

# Waranga News

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

Published fortnightly since 1978

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

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A community newspaper  
staffed by volunteers

Thursday 25 April 2024

## Animals and their homes on the F-3 agenda

It's back to school for the winter term and shaping up to be a busy time with lots of activities coming up at our local schools.

This Term in Science the F-3 class at Rushworth P-12 will be investigating animal habitats, as well as life cycles and other important information to help them understand and care for animals. This week the children have been using different materials including leaves, grass, and playdough to make habitats for their chosen animals.

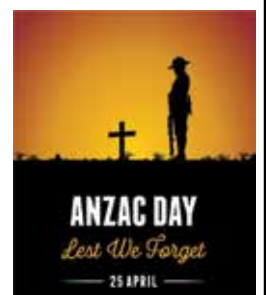
Hudson (right) has obviously enjoyed creating an animal habitat in class this week.

Keep up to date with the news from our local schools each week in the Waranga News.



## ANZAC Day services

- Rushworth:** 6am Dawn Service Memorial High street  
9.50am March Followed by commemorative service. Assemble for March at Post Office. Service at Memorial.
- Murchison:** 5.30am Dawn Service. Followed by Gunfire Breakfast, Murchison War Memorial, Riverside Gardens, Stevenson street.
- Girgarre:** 5.45am Dawn Service. Followed by Gunfire breakfast Station street.
- Stanhope:** Services held last Sunday.
- Colbinabbin:** 9am Commemorative service Memorial Hall, Mitchell street.
- Corop:** 11am Commemorative service at Community Centre
- Tatura:** 5.45am Dawn service. Followed by Gunfire breakfast. Mactier Memorial Garden, Hogan street.  
10.30am March. Followed by Commemorative Service. Assemble for March at Stuart Mock Place. Service at Mactier Memorial Garden.
- Kyabram:** 9.45am March. Followed by Commemorative Service. Assemble for March at southern end of Memorial Walk, Fenaughty Street. Service at Memorial park, Allan Street.
- Nagambie:** 6am. Gunfire Breakfast, Nagambie RSL Clubrooms, 360 High Street.  
9.30am Commemorative Service. Followed by March. Service at Mechanics Institute 286 High street. March to Cenotaph and return to RSL Clubroom.



Chris Bolton **BOLTON ESTATE AGENTS** 0413 092 698



# GV Health Waranga News



April 2024

## RESIDENTS OUT AND ABOUT

Our residents have been keeping themselves very busy, regularly attending road trips and weekly outings. Recently, Waranga Health residents enjoyed a trip to Echuca and topped it off with a lunch at McDonalds! One resident Gwen was able to catch up with family - including great grandchildren whilst there - which was a hit!

Residents at Waranga Health enjoy a range of activities which includes coffee at Colbinabbin pub, meerkat viewing at Kyabram Zoo, McDonald's lunches in Moama and family gatherings.

They are frequently entertained by performances from David Parker, The Splinters Brass Band, Greg Dudley's country tunes, Murray Ross's art, Bunnings' crafts, rickshaw rides and Nerada from Campaspe library. In addition to this, they love in-house games such as Scrabble, Phase Ten, and Rummikub.

Residents also have the opportunity for Catholic Church visits, monthly Mass and Friday hymns. Homemade treats add to the community spirit.



## A REMINDER TO VISITORS OF WARANGA HEALTH

The prevention of illnesses and viruses in aged care and hospital settings is best achieved by high rates of vaccination of residents, staff and visitors.

Please do not visit Waranga Health if you have any of the following symptoms:

- A cough, headache, muscle aches and pains, fatigue, runny nose, sneezing or sore throat.

## NOTICEBOARD

### Community Walking Group

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

### Rushworth AA group

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

### Carer Support Group

When: Thursday 2 May 2024  
Thursday 6 June 2024  
Where: Rushworth Community House  
Time: 2pm - 4pm  
New members welcome  
Phone: (03) 5851 8026 for more information.

### Women's Health Clinic

When: Wednesday 29 May 2024  
Where: Waranga Health  
Time: 2pm - 5pm  
Cost: No cost  
Phone: (03) 5851 8000 to make an appointment.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Group Exercise Classes

Fortnightly sessions supervised by an Accredited Exercise Physiologist  
When: Commencing 2 May 2024  
Where: Waranga Health, 14 High Street, Rushworth  
Cost: \$6.40 per session  
Call (03) 5484 4465 for more information and to register.

### Skin Checks

When: Wednesday 6 November 2024  
Where: GV Skin & Specialist Centre, Shepparton  
Time: 9am - 1pm  
Cost: Consultation fee payable on the day.  
Call (03) 5851 8000 for more information or to book an appointment.  
Free transport leaving Rushworth 8am and Stanhope 8.15am.

## FIGHTING FLU STARTS WITH YOU

2024 INFLUENZA VACCINES AVAILABLE

The INFLUENZA vaccine is recommended for people aged 6 months and over and is FREE for those most at risk of influenza and its complications\*



## Breast Screening

Wednesday 29th May 2024

BreastScreen Victoria is part of the national screening program for breast cancer and provides free mammograms to eligible Victorians. Waranga Community Health has secured a group booking in Shepparton for any person wishing to book a mammogram.

For bookings contact:

Waranga Community Health on  
5851 8026

Transport departing:

- Rushworth 9.00 am
- Stanhope 9.15 am



BreastScreen saves lives  
www.breastscreen.org.au 13 20 50

## WARANGA HEALTH - COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE

PHONE (03) 5851 8000 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON:

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Cardiology  
District Nursing

Exercise Physiologist  
Physiotherapy  
Podiatry

QUIT Educator  
Women's Health / Sexual Health  
Nurse

Waranga Campus Rushworth | P: (03) 5851 8000

E: waranga.admin@gvhealth.org.au | www.gvhealth.org.au



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



# Rushworth Brothers-In-Arms

by Tony Ford

Rushworth brothers Alan and Bruce Brown both served our country overseas in World War 11. Their military careers followed similar paths, in that both were first called up and served in the militia (Citizens Military Forces or CMF) before joining the AIF.

The boys were born to long-established Rushworth families. Their father Christie Brown (Junior) and Elizabeth (nee Crothers) are buried in the Rushworth cemetery having lived in the town all their lives. Around the time of the war, they were garage proprietors, living in Stanhope Road. By the late 1940s, Christie listed his occupation as farmer.

Like many people in Rushworth at the time, some of the boys' grandparents had migrated to Australia. On their father's side, Christie Brown Snr was from Holland and Margaret from Scotland. Christie was a baker, a trade that his son Christie also followed for a time before going into other business. The family attended the Methodist church, and the five children did all their schooling in Rushworth. On their mother's side, Elizabeth's father Daniel's roots were in Cornwall. Daniel was a great entrepreneur, and amongst many other enterprises, ran hardware stores in Rushworth and Stanhope.

## Bruce's story

The older brother, Lance Sergeant Bruce Kelvin Brown (VX87711) was born in Rushworth in 1919, just after the end of the First World War. Bruce enlisted in the CMF of his own volition in January 1939, before the outbreak of the war. Those who enlisted in this way did some basic training then attended regular training sessions and annual camps.

Members of the CMF could be called up to serve on Australian soil (which at the time included Papua New Guinea). Bruce got the call in October 1941 then chose to join the AIF in July the following year. He served full time for about four and a half years, well over two years of which was served on Papua New Guinea and Bougainville with the 2nd Field Regiment.

## Alan's story

Younger brother, Lance Sergeant Alan Wilbur Brown (VX135236) was born in Rushworth in 1923. He had been working as a hardware salesman, one would assume in his grandfather Daniel's business. He joined the CMF when he was 18 and ended up in Darwin for two and a half years from August 1942. During that time, he enlisted in the regular army, serving in ordnance units. The Japanese started bombing northern Australia in February 1942, with air raids continuing until November 1943. Ordnance depots would certainly have been a target, so Alan would have witnessed some of those raids.

In August 1945 Alan went overseas to New Guinea and New Britain for over six months before eventually being discharged in June 1946. His final unit was the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Australian Base Ordnance Depot. Alan's service overseas started just after VJ (Victory Over Japan) Day – 15 August 1945 - so although not in the line of fire, he would have seen some horrific sights.

## Lack of recognition

The RSL, who are the present-day custodians of the war memorial, unveiled a plaque on the war memorial about fifteen years ago, which purports to show the names of all those with a local connection who served. Along with other deserving veterans, the Brown brothers are not included on that list.

The RSL has stated in writing that it "feels that it would be inappropriate to now make alterations to the names on the plaque", even though it demonstrably contains omissions and possibly errors. In recent years, much more information has become publicly available about the service of WW2 veterans who had a local connection, including the service history of many. As a result, there seems to be no reason why the list of veterans could not be revisited to produce a more accurate representation of those who served.

Anzac Day is a time for remembrance, so it follows that all the locals who served our country overseas in its hour of need deserve that recognition.

*REFERENCES: Bons, Tracey, Rushworth Businesses & Their Owners, Vol 1 & 2; AWM, DVA and Ancestry websites*

**Right: Lance Sergeant Bruce Brown (Photo courtesy of NAA)**

**Below: Bruce's unit on Bougainville 1945. Bruce third from right in second row from the front. (Photo courtesy of AWM)**





# Call out for local artists to honour soldiers

**Campaspe Shire Council is calling for creatives to design, develop and install a new 3-dimensional artwork in Echuca, honouring soldiers in the region.**

Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Amos acknowledged the importance of the installation in collaboration with Echuca RSL. The standalone piece in Echuca will be highlighted in ANZAC and Remembrance services to honour and celebrate veterans for years to come.

“We’re asking artists to channel their creative juices to come up with a statue or sculptural concept that commemorates those who have served in previous conflicts.

“The artwork will be located in the Echuca District War Memorial precinct on Hare Street and will incorporate the names of the 1,619 fallen and returned servicemen into the design.

## Replacing memorial walls

“As some people may be aware, the memorial walls with the names of those who had served was removed due to safety concerns. This provided an opportunity to replace the walls with something that reflects the value of their service,” Cr Amos said.

The EOI process will assist in creating a shortlist of artists for an independent panel to review. The panel will feature representatives from Campaspe Shire’s Arts and Culture team, Infrastructure team and Echuca RSL.

“We, the Echuca Returned Services League (RSL) are excited to be working with Campaspe Shire to deliver a new sculptural concept in the memorial precinct. The installation will memorialise those who fought for our country and region in a moving tribute for future generations to continue to pay respect and remember the sacrifices that have been made.

“We look forward to developing and delivering the final installation over the next two years,” Denis Shanahan, Echuca RSL sub-branch president added.

The project will be awarded in late 2024, with the project set to be complete by ANZAC Day 2026.

**The Expressions of Interest close at 5pm on Friday, 14 June.**

To submit an Expression of Interest, please visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-council/Now-open/EOI-Echuca-District-War-Memorial-Artwork](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-council/Now-open/EOI-Echuca-District-War-Memorial-Artwork).

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

## Have your say!

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

## Ailing Lone Pine

In 2001 Rushworth was offered a second Lone Pine seedling. After discussion with Rushworth RSL and Rushworth and district Lions Club, it was decided to plant the seedling in the Lions Park.

The original tree had been planted in the original hospital grounds.

A third tree has since been planted at the cemetery.

The planting ceremony was carried out on 11/11/2001 to coincide with the opening of Federation improvements to the park.

The planting was carried out by Lt- Col R G Wells assisted by RSL Member Doug Perry.

For the first ten years of life it was cared for by Lions Rea Cheatley and Ray Pooley and it grew into a very nice tree.

Now whether by a malicious act or neglect it appears to be completely dead, care of the park was passed to Campaspe Shire at their request but surely during the demolition of the original toilet block or by the regular maintenance crew the health of the tree should



have been noticed and the shire arborist notified. Even now the cause of death needs to be investigated.

It should also be noted that the original Lone Pine is in a very bad state with several branches broken, not by wind damage. It also needs urgent attention.

Both trees were included on the heritage tree register compiled by Campaspe Shire.

*Sid Sprague  
ex- Rushworth Lion*





# New Grants and Sponsorships application portal for Rushworth's Community Bank

Community Bank Rushworth & District has recently made the change to a new application portal for their Community Grants and Sponsorships. With the new application system, applicants will be able to apply for either a Grant or Sponsorship through a single login profile and removing the need for paper forms.

In the past, the Community Grants program has supported a broad range of projects in the Rushworth district with investments per project ranging from \$2,000 up to \$40,000 since 2004. Branch Manager Alek Stokes said "Previously, we invited the community to apply for our Community Grants for one month a year. By moving our application process to the SmartyGrants portal, we can invite grant applications year-round. This now gives our community groups the opportunity to apply when the need arises rather than waiting until the years round opens and often forgetting. This is particularly important for those time-sensitive projects that can't sit on hold until a grant round opens."

The Community Banks sponsorship applications are also moving to the new portal, removing the need for applicants to obtain, download, print or hand in paper forms. Sponsorship applications, generally for smaller value projects or sporting groups, have always been open year-round. However, the move to the SmartyGrants

portal means that groups will be able to apply more efficiently with many details copied across from previous applications. Groups are encouraged to create a login profile specific to their group that can be passed from Committee to Committee as the years progress.

Alek said, "We look forward to seeing our community groups access the new application portal so we can see where we can invest our profits next. Our current community investment is sitting at more than \$1.7 million."

Community Bank Rushworth & District return up to 80% of their profits to the local community through grants, sponsorships and scholarships. Enquires about grants and sponsorships can be made to Charleen Warburton, Marketing and Local Engagement Manager, on 0408 572 808 during business hours.

Applications can be made at <https://communitybankrushworth.smartygrants.com.au/>



Customer Service Officer Bridie Baker with a cheque that show how BIG the bank's community investment is in the community.

## Connect and Grow at your local

**Anita Pirie, Manager of Rushworth Community House Learn Local, welcomes you to their Open Day coming up on Tuesday 7 May. "Come along and see everything we have to offer you from the chance to simply connect with others to opportunities to learn new skills and grow."**

Rushworth Community House Learn Local is holding an Open Day with other Learn Locals from across the region as a way of showcasing the incredible opportunities they have on offer.

"Between now and December we plan to offer courses in Digital Essential at low or no cost to eligible adults. Registering is simple and we are flexible in how we deliver our training including the chance to learn in a classroom, online or a bit of both, and at the pace that you choose – so people should really drop in and explore what we do." Said Anita.

Your Learn Local is a pre-accredited training provider. This means they provide the skills you need for work, study and life. Completing a Learn Local course can give you with the skills needed to go onto further accredited training with TAFE and Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) or go straight into employment!

Learn Local are not-for-profit community organisations registered and funded by the Victorian Government. There are over 200 Learn Local locations across Melbourne and Regional Victoria offering a wide range of courses.

**To find out more attend the Open Day at your Learn Local :**

When: Tuesday 7 May 10am-3pm

Where: at a Learn Local near you

Why: Your Learn Local is a welcoming and friendly space to connect and grow with others. They provide training, can help with pathways into employment and further

## Learn Local

training or learn new hobbies and explore your interests.

"We really hope to see you on the 7 May – join us for a cuppa and a chat, learn a little more about what we do and you can sign up for training if there is something there that interests you." Said Anita.

### Your nearest Learn Local

**Rushworth Community House Inc - 67 High Street, Rushworth**

and

**Kyabram Community & Learning Centre Inc - 21 Lake Road, Kyabram**





**Annabelle**  
**CLEELAND MP**

Member for Euroa

25 Bridge St, Benalla VIC 3672 03 5762 1600 [Annabelle.cleeland@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:Annabelle.cleeland@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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# Rushworth's Container Deposit Scheme is now up and running at the old Council Depot in Horne St

After several delays, Rushworth finally has its own fully functional Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) site operating out of the old Council Depot in Horne Street. The local CDS site went into operation yesterday (24 April) and is being managed by Rushworth Community House in conjunction with Campaspe Shire Council and Visy Corporation. Visy is the contracted CDS delivery agent for the Victorian Government in northern Victoria and in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

It is planned that the Rushworth CDS site will open each Tuesday (9am - 3pm), Wednesday (9am - 1pm) and Thursday (9am - 3pm).

People can drive into the old depot precinct through the double gates near the Shire Hall and will be able to offload their containers for processing by Community House volunteers.

## Container types

The Scheme offers ten cents refund for each eligible container presented at the site, and multiple refund payment methods are planned to be available.

Most small portable beverage containers **between 150ml and 3 litres** are eligible for refund. To make sure, check the drink container label for the presence of a 10 cent refund mark such as the one shown at the top right of the page.

Eligible drink container types include:

- Aluminium cans
- Plastic bottles
- Glass bottles (*but see below*)
- Paperboard cartons (under 1 litre)

Your containers should be uncrushed and lids can be kept on.

## Ineligible containers

The following liquid containers are **NOT** eligible for refunds under the CDS program:

- Wine and spirit bottles
- Milk containers
- Paper cartons (1 litre or more)
- Cordial bottles

However, don't throw these ineligible containers out as they may still be accepted in either your yellow-top kerb side recycling bin or a skip at the Rushworth recycling station.

**10<sup>c</sup> REFUND AT COLLECTION DEPOTS/POINTS IN PARTICIPATING STATE/TERRITORY OF PURCHASE**



CDS promotional posters (above left) have been circulating in Rushworth for some time and locals have shown keen interest in the planned opening date. (Above right) Visy Corp bins have been delivered to the Horne Street depot site ready for early bird depositors.

## Refund processing

Containers deposited at the CDS site will be tallied for each customer, then a refund will be calculated on the basis of ten cents for each eligible container returned. Thus, for example, a box of 24 cans or stubbies earns \$2.40.

It is planned that refunds will be available in cash, as a transfer into your nominated bank account or as a donation to a variety of charities and community groups.

Actual opening hours will depend on several factors, including the availability of large bins supplied by Visy Corp for use in the scheme.

In common with other sites, a limited monetary float will be maintained at Horne Street during opening hours. Once that float is spent, deposits into bank accounts may be the only available refund method.

Importantly, the scheme needs more volunteers to ensure that the site remains operational for at least sixteen hours per week.

At present, volunteer numbers are limited due to recent availability changes.

So if you can spare a few hours each week to help this really worthwhile community recycling scheme, please call Anita Pirie at the Community House on 58561295.

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# Local flavour in Heritage Festival

A fascinating series of free talks, guided tours and visits to old churches, gaols, gardens and ships has been offered around the state for the Victorian Heritage Festival; a month of celebration and recognition which commenced of Thursday 18 April.



The Festival's opening event was a talk by our own Alan McLean at the Mission to Seafarers in Melbourne, where he brought to life the contents of the revised edition of his book "Mystery at Moonlight Head – the Fiji shipwreck disaster of 1891".

Descendants of a young man rescued in 1891 flew from New Zealand to join the talk, and to participate in a special guided Walk-In to the 132-year-old shipwreck monument on the cliff-top above the wreck site near Port Campbell.

Upcoming nearby events include a tour of the old Bendigo gasworks (28 April), a guided tour of Day's Mill at Murchison (12 May), a special display at Echuca Museum (all month), and daily Heritage Tours of the Port of Echuca. (See details on the website.)

All events are free, with some requiring visitors to register ahead of attendance.

On Thursday 9 May, Campaspe Shire has invited Alan give a talk at the Rushworth Library, at 10.30 am. He will focus on his recent book "Rushing to Whroo, 1853-1880".

To view the whole program go to <https://www.flipsnack.com/nationaltrust/2024-victorian-heritage-festival-program/full-view.html> or simply Google 2024 Victoria Heritage Festival.

## What's on at Rushworth Library

All Welcome

**Author Visit  
Alan McLean**

**Thursday, 9 May 10.30am**

Alan is a historian and has written several books centered on the Rushworth district. Come and chat to Alan following his talk about his latest book.  
*Bookings required*

**Coffee With a Cop**

**Thursday, 23 May 10.30am**

Coffee with a Cop is a community initiative that gives people the chance to get to know their local police officers over a free cuppa.

No agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns or have a friendly chat with your local cops.

**Elephant in the Room**

**Friday, 31 May to Friday, 14 June**

What is the 'Elephant in the Room' about? The Elephant in the Room aims to open conversations and raise awareness about the complex issue of Family Violence.

**Author Visit  
Tracee Spiby**

**Thursday, 30 May 10.30am**

Tracee Spiby has lived all her life in central Victoria & currently lives at Murchison East. With an interest in family history, she became intrigued by her grandfather Albert Henry Spiby's military history from the Somme to Singapore and embarked on a journey of research and discovery that developed into a passion. One Hell at a Time is Tracee's first book.  
*Bookings required*

**Nicola Thomson**

**Thursday, 27 June 2pm**

In her presentation 'Archeology in the Field - A Practical Approach', Nicola will discuss how archaeological influences from gold rush diggings and geographical factors have shaped how we see Rushworth today. She will share her approach to archeological and historical research in the local area.  
*Bookings required*

Free! Bookings online or ask Renee  
All welcome.



## Sam BIRRELL MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NICHOLLS



**THE NATIONALS**  
*for Regional Australia*

### Regional Infrastructure

Major regional infrastructure projects continue to remain in limbo. 40 weeks has passed since the Albanese Government opened the Growing Regions Program and in nine months not one application has been funded.



The Growing Regions grants includes a specific stream of funding for facilities impacted by major natural disasters but communities remain in the dark. Our flood affected communities have been through enough and infrastructure projects are vital for locals to build back stronger.

I've written to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King, seeking an explanation for the delays. Under the guidelines for Growing Regions the 'latest start date of project' is May 15, 2024 – that is less than a month away – and no grants have even been awarded.

### Funding for Women's Sport

I'm making it my goal to train with every football and netball club in our electorate. While it allows me to hear from the ground what matters to locals, it allows me to see first-hand the need for Governments to support facility upgrades.



There's a significant challenge faced by many clubs across our region, and many are in desperate need of upgrades. The Federal Government is currently providing \$200 million for the Play Our Way Program.

The grant opportunity provides local solutions and improvements

to address participation barriers faced by women and girls at grassroots sporting clubs.

No opportunity should be missed by sporting clubs to help address the growing need for better standards that support the participation of women and girls. I encourage local sporting clubs to apply for this funding.



For more information about the Play Our Way Program contact my office or send an email [sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au)

426 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630 (03) 5821 5371  
[sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au) [sambirrell.com.au](http://sambirrell.com.au)



# Arts & Tourism

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

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## Find your Feathers creating 'Nature Buddies'

On Sunday 21 April eight people gathered at the Rushworth ART Depot, located at the former Senior Citizens Club, to participate in a crafting workshop with a difference.

Given the glorious weather, they swiftly decided that the outside lawn was beckoning them to do their crafting outdoors rather than indoors! So tables were set up outdoors, and the morning started with some quick grounding exercises to tune their senses into the natural world around them. Then they set to work selecting pieces of nature meticulously collected by Find Your Feathers facilitator Al Trethowan.

Various seed pods, pieces of tree limb cut into slices or short segments, green and dry leaves, sticks, dried flowers, feathers, acorn hats, all offering themselves to be moulded into a personalised 'Nature Buddy' figurine using string, glue, and clay. The variety of different creations which emerged was wonderful and it was exciting to see just what would evolve from each little selection of materials.

Find Your Feathers hope to run more activities and workshops into the future, so stay tuned for opportunities!

Above right: Tina and Graeme putting their creative talents to good use with glue gun and drill.



**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.**



# Lights turned on for Girgarre netball courts

After an exceptionally long wait, netballers of the Girgarre Football Netball Club can finally return to their courts of an evening.

Five years ago, the aging lighting was removed during a resurface of the courts. Twelve months later, members of the Girgarre Recreation Reserve committee, frustrated with the progress of plans to have lighting reinstated, partnered with the Girgarre Development Group to negotiate with Shire of Campaspe and find a way to secure funding.

The donation of hay from Enel Green Power's solar farm site paid for the most significant part of the project. However, after many years of delays, the cost of the project rose beyond initial quotes due to the increased cost of materials and labour.

A last-minute application to Community Bank Rushworth & District secured the remaining funding and the project was able to be completed.

The official court lighting was held on Thursday 14 March with netballers, officials from Girgarre Recreation Reserve, Girgarre Development Group, Shire of Campaspe, and Community Bank Rushworth & District in attendance alongside the clubs' netballers.



Lights are on for Girgarre netballers - thanks to the persistence and determination of the Girgarre Development Group and the Girgarre Recreation Reserve committee, pictured above with Campaspe councillors and Community Bank representatives.

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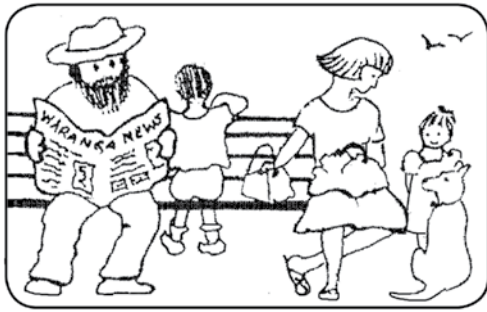
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Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns



### Around Rushworth

#### A busy time for the band

The bandmaster of the Rushworth and District Concert Band, Matt Tath would like to inform the band members and the public that there is a busy time ahead.

Their services are required on 21 April for Stanhope Anzac day, Rushworth Anzac service on 25 April, Girgarre Junkestra on 28 April and finally Colbinabbin Silo Art Picnic and Wine Festival on 5 May.

Matt would like to welcome anyone who would like to join the band, they would be made welcome. Practices are on Monday evening at 7pm at the Band Room former senior citizens rooms.

#### Graffiti in new toilets



When viewing a very sad Lone Pine in the Lions Park, Sid Sprague was also dismayed to see that the new toilets have already been defaced with graffiti on all of the stalls - and unfortunately not what could be called graffiti art.

## GV Pride Brunch and Bushwalk

GV Pride Brunch and Bushwalk supported by Waranga Catchment Landcare Collective.

On Sunday 28 April Goulburn Valley Pride are organising a gathering for local LGBTQIA+ people in Rushworth for brunch, then a bush walk through parts of the local Box-Ironbark forest supported by volunteers from the Waranga Catchment Landcare Collective.

The walk will include short talks on local indigenous plants and animals by WCLC President Louise Costa and Secretary Allison Trethowan. Places are limited and registrations essential via <https://events.humanitix.com/bushwalk-in-rushworth> or any questions please call Allison on 0409404258.



#### Cuppa for Cancer

The "Friends of the Hostel" are holding a Cuppa for Cancer on Monday 20 May at the Waranga Hostel at 10am. Please come along and support this great cause.

## Murchison & District Historical Society AGM

Murchison Historical Society's Annual General Meeting held on 19 March was well attended and all enjoyed hearing from guest speaker, Felicity Macchion, CEO Goulburn Valley Libraries who has had a wonderfully broad career. Felicity told about her background, with perhaps the highlight of her experience being selected by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (only two chosen from Australia) to join a world-wide group of thirty librarians to travel to many countries learning about innovative library services and programs.

Felicity also gave an update on local services. The Historical Society has a close relationship with GV Libraries as the mobile service operates beside the Heritage Centre every week and the high-tech Library Locker that provides 24/7 access to both delivery and return of books is located beside the building.




New Committee: Rob Cornelious, Jackie McLean, Gordon Ewart, Kay Ball, Rob Jones, Katrina Campbell, Janet Clarke, Marg Lock and John Ball.

There have been some changes to the executive team following the election of office bearers. Warwick Gregory has taken leave from his position of Vice President and two new members are welcomed to the Executive Committee, Jackie McLean and Gordon Ewart.

Jackie has already been making a great contribution

to improvements at the Heritage Centre by working enthusiastically on several projects and Gordon, who is very keen on family history, will be a great representative of the pioneering families who have contributed to the development of Murchison over many years.



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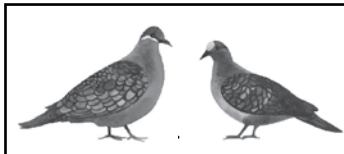
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Kay presented Felicity with local products as a thank-you.





# Colbo Tit Bits

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## ANZAC service

Colbinabbin's ANZAC service will be held at 9am on Thursday 25 April at the Colbinabbin hall. Clem Furphy will be the guest speaker. A cuppa will be served after the service.

## Valé Joyce Hammond

Our sympathy to the family and friends of former Colbinabbin resident, Joyce Hammond. Joyce passed away on 22 April 2024 at Barham.

## Road closed for Picnic

It will be a big day in Colbinabbin next Sunday when the Picnic and Wine Festival kicks off for a second year in a row.

Picnic goers should note that the following roads will be closed from 10.30am to 3.30pm: Collins Street, Johnson Street and Meade Lane will be closed to the general public and patrons of the picnic. These roads can be used for local traffic only.

Festival goers will be required to enter the festival car park via Station Street.

Make sure you book your ticket on line as numbers are limited. There will be no tickets available at the entrance.

Food is available to purchase on the day but please feel free to bring along your picnic lunch. It should be a great day of music and community fun.

## Green Waste to Wine field day in May

Planning has been finalised regarding a field day due to be held on 15 May.

The field day, which has been organised by *Heathcote Wine Association* and *Wine Victoria*, will be held at *Vinea Marson* with a mix of local and interstate speakers. The featured speaker will be the head viticulturalist, Nigel Biescke, from Torbreck. The theme is - sustainability into the future.

## Congratulations . . .

To Will Hayes who played his 150<sup>th</sup> Reserves game for Colbo last weekend and to netballers, Lily Wareham who played her 150<sup>th</sup> game and Hannah Fuller who notched up her 100<sup>th</sup> netball game for the Colbinabbin Netball Club.

Speaking of CFNC, Kate Stewart is on the lookout for anyone who'd like to provide a pot of soup for the canteen for home games now that the colder weather is coming in. The club's also on the hunt for canteen helpers at home games throughout the season, if you're able to help, get in touch with your preferred game and time so you can be slotted in.

### FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

April 28 Ramon and Daryl Rathjen  
May 5 Peter Morgan and Trevor Brown  
*If unable to attend for duty, call Chris/Leo.*

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

## Sandra's joined the over-80 club!



Sandra Young celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with the Coffee and Cakers at Colbinabbin Country Hotel. Around the table starting at left: Maree Stewart, Pam Hassell, Maxine Ryan, Leonie Lewington, Lindy Stewart, Pauline Ryan, Judy Phelan, Glen Avard, Pam Nihill, Sandra Young, Trish Pepperell and Judith Ryan.

. . . and just look at that birthday cake, specially made by CCH for the occasion: apple and coconut tea cake - gluten-free served with a big dollop of cream!



## Cuppa 4 Cancer

Cornella Care will again host a Cuppa for Cancer: Thursday 23 May at 10am at John and Glen Avard's.

Come for morning tea and a cuppa and help raise money for cancer research. Open fire guaranteed!

Any news?  
Any gossip?  
Ring Nata or Shell  
and keep Colbo in the News



### Colbo Diary

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

#### April

Thurs 25 ANZAC Service 9am at the hall

#### May

Sun 5 Silo Art Picnic & Wine festival  
Wed 15 Field Day (Green Waste to Wine)  
Thurs 23 Biggest Morning Tea at Avars

### LIBRARY

Wed 1 May  
Wed 8 May

Lynn Rathjen  
Pam Nihill



### Cemetery Trust

Mowing Roster (lawn section only)  
April - Emily McFadzean  
May - Carmel Turner





## Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

Phone (03) 5856 1295

Email:

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

Website:

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Facebook:

[Rushworth Community-House](#)

Office Hours:

Mon, Tues Thurs : 9.00am to 3.00pm

Wed, Fri : 9.00am to 1.00pm



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Digital Essentials Level 1 is a thirty hour, pre-accredited program that will help learners understand the basics of digital devices such as smartphones and personal computers.

Topics covered include:

- Using your smartphone including SMS
- Connecting and working safely
- Navigating the Internet
- Using email and social media
- Using apps and software
- Everyday technology
- Staying safe online

The course is conducted in the Community House's well-equipped training room, and uses small classes that focus on improving student competence in digital technology.

There is no formal written assessment for this course. Instead, learners complete learner surveys before and after the course to assess their knowledge, skills and confidence levels.

Course dates are yet to be finalised, so please contact the Community House on 58561295 to register your interest.



## The lifelong rewards of genealogy - Tracey Bons' very personal story

We asked Rushworth Community House Genealogy Group leader Tracey Bons to reflect on how genealogy has given her an insight into those who came before her, and how their lives are indelibly impressed on hers and those of her family. Here is what she wrote:

"Growing up, I spent a lot of time with my grandparents. They lived in an old home built from railway sleepers and other repurposed materials, sited below the crest of a hill on acres of farming land.

It was a place where the kettle was constantly on the boil, cake was kept in a biscuit tin, the radio was called a wireless, aunts were not really aunts, every dessert was called pudding, babies were sometimes born blue and everyone was always welcome.

People would come and go at all hours, men with heavily crease-pressed trousers, starched collared shirts and woollen pullover vests, some in overalls or tattered old clothing, women in skirts and hand knitted cardigans, wearing strange old hats or floral dresses with flat comfortable shoes.

The laughter and chatter would begin around the kitchen table over cups of tea made by grandma in her freshly ironed apron with huge front pockets, stuffed with lots of secret items.

Wearing a hair net held in place by bobby pins, she served the tea from an old enamel teapot with a colourful cosy.

Names of people, some then gone, were tossed around, memories of loved ones lost.

From these stories, my curiosity began to to be piqued. Who were these people that everyone talked about? Where are they now, what did they look like, what did they do?

### Grandpa's secret quest

While listening to all the stories over the years it became clear that my grandpa wanted to know what became of the children that had been born to his father's first marriage, as his wife had died shortly after the birth of the couple's sixth child.

The quest to find my grandpa's stepsiblings started my long, intriguing journey into the world of genealogy.

Tracing your ancestry is like a huge jigsaw puzzle; little clues here and there lead to ongoing detective work as you start to build what began as a faceless name into the person that they had been.

All you need to start your quest is a name and an approximate date. Then you track the steps of people's lives through records, gaining an insight into how those in the past lived from day to day and how families from far away ended up in the towns that they did.

### Information sources

Over the years I scanned through microfiche, old newspapers, censuses, rate books, spent Sunday's walking through graveyards, visited old relations asking questions and libraries digging through old documents.

As technology became more advanced, I

was able to access information on the internet and subscribe to heritage-based websites.

I found a letter in the Army records at the National Archives that had been written by the sister of grandpa's father's first wife, explaining in a bitter way, the circumstances under which she became guardian of two of the boys, noting that their mother was dead, and the father had disappeared.

That led me to discover that two of the missing step-siblings had been sent to live with her, their aunt.

### Initial discoveries

One was an eighteen year old who was later killed in action in the First World War.

In the letter, she also referred to the other as "the little cripple boy". I later discovered he had died at the age of six and had been buried with his great grandmother.

Also interred with them was another child from the next family that no one knew about!

With these clues I read through obituaries, wills and documents, searched orphanage and asylum records and numerous other websites until I had located every one of those six children.

I even found out about the baby who was born blue.

The tears of gratitude on my grandpa's face were worth it all. The people may have all gone, but their stories were not forgotten.

### Genealogy at the House

Rushworth Community House's Genealogy Group offers user access to powerful websites such as *ancestry.com* and *find my past*.

The House's spacious computer room has excellent internet speed, powerful computers and touch-screen monitors that are easy to view and a delight to use.

Filled with helpful people, the House runs a wide range of courses and classes at genuinely affordable costs. Just like at my grandma's house, there's hot water aplenty and everyone is always welcome.

Please come along any Friday morning between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm and observe our Genealogy Group at work.

New members are always welcome, and help and advice is always at hand to guide you on your own wondrous journey through time and your family tree."

**Two of the user-friendly touch-screen computers available to genealogy enthusiasts at the Community House.**





# Rushworth Eucalyptus oil - our liquid gold!

## Jones bros – start of a family dynasty at Rushworth *(continued from last edition)*

Another family of Jones' was living at Inglewood in the early 1900s. The progenitor of this family in Australia was William Alexander Jones, who arrived in Inglewood as a gold miner in the late 1850s. William married Mary Anne Quinn, a lass of Irish descent, at Inglewood in 1862.

William and Mary's son Thomas married Anne Eliza Freeman in 1887, and they raised a large family of five boys and two girls, all born in the Inglewood area. Thomas was a mine manager, who unfortunately succumbed to "miner's disease" in 1909, at the age of only 46. This was also a common fate of men who worked in the gold mines of Rushworth and district.

For the family to survive with the loss of the major breadwinner, third son Arthur Freeman Jones (Art) had to go out to work. The family knew the other Jones family. In fact, as a teenager, Art was working at the Jones' eucy factory in Inglewood. He moved to Rushworth to work for Phil Jones Senior in the eucalyptus oil production industry in Parramatta Gully.

Eventually, he was followed across to Rushworth by his mother and siblings. The two girls married into Rushworth families (Locke and Schumann), and all members of the family made their homes in Rushworth and surrounding districts.

The matriarch of the family, Anne Eliza Jones, died in 1953 and is buried alongside her seven children in the Rushworth cemetery.

Over six generations, various members of the family have been in continuous occupation of the site at Parramatta Gully since 1909. Acquiring the eucy business from Phil Jones Senior in 1911, most of the family were engaged in the industry and/or associated forest industries over the ensuing years.

### Eucy at Parramatta Gully

Remember, Art Jones had come to Rushworth from Inglewood in

1909, to work for a bloke called Phil Jones Senior (no relation). He rode the 130 km on his pushbike. Art took over the business in 1911 when his widowed mother and siblings followed him over to settle in Parramatta Gully. The site had been established by William Begg in the early 1890s, well after the gully had been worked over by the gold miners. (There is still plenty of evidence of alluvial mining between the present-day site of the eucy factory and Whroo Road, and up the gully from the dam)

### Arthur Freeman Jones

A 1970 story in the Shepparton News, in which Art was interviewed, says he was "the original member of the family who began distilling eucalyptus at Rushworth in 1912...and "he is a member of the old school."

In other words, a skilled bushman who could turn his hand to anything. We have mentioned that back in the day, he cut all the eucalyptus leaves by hand. Three men using sickles could cut about two tons of eucy leaves in a day.

In those days, the stumps were left "protruding about six inches above the surface" of the ground, so there would be a lot of bending and lifting to be done. The leaves had to be loaded onto a dray or trailer to be taken back to Parramatta Gully for processing.

When the leaves were processed, the oil content could vary dramatically, depending on a range of factors. In the Shepp News story, Art's son Kevin said the best yield he had got from two tons of leaves was 80 pounds (36 kg), but it could be as low as 6 pounds (under 3 kg). In 1970, Kevin was receiving 63 cents a pound for his considerable efforts.



Traction engine used to cart wood.

### Living at Parramatta Gully

When the family first set up at Parramatta Gully, their home was a tent, before "the boys built their mother a tin shed." Living conditions were basic, with no electricity or running water. Water was carried from the dam in buckets and cooking done on an open fire.

Before the Rushworth railway line was extended to Colbo, just before the Great War, buildings (including the original Mechanics Institute) had to be demolished or removed so that the line could be extended across High Street. The Jones boys bought one of the shops, moved it and altered it to form the basis of the first proper home on the site. (This house was destroyed in a fire 80 years later, in 1994.)

Brothers Alec and Tom joined Art in the family business, which later included a sawmill at Rushworth station as well as the eucalyptus oil distilling at Parramatta Gully. Trading as Jones Bros, they "had contracts

with chemical companies and the 44 gallon drums of oil were taken to the Rushworth railway station and transported to Melbourne by rail." Their two other brothers worked with them on occasions.

### Later generations

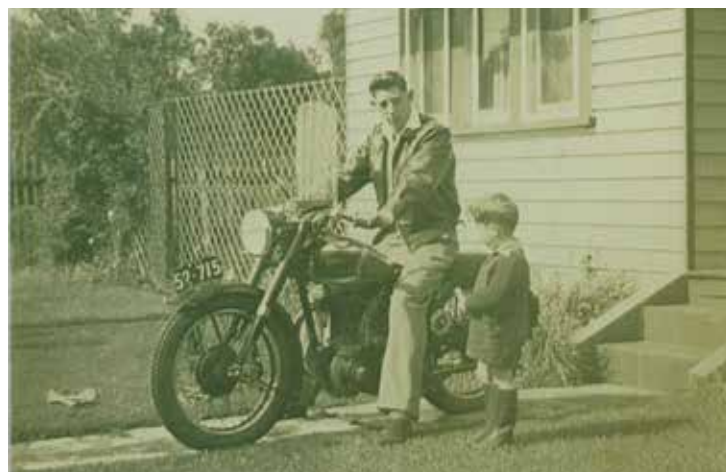
There is a direct link from Art Jones to the current generation of Jones' operating in the eucy industry at Parramatta Gully, Rushworth. Art and his wife Doris had three children, and their son Kevin, and Kevin's wife Amy, continued the family tradition.

Kevin and Amy had 11 children, but Kevin's life was tragically cut short in a car accident in 1981. Amy continued to live at Parramatta Gully, surviving Kevin by nearly 30 years, and now her son Jim, still living at Parramatta Gully, with his family takes responsibility for continuing the production of eucalyptus oil there, a tradition now extending for well over 125 years.

*(Thanks to Tony Ford for information for these articles.)*



Art (Arthur) and his horse used to pull the dray.



Kevin on his bike.



# Fifty Years ago in our district...

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



## Proposal to seal road from Rushworth to Nagambie

Michael Clarke, local Member of the Legislative Council, approached the Country Roads Board, proposing the sealing of the road south of Rushworth through to Bailieston, so as to join with the Nagambie – Heathcote Road near Chinamen's Bridge.

Waranga Shire had sealed the first two miles out of town and had sought external funds to complete three more miles. (Is there an echo of this situation today, just 50 years later, with Maurice Clarke's recent petition just to make even a small stretch of the still unsealed road safe? *(I don't think Maurice Clarke and Michael Clarke are related.)*)

Neville Hepples and Mick Linford served the last grocery customers at Hepples' Emporium, as Neville retired, selling the building to Ibis Milk Products.

The autumn rains had come with over two inches (53mm) recorded in a week at Rushworth in the middle of April, taking the year's total to nine and a half inches, half the annual average. Goulburn river flooding severely damaged cellars at the newly-opened Michelton Winery.

A two-car collision of vehicles driven by Peter McEvoy of Colbinabbin and Neville Clarke of Rushworth placed Peter in Mooropna Hospital with a broken leg.

## Waranga Shire

Council approved four subdivisions at Gobarup, each creating 40-acre blocks, adding to a number of similar subdivisions across the forest area east, south and south-west of Rushworth. Melbourne-based property developers were advertising blocks for sale for people later to become known as "tree-changers".

Council sent a deputation to the Ministers for Mines and Tourism, after advice from insurance sources that the Shire would only be insured if the Balaclava Mine was fenced. The hunt was on to find funds for the fence.

## Hospital

With no doctor at Rushworth, Waranga Memorial Hospital was receiving a weekly visit from a Senior Resident doctor from Mooropna, and only accepting older patients with geriatric conditions. No acute medical cases were being admitted. *(Is there an echo of this today?)*

## Schools

Rushworth Primary was into plants and trees. Jill and Heather in Grade 6 had planted some seeds collected from a wattle tree near Wanalta Post Office by Mrs McMurtrie. Grades 1 and 2 reported great height in their beans.

Mr Ross taught Grade 4 some new games to be played outside, called "schlag ball, guard ball and camp-down races". *(Not Olympic sports yet Rossy.)* Mrs Mackinder taught her class a new game called solitaire.

Children made a wreath for ANZAC Day, and "Preps Greg and Haydn walked twenty km in a Walkathon". *(Five-year-olds walking twenty km? Child abuse these days!)*

Murchison Primary Mothers' Club was headed up by Mrs Ruth Anderson, Mrs Marion de Klijn and Mrs Liz Hart.

## Community

Colbo Young Farmers took a bus to Geelong for State Achievement Day at Geelong Showgrounds, Geoff Weppner finishing a little behind the leaders in the Welding competition, Shane Ryan a little further behind in Tractor Driving, with "an entertaining weekend being had by all". *(Not sure I would have wanted to be the bus driver.)*

Rushworth Historical Society welcomed "six car-loads of visitors", guided to district attractions in steady rain by Ken King, finishing as guests of Kevin Jones at the eucalyptus factory. A picnic lunch planned for Whroo was held in the Shire Hall supper room.

Rushworth Senior Citizens also welcomed sixteen visitors from Stanhope Senior Citizens, with singing entertainment from Tony Crosbie, Shirley Jacobsen and Nancy Cruz. Three competitions resulted in wins for Mrs Johansen (dinner), Lucy Barlow (doll) and Judy Lambden (towels). *(What were you doing there, Jude? You were not a senior citizen in 1974!)*

On CWA International Day, Miss Lucy Munsey spoke to Rushworth CWA branch about her recent overseas trip.

The Band's AGM was called by President Chief Perry and similarly long-serving secretary Geoff Beck.

## Personal

Heather McLean of Rushworth and Joel Reed of Oak Park announced their engagement. Likewise Julie Walsh of Rushworth and Gary McKendry of Highett.

Passing was Miss Jessie Hammond, who was Heather McLean's great-aunt.

Geoff and Lorraine Blackshaw took over Lloyds' Electrical and Radio shop at Rushworth, allowing Jim Lloyd to focus on operating the TAB, though he still did radio and TV repairs.

## Football

Girgarre, Rushworth and Colbinabbin Football Clubs reported practice matches, signing of new players and clearances of departing players. Optimism was plentiful.

Officials appointed at Rushworth included senior timekeepers Cec Bradley and Duncan McLean, senior goal-umpire Murray Hitchcock, reserves goal-umpire Chief Perry, boundary umpires Graeme Hageman and Simon Harrop, scoreboard Noel Merryfull, gatekeepers Tom Moylan, Bill Campbell, Joe Kenny, Ginger Perry and Ian Borger, and boot-studder Craig Robbins *(Remember boot-studders?)*

Colbo 16-12 beat Rushworth 7-12 in deep mud at Colbo, naming Dave Pinniger (3 goals), Ian Reid, Gerry Brown, D. McCormack, John Hamilton and Glen McTaggart. Alec Horne kicked three for the Tigers, named in the best with Herb Barlow, Bill Barlow, Bob Hurley, Glen Heily, John Raglus and Mick O'Sullivan.

Stanhope was still in the big Goulburn Valley League and after an early start to the season propped up the ladder with three losses. The paper did not report match details.

Girgarre beat Murchison in the opening round, all matches being very close. Then Murchison 3-3 went under to Nagambie on 11-16, with G. Adams, B. Finnigan, N. Hourigan and K. Delahey mentioned for Murch.

## Netball

Robyn Lambden, Julie Pearce and Leayne Hawking were named for Rushworth A-grade, in a win over Colbo by seven goals. B-grade also won, with Wendy Jones, Bev Draper, Cathy Poulson and Gwen "Kealing" showing out. *(Probably Gwen Keally, as spelling was sometimes guesswork.)*

## Carpet Bowls

Rushworth Club was getting out the little bowls and rolling out carpet, Clive Wootton presiding, George Kolenaty as secretary-treasurer. Saluting on opening night were Jeff Geddes, Mrs Wootton, Bruce Wootton and Mrs Duke.

## Golf

Most of Rushworth's golfers jibbed, because of rain. Did not bother Craig Teasdale on 42 stableford points, over older brother Stephen on 37 points. Jean Branson and Peter Home won a mixed event, as Dot Aitken hit nearest the pin.

The following week Bob Barlow and Don Jessup won A-grade. In B-grade, Max Richards was victorious. Versatile Bruce Wootton thought he was playing cricket, hitting 113, before his handicap of 36 was deducted. Woot's nett 77 put him in third place. *(I hear he has found his clubs in the garage and may make a comeback!)*



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

**STORIES OF CHINESE IMMIGRANTS TO THE**

**WARANGA AREA**

*Compiled by Tony Ford*

## Chinese committing crimes

Generally, the Chinese in the Waranga area were good citizens in that they only came up before the courts on a relatively small number of occasions. When they did, it was for a variety of misdemeanours and crimes, including non-payment of taxes and theft.

One of the Chinese shepherds working for William Gunn of the Waranga Park station was charged with killing a sheep, with intent to steal it (and possibly eat it). The unnamed man "had for some time been suspected of thieving practices."<sup>1</sup> He got three months imprisonment in the Sandhurst gaol for his trouble.

There was an exciting incident in 1887, at the "hotel and store of Mr M Kearney, Noorilim."<sup>2</sup> The premises was broken into by two Chinese men. Kearney was not home, but the female cook became aware of the intrusion and alerted another employee by the name of Tonkin. Tonkin loaded a double-barrelled shotgun and tried to bail up a man who was coming out of the front door. The offender fled. Tonkin unloaded both barrels at him as he escaped into the night, apparently unscathed.

As the other offender was trapped in the building, Tonkin guarded the door until more help arrived. A search of the premises revealed the other offender hiding inside. He gave his name as Ah Coon and had stolen jewellery, postage stamps and other property on his person. Other goods were near the door ready to be removed.

## Spurious gold

One of the more unusual charges laid was in relation to attempts to pass off "spurious" gold to shopkeepers. In 1865, Ah Chin "pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with selling a quantity of spurious gold to J H Collier, storekeeper at Whroo."<sup>3</sup> During evidence given at the court case, Thomas Benbow, the manager of the Bank of Victoria in High Street, Rushworth testified that he had examined the gold. It turned out to be mostly an alloy of copper and silver with some gold electroplated onto it.

At the time, gold was legal tender, being accepted by all traders at the appropriate exchange rate. Ah Chin had already been in gaol for a month when the case was heard.

He copped another 14 days, with hard labour. In the newspaper reporting, there was no indication of the value he received from Mr Collier at the time of the offence.

## Other crime

Physical violence was uncommon, although on one occasion, a Chinese miner was charged with injuring a horse of a mining inspector. One of the roles of the inspectors was to collect taxes such as the residence tax, which only applied to the Chinese. Perhaps the inspector was a little over-zealous in performing his duties on this occasion.<sup>4</sup>

There were occasionally fights between people that finished up in court, quite often the result of a dispute over a mining claim. More often, this type of dispute was settled with violence on the spot, with Chinese miners generally losing out.

In 1871, Ah Wong was charged with attempting to stab Rushworth butcher Henry Hodgson with a knife.<sup>5</sup> This was after Hodgson had thrown Ah Wong out of his shop for complaining about the poor quality of meat he was being offered. There was conflicting evidence, but the all-European jury was quick to find the defendant guilty and he was subsequently given a month in gaol with hard labour.

Even less common than the use of physical violence by Chinese against other miners were fights within the Chinese communities that resulted in court appearances. One exception was a fight in Mousey Gully in 1886 resulted in a Chinese man being stabbed by one of his compatriots with a small butcher's knife. The resulting wound under the ribs was about one and a half inches (4 cm) deep. Defendant Ah Yung (or Yong) was found guilty and sentenced to 18 months in gaol.

For more stories related to Chinese court appearances, see Alan McLean's books "Order in the Court!" and "100 Years of Mysteries in the Rushworth District." For more general information, chapter two of "A Colourful Chronicle of Challenges" is devoted to the Chinese.

*Sources: 1 Bendigo Advertiser 23.8.1869 p3; 2 The Age 27.5.1887 p6; 3 Bendigo Advertiser 14.7.1865; 4 Bendigo Advertiser 28.4.1869; 5 Bendigo Advertiser 16.2.1871 p3*

## A Name from the Past *William Breheny, 7, - dies at Moora*

Early maps of landholdings near Moora show properties owned by John Breheny. He and wife Margaret suffered the tragic loss of son William, back in 1891, reported in the Rushworth Chronicle of 30 October, 1891. The lad was buried on the same day as the inquiry, held the day after his drowning death.

"A melancholy fatality occurred at Moora on Saturday last. A boy named William Breheny, together with several companions, were bathing in a cattle dam, when the youngster, who was only seven and a half years of age, got out of his depth, and sank.

All endeavours were made to rescue the unfortunate lad, but in vain, and the body was not recovered till some time after the occurrence, when, of course, it was impossible to restore animation. The school teacher at Moora, Miss Kane, and other neighbors were untiring in their efforts to bring about resuscitation, but without avail.

The Rushworth police did not get intimation of the sad event till late on Saturday night.

### Magisterial inquiry.

An inquiry touching the death of William Thomas Breheny was held at Moora by W. Wigg, Esq., J.P., on Sunday last, after visiting the scene with Mr Treyvaud and Constable Bowden, when the following evidence was taken.

Margaret Breheny deposed that the deceased, W. T. Breheny, was her son. She last saw him alive about 3 p.m. on the previous day. He was taking a buggy over to the cattle dam to wash it. About an hour and a half after she heard screams, and on going to the dam was informed that her son was in the water. Saw a man take the deceased out of the water.

John Henry Matheson deposed that he was bathing in the dam with the deceased, when the latter went down. Witness tried to save him, but could not. He then called for help. John Donald Breheny gave similar evidence.

John Matheson [father of John Henry Matheson] deposed that on being informed that the boy was in the dam he went over and searched for deceased, whom he found in about 12 minutes. The body was taken to his parents' residence.

A verdict of accidental death was returned. The remains of the deceased were interred in the Rushworth cemetery the same afternoon, and the funeral procession was a large one."

John Matheson was the original owner and licensee of the Moora Hotel. He was also the father of Agnes, who married William Campbell. They raised a family in the former hotel, and operated the local post office. The premises were destroyed by fire in 2011.





# 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.*

We have been very busy at Bohollow attending rescues back to back. The days start early and the calls continue late into the night. We have had two cases on active firegrounds recently. One a few weeks ago and one on Sunday - both koalas. The first was a poor female koala who was found by fire-fighters at the base of a tree on fireground at Ulupna Island. She had two small blister burns on one hind foot but besides smoke inhalation and being extremely subdued, she seemed alright. Burns are challenging wounds to deal with as the extent of damage is not always evident at the beginning. The following day, the two blisters had progressed to the entire pad of her hind foot which eventually came right off leaving a very red, raw, foot which required dressings and wound treatment.

Over the next few days her other hind foot began to show signs of burns coming to the surface. Both hind feet were treated and I'm happy to say are healing nicely with fresh new skin. One of her hands, more than five days later erupted with a now visible burn wound as well which meant more treatment and dressings. She is coping well with her time in care and we expect she will make a full recovery. Once her wounds are completely healed, she will be returned to her wild home. On Sunday we were called to an injured koala who was still eight metres up a gum tree but was showing signs of a leg injury. Although he was unwell, getting the feisty boy to give up his comfortable perch in a fork in the tree trunk and come to ground wasn't an easy task.

After a lengthy battle with my rescue poles and nets, eventually resorting to putting our big extension ladder up so I had a bit more control over stopping him from going even higher, we managed to persuade the



irritable koala that down was the best way to go. Once safely packed for transport we took him back to our Kotupna shelter where Deb and I confirmed he does have a leg injury so he is currently settling into care with an x-ray planned for this week to check for any fractures that we may not have been able to pick up due to swelling. Both these animals came off bushfire ground where the fires were extremely slow burning.

Fire, even slow burns, can be devastating for the immediate ecosystem which is burnt.



The canopy was not burnt at all, both fires moving slowly across the bushland floor. The Ulupna fire was one of a number of fires which were deliberately lit, while it has not been determined how the Coomboona fire was started. This demonstrates how devastating even a low, slow moving fire can be for wildlife. Most birds and animals are able to move out of the way before they get burnt but both these koalas got injured moving across hot ground. They weren't burnt in the initial fire but got injured traversing across the hot earth once the fire had passed through. Spare a thought for any ground dwelling insects, spiders, reptiles, etc which may not have been able to clear out in time or find an adequate hiding place to shelter from the heat and fire.





## ON THE BRINK *by Neil Laurie*

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

### The southern brown bandicoot

A few years ago, I often went walking in the Royal Botanic Garden Cranbourne. I avoided the developed section of the Garden, preferring instead to walk the extensive network of walking tracks of the natural bushland. I usually tried to eat my packed lunch at the Stringybark Picnic Area where I would be entertained by the scurrying antics of numerous small rat-like creatures: southern brown bandicoots (*Isoodon obesulus*). They showed little fear of humans and eagerly scavenged any dropped food. Since then, the conservation status of the southern brown bandicoot has gone from 'Near Threatened' to 'Endangered'. How can this be?

There are several reasons. The southern brown bandicoots once ranged across southeastern Australia and southwestern corner of Western Australia. They are quite specific regarding vegetation types and climate. The spread of agriculture and urbanisation erased much of the bandicoots' range, restricting them to small isolated pockets (the Botanic Gardens Cranbourne is one such pocket). This makes them very vulnerable. It only takes one bushfire to wipe out a pocket population and with the pockets being so isolated from each other there is little chance for a pocket to then be repopulated.

Bandicoots have always been a tasty snack for native predators such as owls, quolls, snakes and dingoes. When the bandicoots were widespread, they were an important prey species. It was part of Nature's balance. The introduction of dogs, foxes and cats was devastating for the bandicoot populations, especially once they became restricted in their range.

Surveys have shown a direct link between rainfall and bandicoot numbers. In wet years the populations increase and in dry years they decline. This is because

they eat earthworms, insect larvae and spiders and also fungi and tubers. In wet years there is an abundance of food and they flourish. In a dry year when food is much scarcer their populations drop. Given that bandicoots have a lifespan of two to four years, an extended drought can be devastating.

It is uncertain how climate change will affect the southern brown bandicoot. Given that they are a very climate specific species, it is thought the effect will be significant. A study using DNA analysis has shown that most Australian bandicoot species became extinct following the drying of the Australian climate 5-10 million years ago. Creating reserves in existing bandicoot habitat may well be pointless due to climate change. A better strategy may be to anticipate habitats that will become suitable as climate change alters Australia's ecology.

The bandicoots perform an important ecological role in that they turn over vast amounts of soil in their search for food. This not only aerates the soil but also disperses nutrients within the soil. They also spread beneficial fungi.

The Botanic Garden Cranbourne bandicoot population is thought to be the biggest and healthiest left. The Botanic Garden is actively promoting the bandicoots and are 'educating' the public on bandicoot preservation and how to live in close proximity with them. Being adjacent to Junction Village it was important to educate the residents about the importance of not allowing pets (particularly cats) to roam. Recently there have been attempts to rezone adjacent bushland for development. With the rezoning affecting an endangered species' habitat the final decision is in the hands of the Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek. It is important to preserve this population because it is a population pool that can be used to restock other bandicoot habitats.



### Flow to help protect Coliban River platypus population

An important population of vulnerable platypus will benefit from a freshening flow down a key section of the Coliban River this month.

Up to 260 megalitres will flow down the Coliban from Malmsbury to Eppalock reservoirs, giving juvenile platypus perfect conditions to disperse further downstream.

"This platypus population is important for a whole range of reasons, not the least that they are a breeding population," North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Water for Environment Project Manager Darren White said.

"They have been there since before the Millennium Drought, and with numbers low across Australia, we need to do what we can to protect them.

"These flows help protect them in the short and long term, against threats such as climate change, floods, and reduced natural flows."

Mr White said the timing of the flow is important.

"Water at the right time of year allows the juveniles to disperse further down the river," he said.

"That means they'll find future mates with other populations.

"Before the Millennium Drought, locals came across platypuses foraging around the banks of this stretch of the river regularly. We want to keep it that way."

Eppalock reservoir's water levels are currently at 94 per cent, and the volume being released from Malmsbury is less than 0.1 per cent of Eppalock's total capacity.

The North Central CMA manages environmental flows on behalf of the Victorian Environmental Water Holder. The flows are authorised by VEWH in line with its Seasonal Watering Plan 2023-24.

The Plan is available for download from [www.vewh.vic.gov.au](http://www.vewh.vic.gov.au), with regular watering updates posted on the Current Flows section of the North Central CMA website.





# Cooks Column

It's apple and pear season - a great opportunity to use either of them in this recipe. Nice on its own in the lunch box or served with plain yoghurt and a cuppa.

## Apple and oat slice

### Ingredients

- 1½ cups plain flour
- 1 cup of rolled oats
- 1 cup of sugar
- ½ cup desiccated coconut
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon plus extra
- 185g melted butter
- 400g stewed apple or pear

### Method

Preheat oven to 180°C.

Mix all dry ingredients into a bowl and add melted butter. Stir well.

Add ⅔ of the mixture into a small greased tray and press down firmly. Sprinkle with extra cinnamon then spread over stewed fruit.

Sprinkle over the remaining mixture.

Place in the oven bake for 30 - 35 minutes until golden.

Cool in the tin and cut into squares.

*Seasonal Kitchen*



Apple (or pear) and oat slice. Serve according to your mood or taste: warm with ice-cream and/or whipped cream or just leave plain for the kids' lunch boxes.

# Garden Hints & Tips

## Don't 'Doh!'

Isn't it wonderful to be able to get out in the garden with the cooler weather. Most gardeners are busy pulling any weeds that have survived the summer...and pulling out the fatalities that didn't. It is an ideal time to take stock and set in train a few changes.

Firstly, don't just replace the dead plants with more of the same. They will probably die next summer. I call this Homer Simpson gardening. If you are going to replace a dead plant with the same plant you need to work out why it died. Wrong plant in the wrong spot? Does it require a watering system? Did you plant it too late for it to establish a good root system before things dried off? Was it weakened by disease or bugs? Sort out the problem so you don't go 'Doh!' if it dies next summer.

We are so used to controlling the things in our lives. It is a big mistake to force your will on your garden. Just because you like a plant and want it in your garden, it doesn't mean it will grow there. For example, I have been trying to grow some tea camelias in my garden with no success (ie. they die). My garden is just too dry and hot over summer and the soil is probably a little alkaline and needing more organic matter. I would like to try again, perhaps in pots, but I have accepted that camelias just won't survive in my garden, even in shade.

In Rushworth we make the mistake of planting in the spring. If you leave it until spring, the plant will not be well established before the summer hits them. It may be better to plant things now. There will be enough

warmth in the soil and enough daylight for them to make a start before the cold weather and they will be ready to race away in the spring. It is easier to give them the odd watering until the rains start than it is to keep newly planted plants watered over the long summer.

Many gardens have a 'death spot' where nothing seems to grow. Everything you plant there either fails to thrive or dies. Don't just keep replanting. Take a soil sample to a nursery and get it pH tested. Something as simple as using a cement mixer can cause the area around it to become highly alkaline. Add a heap of compost and if that doesn't neutralize the pH, use powdered iron sulphate (one handful per square metre). Try planting plants that can tolerate high pH soil. Look these up in the most comprehensive gardening manual (Google). If your soil is acidic (low pH) add some lime.



It is a good time to assess how your watering system has worked. Did it adequately water all the plants? Do some of the sprays or drips need replacing or repositioning? My Garden Guru does not use the polythene piping on our watering systems. She uses garden hoses. They are flexible, easily repositioned and are easily connected to a tap. The sprays and drips are installed as per the polythene pipe version.

Accept that a fraction of new plants will die for whatever reason, but remember that if you replace them, only a fraction of those replacements will die. Eventually your garden will be full of plants...but only if you don't do a 'Homer Simpson'. *The Zen Gardener*

## Handy Hints - from Lyn Rumble

Hi there,

Sometimes it's the little nitty picky things that annoy you and everyday stains and maintenance hassles can be at the top of the list. Hope these few hints help you when the need arises. Have a good week and enjoy the darker mornings for that extra lay-in!

*Lyn Rumble*

1. Removing dried ink on the carpet – most ink stains can be removed by using WD40 or rubbing alcohol. With WD40 - spray the stain all over liberally until thoroughly wetted. Leave for 5-10 minutes, then with warm soapy water on a sponge gently blot the stain – rinse sponge with the soapy water – then blot some more until all the stain removed. Rinse the carpet as carefully as possible with clean warm water, and blot dry as much as able. Let carpet dry without walking on it, and when it is dry fluff up the pile.
2. Your bar of soap makes a mess in your sink? - get a used soft drink cap and push (embed) into the bottom of the soap bar – so

- now your soap bar can be elevated slightly in the soap dish. This will stop the gluggy mess from the water used when you washed your hands.
3. Pool noodles make great bases for door wreaths or table centre decorations – just wrap in decorative cloth/ribbon and decorate according to the celebration. Baubles, imitation flowers, ferns etc all make fabulous colour bursts! They make terrific Christmas long table decorations – just colour co-ordinate with your dinner party theme.
4. Easy-to-remove garbage bags. Getting a full garbage bag out of the can is always difficult because of the vacuum seal that forms between the bag and the can when

- the bag is full of rubbish. Solve the problem by drilling a couple of holes in the side of the garbage can near the bottom. Air is then allowed into the bottom of the can when you pull out the bag, and the trash bag slides out with ease.
5. Ironing board back saver - working under the sink on your back isn't exactly comfortable, especially when the sharp cabinet edge cuts into your shoulder blades. Make it more comfortable by lying on an ironing board. Set one end of the board inside the cabinet and support the other end with a scrap piece of 2x4. It won't make the plumbing repair any easier, but it's definitely easier on your back.



# Health and Wellbeing

## Youth Mental Health First Aid Workshops coming to Campaspe

Campaspe Shire Council is hosting a series of free Youth Mental Health First Aid training workshops through May and June.

The workshop series facilitated by Shannon Lacy, accredited Mental Health First Aid provider, equips adults who teach, care for, or support young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise, understand and respond to a young person experiencing a mental health problem or mental health crisis.

This is a great opportunity for those who work closely with youth to support and provide strategies that can be used for youth experiencing mental health problems.

“Young people in our region have experienced so much turmoil, change and adversity over the last few years in relation to floods and other emergencies. The workshops will assist in understanding their challenges and perspectives and support them going forward.” Mayor, Cr Amos said.

“One of the key objectives of our Community Development and Flood Recovery teams is to establish long-term impact and benefit for the region, and this is a great place to start. Adults looking for more information and resources to support young people and their mental health should consider attending the free training sessions.

“The workshops will take place in Echuca, Kyabram, Lockington, Rochester and Rushworth, and will leave attendees with a three-year accreditation,” Cr Amos said.

The sessions are available to anyone over the age of 18, working with young people, including parents, coaches and teachers.

The Recovery Hub is also offering Psychological First Aid sessions that are applicable for all ages in collaboration with Phoenix Australia. Those looking for a wider scope that provides a practical, flexible and recommended approach to helping those affected by trauma would benefit from these four-hour sessions.

“The training helps reduce initial distress and assists people to cope following a traumatic event. Visit Council’s website for more information and to register



for these sessions.

“It’s just another way we’re supporting and providing necessary tools for our community to thrive,” Cr Amos added.

These sessions are supported through the state government’s Engage! funding program and the

Community Recovery Hub is jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments.

For more information, contact Council’s Youth Community Development Officer on 5481 2200 or visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/youth](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/youth).

## Calling on local Gen Zs to Unplug and Play

North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is putting the call out to local Gen Zs to put down their phones and get out among the great outdoors, and potentially win \$2500 while doing it.

Unplug and Play is a project that will see two winners spend a week or so kayaking and camping along Bendigo Creek, from Bendigo to Gunbower.

A film crew will follow their every move as they tackle obstacles and physical challenges. The video will also showcase the ecological values of the region’s waterways, which are a significant focus of the CMA.

“We’re looking for two people aged 16 to 26 who aren’t necessarily outdoorsy people,” North Central CMA’s Kristie Smith said.

“We want them to unplug from their devices and hectic lives to experience Mother Nature close-up. Really close-up.

“We’ve attracted applications from all over the country, but we’d love to see locals from the north central region put up their hands and have a go. All they need to do is put a couple of short videos together and tell us why they want to be involved.

“If you think you’re not the right person for an outdoor adventure like this, you’re probably the perfect candidate.”

Mrs Smith said getting up close and personal with the great outdoors can have a heap of benefits.

“The research shows it can help make you feel better emotionally, help increase self-esteem, and even reduce feelings of isolation,” she said.

“We had one application from a person who admits to clocking up 10,000 hours of gaming! He’s realizing that life is passing him by and feels he is missing out on what it has to offer.

“This could be an opportunity to change his life and those around him. And what better way to get over any eco-anxiety than by tackling it head on.”

The two people chosen will win \$2500 each for completing the journey and get plenty of great content for their Instagram!

### To nominate

Go to <http://unplugandplay.au/> and create a short video to show us why you’re perfect for the experience.

### Workshop dates

4 and 5 May – 2 days in person workshop at Lockington Men’s Shed

1 and 2 June – 2 days in person workshop at Rochester Recovery Hub

20 and 21 June – 2 days in person workshop at Echuca Aerodrome

22 and 23 June – 2 days in person workshop at Echuca Council Function Centre

29 June – blended online and in person workshop in Kyabram. Location to be confirmed.

30 June – blended online and in person workshop at Rushworth Service Centre and Library



**MUD HUT YOGA**

*Peace ~ Flexibility ~ Strength*

For class times & information

contact Sue Barlow

0438 523 415

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

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



# New Rushworth P-12 SRC elected

With so many updates and changes constantly happening around the College, it was important to ensure that student voice was a priority in the decision-making process. This has led the College to reintroduce a Student Representative Council (SRC).

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in becoming the student representatives for their respective year levels: Armani Salem, Joshua Hawking, Angus Young, Lucas Jones, Aiden Porter, Matilda Lockwood, Charlie McLean, Ella Johnstone and Tiffany Clark.

The SRC is off to a flying start in Term 2 with four of the members attending an event on Wednesday April 17.

Charlie, Matilda, Lucas and Aiden represented the college at the Parliament of Victoria Youth Forum at the Kyabram Fauna Park.

They engaged in dynamic conversations around issues impacting the Youth of Victoria including mental health, education, housing and the environment.

The day started with a smoking ceremony and welcome to country – Yorta Yorta country.

They had the opportunity to meet and speak with several members of parliament including the State labour Member for Northern Victoria and Attorney General, Jaclyn Symes and the Minister for Children, Lizzie Blandthorn.

They even learnt about the difference between Parliament and Government and the upper and lower houses, Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

The students had a productive day making connections and sharing their thoughts with peers in the wider area and several levels of government representatives.

They even had a little visit with the meerkats to finish off the day!

(Right) Matilda L, Lucas J, Aiden P and Charlie McL all attended the Youth Parliament session in Kyabram last week.



Students met with the ministers at the Youth Parliament event.



Most of the SRC met with mentor Sarah Bransgrove to discuss upcoming changes at the college.

## Support local learner drivers

Remember the call for volunteers to support the CCLLEN TAC L2P program that has successfully been partnering with the Rushworth P-12 College to support Learner drivers to achieve their required 120 hours.

Volunteers are needed be a part of a team of local 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.

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.

If you are over 21 and can spare 1-2 hours a week to help a learner driver, call 035482 6055, 0428 474 014 or email L2P@ccllen.com.au



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

# Rushworth Kinder storytime

The children at the Rushworth Kindergarten were excited to visit the new Rushworth Library on Tuesday 16 April for the libraries monthly storytime session.

The children enjoyed some singing and a story before getting a tour of the new library and exploring the new children's section of the library. There were a couple of children that said "this is the best day of my whole life".

The children then moved into the classroom area of the library for some arts and crafts.

The children attend the libraries storytime every month which they really enjoy. Storytime is open to children of the community to come together for singing, stories and arts and crafts.



Comfy reading space: Finn Storen and Logan McDowall explore the new books.



Enjoying reading time: Noah Perry, Shiloh Long, Bailey Norris, Evelyn Cusack  
Front - Ashlee Johstone, Taylah Jamieson, Madeline Cleary, Angela Voisey-Collins.

## P-12 Foundation - Year 3 investigate animal habitats in science



Shaylah, Lilly and Calais busy creating the perfect habitat for their menagerie.



Calais has built an interesting habitat for his animals.

 **Got some news?**  
**Spread it around.**  
[wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)



# Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our Busy term ahead for St Mary's PS

At St Mary's we are very excited to have our students back after their two week easter break. We have many exciting things coming up this term including:

- cross country
- Catholic Education Week
- our whole school excursion to Melbourne
- National Simultaneous Storytime
- National Reconciliation Week

This term we also invite our current and prospective families into St Marys for our open day on Thursday 2 May. We will have principal and student led tours showcasing what we do at St Mary's. We will finish off with a coffee and sausage sizzle. To stay informed of this event follow us on our facebook page.

This week we had a visit by Charlotte from St John's. Charlotte taught us about first aid and how to respond to an emergency situation. We learnt about DRABC, how to put someone into the recovery position, how to perform CPR and how to call 000 in an emergency. These are all valuable life skills that we hope will stay with our students.

We have been fortunate enough this term to have two student teachers visit from La Trobe in Shepparton. The F/1/2 class and 3/4 class have had some exciting new lessons taught by these future educators Miss S and Miss Shaddick.

*Bianca Brook*

**Top: Hunter, Charlotte and Thomas with the CPR mannequin.**

**Middle: Grade 5/6 class learning CPR.**

**Below left: Bryce putting Bodhi into recovery position.**

**Bottom centre: Miss S helping Hunter.**



**ST. MARY'S RUSHWORTH OPEN DAY 2024**

**THURSDAY MAY 2 8:45 - 10:50AM**

**WE WELCOME CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES**

- Come and see our school in action
- Join us for a coffee and sausage
- Information regarding 2025 enrolments will be available.
- Principal and student-led tours throughout the week by appointment.

**MORE INFORMATION**

☎ 03 5856 1347  
<https://www.stmarysrushworth.catholic.edu.au/>  
📍 5-7 Southern street, Rushworth



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

# Junior Landcare launched at Rushworth P-12

Rushworth P-12 College community is excited about a group of students developing a local Junior Landcare group under the tutelage of Waranga Catchment Landcare Initiative member, Louise Costa – Pelle.

Interested students will join Louise and Ag/Hort teacher Shona Janky during lunchtimes on a Friday to engage in activities that will benefit the local environment. These activities will include nature walks, plant identification sessions, and Landcare projects.

They have many projects planned for the year, but the first one was to continue to tackle the Crassula outbreak in the forest behind the college. This will be a long-term project for the students to tackle, but we are sure they will give it their utmost determination in between other projects they attempt.

The Crassula plants are being placed in some green bins, and will be heat-treated at Biomix in the future, ensuring it does not reproduce.



Jasmine H, Jack S, Antavia S, Ellis R, Ellah L-A, Kaelee W and Ms Janky filled the green bins with lots of the pest plant, Crassula during their recent Junior Landcare meeting.

Shade crassula (*Crassula multicava* subsp. *multicava*) is regarded as an environmental weed in Victoria and as a potential environmental weed or “sleeper weed” in several other states.

In Victoria, this species is considered to be a potential threat to one or more vegetation formations. Populations are spreading into dry eucalypt forests and other woodlands, dry coastal vegetation and rocky outcrop vegetation.

Shade crassula (*Crassula multicava* subsp. *multicava*) has also been reported to be spreading in south-western Western Australia, in the central coast of NSW and in rainforest in Burleigh Heads National Park, on the Gold Coast, in south-eastern Queensland.

## Senior Students engage in Love Bites program

26 March marked the beginning of the Love Bites program being facilitated at the College by Keely Mountjoy and Sarah Bransgrove. We kicked off the Program with our VM students, followed by our VCE students on 17 April.

Keely and Sarah could not fault the students who chose to come to school and participated in the Program. They were actively engaged in conversations, politely challenging their peers’ opinions/observations and open to a bit of push back on certain ideologies/stereotypes they held.

The last period of the day is a craft session, where students could create a poster/collage with their learnings for the day. Above



is just one of the wonderful creations we gathered.

We facilitate our final part of the Senior program to our Year 10 cohort on the 23 April. After this, Sarah, and Keely head to

Melbourne in May to be trained in the Junior program, where they plan to roll out Love Bites to our Year 7 to 9 cohort before the end of Term 3.

***Volunteers needed at  
Waranga News  
Come on in and see what we do.***



# Laudato Si' Week 2024 ~ 19 to 26 May

Laudato Si' Week celebrates the ninth anniversary of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical on Care for Creation and is a global celebration to unite Catholics to rejoice in the progress made in bringing Laudato Si' to life.

Latin for 'Praised Be,' Laudato Si' is the name of Pope Francis' encyclical on caring for our common home — planet earth. The letter is addressed to 'every person living on this planet' and calls for a global dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet through our daily actions and decisions.



*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

## TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

### Sandhurst Action Plan

Sandhurst Diocese has committed to a Laudato Si' Action Plan which is currently being developed and all parishes are being encouraged to register with Catholic Earthcare to develop their own plan. <https://www.caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare>

The theme for Laudato Si' Week this year is *Seeds of Hope* - inspired by the symbol for Season of Creation 2024, 'first fruits.' The aim is to be seeds of hope in our lives and our world, rooted in faith and love.

This year Laudato Si' Week concludes on Sunday 26 May which is National Sorry Day. The Australian Bishops' Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace is preparing resources for Laudato Si' Week, available by the end of April. These will focus on Care for our Earth from an Indigenous perspective so as to keep alive the current Bishops' Social Justice Statement 'Listen, Learn, Love - A New Engagement with ATSI People'.

The statement will be available on their website <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

### A Creation Care Creed

We believe and trust in God, all-powerful Creator and Sustainer

Who fashions the heavens and the earth and all that is in them

Who gazes on his handiwork in love, pronouncing it 'very good'

Who crafts men and women, calling us to partnership with him in caring for His world

Who provides in generous abundance all that is needed for the whole of Creation to thrive;

Who grieves at the way we neglect and spoil his masterpiece, and calls us to account.

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ who was born like us, choosing to share our humanity with its joy and its pain; Who lived an earthly life, affirming and celebrating the goodness of the physical world;

Who modelled for us a pattern for living

with integrity even though it cost him everything

Who died and came back to life to show us that in sacrifice lie the seeds of freedom and hope

Who returned home to his father – his earthly work complete

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit Who danced at the dawn of time to bring light and life

Who breathes life and purpose into all living things

Who opens our eyes to injustice and points us truthwards

Who calls us to join in the work of sustaining and renewing the earth

We commit ourselves to live day by day in the light of these beliefs, cherishing the earth and labouring for its healing and renewing, Amen.

*from a suggested Creation Mass liturgy from the Society of Jesus in Australia Care for our Common Home Committee.*

## 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

### Shepherding the vines?

**I'm currently considering buying some sheep, specifically around one hundred merino wethers, to run through my vineyard during the winter months.**

Sheep are excellent at eating weeds and grasses, doing a far better job than I could with a slasher and their movement aids soil aeration, their waste enriches the soil, creating a sustainable cycle of life and growth.

Despite these benefits, working with sheep brings its own set of challenges. I grew up thinking sheep were dumb but they continually surprise me with their unpredictable behaviour.

Although I refuse to believe they can outsmart me, I'm convinced they can out-dumb me! It's frustrating to plan out the best way to move my flock, only to have them turn even the simplest task into a comical, head-scratching, and sometimes expletive-laden challenge.

For example, when moving sheep from one paddock to another, loading them onto a truck, or guiding them up the ramp into the shearing shed, the leaders of the mob often refuse to follow a clear path. Instead, they find obscure or non-existent escape routes. They might jump fences, charge through outstretched arms, or run into a paddock with less feed, even if it poses a risk to them. If one sheep decides to bolt in a random direction, the rest will follow, leading to a spontaneous stampede. It's like herding a cloud: you can see it moving, but controlling its shape or direction is another matter entirely.

Given this unpredictability, I generally keep a flock for three or four years, ensuring that all but one of our interactions are for their benefit. This includes moving them to a paddock with more feed, shearing their wool, or treating them for flystrike. Except for their final trip to market, they should have no reason to fear me, yet sheep have a knack of turning any straightforward activity into an unpredictable obstacle course.

When it comes to shepherding, you can either get frustrated by the sheep's unpredictable behaviour or embrace the absurdity, finding humour in it. While it can be maddening when they find ways to complicate even the simplest tasks, these moments can also offer valuable lessons in patience and adaptability. You realise that things in life often don't go according to plan,

not because of malice, but simply because others rarely see the world exactly as you do. The behaviour of sheep has interesting parallels with broader themes of life and faith.

As I pursue the purchase of my little flock, the pastoral scenes of my childhood and the textured stories from scripture naturally weave through my thoughts. Jesus used sheep and shepherds as metaphors in the Gospels to illustrate the relationship between Himself and His followers, pointing out that sheep might stray, but they always know the shepherd's voice. This imagery can be quite comforting, especially when facing the unpredictability of sheep.



However, the Good Shepherd metaphor doesn't quite align with the Australian context, where sheep are usually driven rather than led, often with the help of a kelpie or two. It's a stark contrast to the serene depictions of green pastures and still waters in Psalm 23, but it speaks to the adaptability required in shepherding and life in general.

Scientists have recently discovered that sheep can remember the faces of up to fifty other sheep, as well as their shepherd's face. This memory can last for at least two years, reinforcing the idea that sheep aren't as dumb as they seem. In fact, their behaviour often reflects a different kind of intelligence, one that values following instincts and maintaining a sense of community.

As I embark on this journey of integrating sheep into the life cycle of a vineyard, I'm reminded of the broader fabric of community. Just as the shepherd in the parable knew each sheep, there is an invitation here to know and be known—not just by our human

neighbours, but also by the land and the animals we steward. It's a reminder that our work, especially when tied to the rhythms of nature, and nurtured by historical roots of faith and community, can be a profound act of worship, and a testament to the care we are called to embody.

In a world where leadership often leans toward dominance and control, the shepherd's way suggests strength through care and guidance, rather than power and fear. The gift and beauty of shepherding or guiding people is finding the balance between leading with confidence and allowing for a bit of spontaneity. It's about knowing when to let the sheep wander a little and when to steer them back. By embracing this discernment, we can turn moments of chaos into opportunities for learning and growth.

Thus, as the winter months approach, and the sheep begin their work among the vines, I see an unfolding parable of life and faith. The unpredictability of sheep behaviour is a vivid reminder that while we can't control everything, we can find humour and meaning in the journey, and that, in the end, the Good Shepherd will always find a way to bring the flock back home.

This is the Gospel and it's good news.

*Brian Spencer, Minister  
Waranga Uniting Churches*

## Video reflections on caring for our earth

- Look At The World by John Rutter  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxr8QBPq1z0> 4 mins 31 secs
- For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlBkpAm3fhw> 2 mins 13 secs
- Prayer for the Earth from Laudato Si' (video)  
<https://www.ecojesuit.com/prayer-for-the-earth-video-from-laudato-si/> Scroll down to find Video version of Pope Francis Prayer accompanied by beautiful images – 1 min 30 secs
- Pope Francis' A Prayer For Our Earth | CAFOD  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaTJF1AkwcA> 2 mins 5 secs
- A Prayer for the Earth from Laudato Si'  
<https://youtu.be/VJzOZuuxMI0> 3 min 43 secs
- Laudato Si' – The Song from Mumbai Archdiocese Office for Environment  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOwmQtdbwLk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOwmQtdbwLk) 3 min 16 secs - This one will have you dancing!

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**119 Albion Street, Kyabram 3620**

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



# WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### “Remembering Max McElhinney”

Please join us in honouring the memory of our cherished friend, Max McElhinney, for afternoon tea hosted by the Rushworth Bowls Club. Let's gather together for drinks, nibbles, and reminisce on our memories and times shared with Max.

**Friday, 3 May, 2024  
2:00 pm**

**Rushworth Bowls Club**

*We hope to see you there.*

### Community Meeting at Colbinabbin Town Hall

**Monday 13 May at 7.00pm**

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## ROAD CLOSURE

### Colbinabbin Picnic & Wine Festival Road Closures

**Sunday 5 May**

Traffic Australia have implemented a traffic management plan that includes the closure of the following roads from 10.30am to 3.30pm;

Collins street/Johnson street/Meade Lane

These roads will be closed to the general public and patrons of the event.

These roads can only be used for local traffic only.

Festival goers will be required to enter the festival car park via Station Street.

There will be signage available on the Mitchell Street to direct traffic at the time of the event.

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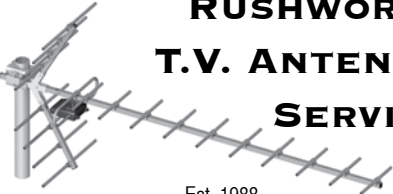


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# DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

## WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

### APRIL

<b>Thu 25</b>	Anzac Day
<b>Sat 27</b>	Rushworth Speedway: VMPA Modified Sedan, VSC Open Juniors, 1200 Juniors, GV Open Saloons, GV Productions, GV Ladies, GV Junior
<b>Sat 27 &amp; Sun 28</b>	Lockington Vintage Rally 9am-4pm daily
<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
<b>Sun 12</b>	Mothers Day at Days Mill, Day Road Murchison 10am-4pm
<b>Sat 18</b>	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
<b>Mon 20</b>	Cuppa for Cancer at Waranga Hostel hosted by Friends of the Hostel at 10am

## 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:**  
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**SUPPORT SERVICE:**  
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## ADVERTISING DEADLINES

### NEXT EDITION

**Display Ads: Friday, 3 May**

**Classifieds: Noon Monday, 6 May**

wnews@iinet.net.au

## Waranga News



### A Voluntary Community Newspaper

Printed by Maxam Printing, Shepparton

Published by Mary Jo Fortuna OAM,  
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**Waranga News Incorporated**

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## Project Update

Flood recovery works at the Murray riverfront in Echuca are continuing with replacement irrigation pipes, new mulch and planting of more than 2000 plants, from 20 different species of native vegetation of the Goulburn Broken River plains recently completed.



**Coming Up** ▶ Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 21 May | Echuca Civic Centre

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

## Victorian State Concert Orchestra

The Victorian State Concert Orchestra is performing a free concert at the Rochester Shire Hall on Sunday, 5 May. The Orchestra is renowned for its iconic programming, providing entertainment for a range of tastes and genres. Register for this unique and special Recovery Hub event by scanning the QR code.



## Kindergarten Enrolments

Applications for 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten for 2025 will open on 1 May. Submit your application together with the required documentation before 30 June to ensure your application is considered for first round offers. Offers will be emailed to families in mid-July and will be made subject to Department of Education and local priority of access criteria. For more information and to register your child for kinder in 2025 visit Council's website or call the Kindergarten Central Registration team.



## Immunisation Sessions

**By appointment only.** Register at [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations).

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

### Thursday, 2 May

- 9 – 10am | Echuca Library
- 11.30am – 12noon | Rochester Service Centre, Shop 6, 2 Gillies Street

### Tuesday, 7 May

- 5.30-6.30pm | Kyabram Senior Citizens Centre

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

## Now Open

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



### Psychological First Aid Training

Council's Recovery Hub in partnership with Phoenix Australia to present Psychological First Aid Sessions which provide practical, flexible, and recommended approaches to help people affected by trauma. Visit the Now Open page to register for any of the ten sessions being held in Echuca, Lockington and Rochester between 22 April and 22 May. If you need more information, contact our Recovery Hub Team on 1300 666 535, option 2.

### Campaspe Youth GO! Grants

This grant program is open to schools, community groups or organisations to host youth focused events or activities for residents aged 12 - 25 across Campaspe. Grants of a maximum \$1,000 per application are available. Applications close midnight, Sunday, 19 May. For full criteria, information and applications visit the Now Open page or contact our Youth Community Development Officer.

### Expressions of Interest - Rochester Flood Study Reference Committee

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

### Free Youth Mental Health First Aid Accredited Courses

Council is offering free, accredited Youth Mental Health First Aid courses, designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to help adolescents experiencing mental health problems. Visit the Now Open page to register for any of the sessions being held in Echuca, Lockington, Rochester (in person) or Kyabram and Rushworth (blended online and in person) from 4 May – 30 June. If you need more information or assistance, contact our Youth Community Development Officer.

### Library Strategy Survey

We want to hear your opinions, thoughts and ideas about our library service. Please complete this short survey to assist us to plan for the future and understand what we need to do to improve our services and resources. Paper versions are also available at all of our libraries and depots.

[www.research.net/r/campaspe/library](http://www.research.net/r/campaspe/library)

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 renown library consultants, Ian and Jacqui Phillips as well as library staff. Visit the Now Open page for details on dates, locations and times.

## Employment

#campaspecareers

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asset Analyst</li> <li>• Early Childhood Educator Co Worker - Casual</li> <li>• Early Childhood Educator Room Leader - Casual</li> <li>• Group Fitness Instructor</li> <li>• Learn To Swim Teacher</li> <li>• Maternal &amp; Child Health Nurse -</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Casual</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Gardens Arboriculture Team Leader</li> <li>• Parks Maintenance Employee x 2</li> <li>• Recreation Coordinator</li> </ul> <p>For all positions currently open and application details, visit Council's website.</p> |
|---|---|



# Colbo Sports Report

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## CFNC - A very hot day at Gunbower

### Round 2 - Colbo v Leitchville-Gunbower

Round two has been run and won already, as the Colbo army headed way up north to Gunbower. Unfortunately, the 'southern folk' aren't as acclimatised to the northern heat as our hosts were, so we thought it was pretty hot!

### Football Seniors

#### Colbo 8.6. 54 lt Leitch/Gunbower 8.12. 60

With the afternoon heat still in session, the senior game started, and it can be said that there was zero sizzle in this one. A very slow start from both sides had spectators thinking about heading down to the local for an hour and coming back later.

Leitchy kicked a lot of behinds in the first quarter, missing out on the opportunity to put the Colbo lads away early.

Colbo went into quarter time goalless, but luckily some sustained pressure kept them within reach. A poor start to the second quarter found them four goals down in a short amount of time and then the wheels started turning. The 'little man', Laine Fitzgerald, got into a rhythm and put a couple of goals on the board quickly. Jude's brother Charlie also got on the board and coach Jed was the beneficiary of a 50m penalty to the goal square. Four points down at half time and the game was back on.

From here it was just a scrappy back and forth dog fight. Goal for goal more or less, and hard work for both sides. Leitchy/Gunny took control of a six point lead at three quarter time but had that taken away from them early in the last.

Big Alex Carr deciding to take matters into his own hands propelling Colbo into the lead. Unfortunately, the boys just couldn't put Leitchy away and three late goals got them back in front by six points once again and that was all she wrote. A gallant effort to get up there and be so competitive.

**Goal kickers:** Alex Carr 3, Laine Fitzgerald 2, Charlie Ryan 1, Jed Brain 1, and Jai Carn 1

**Best on ground:** Nathan Basile, Judge Judy Ryan, Aidan Basile, Dutchy, Little Man Laine, Alex Carr

### Reserves

#### Colbo 4.1. 25 lt Leitch/Gunbower 26.18. 174

The seconds kicked off proceedings for the day with a very different looking team to the one they had seven days earlier; this may be a very common theme.

After a late recruiting spree, the number of players increased to a whopping 17 players, and the Leitchy/Gunny lads were kind enough to lend us a further 4 players to get a game happening.

Leitchy got off to a flying start and were forever in the driver's seat from there. They scored quickly early, which was halted a fraction after the Colbo boys got the ball down to big Wilza Hayes on a couple of occasions which he capitalised on, followed by a late goal

to Stephen Tuohey.

Unfortunately, only trailing by a couple of goals at quarter time was as exciting as it got. The goals were piled on from Leitchy and they made the boys earn every kick. As the sun blasted down, the fatigue was setting in, and the margin was going up. A late floater of a goal by Sam Brown was the only other highlight for the game from a Colbo perspective Leitchy running out big winners.

Colbo finished the game with a few wounded soldiers, but, as always, the effort on display could not be disregarded.

Bodey Abbott was a standout and worked tirelessly all day in the engine room, along with Ned Morgan who just seemed to be everywhere, and Bevo with his years of senior experience showing through provided some class.

**Best on ground :** Bodey Abbott, Stephen Tuohey, Ned Morgan, Jack Colbert, William Hayes, Christopher Guinane

### Netball

#### A Grade

#### Colbo 46 lt Leitch/Gunbower 54

It was a tough game ahead for the girls this week. Goalers Ella Kerlin and Matilda McIntyre worked tirelessly in attack to score. Midcourters, Grace McIntyre, Ella Turnbull, Macy McCaig and Morgan Cairns fought hard to bring the ball down court, holding great composure when Leitchy's defence got physical.

Defenders Tanzin Myers and Elle Palmer gelled well to cover their speedy opponents. Colbo unfortunately didn't come home with the win, but by the wise words of Tanzin Myers – "premierships aren't won in April!".

**Best on ground:** Elle Palmer

#### A Reserve

#### Colbo 58 def Leitch/Gunbower 45

Round 2 was a successful one! Girls had a slow start in the first quarter but managed to turn things around from the second quarter onwards. Goalers worked the circle beautifully with the mid court girls, Sophie and Morghan, feeding in to make a seamless flow down court to each goal. Mikayla was on fire down in defence with a tonne of turnovers as well. Emily had a great game with this round being her first of the season and no pre-season training; well done Em! The heat was a challenge this round but the girls didn't let that get the better of them to end on a win! Big thanks to our subs Meg and Liv. Congrats girls, keep it up!

**Best on court :** Dominique Palmer

#### B Grade

#### Colbo 37 lt Leitch/Gunbower 63

It was a tough game in the heat. Colbo B Grade had a slower start but once it hit second quarter they found their groove. Defence was strong within the ring and down the court. While shooters got more confidence as the game went on, unfortunately it was not enough to keep up with the rough and tough Leitchville/Gunbower side.

**Best on court:** Lucy White

#### B Reserve

#### Colbo 43 def Leitch/Gunbower 28

The team hit the ground running with a few quick goals, Georgia back from injury took some time to warm into the goal ring but within a few minutes looked like she hadn't been far away! The second quarter saw the team lift the intensity by stronger bodies and lots of team talk. The heat slowed us down in the third, but we continued to dominate the court. The last quarter certainly saw both teams slowed but again Colbo kept consistent and strong. Another great win for the girls.

**Best on court:** Corrie Seabrook

#### 17 Under

#### Colbinabbin 28 lt Leitch/Gunbower 74

The girls started off strongly but couldn't compete with Leitchville's polished side. Our defenders, Maisy and Sadie worked very hard to win the rebounds while Mikayla and Amelia shot well under pressure. Our midcourt, including Brigid, Emily and Chelsea, controlled the game exceptionally well, while Harriet filled in from under 15s to help us out. We came out strong in the last quarter, only losing the quarter by one goal, but unfortunately not coming away with the win this week.

**Best on court:** Amelia Woodfine and Emily McLean

#### 15 Under

#### Colbo 22 lt Leitch/Gunbower 31

A great effort by our under 15s who had a slimmed down team of only seven regular players on a very warm day in Gunbower. Thanks go to Frankie Ryan and Isla Knight who came up from the under 13s to assist. Isla kept her cool when thrown on due to injury time. A close match for our team, with just some inaccuracy in passing costing them the game.

**Best on court:** Zac Morgan for incredible rebounds.

#### 13 Under

#### Colbo 2 lt Leitch/Gunbower 63

Another tough day for Colbo's Under 13's, with the very strong, tall and polished team from Leitchville Gunbower asserting their skills. Despite this, the flow of play from the young guns was impressive, with practiced set plays being used well.

Similarly, the continual defensive push from the team ensured that it was not all smooth sailing for the opposition. The club is very proud of how the team continually kept their heads high despite the score against them, which is a valuable asset proving that netball fun is not all about the score, as they were able to implement alternate plays and positions without batting an eyelash and feeling disheartened. With continual practice, the team will be a force to be reckoned with. Great job all!

**Best on court:** Gracie Cox



# CFNC - Great week for the netballers

Colbo welcomed Heathcote to the MJ Morgan Oval for their first home game of the year on a cracking autumn day. Thanks to all the committee members and volunteers who allow the home games to fire on all cylinders. Special shout out to Mark Turner who ran over a table in his car right next to the bar door and Slab Ryan who broke the record for the most kilometres driven with a completely flat tyre. For more details, contact anyone but Tim Hill, he knows nothing about it.

## Round 3: Colbo v Heathcote Football Seniors

### Colbinabbin 5.4. 34 lt Heathcote 21.9. 135

A revamped senior side came out with a point to prove, aiming to match it with a benchmark team of the competition.

A blistering start had the boys in charge in the first quarter, jumping out to an early lead, which was pegged back by the classy Heathcote outfit by half time to hold a two goal lead.

An 8-goal to 0 third quarter wrote the script for our shattered men who put in the work early and were split right down the middle. They battled and tried to stop the flow but the much bigger, stronger and fitter Heathcote mob were too much for our depleted hoppers. A couple of injuries early in the game made life tough for the remaining team.

Old Man Bully was a warrior all day against another old man in the ruck. Judge Judy Ryan had plenty of the ball across half back and wherever he could find it. The old boy Dutchy showed us all that he still has plenty of run left in his legs with a big late goal.

Heathcote running out big winners once again after a slow start.

**Goal kickers:** Alex Carr 2, Jed Brain 1, Laine Fitzgerald 1, Dutchy 1

**Best on Ground:** Julian Bull, Nathan Basile, Jude Ryan, Connor Aldous, William Lowe, Charles Ryan

## Reserves

### Colbo 1.1. 7 lt Heathcote 24.22. 166

The Scooby Doo's got the ball rolling once again in big Wilza's 150th game. The selection process was tough as always, talent pouring out of the side of "Hill".

Due to some senior injuries spanning the entire week, a few soldiers were required to go up a grade and showcase their skills. The extra cattle that filled the void had well and truly seen plenty of paddocks in a short lived retirement. The faithful leader, President Tractors, and knee-less coach Dan pulled some very uncomfortable boots on to help the boys out.

A handy start saw the boys not too far away from a very strong opposition, keeping an arms length away. From here the game got harder and harder to remain in touch. The Heathcote lads were big, strong, and fit. The gap in the margin grew by each quarter, but the list of positives that could be taken away from the game was a mile long (the list of improvements might've been 2 miles long but so be it).

Jimmy Duke was at his best in his return this week, showing how valuable his presence is with

his ruck work and around the ground efforts, including a big mark at centre half forward, and a cool head to slot the only goal for the day. Paul Morgan might've had 30 intercept marks at full back, and also kicked a record 13 torpedos out of defence as it was in his area a lot. Bodey Abbott and Tyler Howlett were like two jack russels going at it all day long, getting low and nipping at the heels of the opposition. Heathcote ran out the game winners against an undermanned Colbo.

**Goal kickers:** James Duke

**Best on Ground:** James Duke, Paul Morgan, Will Brown, Bodey Abbott, Tyler Howlett, Harrison Lewis.

## Netball

### A Grade

#### Colbinabbin 47 def Heathcote 30

Thank goodness, A Grade finally had their first win! Heathcote have always challenged the Colbo girls with their physicality and loud court presence so the girls knew it would be a tough match. You would think their life was on the line the way Ella, Dom and Matilda shot, racking up the points.

Colbo's mid courters, Grace and Macy channelled their idol, Sharon Strezleki, providing delicious feeds into the ring. Time and time again the defence end of Tanzin, Ella and Elle produced turnovers, leaving what seemed to be their shooters praying for their downfall.

A great contest, yet Colbo pulled away to win. Colbo looks forward to next week, grand final rematch!

**Best on court:** Tanzin Myers and Ella Kerlin

### A Reserve

#### Colbinabbin 54 def Heathcote 35

In a milestone game for Lily, notching up her 150th game, the girls were always going to come out strong. Lily is a much loved team member – calm, composed and always team first. She combined beautifully with Dom all game who was a weapon under the post. Macy and Morghan's pace throughout the mid court was hard to stop and a pleasure to watch. Congratulations to Mikayla who had her best game of the season and drove the ball strongly out of defence. Charlotte continued her dominance at GK and what a huge bonus her comeback to netball has been to the team.

A great win to the girls and an opportunity to try a few different things.

**Best on court:** Mikayla Palmer and Lily Wareham

### B Grade

#### Colbinabbin 32 def Heathcote 21

Great game by the B Grade girls this week having their first win of the season against

## Congratulations

**Will Hayes -**

**150 Reserves games**

**Lily Wareham -**

**150 netball games**

**Hannah Fuller**

**100 netball games**

**in the green and gold!**

Heathcote. Wonderful shooting by attackers Emma, Alex, Lilly, and Stella. Great leading by the mid court girls and defenders getting many intercepts and turnovers. This week B Grade also celebrated Hannah's 100th game at Colbo. We are so lucky to have her in our team this year! Good work girls.

**Best on court:** Hannah Fuller

### B Reserve

#### Colbo 48 def Heathcote 39

Heathcote came out strong nailing the first three goals very quickly in the first quarter, however the girls held strong and didn't let it shake them. Second quarter the crew were consistent but still lacked that additional intensity. Third quarter saw Colbo hit the lead even further with a change up of Keely and Corrie into the mid court. Shout out also to Lil Cat who stepped in to GD giving it her absolute all! The last quarter saw legs run out due to the heat but the girls continued to be strong and work as a team. Another great team win.

**Best on court:** Alex Duke

### 17 & Under

No game this week due to Heathcote not having an under 17's side.

### 15 & Under

#### Colbo 39 def Heathcote 23

A well deserved win from our Under 15s players who held their lead from the first centre pass against Heathcote. Every player worked as a team during the match, with beautiful work from the shooters, strong front position leads in the mid court and stellar defence against talented opponents.

The coach clearly couldn't stay away and flew in from her international destination for the match. The girls were glad to have her there to make some great substitutes and help bring home the win.

**Best on court:** Abbey Ryan and Ella Patrick

### 13 & Under

#### Colbo 10 lost to Heathcote 31

Despite the score, Saturday was a great day for the Colbo Under 13's as we welcomed back George and a new player, Hailey to the group. The puzzle pieces started to click, with fantastic movement down the court, with great leads and passing into the goal allowing Colbo to score ten valuable goals. The defensive pressure kept Heathcote at bay, with many turnovers favouring Colbo's score. Although Colbo didn't win, they managed to get their best score yet, which is something to be proud of. The improvement from round one is evident and of course, they can only go up! Well done everyone!

**Best on court:** Madison West

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# RFNC - The return of the Tigers!



The last few years have been more than hard for the Rushworth Football Netball Club. After nearly folding, the committee sought to play season 2023 without Senior footballers to keep the club afloat. Between seasons, people stepped up, went out of their comfort zone and produced a senior side for the 2024 season with a new coach and new players being sourced. Never say never! Well done to all those who stepped up to help the 'Tigers roar in 2024'!

A special mention and welcome aboard to new coach Mark 'Wheatlers' Wheatley who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. The club is beyond grateful to have him on board. Also a special mention to all the recruits who have jumped on board for season 2024 and beyond. This is the start of something that's bigger than individuals and the club is proud to have them all on-board. Thank you to everyone who stayed close to the club and believed it could be done. Let the old and the new unite!

The first round for the season was against Merrigum at Merrigum and while some scores blew out, it didn't show the effort the teams put in during the day.

## 13 April, Round 1 vs Merrigum Netball

The 11/U and 13/U did not play this week.

U/15 played a great game for their first in the season only going down by one goal. The defenders played very well together, and the attacking was just as strong.

**Incentives:** Lailah Francis, Tyra Roberts and Desiree Swallow.

## 17/U Merrigum 39 - Rushworth 38

The girls played a good game. Heads were dropped, but they fought back to only lose by a goal. Great job.

**1st Incentive** - Jackie Jones, who played well and ran centre the whole time.

**2nd Incentive** - Emma Francis, who kept pushing and being proactive both mid court and goals.

**3rd Incentive** - Millie Newton, who was constantly on her toes in defence chasing hard to get that ball.

## C Grade Rushworth 18 - Merrigum 23

The girls had a great first game considering they had a few girls out. Thank you to Emma, Millie and Tash for filling in. Great attacking game with some really clear channels and great moves. There is lots to work on but a really good foundation!

**1st Incentive** - Indi Weston for an incredible first game back.

**2nd Incentive** - Eliza for taking feedback on board and implementing it brilliantly. Eliza is so consistent, she always shows up and gives it her all.

**3rd Incentive** - Hailey Lemin for an absolutely amazing game. Hailey is strong and moves well up either end of the court.

## B Grade

B Grade girls showed some great passages of play and improved as the game went on,

keeping the opponent's goals down in the last half. Lots of positives to take away and a great season to look forward to!

**1st Incentive** - Kiarrah who showed great leadership and had hands on every ball down in the ring.

**2nd Incentive** - Shan, who ran hard all game and assisted well on the ring.

**3rd Incentive** - Mads who moved the ball really well down the court and switched up well adapting to new positions.

## A Grade Rushworth 29 - Merrigum 45

A Grade had a fantastic start to the season. The 'old ducks' still have it! They really gave their opponents a run and made them work hard for every goal.

Unfortunately, the score blew out in the last quarter for what was otherwise a very tight game.

**1st Incentive** - Crystal has stepped up into A Grade seamlessly and proved she really can do anything.

**2nd Incentive** - Nae who always shines; the queen of rebounds and addressing the line.

**3rd Incentive** - Kayla Shep who had a baby a mere few months ago and defies the laws of physics running as fast and as hard as she does, impressing us all and taking lots of intercepts in a new position this year.

## Football Reserves

With no junior footy for the day the football side of things was kicked off with the Reserves.

It was a tough battle for the fellas in the black and yellow but to their credit they fought hard all day and never gave in. The mateship on display and growth throughout the team was something to be proud of and they hit the ground running, although the scoreboard didn't reflect the effort put in.

**Best on ground** - Matt Caton, back from a stint at Colbo, showed more than a glimpse of his capabilities and received Best on Ground for the day.

The Skipper Josh Newton led from the

front and worked hard all day in the ruck, never giving an inch (although outsized) and showed the grit and the determination we want to be known for. Every single player put their hand up.

**Other award winners** - Tom Jones and Liam Sharples.

## Seniors

Seniors started off with a bang with recruits Liam Adlington, Daniel Edwards and Liam Francis all connecting to kick the first! The Tigers were on the board early and rolling into 2024.

The lads fought hard all day and there was only a kick or two in it over the four quarters. To say we are proud of this group is a massive understatement. The way they all dug in and fought hard to the very end was something to walk away with their heads held high.

Again, like the Reserves, the mateship started to build during the game. It was enormous and one of the key pillars moving forward.

**Best on Ground** - On ball 'bull' Liam Francis took the honours for the day with Best on Ground. His stoppage work was something else, busting tackles all day and hitting packs hard.

**Second Best on Ground** - The soon-to-be 'cult figure' Liam Adlington. The big burly ruckman did not disappoint on debut, giving the on-ballers first use at centre bounces and around the ground; some silky foot skills around the ground (for a big fella).

**Next Best on Ground** - Daniel Edwards with four goals and leading from the front on-ball and up forward working tirelessly all day with some silky skills to go with it.

**Other awards winners** - Vice-captain Ethan Arnold and Isaac Griffen. Ethan put on an unbelievable display, finishing the game with a mountain of possessions.

**Other award winners** - Griff was outstanding down back and led the way all day with his defensive efforts and ball use - one of our backline mates who had an absolute pearler. A special mention to young Dante Henry who made his senior debut. No doubt the first of many games in the firsts! He is definitely a crowd favourite, with plenty of potential and growth to come.



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# Tigers roar at the Ironbark Stadium!



It was a memorable occasion at the Ironbark Stadium as the new senior Tigers fought hard to stay in the game and finally had a win over Longwood; the first for a long time! The day was full of wins for the other teams also.

## 20 April, Round 2 - vs Longwood Reserves

**Rushworth 7.12.54 def Longwood 6.12.48**

The Reserves are often written off but came out firing with a steady start and a worthy output to be down by 4 points at the half time break.

After the well needed rest, enforcer Tom Jones went to work gathering possessions at will and often finding Maysy who added some much needed class. Big Coop worked hard all day gaining meterage at every chance, much to the delight of Rhys Shepherd, attacking the ball at will and finishing off well. In a tight day the boys ran out winners - very proud of the lads.

## Seniors

**Rushworth 13.8.86 def Longwood 11.11.77**

Kick into the seniors and yet again the punters had us all but written off but enter cult figure Liam Adlington who got his hands on it first to set the tone and eventually lead to an early major through the always silky DJ White .

It was a tight tussle with the likes of Brett Ando busting packs all day and new fella Nico McKinley leading the way and putting his head in first. Setting us up for the day with pure class by foot was Jarryd Shepherd eventually leading to best on honours .

Pure heart and mateship saw the Tigers run away eventual winners 86-77 which will with no doubt lead to greater things to come. This is only the beginning for the Tigers.

Massive thank you to all the supporters and everyone who never doubted us and backed us all the way.

## Netball

**11/U**

**Rushy 9 def Longwood 1**

**13/U**

**Rushworth 26 - Longwood 7**

A great first game for the U13 defeating Longwood.

**Incentives** - Willow Bertram, Billie Johnstone and Charlii Rose. It's going to be an exciting season ahead.

15/U

**Rushy 31- Longwood 17**

The team played well, with defenders really sticking to their players and the attackers having hands on the ball, coming away with the win.

**Incentives** - Makayla, Desiree and Caitlin  
**17/U**

**Rushworth 61 - Longwood 11**

The girls started off slowly, but eventually found their feet. The coach's quarter time speech worked, as lobbing improved and many intercepts were taken. The whole team worked well together and came away with the win. The girls should be very proud of themselves.

**1st Incentive** - Bella O'Dwyer

**2nd Incentive** - Zahley Francis

**3rd Incentive** - Millie Simpson

**C Grade**

The C Grade girls had a bit of a hard game against a stronger Longwood side, but you cannot fault their effort and never give up attitude. The defenders led from the front and fought hard all day. The girls were so adaptable when asked to play different positions and didn't drop their heads.

**1st Incentive** - Emma Francis for a ripper game in goals! She played Under 17s prior and still came on and dominated in the goal ring.

**2nd Incentive** - Sara who was thrown into C first up due to some late withdrawals, but when rotated back into GD. She led from the front and had a tonne of intercepts and rebounds.

**3rd Incentive** - Hailey Lemin. Again she

just continues to go hard at the ball. Attacks everything, and her driving down the midcourt is fantastic!

**B Grade**

B Grade came out strong from the first whistle and held onto a great lead to finish with the win! The girls combing well and defending the ball well all down the court.

**1st Incentive** - Hailey Bieber, who tried a new position and absolutely killed it, causing many turnovers and doing it all with a smile on her face.

**2nd Incentive** - Anita Barlow who played a strong attack game, positioned herself well in the ring and stood her ground against a much more physical opponent.

**3rd Incentive** - Laura Martin who combined beautifully with Anita and Maya in the attack end and moved well in the ring and shot beautifully.

**A Grade**

**Rushworth 23 lt Longwood 45**

A Grade golden oldies had a rough start to the game with a few last minute changes. They started slowly but had some really good passages of play in the later quarters.

**1st incentive** - Nae who shut down her opponent and showed great leadership and control in the ring.

**2nd Incentive** - Katta who didn't drop her head when things weren't going our way, proving herself as vibe queen and ultimate captain.

**3rd Incentive** - Crystal Pateman who worked tirelessly all day and managed to make at least two new friends mid game.

See you all next week at Lancaster.

## Tigers roar in 2024!

### RFNC 2024 Season Fixture

Round 3 - 27 April v Lancaster

Round 4 - 4 May v Girgarre

Round 5 - 19 May v Dookie

Round 6 - 25 May v Avenel

Round 7 - 1 June v Undera

8 June - Gen. Bye Kings B/day

Round 8 - 16 June v Tally

Round 9 - 22 June v Stanhope

Round 10 - 29 June v Shepp East

Round 11 - 13 July v Violet Town

Round 12 - 20 July v Nagambie

Round 13 - 27 June v Murch/Toolamba

Round 14 - 3 August v Girgarre

Round 15 - 10 August v Merrigum

Round 16 - 17 August v Longwood

### Up-coming Events

Sat 4 May - Rushworth Cup

Sat 25 May – Reverse draw

Sat 1 June – Junior Ball

Sat 22 June – RFNC annual Ball

Sat 13 July – Goods and services Auction

Sat 17 August – Pub Crawl



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# Branden Wilson and mum Leanne off to National Open Championships

It is exciting to hear that last year's Rushworth P-12 student, Branden Wilson, has been competing in the Australian Open Swimming Championships 2024 being held at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre in Queensland. The event started on April 17 and ended on the 20 April. Branden has been competing in the 19-20 age group with some exciting results.

**Day 1 - National Championships** - Branden swam a great race, with a personal best (PB) in the first fifty metres to come home fast to win his heat with a new PB coming in twelfth possibility of a final swim in the 19-20 age group. Bonus for Branden with his new PB, qualified him for Olympic trials.

**Day 2 - Nationals Championships** Branden was racing in the 200 Breaststroke and swam a good race with another PB under his belt. Branden did a .49 PB on his 200 Breast stroke. Congratulations. Branden was then twelfth, and second reserve for the 19-20 age final that night.



**Stage 2 of our Nationals campaign.** - Branden competed in the 100 Breast stroke on the Wednesday.

**Day 4 Finals** - Branden was in Age Final 7pm. Results: Branden PB'd the 50 metre Breaststroke and was ninth going into the night's final in the 19-20 Age

**Final Day at Nationals 2024** - Branden raced in the 50 meters Breaststroke. He swam well in his first National Final swimming under 30 for the second time.

What a great way to finish an awesome Nationals!



**Branden and mum, Leanne Houkes-Wilson, who is on Team Vic as the 13-19 coach.**

## Toolamba and Stanhope Premierships 1930 and 1931

by Tony Ford

After the successful completion of the first season of the Goulburn Valley Central Junior Football League in 1929, two additional clubs were attracted to the competition in 1930. They were Merrigum and Toolamba. Toolamba had been playing in the GVFL 'Seconds' competition which comprised teams from small towns, district teams and a second eighteen from some of the major league GVFL clubs. The GVFL reserves competition as we know it today did not kick off until after World War 11.

All five of the present-day KDFNL teams competing that year wore the colours they still use today, with Toolamba playing in the black and white of Collingwood. Toolamba dominated the GVCJFL in the 1930 season and were both the minor premiers and premiers. The level of competition was not as high as they had expected, and they only remained in the association for that one year before returning to the GVL Seconds.

Toolamba (first) played Rushworth (third) in one of the finals, scoring a comfortable win 8.16.64 to 3.2.20. Goalkickers for the Tigers were C McLeod, Boehm and Furphy. The Rushworth Chronicle reporter included Dick Duke, E Cheong, McLeod, Wizzy Howard and Stan Colliver in Rushworth's best players.

Stanhope won the other final against Merrigum, played at Girgarre. After the game, Merrigum protested that Stanhope had played an ineligible player in A Poole, but the protest was dismissed, and Stanhope was free to compete against Toolamba in the final.

In the final match of the year at Merrigum, Toolamba comfortably beat Stanhope 9.13.67 to 2.7.19. Stanhope were best served in the final by D Pattison, Smith, Buzza, J Howell, Paynter, Hicks and Goulding. They were reduced to seventeen players in the second half when the one and only reserve was already on the field and a second player (Potts) was injured. As Toolamba had also

finished on top of the ladder, there was no right of challenge available to another team and Toolamba were declared the 1930 premiers.

In 1931, the GVCJFA reverted back to four teams. As noted earlier, Toolamba made a quick exit after its successful 1930 season. Girgarre, after initially being included in the draw, also left, leaving Stanhope, Rushworth, Merrigum and Murchison to contest the season.

Rushworth Junior Football Club's new president that year was Reverend W A Williams. He had just transferred from Alexandra to become the vicar at St Paul's Church of England, Rushworth. Also acting as timekeeper, he clearly was keen on his footy, and certainly not the last clergyman to take play an active role in the local club. Secretary for 1931 was A W Furphy, who was also a trainer and player.

The 1931 season consisted of four complete rounds. Stanhope were the minor premiers, finishing on top of the ladder by a wide margin. They went through the regular season undefeated, albeit with a draw against Murchison. Good players included Hec Downing and Bill Buzza, who also later played in the great Rushworth senior teams in the GVFL.

In the two semi-finals, Stanhope (First) comfortably beat Murchison (Third), and Rushworth scraped home against Merrigum

by two points. The Tigers were best served by Cheong, Colliver, Spence, McCauley and Golding in that match. Rushworth then won an exciting battle between the two successful finalists (11.7.73 to 10.8.68) which represented Stanhope's first loss for the season. The Tigers' Arthur Budd was awarded a free kick 25 yards out from goal just as the final bell sounded. "With a nice punt (he) raised the two flags", much to the chagrin of Stanhope players and supporters.

Stanhope exercised its right, as minor premiers, to challenge Rushworth for the outright premiership. For the second week in a row, Rushworth and Stanhope lined up against each other. This time, Stanhope comprehensively triumphed, 11.13.79 to 3.8.26. Rushworth was best served by rover Alan McCauley, who was considered BOG by one pundit. McCauley also played in the successful Rushworth premiership team in the GVFL that year. Stanhope had multiple goalkickers in Hec Downing (4), Bill Buzza (3) and A Poole (3). Their best players were W and G Paynter, R Hitchcock and J Smith, along with the three multiple goalkickers.

Stanhope's winning team comprised the players mentioned above, as well as C Golding, B Emmett, S Linford, A Laws, H Hicks, G Howell, D Pattison, E Lorenz, R Wright, W McLennan, E Bliss. Only one reserve was allowed, with the 19th man being S Collins.



# Colbinabbin Annual Market day

On Sunday 24 March, Colbinabbin Primary held their Annual Market Day Event. They were delighted with the turnout and the end result was fantastic.

A very big thank you goes out to all of the community businesses who were able to donate, including businesses from Rushworth, Colbinabbin, Elmore, Rochester, Bendigo, Echuca and Shepparton to name a few!

**Right: Ethan Johnson and Nick Weppner raised over \$1000 for the school with their self initiated 'Mullet Chop' auction! Well done boys!**

**Below right: Isla Knight, Frankie Ryan, Lucinda Ryan, Holly Walsh and Ivy Borger enjoying some market shopping together.**

**Below: Evelyn Wilkson enjoying an activity as part of the children's entertainment on the day.**



(Below) Thomas Rathjen looking happy with his face paint design.



Louise Costa-Pelle and Julie Price put on some great entertainment throughout the day!





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