to believe.'

Like the early Christians, we are called to live our faith, embodying compassion, servanthood, and encouragement, thus helping to transform our communities and world.

When we accept this call, we honour the legacy of Jesus and the apostles. Our faith is expressed by authentic and grace-filled actions, bringing life and fullness to others and ourselves, through the power of the risen Christ.

This is the Gospel and it's good news.

*Brian Spencer, Minister  
Waranga Uniting Churches.*

## Project Compassion Easter raffle winners



**The winners of the Project Compassion raffle were drawn on Easter Sunday at Cornella.**

The result is that Andrew Johnson will be taking his family to dine at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel next time they're up visiting his mother-in-law, Judith Ryan.

Two people really looking forward to that are Mavis and Cathy Johnson pictured with Fr Jinjo and Cornella Care President, Pam Nihill.

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Elva Moody is our Rushworth Representative  
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**119 Albion Street, Kyabram 3620**  
**Phone: 5852 1061 Mobile: 0409 935 375**

# WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

## DEATH

**SCHULZ, Meerae: 25/12/1992 - 2/3/2024**  
 Suddenly.  
 Formerly of Rushworth.  
 You have left a hole in our hearts, we will miss your quirky ways, chats and your beautiful smile.  
 Our loving thoughts are with John, Libby, Eunjoo and family at this sad time.  
 Reunited with your beautiful mum Wendy. *'Fly free little one'*  
 Carol & Norm McMillan and family

## IN MEMORIAM

**HAYWOOD, Emma Andee: (06 Mar 1975 - 04 April 1993)**  
 I'll be seeing you  
 In all the old familiar places  
 That this heart of mine embraces  
 All day through  
 I'll be seeing you in the morning sun  
 And when the night is new  
 I'll be looking at the moon  
 But I'll be seeing you  
 (Billie Holiday)  
 Your Dad and little Mum  
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### TERMINATION

## Fire Danger Period

A reminder that the Fire Danger Period is scheduled to cease.  
 The Fire Danger Period will terminate at 0100 hours on the dates shown.

Municipality	Date of Termination dd/mm/yyyy
Campaspe Shire Council	08/04/2024
Gannawarra Shire Council	08/04/2024
Loddon Shire Council	08/04/2024
Swan Hill Rural City Council	01/04/2024

Certain restrictions on the lighting of fires are in force during the Fire Danger Period.  
 Information about fire restrictions within the Country Area of Victoria can be obtained from [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au), your local CFA District Office or Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.



Jason Heffernan  
Chief Officer – CFA

## PUBLIC NOTICES



### Helen Truran Marriage Celebrant

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The deadline for display advertising copy is the Friday before publication.  
 The deadline for classified line ads is the Monday before publication.

*Early booking of colour ads is strongly advised as space is limited.*

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## TO GIVE AWAY

**FREE ADS:** When we have a little space like this to fill on our classified pages we will run your "To Give Away" ad without charge. So if the cat had too many kittens or you have something you just want to give away, drop us a note and we will run the ad when we have space.

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# DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

## WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

### APRIL

<b>Sat 13</b>	Rushworth Speedway: AMCA's, GV Open Saloons, GV Productions feature, GV Ladies feature, GV Junior feature
<b>Sun 14</b>	Stanhope Monster Garage Sale - from 8.30am
<b>Sat 20</b>	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
<b>Thu 25</b>	Anzac Day
<b>Sun 28</b>	The Girgarre Junkestra free concert at Girgarre Soundshell from 1.30pm
<b>Sun 28</b>	Old time Gospel Singalong - Jigarre Jammers, 10-11am Girgarre Hall

### MAY

<b>Sat 4</b>	Tatura Monster Garage Sale 8am-1pm
<b>Sun 5</b>	Colbinabbin Silo Art Picnic & Wine Festival 11 am - 3 pm
<b>Sun 12</b>	Stanhope Monster Garage Sale - from 8.30am Mothers Day at Days Mill, Day Road Murchison 10am-4pm
<b>Sat 18</b>	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, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11am - 1pm
- Rushworth & District Community Bank Board: meets 1st Tuesday monthly, at 6pm
- Rushworth Events Inc: meets bi-monthly, third Wednesday at 7pm
- Community Walking Group: Thurs 8 - 9am meet at front of Waranga Health
- Stanhope Mens Shed: Mon - Wed - Fri 9am - 12 noon
- Murchison Mens Shed: Wednesdays 10am - 3pm
- Rushworth Garden Lovers Club meet 3rd Thursday Month 1.30pm at old Senior Citizen's building
- Friends of the Hostel: Third Monday 1.30pm monthly

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

## EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ADVERTISING DEADLINES

### NEXT EDITION

**Display Ads: Friday, 19 April**

**Classifieds: Noon Monday,**

**22 April**

wnews@iinet.net.au

## Waranga News



### A Voluntary Community Newspaper

Printed by Maxam Printing, Shepparton  
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**E-mail address: wnews@iinet.net.au**

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

Advertising & Accounts: (03) 5856 1120

Editor: 0407 561 311

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# Your Council News

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 E: [shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au)  
[www.campaspe.vic.gov.au](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au)

## Project Update

Stage 2 of the Rushworth Streetscape works are now practically complete with remaining line marking works expected to occur during April 2024 to complete the project. Thanks to the Rushworth community for your patience during the project.



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

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

### Employment

#campaspecareers

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

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



### Immunisation Sessions

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

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

**Wednesday, 17 April**

• 9 – 9.45am | Kyabram Senior Citizens Centre

**Thursday, 18 April**

• 5.30 – 6.30pm | Echuca Library

**Monday, 22 April**

• 9 – 9.45am | Tongala Service Centre

Having difficulty making an appointment?

Please call Council on 1300 666 535.



### Free Disaster Waste Disposal

The Victorian Government is providing free disaster waste to Campaspe Shire residents until 30 April. Residents who were impacted by disaster, including fires, storms and energy emergencies from 13 February onwards are able to dispose of their excess disaster waste at any of the eight Resource Recovery Centres in the shire. For more information, scan the QR code.



### Notice of Intention to Discontinue a Road and Sell the Subject Land

Pursuant to Section 206(1) and Clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1989 (Act), Campaspe Shire Council (Council), proposes to discontinue part of the car park known as Mackay Street, Rochester shown hatched in red on the plan below.

Any person may make a submission in respect of the proposed discontinuance. Any person wishing to make a submission must do so in writing by Thursday, 9 May 2024. All submissions will be considered in accordance with section 223 of the Act.

Following the consideration of any submissions, Council may resolve to proceed, proceed with conditions, or not proceed, with the proposed discontinuance of the road. Should Council resolve to proceed with the proposed discontinuance then pursuant to Section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Act 2020), Council intends to sell by private treaty the subject land to the adjoining landowner for a total of \$6,600.00 (GST inclusive).

The proposed sale will be subject to contractual terms satisfactory to Council. Any person wishing to make a submission on the proposal to sell the Land. Any person wishing to make a submission must do so in writing by Thursday, 9 May 2024. All submissions will be considered in accordance with Section 114 of the Act 2020. Following the consideration of any submissions, Council may decide to sell the Land, part of the Land or not to sell the Land.

Submissions should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer and can be delivered to Council's Echuca Office at 2 Heygarth Street, Echuca, emailed to [shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au) or posted to Campaspe Shire Council, PO Box 35, Echuca VIC 3564. Submissions received on the proposed discontinuance or sale of the land may be included in the Council Agenda and Minutes published on Council's website, including the personal information of the submitter. Please indicate in your submission if you do not wish your personal information to be identified in the Agenda and Minutes.

Any person who has made a submission can request in the submission that they wish to appear in person or represented by a person acting on their behalf, to be heard in support of their submission before Council (or its committee established by Council for this purpose)

### Now Open

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



### Job Skills Grants

Council's Job Skills Grants are now open. The grant program involving a one off payment of up to \$250 is designed to assist 16 to 25 year olds completing short courses and qualifications. Applications will close when the funding allocation is exhausted.

### Economic Development and Tourism Strategy - Online Industry Workshop

Council is hosting an online industry workshop seek further feedback and comments to inform our Economic Development and Tourism Strategy. The Online workshop will be held at 5.30pm, Tuesday, 16 April. Visit the Now Open page for more information and link to the workshop.

and will be notified of the time and date of the hearing. Further information regarding the proposal, including a plan of the land, may be obtained from Council's Property Manager, Sally Ruckwood on 03 5481 2200 or on Council's website.

**Pauline Gordon**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Location of Land (pictured below)**

Parish: Rochester West  
Township: Rochester  
Section: 2A  
Crown Allotment: Part 2, 3, 4 5 & 6



# Euroa 'Show and Shine' back on track!



A last-ditch stand by the Euroa Show and Shine to save the event has been wildly successful with over fifty people attending an extraordinary meeting of the club on Wednesday 3 April.

A new committee was formed with Donna Carroll as President, Chris Pritchard Secretary and Andrew McGavern Treasurer.

Past President Ian Langlands will take up as Vice President.

The new committee of over twenty people was created, possibly the largest contingent for some time, with nine women represented in that number. Donna Carroll will also be the first female President of the Euroa Show and Shine Inc. The new Facebook and Web page editor will be Belinda Pritchard. It was very

apparent that Euroa was not about to let its premier event die!

Following the meeting, Mr. Langlands said that the band hall was filled with people, all of whom signed up as members of the Euroa Show and Shine Inc, and all positions on the new committee were filled. A further meeting will be held next month to formalize some of the positions.

Several experienced members are also included in the committee, and these will no doubt be acting as mentors for the new-

comers, who will be facing a steep learning curve.

The bottom line will be that the Australian National Show and Shine event for 2024 can now take place on Sunday 6 October.

Meantime, the ongoing support of the iconic event's followers through these difficult days has been greatly appreciated by all. Well done, everybody!

We can now look forward once again to "the first Sunday of October."

Story and Picture by Ray Read



# Rushworth Senior footy is back



With the 2024 season fast approaching we have plenty of action happening behind the scenes to make sure the club and teams are in full swing.

A massive shout out to the football committee who have been working non-stop since before Christmas with recruiting and have managed to bring back senior football to RFNC. This is something that the club is really proud of. We have a great coach and playing group. Come along to games or training to see the new and fresh faces of the club.

## Training

Training nights are staying on Wednesday nights (except Junior 11 & Under netball which is Thursday nights).

## Auskick/NetSetGo

We will be kicking off at 4.30pm with our Auskick and NetSetGo, then the rest of our teams to follow. Each week we will have dinners available and the bar open - everyone is welcome!

## Round 1/Trivia Night

Our first game of the season is this weekend, 13 April and we will be travelling over to Merrigum to face off against the Bulldogs. We'd love to see plenty of Tiger supporters there.

After the game at Merrigum we are hosting a Trivia Night at the clubrooms.

Everyone is welcome to come along and test their knowledge with plenty of laughs to have and prizes to be won.

## Round 2 (20 April)

Our first home game against Longwood is at the Ironbark Stadium and it's set to be a great day. The day will start nice and early with our juniors and right through to our senior netball and football. Everyone at the club prides themselves on being able to keep the club going, even after a few rumours about folding or going into recess. There are still plenty of passionate people around that won't let the club down and we'd really appreciate the town supporting us.

## Easter BBQ

Also, a massive thank you to everyone who supported our BBQ at the Easter Festival and a special thank you to all our members who worked tirelessly to keep the snags cooking.

## Upcoming events

Keep an eye on our facebook page or in your next edition of the Waranga News for upcoming news and events.

Christie Thompson  
RFNC Inc

## KDFL Season 2024

Round 1 - 13 Apr at Merrigum

Round 2 - 20 Apr vs Longwood

Round 3 - 27 Apr at Lancaster

Round 4 - 4 May vs Girgarre

Round 5 - 19 May at Dookie

Round 6 - 25 May vs Avenel

Round 7 - 1 Jun at Undera

Round 8 - 16 Jun vs Tally

Round 9 - 22 Jun at Stanhope

Round 10 - 29 Jun vs Shep East

Round 11 - 13 Jul vs Violet Town

Round 12 - 20 Jul at Nagambie

Round 13 - 27 Jul vs Murch/Tool

Round 14 - 3 Aug at Girgarre

Round 15 - 10 Aug vs Merrigum

Round 16 - 17 Aug at Longwood

# Rushworth's first footy premiership



Rushworth's first football premiership was in a minor league – the Goulburn Valley Central Junior Football League (GVCJFL).

This was a new association created in 1929 and comprising four local teams. The Rushworth Junior Football Club had reformed in April 1929, apparently after a break of several years, to compete in the league.

At the club's inaugural meeting, the following officials were elected:

**President** – N Boehm

**Vice-Presidents** – W Main and W Graydon

**Secretaries** – H Chandler and A Spence

**Treasurer** – A Spence

President Norman Boehm was a baker in High Street, who also played in the team.

In 1929 this Rushworth team played on Saturdays against Stanhope, Girgarre and Murchison. Some of the names that appear in match reports for the season include Boehm, Budd, Chandler, Collins, Curtis, Hay, Hilder, Howard, Kane, McLeod, Miller, Murphy, Robson and Schumann. In other words, the playing list included many men from well-known local families, as well as many who have been forgotten.

The season comprised four complete rounds so that every team played each other the same number of times.

By the end of the season, the ladder from top to bottom was Girgarre, Rushworth, Stanhope and Murchison.

In the finals, first played third and second played fourth to determine who would play off in what we would now call the grand final. Rushworth and Stanhope won their games and shaped up to play their final at Girgarre.

The final was a hard fought, low-scoring affair, with Rushworth triumphing 7.12.54 to Stanhope 6.6.42. Perhaps this was the start of that long-standing rivalry that persists nearly 100 years later?

Goalkickers in the final for Rushworth were: Boehm 3, McLeod 2, Chandler and Robson 1. Stanhope: Cochrane 3, W Hitchcock 2 and Buzza 1.

The Kyabram Guardian correspondent named the best players for Rushworth as Keith Kane, Curtis, Miller, Boehm, Collins and Hilder, while Stanhope's best were Tucknott (adjudged BOG despite being in the losing team), W Hitchcock, Cochrane, Golding, J Smith, H Hitchcock and Linford.

Rex Huggard was considered to be an impartial umpire even though he played for the Rushworth senior team in 1929.

In those days, the team which finished on top of the ladder had the right to challenge the winner of the final, with the winner to be declared the premiers. Girgarre had finished the season on top and duly exercised their right to a challenge. The game was played at Murchison.

Girgarre was disadvantaged when one of the cars transporting some of their players blew a tyre and rolled on the way to the match. There were no serious injuries, but no doubt the players were shaken up and this may have affected them.

Rushworth thrashed them in the last game of the season, doubling their score 9.16.70 to



This photo of the 1929 premier team was kindly provided by Gwen Hitchcock, but as yet, we have been unable to identify all those in the picture. We would appreciate any assistance readers could provide.

**Back:** Clarrie Brasher (trainer), Dick Duke, Vic Howard, \_\_\_\_, Man in suit, \_\_\_\_, Fred Schumann, \_\_\_\_, A Furphy (Trainer)

**Middle:** Keith Kane, \_\_\_\_, C McLeod, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, Royce Curtis

**Front:** \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, Otto Hilder, \_\_\_\_, Bernie Collins, George "Pud" Schumann

**Mascot:** Stan Hilder

**Other players in the selected team were** Norm Boehm, Arthur Budd, Ron Chandler, Henry Hay, Fred Miller, A Murphy, Ron Robson, Tommy Silva, Alec Spence

4.8.32

Goalkickers for Rushworth were Boehm 4, Budd 2, Hay, Robson and Curtis 1.

For Girgarre, goals were scored by Heaslip, Frowd, Charles and Harper.

Best players for Rushworth were Royce Curtis, Robson, McLeod, Miller, Hilder, Schumann, Murphy and Boehm

Best for Gig, Atkins, Muller, Heaslip, Charles and Hivon.

The game was interrupted by a huge melee in the second half involving both players and spectators, not an uncommon occurrence in the early days.

It took some time to clear the ground. Up to that point, Girgarre had held the upper hand, but only managed to score two behinds in the second half. Perhaps starting the melee was a Rushworth tactic to unsettle the minor premiers or Girgarre might have been frustrated by its inability to score after half time.

Rushworth's Bernie Collins played in this premiership as well as the next five GV premierships in a row - four with Rushworth and one with Shepparton (against Rushworth).

For 'Wizzy' Howard, this was the first of eleven grand finals he played in over twelve years (with this "junior" team, Rushworth's main team and a year with Sandhurst in the powerful Bendigo Football League). He was also a member of six premiership teams.

Keith Kane matched the feat of playing in six premiership teams between 1929-35, playing alongside 'Wizzy' and Bernie in all of those glorious victories. Great stuff we can only dream of today!

*Tony Ford*

## Rushworth Speedway

**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 J uniors, 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 Mmemorial.

**25 May**

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

# Colbo Sports Report

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## Colbo Seniors made a great start to the season

We headed over the hill and through the bush over to Elmore this weekend to kick off season 2024, in a different timeslot than normal with the seniors playing under lights.

### CFNC - Round 1: Colbo v Elmore Football Seniors

#### Colbinabbin 17.12. 114 def Elmore 6.4. 40

The senior boys came out to spoil Elmore's 150th year celebrations in whatever way they could. Jed and his newly appointed team of assistant coaches had a plan, and it worked!

A fast start saw Colbo on the board with a quick Elmore reply to follow. The new recruits, who have been welcomed to the club, such as Patrick Taban, Nathan Basile, Alex Carr and Jamaica Ilsley slotting in like they'd been at the club for years. A fast and skilful first half saw the Colbo boys go into the main break two points in front after trailing by seven points at quarter time.

From there, the game got rough and very physical and the Colbo lads matched it by playing for the ball. Run-down tackles and intercept marks became a feature as the inside fifty count started to climb.

The old fossil Nick Knight showed everyone he has still got plenty of tricks up his sleeve, as he and Connor Aldous walked the ball out of defence with ease, and the other new recruit, Gus Martin, locked down on country Victoria's most prominent forward, Jimmy Harney. The goals began to flow and the boys took a four goal lead into three quarter time.

The fourth quarter took everyone by surprise, as the floodgates began to open. A good pre-season started to show as the boys went up a gear and ran right over the top of Elmore.

**Goals:** Alex Carr 5 goals, Clint Shields with 3, Jed Brain, Jordy Wilson, Charlie Ryan with 2 each, 1 each to the Basile brothers Aidan and Nathan, as well as 1 to Sammy Coughlin.

**Best on ground:** Nathan Basile, Alex Carr, Angus Martin, Patrick Taban, Jude Ryan, William Lowe.

### Reserves

#### Colbinabbin 2.5. 17 lt Elmore 13.20. 98

It was a hard week at the selection table, with the new coach managing to scrape together a side of sixteen players.

Captain Crilly was the man to lead the boys out with a few older and a few returning legends joining forces with the young brigade.

Effort was something that could not be overlooked as the boys found a bit of energy after letting Elmore get away to a quick two goal lead. Scoring became harder for the opposition as Paul Morgan and big Harry Lewis started rebounding out of the defence more often.

Willy Morrow was a welcomed return and was our most dangerous forward player Jimmy Duke did not lose a ruck tap; even the Elmore boys cottoned onto that and started roving off him.

For three quarters the lads kept within reach, until a blowout late in the game turned the scoreboard a bit uglier as the Colbo boys simply ran out of steam.

**Goals:** A third quarter goal to Willy Morrow and

fourth quarter goal to big Harry Lewis, who snuck forward, rounded out the goal kickers. Elmore running out 81-point winners.

**Best on ground:** Will Morrow, James Duke, Paul Morgan, Harrison Lewis, Ned Morgan, Bodey Abbott.

### Netball

#### A Grade

#### Colbinabbin 52 lt Elmore 57

A great effort by all the girls on the weekend, everyone put in 110%. The attackers worked well together with some great passages of play. In defence it was a tough competition, but the girls worked well in the ring getting plenty of rebounds and intercepts but just missing out in the end. Macy played very well in WA playing her first A Grade game.

**Best on court:** Ella Turnbull

#### A Reserve

#### Colbinabbin 36 lt Elmore 45

A game against Elmore is always a tough game for our A Reserve team. The 2024 line up features an entirely new defensive end, Charlotte, Aggie and Mikayla, who proved to be agile and explosive with multiple interceptions and rebounds. With Elmore up by seven before our first goal, Dom and Lily worked hard to make every shot count. The effortless combination between these two managed to get us only three goals down in the third quarter.

**Best on court:** Charlotte Ashford-Meehan

#### B Grade

#### Colbinabbin 20 lt Elmore 43

Round 1 saw a brand new B Grade team take the court for 2024 with a couple of new players and others returning to the green and gold. Taking on Elmore, the reigning premiers was always going to be tough but the girls held their heads high and showed some great passages of play and pressure down the court.

**Best on court:** Lily Caithness

#### B Reserve

#### Colbo 50 def Elmore 25

Round one done! It was great to have the twilight opening match versus the Bloods. The girls hit the ground running, with very little time training together it certainly wasn't reflective in the first quarter. Pud showed incredible leadership through the centre and Sarah never missed a goal. Second quarter Alex Duke and Stella Martin continued to shut down the Bloods goalers. Gabby continued to feed our goalers beautifully, also providing great leadership in the attacking end. Our new recruit Clare had her debut where she was impactful in WD.

Third quarter saw us change things up with an attempt of the rolling subs. Lil Cat stepped in mid-way in the centre and continued the great work of Gabby. Final quarter saw us continue the strength the girls showed all game. The team communicated well, worked hard all game and showed great sportsmanship. A well-deserved win

and a great start to the season. Best on goes to Pud, the B Grade Best and Fairest last year and an incredible leader all throughout the court all game. Best on: Alex Ingram

### 17 & Under

#### Colbinabbin 18 lt Elmore 51

Colbo 17s opened the season in competitive spirits against Elmore, working on passing and movement down the court. The defence worked hard all game, attempting to block the Elmore goalies. The mid courters utilised the court to practise flowing passing and clearing, and the goalies were able to score for the team. The girls have taken away feedback to work on throughout the season, but overall a good start.

**Best on court:** Brigid Connolly

### 15 & Under

#### Colbo 18 lt Elmore 34

After round one our under 15s look like being a great team in 2024 and we can't wait to see what is head of them this season. We welcome Evie Riordan and her family to the team and the club and love the way she has slotted in.

Elmore proved too strong for our team in the first game, but all players put in a great effort and didn't make it easy for the Bloods. We look forward to another great match in Gunbower and coming away with our first win.

**Best on court:** Mallee Jones and Macey Ryan

### 13 & Under

#### Colbo 1 lt Elmore 54

It was a tough day in the office for the 13s crew, with many players away for the holidays. Nevertheless, our keen Under 11s players rose to the task.

Elmore's defence proved tough when approaching the goal ring, however the strong holds and forward movement from our versatile shooters kept them at bay. Our midcourters made it their mission to chase each and every loose ball, feeding it beautifully into the goal third, not to mention the many turnovers from our defence. Whilst the score did not reflect how well the hoppers gelled, there is much to take from the game in terms of how to combat strong defensive pressure and speedy players. We look forward to showcase our skills against Leitchville Gunbower next week. Well done everyone!

**Best on court:** Frankie Ryan and Lucinda Ryan

### HDFNL 2024 Fixture

13 Apr - Leitch/Gunb v Colbo

20 Apr - Colbo vs Heathcote

27 Apr - White Hills v Colbo

4 May - Colbinabbin v Huntly

11 May - Mt Pleasant v Colbo

18 May - Colbinabbin v LBU

25 May - Bye

1 Jun - Nth Bendigo v Colbo

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Colbinabbin Bed and Breakfast  
53 Mitchell Street Colbinabbin

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



# A snapshot of the Rushworth Festival



Rushworth from the air - photo David Roberts.



(Left) *'In their Easter bonnets with all the frills upon it They'll be the grandest fellows in the Easter parade.'*

(Photo by Sharon Perry)



The photographer being photographed - Festival photographer Sharon Perry is captured at her own game by fellow paparazzo Cass Alexander.



Rushworth Community Bank's Piggy joined the Footy Club's cooks at the barbecue – was he there to help or to sample the product?

BBC EARTH EXPERIENCE

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