

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 23 May 2024

Celebrating our volunteers

It's National Volunteer Week this week and time to celebrate and show appreciation to the many volunteers who keep our communities alive and thriving. The theme for the 2024 celebration is 'Something for Everyone' - so why not find out what your 'Something' is?



The Rushworth SES took over the window of the old newsagent building to celebrate 'Wear Orange Wednesday' 22 May and Volunteer week, supporting the SES volunteers throughout the state. SES would also like to encourage more people to look at becoming a member of the organisation and invite you to an Open Day on 29 June. Come along and see what you may be able to do!

It's Our News. Your Voice. Support our Waranga News volunteers

As you know, Waranga News is an independent community news publication owned and run by the people in your community. But in order to keep telling your stories we need your help. That's why we're participating in a major fund-raising campaign coordinated nationally by the Local and Independent News Association (LINA), from 3-9 June, to help us keep local news vibrant and alive in our community.

Keep your eyes peeled for updates on our socials (FB & Insta) and our website (wnews.com.au) and watch out for the campaign kick-off on 3rd June. Your donation will help to keep you informed of news and issues important to our community, to read the latest sporting results, to catch up with town 'goss' both now and fifty years ago and much more.

The local is all about where we live. With your help, we can continue to tell the stories that matter to our community, and together we can ensure that your voice is heard too. Turn to page 2 to read more about the LINA campaign *Our News. Your Voice.*

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

**Sam
BIRRELL MP**
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NICHOLLS

THE NATIONALS
for Regional Australia



\$26 MILLION SECURED FOR NICHOLLS

Two critical projects in Seymour and Echuca have received Federal funding. \$15 million will get shovels in the ground to build the Seymour Community Wellbeing Hub. The Hub is a life changing project which will provide the Seymour community with a range of health and mental health services including veteran, family, employment and education support and services. The Coalition committed to this project at the 2022 Federal election and I am delighted to see this project get the funding it deserves. \$11,356,067 has been awarded to Campaspe Shire Council to upgrade facilities at Echuca's Victoria Park. This project will redevelop the Victoria Park complex into a new multi - purpose community centre for a range of groups who use the facility. The facility will also double in times of disaster and transfer into an emergency relief centre. It is exciting to see what can be achieved when organisations form partnerships and work together for a common goal and I'm excited to see the positive impact these projects will have in Nicholls.



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FEDERAL BUDGET LEAVES REGIONAL AUSTRALIA BEHIND

This week, the Labor Government handed down it's underwhelming and unimaginative Federal Budget which lacked vision for the future and a coherent policy response to inflation which risks the cost-of-living crisis being tougher for longer. While energy and rental subsidies will provide welcome relief, they are temporary measures and a cynical attempt to artificially lower inflation. It treats the symptoms not the underlying problems. The budget should also have tackled the labour market issues and industrial relations barriers that hold back the economy, local businesses and industry. I welcome \$1 billion in the budget towards accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

AGRICULTURE

Again, an unidentified 'not for publication' amount sits in the budget for water buybacks, which pose a significant social and economic risk to communities across the Murray-Darling Basin.

INFRASTRUCTURE

As expected, following the outcomes of Labor's infrastructure review the \$208 million the Coalition Government allocated to the Shepparton Bypass has disappeared from the books, and the lack of any strategic investment pipeline means it won't be built by a Labor Government.

ROADS

Key road programs such as Safer Roads and Black Spot have additional funding, but it won't stretch far enough after years of Labor neglect, especially at a state level.

A WIN FOR FARMERS, FAMILIES AND COMMON SENSE

The Nationals have won a major victory for farmers with the Agriculture (Biosecurity Protection) Levies Bill 2024 facing defeat in the Senate. We have lobbied hard against the unfair levy we labelled a 'fresh food tax' - because it would drive up the cost of Australian-grown food at the checkout. Speaking on the Bill I asked " Why would any Australian government tax their own farmers - to pay for the biosecurity risks of their international competitors - to bring their products into this country? Now the crossbench in the Senate agrees with the Nationals that this tax is poor policy in both principle and design and should be rejected

**Our News. Your Voice.
and we would like your help**

Nearly forty-six years ago a group of Rushworth and district people set up a cooperative to fund the first editions of this community-owned newspaper, first under the banner of the Rushworth Chronicle and later as the Waranga News. The former Rushworth Chronicle, like many small local newspapers at the time, had become unviable and had closed down in the previous year, leaving a concerning gap in the district community's ability to communicate with itself and with others.

The business model that had stood country newspapers in good stead for many years had begun to falter, mainly due to declining populations and consequent decreasing economic base that saw a loss of the advertising revenue needed to keep the paper alive. However, we were confident that a not-for-profit model that relied on volunteer workers, together with local advertising, could be a sustainable option that would at least keep the paper alive.

This proved to be the case - indeed for many years our newspaper was more than viable and we were able to plough many thousands of dollars back into community projects - the building of the Waranga Aged Care Hostel, the purchase of the Community House, the P-12 stadium, to name a few.

Then came along the World Wide Web and social media! The so-called 'rivers of gold' in advertising revenue that kept independent journalism alive quickly dried up. Over the past few years many more communities have seen the loss of their 'local', with the Covid years hastening the demise. The Waranga News has been holding its own - just - but gone are the glory days of injecting excess profits back into the community.

LINA

In 2021 a new body was formed in response to the urgent situation facing local and independent media. The Local and Independent News Association (LINA) is a not-for-profit industry body supporting independent and community news publishers. LINA's goals are to strengthen public interest journalism and provide capacity-building support, networking, services and resources to newsrooms. Recognising that a shortage of funds is the most common barrier to producing quality publications, LINA has sponsored a national fund-raising campaign to assist its members.

Our News. Your Voice is a week-long, Australia-wide pledge drive by 34 local and independent newsrooms, including Waranga News, all of us members of LINA. Each publication will receive every dollar donated through the links on their donation pages. This means everything invested by each community will be sent directly back into reporting the important news of that area. Not only this, but funds raised will be matched by philanthropic supporters, doubling individual contributions.

Waranga News - YOUR community paper

It's been forty-six years since our community newspaper has asked for donations from the community, when at that first public meeting members of the community contributed enough funding to set up the cooperative and pay for printing of the first editions. The Waranga News has since aimed to survive on a fee-for-service model, offering advertising for local business and a quality publication for residents to purchase.

We have joined LINA's fund-raising campaign for two reasons - first to raise much-needed funds (that will be doubled by philanthropic supporters if given in the campaign week!), but also to raise the profile of independent and community media that keeps our communities informed and engaged.

And as a special sweetener - for any donation over \$30 you will receive a complimentary 12 month subscription to our online edition!

Mary Jo Fortuna
Editor

Rushworth streetscape works now complete

As works on Stage 2 of the Rushworth Streetscape project reach completion, Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Rob Amos has acknowledged the patience and perseverance of the Rushworth community during the seven-month construction period.

Cr Amos said the works on High Street are basically complete, although a second road seal is still to be applied later this year or early next year in the warmer months.

“Of course, we will inform residents as these works are happening and keep you updated,” Cr Amos added.

The whole streetscape project, initially presented to the community in 2018, spanned almost six years after being disrupted by some unforeseen challenges. These included drainage issues, the discovery of underground utilities infrastructure and some community pushback that saw some of original the plans revised.

Cr Amos noted the size of the project and that breaking it up into stages minimised the impact on the community.

“The streetscape compliments the historic beauty of Rushworth effortlessly and will serve the community through their monthly markets and renowned Easter Heritage Festival,” he said.

“I’m really thankful and proud of the community for their understanding throughout the works,” Cr Amos added.

Rushworth improvements

Waranga Ward Councillor, Adrian Weston commented on the great range of projects happening in Rushworth and surrounding areas.



“It’s wonderful to see the streetscape on High Street completed. It’s just one of the many projects happening in Rushworth right now.

“Residents can also look forward to the new amenities at Lions Park, which are now also open. Just outside the amenities, the gravel will be repaved to include disabled parking and lighting in the works.

“The Rushworth Murchison Rail Trail project has also started, with works expected to be completed later this year.

“We appreciate the community’s support and patience through the entire duration of works in Rushworth,,” Cr Weston said.

Feedback sought

Over the next few weeks, Council will be

seeking feedback on the communication and project delivery of these works. Please pick up a hardcopy survey from the Rushworth Service Centre or have your say online.

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



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Have your say! Readers are invited to contribute their letters, opinion pieces and ideas to these pages.

Rushworth Brothers-in-Arms

Tony Ford's article in the Waranga News of 25 April raised an issue which has plagued custodians of war memorials in Australia for over 100 years.

Almost without exception war memorials in country towns were erected at the close of World War One and those compiling the list of names had to make a difficult decision: how do you define "local"? In most cases the list consisted of those soldiers who were actually living in the town when they enlisted although, in some cases, the list consisted of all those men who were actually born in the town while in the occasional instance the relevant criterion was the place of actual enlistment which would be the nearest big town or city.

Because of this variation in criteria you might find that some soldiers have been listed on more than one memorial while others have missed out altogether.

I happen to live near Frankston which is an excellent example of how the numbers can vary. Towards the end of hostilities a committee called for locals to submit names of those who should be honoured. The original memorial consisted of an Avenue of Honour with brass plates fixed to posts in front of each tree. There were 216 plates. Road widening of the Nepean Highway led to the erection of a new memorial in 1997, by which time the tally of names had increased to 228. Subsequent research by a local historian found that as many as 50 other "locals" were not listed as their families did not respond to the call for names to be included when the original Avenue was being planned.

Which brings me back to World War Two. After 1945, with memorials already in place, it only required the local community to add a plaque with a list of the men who served. For reasons lost in the mists of time, the Rushworth plaque only listed those who were killed in action and, as Tony points out, it was early this century before the local RSL set about correcting this situation and compiled a list of those who served as well as those who never returned. Advertisements were placed in the Waranga News and extensive enquiries were made to ensure that the list was complete. The existing plaque is a result of their endeavours.

So, Tony, I am inclined to think kindly of the recent RSL initiative to install the more comprehensive plaque. The fact that the Brown boys are not listed would be due to the fact that they did not meet the criteria for listing or perhaps their names were not submitted at the appropriate time. I'm sure that there are plenty of cases similar to these boys. Is it reasonable to expect the RSL to order a new plaque every time this occurs? Surely not.

**Peter McCullough
Tyabb**

All opinions welcome

I attended the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Waranga News as an interested observer accompanying my wife Cate who is a volunteer proof-reader at the paper. This show of interest in the publication was enough to find myself pressed to take on the role of President, filling the vacancy left as Gillian Schoenborn moved from the Chair to the far more demanding role of Secretary.

I had always admired this remarkable community paper for its consistent quality and content for over 40 years, and the more I found out about what goes on every fortnight, driven by this tireless little group of dedicated volunteers, the more I was in awe of what they achieve.

I am therefore saddened when I hear that the paper comes under criticism for perceived bias in its content, because it publishes views which may be contrary to others' beliefs or opinions.

The paper presents reports of events in the communities it serves, and promotes upcoming events. The schools, sporting clubs and community groups get coverage, the health services are able to promote issues of community health and education, and regular contributors write about local history, the environment, recipes, and a wide variety of matters of community interest.

It also has a "Have your say" page where people are invited (and encouraged) to contribute views and commentary on any issues of interest. The Editor will accept any letter with the proviso that it is accompanied by the name and address of the writer (not necessarily for publication in certain circumstances), and is not abusive, defamatory or in breach of discrimination laws.

Recently the paper was criticised for supporting one side only of the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum. A number of letters were received and published supporting the "Yes" case, but none supporting the

opposite view, despite the local vote showing 80% were opposed. Do the critics believe that in the absence of any letters supporting "No", the paper should have refrained from publishing any "Yes" advocating opinions?

In the recent State election campaign, the only candidate who paid to advertise in the paper was an Independent, and it was seen by some that the paper was supporting that candidate. In an environment where the paper is struggling with dwindling advertising revenue, we would have welcomed with open arms an advertisement from every candidate!

Finally, and most recently, our regular writer Kirsty Ramadan from BoHollow Wildlife, not-surprisingly considering her mission is wildlife protection, expressed in her column her disappointment that the Victorian Government had decided not to heed the recommendation of an inquiry to ban duck-shooting. How sad that supporters of duck-shooting chose via social media to blame the Waranga News for its publication of this 'derogatory' article, rather than contributing a letter to the paper providing counter-arguments in support of continuing the practice.

Any community of individuals is bound to hold a diversity of opinions on many issues, and robust whilst respectful debate is a sign of a healthy democracy. If you don't agree with a view expressed by a contributor, all the more reason to express your contrary opinion. We are all richer for hearing all sides of the argument.

Waranga News is a community treasure. While it may occasionally choose to express the paper's view on a matter by way of an editorial, its primary mission is to inform and entertain, without bias, and welcomes respectful debate from across the community on issues of general concern.

**Clem Furphy
President, Waranga News Committee**

SES funding reduced

On Monday 20 May a convoy of emergency vehicles headed across the Bolte Bridge to protest about funding cuts announced in the recent State Budget. Emergency Services are an important asset in small communities, especially in country areas. This Budget does not acknowledge the importance of the SES to communities relying on dedicated volunteers who constantly face critical funding challenges. A potential 10% budget cut in Victoria threatens to limit the training, resources and equipment needed to serve communities effectively.

What can be done? It is crucial that volunteers and supporters make their voices heard and ensure that any elected officials understand the challenges SES volunteers face amid increasing demands for their services and rising operational costs. The goal is to focus on serving the community rather than on continuous fund-raising and grant applications to secure essential supplies. All volunteers add value to organisations and to the community.

**Denise Corbin
Deputy Controller, Admin
Rushworth SES**

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.

The regular "Police Beat" column in the Waranga News is a great way for police members to keep readers informed about their many beneficial activities in the community. In the last edition of the paper, I found one Police Beat paragraph particularly interesting:

"The one-way bridge along the Rushworth-Tatura Road will be getting extra attention this month. We have been tasked to sit at the bridge to enforce the 30 kph speed zone."

I suspect that Regional Police may find themselves in a difficult position when tasked to enforce a 30 kph speed limit over such a long stretch of the Rushworth-Tatura Road, especially one that encompasses the single-lane water crossing structure (its design precludes it from being called a bridge) over the Waranga Western Channel outlet.

Speaking to ABC Radio Melbourne earlier this year, Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Shane Patton stated that 30 kph speed limits "are not the answer" to Victoria's rising road toll, and described the imposition of such limits as "ridiculous".

Mr. Patton also noted that "these incidents are occurring in the country, a lot up there – 30 kilometres (sic) is not the answer."

Is 30 kph itself dangerous?

In fact, it can be argued that the 30 kph speed limit on both the northern and southern approaches to the crossing contribute to motorist frustration and increase the likelihood that some motorists may overtake a slow-moving vehicle approaching the bridge and plow headlong into a vehicle that is crossing – or has just crossed – the Basin outlet from the other direction.

Nevertheless, a response to a Ministerial Question submitted on my behalf by our state MP Annabelle Cleeland received on 1 March last year indicated that the 30 kph speed limits approaching the crossing were sufficient to guarantee safety at the site. (*Citation: Min Corr CMIN-1-23-370 and response document downloadnewattachment.php?emailID=32718&attachmentID=0*)

Just sixteen days later, a motorcycle rider died when his bike was struck head-on by a vehicle allegedly overtaking a preceding vehicle which was obeying the 30 kph speed limit. Frustration with the 30 kph "crawl" is believed to have triggered the overtaking manoeuvre of the offending vehicle and directly led to the death of the motorcyclist.

This was not the first fatality at the Waranga Basin Western Outlet Channel crossing.

Sadly, if things continue as they are, it is unlikely to be the last.

A brief history

Waranga Basin was the first major dam constructed in Australia. Work began at the site in the early 1900s using only picks, shovels and horse drawn scoops.

By 1906, a timber trestle regulator and track crossing was in operation over the Waranga Basin Western Channel outlet.

A photograph taken in 1906 shows a horse drawn cart crossing the outlet structure (above).

Later work increased the capacity of the dam and a larger, more robust concrete outlet, regulator and road crossing replaced the earlier wooden structure.



The raised carriage-way was ideal for the horse-drawn and slow automotive vehicles of the 1920s.

A century later, it is widely acknowledged by local government, emergency services agencies and members of the general public that the crossing no longer meets operational needs. Instead, it presents recognised threats to community safety and should be replaced at the earliest opportunity. It's not known as the "killer crossing" for nothing!

Multiple risks

The single carriage-way over the Waranga main outlet is inherently risky, forcing bidirectional traffic into a single, conflicting path within an environment of poor visibility and multiple environmental hazards.

Visibility constraints imposed by the surrounding terrain and placement of the dam's regulator control building can be exacerbated by heavy rain, fog and smoke at various times of the year. Indeed, school bus drivers note the presence of thick fog during colder months, reducing visibility to mere metres.

The mix of traffic at the crossing also presents major accident risks. Despite the narrow, single carriage-way, everything from pushbikes to B-double trucks use the crossing, whose pavement is often uneven or even broken. Flimsy side-rails are unlikely to contain an out of control vehicle on the structure, with nowhere to go but into the outlet channel itself.

Another nightmare scenario for emergency services workers is a collision blocking the crossing during a running grassfire on its northern approaches. This could happen on any stormy summer day after a dry lightning strike. The only practical diversion is via Stanhope Road and Zegelin Roads, adding critical minutes to EMS on-scene times, and placing Waranga Shores and nearby areas at immediate risk.

Solution a long time coming

It is obvious to anyone who regularly uses the single lane crossing over the Waranga main outlet that a new bridge is urgently required.

Past efforts to address the issue have come to nothing, largely due to impediments relating to ownership of the current crossing structure, disclaimers from state roads construction authorities and the allegedly high costs of replacing the crossing with something more befitting the 21st century.

I respectfully submit that such excuses (pardon the pun) no longer hold water!

The relationship between Goulburn-Murray Water (the current crossing owner) and Vicroads/RRV (the responsible road authority) should be immaterial to the construction of a new bridge that is independent of the Basin outlet control facilities and its associated single

carriageway.

Using precedent

Several years ago, milk transport and other heavy vehicle owners were facing a major problem – the 1977 bridge over the Waranga Western Channel outlet on the Rushworth-Girgarre Road had subsided, triggering speed reductions to 40 kph over the structure.

A new project to replace that bridge was commissioned by the Department of Transport and Planning with a budget of \$4.9 million. Work commenced in February last year and was completed within the contract period, reopening to motorists eight months later in October.

The community had to endure some disruptions during the construction, including a full road closure and detour, but these inconveniences were generally tolerated well.

The new bridge eliminates previous speed and load restrictions, allowing heavy vehicles over 42.5 tonnes to use Girgarre-Rushworth Road, derestricting milk transport and positively impacting regional communities.

It meets current standards for width and strength, using a combination of a massive reinforced concrete deck that is supported by giant I-beam girders that extend between channel banks.

It features abutments (support structures at the ends of the bridge) on both sides of the channel and safety barriers to protect vehicles from veering off the road on the approach to the bridge and safety rails on the bridge itself.

Where to from here

Clearly, a new, unobstructed two lane bridge is required over the Waranga Western Channel outlet, linking the northern and southern sections of the Rushworth-Tatura Road without any significant deviation.

That bridge should be commissioned by the Victorian government through Vicroads/RRV and be independent of - and separated from - the existing Goulburn-Murray Water dam control structures.

I understand that I-beam manufacturing technology has now matured to the point where it is feasible to construct a concrete deck roadway supported by multiple I-beams across the Waranga Channel outlet.

Abutments may be required at both ends of the bridge to stabilise the span, similar to the techniques used on the Rushworth-Girgarre Road channel crossing.

The planning and construction cost of such a bridge should be between six and ten million dollars, not cheap but significantly lower than possible government payouts to victims of any foreseeable bridge-related losses during a major emergency.

As a community, it is time we mobilised our resources, engaged our politicians and worked together to achieve something that has previously been deemed "too difficult" or "too costly" to achieve.

No longer!

Next stop, a public meeting to define our demands and encapsulate them in an evidence-based submission to government.

*Cass Alexander,
Rushworth*

Colbinabbin Place Based Plan - community hub

The Colbinabbin Town Recreation Reserve hosted a forum on Thursday 9 May 2024 to canvass the community's view on the development of a Community Hub at the recreation reserve.

The concept of a community hub is as a result of feedback obtained as part of both the development of the Colbinabbin Place Based Plan (PBP) as well as the recently completed 2023-33 Recreation Reserve master plan, both of which were endorsed by the Campaspe Shire Council in July 2023. (<https://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-services/Community-support-programs/Place-Based-Planning-and-Township-Facility-Planning/Colbinabbin>)

The forum focussed on the commonality regarding the need and desire for a multi-use community hub as the existing Rec Reserve facilities no longer adequately cater for the needs of current nor future users.

This situation currently restricts access and has limitations such as no unisex, accessible or female change facilities, lack of family friendly design, disjointed social rooms and inadequate catering kitchens etc. There is a strong desire to support the future sustainability of all current sporting clubs as well as attract further recreational and social opportunities.

Hence to bring the facilities up to the level



expected by not only the community but also state sporting associations, it is proposed that a new multi-purpose facility is constructed.

The working party composed of Dean Wallace, Tait Hamilton, Anne McEvoy and Tim Hill visited other pavilions, considered site options, developed a design scope for the hub and focussed on the vision of creating a social hub. This aligns with the Colbo PBP vision of 'Our strong spirit and innovative thinking creates a vibrant and welcoming

place for our community to thrive.'

The fifty-five attendees at the forum provided overwhelming support for a new community hub with the draft concept designs displayed to provide context to the preliminary sketches which were generously drafted courtesy of Dale Denham of Denham Design.

The concept hub building would be placed on the eastern side of the oval which would encapsulate all sporting groups in the one venue. The designs were displayed at the Forum to visually portray various views and angles which provided attendees with a great talking point and pleasingly provided vast enthusiasm and showed community commitment to achieve this vision.

There are numerous next steps in this journey with the next stage requiring funding for further development design work which would require the Shire to tender for. The working party are now advocating for this step to proceed and will provide further updates as required.

The Working party thanks Dale for his support of the project thus far along with a magnificent community attendance at the first of numerous further forums.



View of proposed Community Hub at the Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve.

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Mother's Day at The Mill

A record number of visitors experienced the Annual Open Day at Day's Mill and Farm South Murchison on Mother's Day this year. The weather was just perfect and this added to the enjoyment for all who came.

Parks Victoria staff, who are responsible for the property, did a sterling job in preparing everything beforehand and offering guided tours on the day. There was lots of signage provided and information about the flour mill, farm out-buildings, family home and gate-house cottage.

The compact two storey family home with attractive wrought iron lace trim, was furnished with items to showcase how the rooms were used during the time the Day family lived there. Traditional games of quoits and croquet were set up for the visiting children.

Stalls provided handcrafts, woodwork products, and old-world tools and period household fittings that a blacksmith might have fashioned back in the day.

Coffee cart and food stalls provided welcome food and beverages. Murchison & District Historical Society had a stall displaying the history of agriculture in the area and in particular, the Day's Mill story.

Lots of descendants of the Day family dropped by and were pleased to be able to obtain copies of 'In Search of our Days', by Gillian Day, the extensive record of many generations of the Day family as well as other local history books, souvenirs and information.

Day's Mill and Farm is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register as it is considered the best example of an intact 19th century milling and farm complex, with equipment still in place such as the large mill stones for grinding the grain to make flour.

William and Ann Day came to Australia from England and by 1853 had secured employment at Noorilim Station. Here they established vegetable gardens beside the Goulburn River as



well as setting up a cartage business servicing the many new settlers and gold prospectors arriving in the area.

From December 1856 William was able to purchase farm allotments at South Murchison on the western side of the Goulburn River from Noorilim Station and this is where the family established the three storey Mill and family home we see today.

Tragedy struck in 1872 when William died as a result of a farming accident and Ann was left a widow with seven children aged five to nineteen years of age.

Ann capably continued to manage the Mill, a mixed farming business and even a shop providing household and farming supplies operating from the house. This was in an environment largely dominated by men and at

a time when women, let alone a woman with a young family, did not take on the role of running a business.

Nevertheless her business acumen is evident in her preserved diaries, farm ledgers and correspondence.

The property is situated in a lovely location and presents a picturesque rural scene which is very imposing as you walk up the driveway towards the mill and house. It is like stepping back in time when visiting Day's Mill and Farm as so much is still as it was over 150 years ago. If you missed the Open Day this year, make sure you come next year when it will be open to the public again on Mother's Day.

Kay Ball, President, Murchison & District Historical Society Inc.



The old Day's Flour Mill and House at Murchison.



Murchison Historical Society stall and member Jackie in her period costume.

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ART Circle - dropping in for some artistic fun

The first ART Circle drop in morning at the new venue for Rushworth ART Depot (former Senior Citz rooms) drew attention from artistic participants and other well-wishers who dropped in to say hi.

The main subject of art this time was a colourful group of pomegranates which looked very vibrant in watercolours and pencil alike.

ART Circle will be held every third Saturday in the month, coinciding with the market in High Street. So just drop in between 10.00 and 1.00 to be part of the fun.



All ages are very welcome at the Rushworth ART Depot drop in.



Don't Fence Me In Australian Plein-air artist group 17 May to 2 June At the Foundry Art Space Echuca

Below: Echuca Wharf by Raymond Hill



Surprise for returned Rushworth-ite

There was a big surprise at Campaspe Shire's first Author Visit to celebrate the newly-renovated library at Rushworth earlier this month.

As historian Alan McLean made a presentation based on his recent book "Rushing to Whroo, 1853 - 1880", he paused a couple of times to invite audience questions and comments.

During discussion, Gwen Hitchcock drew attention to front-row attendance by Mrs Peggy Scanlon (nee Risstrom), almost 98 years young. Alan asked Peggy whether she had a son Anthony who attended Rushworth Primary School just for a couple of terms in about 1965. A most surprised Peggy confirmed both points, prompting Alan to recall, "He was in my class and I sat next to him, just 60 years ago!"

Peggy, who has returned to live in Rushworth having departed in the 1950s, was also pleased to learn that Alan's research for his book on the local Shire Hall had revealed seven generations of named Risstroms attending events during the 155 years since the hall was built.

For an audience of 24 people, Alan outlined how Whroo's first diggers and store-keepers had

arrived in July and August of 1853, on foot pushing wheelbarrows, on horseback and in buggies from the McIvor Diggings, which later became Heathcote. He explained how limited water supply made some estimates of peak Whroo population to be quite far-fetched. He also noted how Whroo gold leaving the district via escorts from both Rushworth and Heathcote, but not separately tallied, means that no realistic figure of Whroo's total gold yield will ever be known.

He went on to explain the unsung role of women at early Whroo. Local newspapers very rarely referred to women by name, unless a woman had passed away!

Alan also praised the role of local newspapers in revealing how people really lived at Whroo, with reports of serious illnesses, mining accidents, court cases, concert and dancing entertainment, and disruptions to the vital mail service.

"While I accept that primary sources like Shire rate-books,

shipping lists and registers of births, deaths and marriage have their place, I prefer the very capable and colourful newspaper reporting by people who actually witnessed events or participated, and recorded what they saw," Alan said.

He illustrated this with some amusing examples from old papers.

"Some official records are simply incomplete, such as when a known stillbirth or infant death cannot be found in Victoria's births register. Some deaths were not recorded and submitted to the register, but if a newspaper obituary concludes with reference to burial in Whroo cemetery, I submit that an established and undeniable fact is on the record and becomes part of some family's history," he added.

The talk became a lively conversation as participants engaged warmly in the topic, offering comment and questions about early Whroo.

The Shire has other Author Visits



planned at the Rushworth Library in coming months, including Tracee Spiby on Thursday, 30 May, at 10.30 a.m. Tracee will speak on her military history book "One Hell at a Time".

Any reader seeking a copy of "Rushing to Whroo" can phone the author, on 0412 143 660.

Donation for Rushworth Artistries

For a number of years there was an art exhibition and sale during the Rushworth Easter Festival organised by a number of artists from Stanhope, Rushworth, Kyabram and surrounding areas.

Last week Lyn Rumble was contacted as a founder of Rushworth Artistries (R.A) and asked would they like a donation.

It has been some years since an exhibition was held at Easter and the funds raised from that have not been used. The group is not as active as it was and wanted to give back to the Rushworth community, as that is where the exhibitions had been held.

Lyn Rumble and Heather Wellington met up with the group at Gagarro Café and talked about what Rushworth Artistries have done over the years with regards to exhibitions, events and the Christmas Decorations for the town. The group was amazed at the amount of work that had been done in the community, especially the huge effort to accumulate Christmas decorations.


Ann Bell presented Lyn Rumble with a



Lyn and Heather were pleased to receive the donation raised from previous exhibitions.

cheque for \$1,100 to be used as R.A. sees fit. Lyn thanked Ann and the others on behalf of R.A. and assured them that ideas were already whirling around her head!

Rushworth Artistries is a sub-group of Rushworth Events Inc. and was formed to encourage art, in all its forms, in Rushworth. There are some wonderful art and craft people in this district and our community is all the richer for it.




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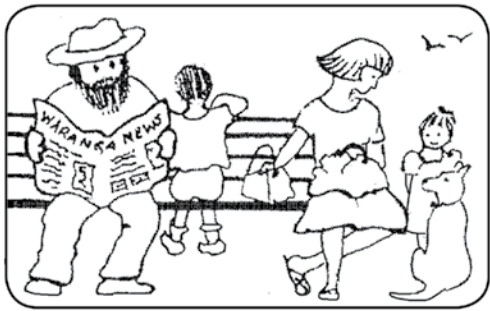
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Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns



Around Rushworth

On the grape vine . . .

• Congratulations to Ellie Lockwood and Shannon Gilbert on the birth of their baby girl Zahli Patricia Gilbert.

Mothers Day raffle winner

The lucky winner of the Friends of the Hostel raffle was Bill Barlow of Rushworth. Bill said it made his day.

Without the support of our tremendous community we would not be able to purchase things for our residents. This is a pic of the last purchase. Thank you all and thanks to Nadine for drawing out Bills ticket.



Bill was happy to win, but Val was happy to get the goodies!

Fire tanker for tender



The Rushworth Fire Brigade is selling, by Tender, their 2010 Mitsubishi Canter FUSO Tanker.

Contact Dean Jamieson - 0412 972 884 or Mark Jones - 0418 333 827.

Friends enjoy early Cuppa for Cancer

A very successful Cuppa for Cancer was held at the Hostel on Monday 20 May raising \$320 for cancer research.

Friends of the Hostel have recently used some of their funds to pay for a gazebo to put over the table and chairs in the courtyard.

The clear roof provides shelter for the residents sitting at the table, while still letting the light through.



Nadine Jerram, Director of Nursing /Manager drew the raffle.

(Left) Pictured sitting under the new gazebo are Cate Furphy, Ross Taylor (who assembled the gazebo), Leah Huggard and Vicki Schade.

Milestone birthdays celebrated



A memorable birthday celebration with the gathering of the clan - and friends.

Wallace Lawrie who was born in Rushworth in 1934, recently returned to his old stomping ground to celebrate his 90th birthday with family and friends at the Stanhope Hall. Also as part of the celebrations was his wife Lorna's 80th birthday.

Family and friends travelled far and wide for the celebrations in late March and it was a fantastic catch up with everyone. There was lots of reminiscing about the good old days and a group photo (above) was taken to keep as a memento of the day.

They were thankful to all the relatives involved in helping to organise things long distance, as Wallace, Lorna and their two daughters Lisa and Karen travelled down from Queensland for the occasion.

Although Wallace lives in Queensland, he is a long time subscriber of the Waranga News and eagerly looks forward to receiving his copy in the mail each fortnight. He enjoys seeing what is happening in the area and occasionally spotting family members amongst the stories and photos.

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Colbo Tit Bits

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Cornella's Cuppa for Cancer

Quick! Run a comb through your hair and head to Cornella Care's annual Cuppa for Cancer this morning (Thursday 23 May) - starting at 10am at John and Glen Avard's.

The open fire will be lit and the urn will be boiling, so come help raise funds for cancer research while you munch on some morning tea and have a yarn. It's a relaxing and social way to raise funds for a very good cause.

Community solar meeting

A community meeting was held at the Colbinabbin Memorial Hall on Thursday 9 May regarding a proposal for a solar farm in the district..

The Cooba Solar factory proposal in Colbinabbin is at 124 Cornella Church Road and Heathcote-Rochester Road and would contain 740,000 solar panels (8mts high), 500 mw battery; 1,200 mw storage facility on a 1,147 hectare site.

The community is advised to see the facebook page 'Colbinabbin Renewable Action Group' for more information. For petition and membership forms contact crag.colbinabbin@gmail.com; contact local members for road signage.

There are plans for another meeting. Media, Campaspe Shire Councillors, Nationals MPs and whoever else can get there will be invited.

Community House

Rushworth Community House is interested in seeing if they can offer a course in Colbinabbin. If you can think of something you'd be interested in attending, you can contact Anita at Community House - or even mention it to Glen Avard. Anita would be willing to come to Colbo and sit down for a cuppa and chat to see if there's any interest. Maybe a Strength and Balance class? Mastering your mobile phone or iPad?

Annual ball (CFNC)

The CFNC annual ball is coming up soon so you'd better keep the date in mind - Saturday 1 June at GPO, Bendigo. \$120/head which includes, drinks, finger food and live music.

... and

a couple more dates to circle on your social calendar for the CFNC

June 29 Barn Dance

July 20 Ladies and Sponsors Day and Auction

July 27 Back to the Shamrock at Rochester

Daryl and Liz Fraser's 50th anniversary



Daryl and Liz Fraser have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, so their four children (Nick, Renée, Brendan and Amy - left to right in the photo) and the grandchildren gathered at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel for the occasion.

Mothers Day Walk for cancer




The Weppner and Ryan families took to their feet on the Tan in the Alexandra Gardens for the Mothers Day Walk for Breast and Ovarian Cancer in memory of Debbie Weppner, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunty.

Colbo Diary	
Tuesdays - Colbo Pub Choir 5pm	
1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays Coffee and Cake	
Thursdays - Men's Community Shed	
May	
Thurs 23	Cuppa for Cancer at Avars 10am
June	
Sat 1	CFNC ball, GPO Bendigo

Cemetery Trust	
Mowing Roster (lawn section only)	
May	Carmel Turner
June	Ramon Rathjen

LIBRARY	
Wed 29 May	Pauline Wilson
Wed 5 June	Janice Tait



FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER	
May 26	Leo McEvoy, Tim Hill
June 2	Christopher Ryan, Steve Tuohey
<i>If unable to attend for duty, call Chris/Leo.</i>	
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.	



Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

Phone (03) 5856 1295

Email:

admin@rushcomhouse.org.au

Website:

www.rushcomhouse.org.au

Facebook:

Rushworth Community-House

Office Hours:

Mon, Tues Thurs : 9.00am to 3.00pm

Wed, Fri : 9.00am to 1.00pm



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Office computing skills training courses at the Community House

House Manager Anita Pirie is currently planning the next round of pre-accredited training activities for people to earn a certificate in office computing skills.

Training will be conducted by local PC guru Mitchell Petersen and will cover correct machine and peripherals use, file types, secure PC file handling, device interactions, WiFi, Bluetooth and basic networking.

The course will also provide students with a sound grasp of *Microsoft Office*, a gold standard suite of computer software that is used on Windows and Apple PCs throughout the western world.

Office includes the *Word* word-processor, *Excel* spreadsheet, *Access* database, *Outlook* email client, *Publisher* document creator/editor and *PowerPoint* presentation software.

Recent additions to *MS-Office* include *Teams* collaboration software and *OneDrive* cloud storage and backup

Familiarity with *MS-Office* is a prerequisite for gaining work in many employment areas. Hence the importance of this course.

If you would like to undertake training in essential office computing skills, please call 58561295 and register your interest.

A reminder that the House also runs pre-accredited *Digital Essentials* courses to teach people how to use digital devices such as smartphones and tablets. Please call the House if you are interested in participating.

Community House raffians

Tony Ford is a man of many talents. He is a regular columnist for the Waranga News, a historian of note and a skilled basket-maker and natural fibre weaver.

Tony recently conducted a raffia weaving introductory class at the Community House.

Raffia is a natural fibre that is perfect for weaving. It is inherently strong, is easily dyed, retains dye colours well over long periods of time and can be contorted into a myriad of shapes with minimal effort.

Eight students enjoyed the morning, learning how the fibre can be woven into both personal and household items by people of all ages. Most of those attending had no prior experience working with the material.

Future classes will likely expand student skills, and also introduce newcomers to this ancient, highly rewarding art form. Watch this space for dates and times.

A very special participant

One of the people attending the class was Marj Morgan, a foundation member of the Community House way back in the 1980s and a treasured House *Hall of Fame* member.

In her perceptive way, Marj observed that the House's appearance had changed over the years, but the friendly, welcoming atmosphere was still present in droves.

(Above) Tony Ford - large bag of raffia at the ready - led the weaving class at the House.

(Below) The class was held in the peaceful ambience of the House's multipurpose room.



(Above left) Items woven from raffia in all shapes, sizes and colors on display at the class.

(Above right) Community House Hall of Fame member Marj Morgan enjoying the class.

NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

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OP-Shop is brimming with good things to buy



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We've now new counters and new
shelves so come and take a peek.

Our bedding is all sorted neat, with
sizes clearly marked.

No need to wrestle with muddled
sheets, the sheets are neatly parked.

Our big old counter (like myself) is past
it's time of youth

Our counter now is slim and sleek, all
gleaming glass forsooth.

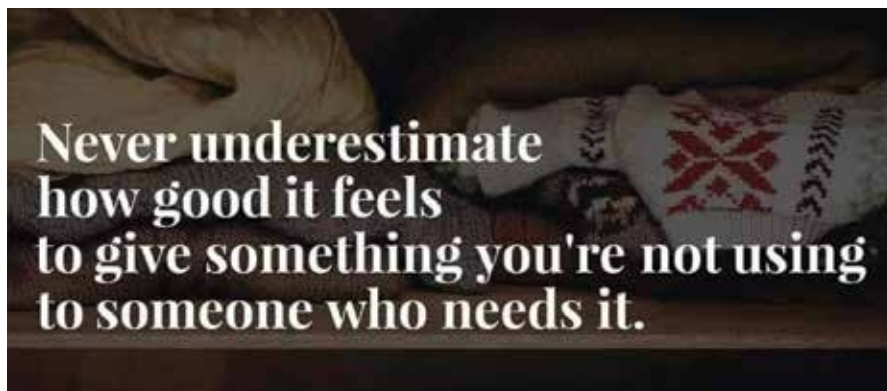
(Well, you find a word that rhymes with
youth!!)

We rival shops in London, New York
and gay Paree

But don't cost as much as them plus
we'll get home in time for tea.

No bank loans, planes and trains for
us, our best shop's very near.

It's here – in Rushworth – down the
street. We'll see you soon, my dear.



Come along to #9 High St - there's something for everyone and you know your dollars are going to a good cause.

Rhyland McNamara's Anzac Day speech

Twelve year old Rhyland presented this speech in Rushworth on Anzac Day 25 April 2024

When I was nine, I watched a video of a man playing an online game based around the Second World War.

I developed an interest and one of my other friends, Henry, told me of his family history linked to the Normandy landing in World War 2.

I got information on my family history from my Auntie Col from which developed my interest in the topic.

My family has a strong connection with Rushworth as lots of my ancestors are from this town. My great-great grandfather Tom Dooley was born here in Rushworth in 1898. He was 17 when he enlisted in 1915 and by March 1916 he was in Cairo in Egypt. In Abassia in April he joined the Anzac police and in August he has transferred to the United Kingdom. He travelled to France with the 21st Battalion on Anzac Day in 1917 and in May he was involved in the Battle of Bullecourt. One Australian historian described the fighting at Bullecourt as the taking of a small tactically useless village at a cost of more than 7000 Australian casualties.

My great-great grandmother's brother, William Baker, was one of those casualties and he's buried in a British cemetery outside Bapaume in France. After Bullecourt in June the battalions clothing and blankets were fumigated to remove scabies.

In September 1917 Poppa Tom took part in the battle of Menen Road Ridge and six days later he was involved in the Battle of Polygon Wood. On the 28 September he joined the Sixth Machine Gun Company. Just a few days later, on 4 October, he was wounded at Broodseind Ridge outside Ypres. He was one of the thirteen other ranks of his unit wounded that day. He was shipped back to England

to recuperate from his wounds.

On 30 April he returned to France and joined the 22nd Battalion as a reinforcement. On 7 May in June 1918 he was involved at the battles of Hamel, Amiens and Mon Sat Quentin. The day the armistice was declared he was in St Leger near Arras.

A quote from the unit war diaries states "News received at 10.30 re armistice granted to Germany". Six months after the end of the war Tom returned on the Nestor from Liverpool and was discharged from the army the day before his 21st birthday. My family has quite the involvement in the First World War. My great-great-grandfather Ernest Stratton was born in Port Melbourne in 1898 and was 23 when he enlisted in the First World War in 1916. He was stationed in France as a gun carriage driver with the 60th battery of the 13th field artillery brigade where he was involved in the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux on Anzac Day 1918.

My great grandfather Tom McNamara was too young to go to the First World War. His mother asked him to visit the widow with three children, Irene, who lived down the road and help cut firewood and do tasks as her husband had died in battle. They ended up marrying and having eight more children together.

If you look in the High Street you will see a bronze statue commemoration Air Vice Marshal Frank McNamara who was born and grew up in Rushworth. I don't know if I am directly related to this individual but that is one more link I have to Rushworth.

Thank you to the people of Rushworth and the Rushworth RSL for letting me speak.

Fifty years ago in our district....

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



Rain and more rain in late May of 1974

I have been asked why there are few references to Murchison, Stanhope and Girdgarre on this page this year. In 1974 there was almost no news from these towns in the Rushworth Chronicle. Nagambie news was shown as the paper covered both Goulburn and Waranga Shires.

News of the fortnight was all about the rain and the floods. Rushworth Chronicle had a double-page spread of photos, including men at Murchison filling sand-bags under lights powered by generators and of Ross Shelmerdine in a small boat trying to reach his newly-opened but isolated and badly damaged Mitchelton Winery. The winery placed a big notice in the following edition thanking locals for flood relief assistance.

150 mm of rain was recorded at Rushworth over two days in late May, being six inches for us old people. The roads to Stanhope and Tatura were blocked to all traffic for several days.

A new machine called a Compuwriter, "programmed by a type-writer keyboard and a small computer works out the word spacing for the line length", was to be installed at the Chronicle, said to be "the first installation of this type of machine in Australia".

Shire of Waranga

Hopes were high when three regional Shires supported Murchison East as a good location for a regional livestock selling complex, to serve the whole of the Goulburn Valley.

Community

For the next summer season of Stanhope Lifesaving Club, Ann Kittley replaced Len Armstrong as President, Len seeking to concentrate on his role as Councillor within Waranga Shire. (The club was due to resume in December, but were on standby in May due to the flooding!)

Order in the Court!

Crime and punishment
in the Rushworth
district

Contact the book's author

Alan McLean

\$20

Contact: 0412 143 660



Kindergarten opening left to right: Mrs Beryl Coyle (Directress), Max Richards (Shire engineer), Maree Cogan (Acting Directress), Mr Peter Ross-Edwards (MLA for Shepparton), Mrs Kay Risstrom (Committee President and mother of Shaun), Cr Alan Hammond (Shire of Waranga).

The new kindergarten opened at Rushworth, replacing the Anglican Church hall venue, operated by Beryl Coyle and Ollie O'Donnell. Foundation kids photographed and named included Timothy Collard, Liza Heath, Scott Curnick, Meagan Perry, Dianne O'Donnell, Anne Greenaway, John Baldwin, Peter Cheatley, Debbie Rogerson, Shaun Risstrom, James Cogan, Joanne O'Donnell, Brendan Horne, Chris Garvey, "Brenda" (Brendan, I suspect) Roberts, Kelly Cameron, and an angelic-looking Angela Barlow. (I know John Baldwin has sadly passed, but how can all these other little kids now be 54?)

Waranga Memorial Hospital street stall had raffles heavily disguised as "competitions". Terry Gleeson took home the boxed towels to give to his mother Mary and Ian Borger won the box of groceries.

Personal

Barber Peter Radanov retired from business, in or next to the shop now known as Balloons and Stuff. (Fishing was Peter's favourite topic when cutting your hair. He loved fishing and some of those who drove him out to the Basin were favoured with free trims. Yabbies were his preferred bait.)

Mrs Annie Stewart of Rushworth died. She was the grandmother of several, including readers Sheena Daykin (nee Weaver) and Graeme and Robert Wall.

Fred Wall, 87, of Seymour and formerly of Rushworth, died. He was the paternal grandfather of Graeme and Robert Wall.

If attending Philomena Stewart's kitchen tea at Wanalta, gifts were desired to be coloured teak and oatmeal. (I could not possibly have made that up!)

Football

In both the Goulburn Valley and Kyabram District footy, one round was cancelled due to flooded grounds.

Colbo went to the top of the ladder and favourites for the flag, kicking 9-15 to beat Tooborac 5-7. Mentioned were McCubbery, I. Reid, Hammond, F. Stewart, B. and P. Tuohey, Slimmons, Albiston, McEvoy and Emsley, which was half the team.

Colbo Seconds were nine points behind in the last quarter but rallied to win 5-12 to 5-3, with Trevor Cheatley booting two goals, and Kevin McTaggart, Bill and Trevor Johnson named as best.

Without injured captain-coach Alec Horne (replaced by Geoff Hawking) and losing Mick O'Sullivan (crook neck) and Warren McKeown at half-time, Rushworth were up against it, scoring 12-9 to Heathcote's 18-11. Big Heathcote wood-cutter Denis Pangrazio kicked six goals, as the Saints ran away in the last quarter. Three goals each to Ian Williams and Ian Cruz, joined in best players noted by Alf Raglus as John Raglus, Ross Williams, David Farrer, David Perry, Bill and Herb Barlow.

Rushworth Seconds scored 9-6 to beat Heathcote 5-1, goal-sneakers being Lurch Hoyling and Neville Thompson with two each. Named as best were Neville, David Roberts, Geoff Wall, Ian Cruz and R. Jackson.

Rushworth Seniors were successful over Elmore, 12-16 to 10-7, with Bob Hurley again in the goals with four. Alf reported best players as Glen Heily, Ross Williams, Roger Barnes, Herb Barlow, John Lambden and Alec Horne.

Golf

There was no golf played one weekend at Rushworth as parts of the course were submerged (and some players could not swim)! The following weekend Bob Barlow and Jack Laurie won, over neighbours Gordon Raglus and J. P. Williams.

天体联系 CELESTIAL CONNECTIONS 天体联系

STORIES OF CHINESE IMMIGRANTS TO THE
WARANGA AREA

Opium use

Some of the Chinese immigrants in the Waranga area were opium users. One of the many stereotypes trotted out by the press of the day referred to “opium dens” and the number of “depredations” attached thereto. At the same time, the writers tended to overlook the excessive use of alcohol by the European miners that was far more likely to result in violence and other crime.

Ironically, it was the British who had introduced opium to China. They had something of a monopoly on the worldwide opium trade in the 19th century and saw huge trading opportunities given the size of the Chinese population. Opium was being illegally imported into China by British merchants, particularly from about 1820. The Chinese government began to resist more strongly because of the impact on its citizens. Two wars were fought between the Chinese and British resulting in the latter securing their trading position along with other economic concessions.

One of the large centres for trading was the Guangdong region of south-eastern China. Many miners who came to Australia for the gold rush were from this area and were already opium users when they arrived. It may be that others took up the habit after they arrived, given the difficulties they faced living in this country.

Older men

There is not much reliable information about the extent of opium use during the halcyon days of the gold rush of the 1850s and early 1860s. It seems to have been fairly common, also providing a business opportunity for merchants and owners of establishments where the drug was used. Distribution may or may not have been under the control of the secret societies mentioned in the previous story.

Some of the men who remained in the Waranga area from the mid-1860s were regular users. It seems that many of those who were left here after most of their compatriots had gone, tended to be loners, often destitute. With no option of returning to their homeland, opium may have dulled the pain of their existence.

Opium poisoning death

There is one account of a Chinese man who died of opium poisoning at Scotchman’s Gully, Whroo in 1874. It was unclear whether this was an accident or perhaps an intentional overdose with a view to committing suicide.

At the inquest into his death, his mate Young Hong said that Ah Hin was a poor man who “smoked opium more or less according to the money he made.”¹ Ah Hin was apparently in very low spirits at the time of his death.

The venerable Dr J V Heily did an autopsy after the death and provided a graphic six-page deposition to the inquest, which was held at the Balaclava Hotel in Whroo. The good doctor had known the deceased prior to his death and, along with other witnesses, stated that Ah Hin had been a regular user for many years. On the day of his death, he had taken the opium in a liquid form rather than smoking. It was concluded that he had probably done so with suicidal intent.

Other deaths around this time were not caused by opium poisoning, although it was often noted at the inquest if the deceased had been an opium user.

Victoriana

Within the European community, there were also opium users. At the time, it was not an illegal drug. As well as taking the drug recreationally, as some of the Chinese did, others used it as a non-prescribed, cheap medicine known as Laudanum. Various other products like cough syrup also had an opiate base. Men, women and children used the medications regularly and purchases from chemists were not limited.² Cocaine was also readily available over the counter.

Towards the end of the 19th century, there was a growing awareness of the dangers of opium use. Medicinal use started to come under stricter controls and there were efforts to dismantle the opium trade.

No such efforts were made to control alcohol consumption, which along with tobacco tended to be the drugs of choice of the Europeans who flocked to the area during the gold rush. Some of the Chinese also imbibed alcohol.

Sources: 1 PROV File No 1874/590; 2 Historic UK website

A Name from the Past Cemetery trustee buried at Whroo

The name Adamson was prominent at Colbinabbin and Gobarrup into the early part of last century. The family lost two favourite members, an Edwin Cheong was a serving member of the Whroo Cemetery Trust until he was buried there in July of 1945. The Rushworth Chronicle of 6 July reported on his death, his family and elements of his life. Well-known local men assisted at the funeral.

“The death occurred at Mooroopna Hospital, on Sunday, 1 July, of Mr Edwin Cheong, of Whroo.

The late Mr Cheong was born at Whroo 65 years ago, where he spent all his life. He was educated at the Rushworth State School.

He was keenly interested in sport and took a prominent part in all matters relating to his native town and was a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters for about 40 years. Mr J. Poulson read the lodge rites impressively at the graveside, and the Rev. C. H. Partridge conducted the service according to the rites of the Church of England.

The deceased leaves a sorrowing family of four [possibly five] children to mourn their loss as follows: Alfred E. (Whroo), Bernard R. (LAA., AIF), Gladys (dec.), Evelyn (Mrs Ross, Bendigo), Elsie (Whroo).

He was a brother of William (dec.), Ada (Rushworth), Herbert J. (Kallista), George (dec.), Daisy (Mrs Le Deux, Abbotsford), Nellie (Mrs W. Whitaker, Richmond).

After a service at St Paul’s Church of England, Rushworth, the remains were interred in the Whroo cemetery, of which he is a trustee.

The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Messrs Kittle Bros., Shepparton.

The coffin-bearers were Messrs G., A., E., and A. Cheong, D. Knight and Nelson Hitchcock; pall-bearers were Messrs W. R. Laurie, W. Campbell, A. Wilson, F. Geisler, H. Geisler, H. Cheong.

There was a large and representative gathering at the funeral and many beautiful wreaths were received.”



Annabelle *Member for Euroa*
CLEELAND MP

03 5762 1600 | annabellecleeland.com.au

Proudly supporting the local community



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.

Common Ring-tail possum doing OK

We have lost and are still losing native mammals in Victoria. Many have become locally extinct in our area of Northern Victoria. I can only dream of seeing Quolls and Bandicoots in our bushland here.

We have one particular marsupial mammal which is holding on here, although it has likely declined as well due to habitat loss and predation from feral cats and foxes.

The Common Ring-tailed possum is small in comparison to our larger Brush-tailed possum. They have been a little less adaptable to our urban environments than the Brushies as well, preferring native bushland with hollows to the walls or roof cavities of our houses, although as more of their natural habitat has been lost, they can also be found in urban areas as well. They usually camp out during the day in what we call a drey. Their drey consists of a rounded nest made from leaves, twigs and branches, usually either in a hollow or placed within dense foliage of a tree or shrub. Unlike the Brush-tailed who usually camps alone,

Ring-tailed possums prefer to camp in groups. One male and several females may occupy the drey, including young females born from the previous couple of years. They are predominantly arboreal (living in trees) but I have seen evidence of the Ring-tailed possums on my bushland property coming to the ground to dig up fungi under the surface of the woodland floor.

Their diet is mainly eucalypt leaves and foliage but will also munch on flowers and fruits and eat both native and introduced plants. In some areas they may use human dwellings to rest during the day but it is much rarer for them to be in sheds, wall and roof cavities than their Brush-tailed cousin. I have not come across Ring-tailed possums in our area occupying these spaces but I'm sure it does happen.

They are not a long lived animal, average lifespan is only six years. Both male and female possums help make the drey and breeding usually occurs between April and November. After breeding, almost a month later females give birth to a tiny, jelly bean sized joey which makes its way to the pouch and secures to a teat. Twins are common in Ring-



tailed possums. Nourished with their mother's milk, after about seven weeks the young venture from the pouch to become what we call back riders, clinging to mother's back while she forages around at night.

Interestingly, the male Ring-tailed possum is the only possum we have that will share parental duties with the female and young may be transferred to the male's back while the female is eating. Young possums continue to back ride until around six months of age.

The most common reasons we see Ring-tailed possums run

into trouble and come into care are vehicle collisions, cat and dog attacks and they can also get electrocuted on powerlines and transformers. As they are territorial, youngsters who come into care are provided with nesting boxes upon release to ensure they have their own drey until they find their way in the world and don't get evicted immediately by resident possums. You can help these beautiful possums by installing nesting boxes around your property, keeping cats inside and planting native vegetation.

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

Join the 2024 Reconciliation Week Community Walk

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation, in partnership with Campaspe Shire Council and Victoria Police, invites community members to a Community Walk and Flag Raising Event to begin Reconciliation Week on 27 May.

Reconciliation Week occurs annually from 27 May – 3 June and aims to foster dialogue, strengthen bonds and encourages the wider community to embrace the rich cultural heritage of First Nations peoples while working towards a shared future.

The theme for National Reconciliation Week this year is Now More Than Ever which aims to remind us of the continuing need for justice, equality and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Njernda spokesperson and Yorta Yorta Elder, Uncle Keith Hearn said that the event offers a unique opportunity to connect with fellow community members and learn from First Nations perspectives.

"Reconciliation Week is a time to reflect on the importance of reconciliation and take meaningful steps towards healing historical injustices and building respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians," Mr Hearn said.

The community walk, from Alton Reserve to Hopwood Gardens is taking place from 10am on Monday, 27 May.

The walk will start with a smoking ceremony, then the walk from Alton Reserve along Hare Steet, and Murray Esplanade, to Hopwood Gardens ending with a Welcome to Country and flag-raising ceremony.

Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Rob Amos echoed Mr Hearn's sentiments and said he looked forward to walking alongside

many community members to kick off Reconciliation Week.

"Last year we had a fantastic turn out for this event and I encourage community to participate once again.

"By walking together and raising the flags, we demonstrate our collective dedication to building a more inclusive and harmonious society in the ongoing journey of reconciliation," Mayor Amos said.

Why were Aurorae seen so far away from the poles on 11 May?

The phenomenon of the Aurora was seen by many locally and all over the world. While Graeme Hanigan was ready to chase the photographic opportunities it offered, he didn't feel qualified to 'explain' the scientific aspects of the phenomenon, so he offered to share a post from FreeAstraScience.com (with approval).

"Where I have edited for southern hemisphere relevance, I have indicated with italics," said Graeme.

Well, get ready because the recent extreme auroral event has made this dream a reality for many lucky stargazers, even in unexpected locations!

In this blog post, we'll dive into the science behind this incredible phenomenon and explore why this event was so special. By the end, you'll have a deeper appreciation for the wonders of our universe and be inspired to chase your own auroral adventures.

The Sun's magnetic mischief

At FreeAstroScience.com, we love simplifying complex scientific principles for our readers. The recent auroral event was caused by intense solar activity, specifically from a sunspot region called AR3664. This sunspot is a whopping 16 times wider than Earth and possesses incredibly strong magnetic fields.

As Gerd Dani, our president, explains, "Magnetic field lines have a special fundamental property – they typically cannot cross each other. This means that as they get twisted and tangled, they store energy like a wound-up spring. When a so-called 'magnetic reconnection' occurs, these fields relax rapidly, which can release explosive energy out into space."

This explosive energy can manifest as solar flares, which are flashes of light so intense that they ionize atoms in Earth's upper atmosphere, causing radio blackouts and GPS errors[1]. AR3664 released an X5.8 flare, the second strongest of this solar cycle so far!



Graeme Hanigan took advantage of the view up the Growlers Hill tower to take photos in Rushworth.

The plasma party in Earth's atmosphere

But solar flares aren't the only players in space weather. Coronal mass ejections (CMEs) are high-speed plasma releases from the Sun that carry charged particles towards Earth at thousands of kilometers per second. When these particles reach our planet, they follow the magnetic field lines and collide with the atmosphere around the polar regions, creating the stunning auroral displays we know and love.

What made this event so special was the sheer amount of plasma that hit Earth. Multiple CMEs merged into a "cannibal CME," with the faster, later-released CME gobbling up the slower ones in front of it[3]. This extra plasma allowed aurorae to be visible from places that usually don't get to witness this celestial spectacle, like mainland Australia, Tuscany in Italy, and Southern California.

Will we see more Aurorae in the future?

As we approach the maximum of Solar Cycle 25, many are wondering if we'll see more extreme auroral events like this one. While no one can predict with certainty, Gerd Dani offers some insight:

"No-one can know for sure. The events of the last few days certainly seem to be some of the most significant of the smartphone era. It's certainly possible that we've just seen the peak of auroral activity for this solar cycle. However, experience tells us that big events can happen even well after the peak of the solar cycle, so for those who missed out, there's certainly a good chance of comparable events happening over the next few years."

Chasing the Aurora Australis

So, what can you do to increase your chances of witnessing the awe-inspiring beauty of the *Aurora Australis*? First, keep an eye on space weather reports and aurora forecasts. When solar activity is high, be ready to head to a dark, clear location away from light pollution. Remember, patience is key – auroral displays can be unpredictable, but the reward is well worth the wait.

One place to find auroral predictions is the Bureau of Meteorology, Space Weather Forecasting Centre: <https://www.sws.bom.gov.au/Aurora>

In conclusion, the recent extreme auroral event has reminded us of the incredible power and beauty of our Sun and its impact on Earth's atmosphere. By understanding the science behind solar activity and auroral displays, we can better appreciate these otherworldly spectacles and be prepared to chase them when the opportunity arises. So, keep your eyes on the skies and get ready to be amazed by the magic of the *Aurora Australis*!

This blog post was written for FreeAstroScience.com by our talented team of science communicators. We're passionate about making complex scientific concepts accessible and engaging for everyone.



Eishitha Galpaya captured this vibrant Aurora Australis display at Gunnamatta Beach in Victoria on May 11, 2024. Image Credit: © Eishitha Galpaya, Instagram: @don.galpaya

Cooks Column

Quite a few moons ago, I used to go to Julie and Herb Barlow's house most Fridays. We'd all go to Friday Mass at St Mary's then Fr Owen Doyle, Vin Tuohey and myself would head back to the Barlow home for morning tea.

There would always be Julie's pikelets, buttered and spread with some of her home-made jam. Yum.

I'd go home and try to replicate the pikelets, looking up various recipes which involved melted butter, baking powder, vanilla essence, butter milk . . . but with very little success.

So I asked Julie for her recipe. 1 cup SR flour, 2 dessert spoons of sugar, 1 cup milk and 1 egg. That's all!

I went home and tried that recipe - and they still weren't as good as Julie's. And then I stood and watched Julie make them one day and realised one of the reasons mine weren't as nice as hers.

As I cooked mine, I laid them out on a cake cooler. Julie stacked hers up on a plate which meant they sort of 'steamed'. At last I was going to be a Pikelet Queen. I even bought a dark glass plate like Julie's in case that was part of the secret.

And I was quite pleased with the result and offered to take over the Friday pikelet job. Well, it wasn't always a rip roaring success as I'd sometimes forget to flip the pikelets at the right time, so that they looked more like crumpets, but no one was game to complain.

I've continued making pikelets for many years now (I usually butter them and sprinkle them with cinnamon sugar). I took some to the ANZAC day service at the hall this year.

But I was quite taken aback when a young Mum turned up with a batch of HER pikelets which were much nicer than mine! She says she doesn't really have a recipe - just puts this and that in a bowl and mixes it all up.

Botheration! I may have to go for a demo. PS I've just remembered another hint that Julie gave me: don't keep greasing the pan - especially now when non-stick cookware's available. I use my sandwich-maker to cook mine these days.

Glen



Garden Hints & Tips

Pruning Hydrangeas

Pruning hydrangeas after they have finished flowering is crucial for maintaining their health and encouraging abundant blooms in the following season. The best time to prune hydrangeas is in autumn or early winter, after the flowers have faded. This timing allows the plant to focus on root and stem development during the dormant period.

When pruning, it's important not to cut back any stems that did not flower in the current year. These non-flowering stems are the ones that will produce blooms in the upcoming season. By preserving them, you ensure that your hydrangeas will have a robust and vibrant display of flowers next year.

Begin by removing any dead, diseased, or damaged growth. Dead stems can be identified by their brittle texture and lack of green tissue inside. Diseased stems might show signs of discoloration, spots, or unusual growth patterns, while damaged stems could be broken or split.

Additionally, thinning out some of the older, thicker stems at the base can improve air circulation and light penetration, promoting healthier growth. By following these pruning guidelines, you will help your hydrangeas thrive and continue to be a stunning feature in your garden.



Pruning Salvias

Pruning salvias is essential for maintaining their health, encouraging prolific blooming, and keeping the plants looking tidy. The best time to prune salvias depends on the variety, but generally, there are two main pruning periods: after the first flush of flowers in mid-summer and again in late autumn or early winter.

Late Autumn or early winter pruning

In late autumn or early winter, after the salvia has finished blooming for the year, a substantial pruning is necessary.

Cut back the entire plant to about 1/3 of its original height. This hard pruning removes any dead or diseased stems and helps to shape the plant for the coming year. It also prevents the plant from becoming too woody and encourages fresh, vigorous growth in the spring.

For perennial salvias, avoid cutting back into the old, woody growth too aggressively, as this can damage the plant.



Handy Hints - from Lyn Rumble

Hi there,

Winter's cold weather has hit us well and truly, so here are some hints and tips to help you keep warm and also hopefully save some of our precious water just going down the drain! Have a good week and stay safe,

Lyn Rumble

* **Cold winter nights have come upon us quickly again** - so now the heating is back on with a vengeance and we need to keep the house warm! Please remember to check your heating equipment after the summer, make sure wood fire flues are cleaned and start to stock up on wood, check the filters on your wall heater are clean and working well. This will ensure you get the maximum benefit from your heating source.

* **Do you have curtains?** - If you do then make sure you close your curtains when turning your heating on in the afternoon. Your curtains will help to be the barrier between your nice warm room and the cold glass and outside chilly night air.

* **Are you wasting cold water down the drain?** - Usually the distance from your hot water service to your kitchen sink hot tap is a fair distance, so it is understandable that when you turn the hot tap on it will take a while to run hot for washing the dishes etc. So why not save all that cold water that is just going down the drain by filling up a couple of two litre jugs until the hot water comes through the outlet. You can then easily use that cold water for filling the kettle or putting water in the saucepan for

cooking etc. Think how much water you're repurposing and saving from going down the drain in the course of a month or a year!

* **Ceiling fans need to change direction for the winter** - Your ceiling fan blades should turn counter-clockwise in warmer months and clockwise in cooler months. To determine your ceiling fan direction, pay attention to which way the blades are turning and whether you feel a downward breeze. If you need to switch the direction of the ceiling fan, turn the fan off and wait for the blades to stop moving. Toggle the switch (which is usually on the central casing) to change the blade direction. In most cases, flipping the switch downward will set the fan to summer mode, but this may vary by manufacturer.

Check Your Ceiling Fan Direction



Health and Wellbeing

We are all going to die someday, but how do you want to live until then?

National Palliative Care Week to deal with 'Matters of Life and Death'

National Palliative Care Week (NPCW), returns from 19 May to 25 May 2024. The week marks the nation's largest annual initiative aimed at deepening people's understanding of palliative care and encouraging action around end-of-life planning.

In 2023, the NPCW campaign - 'Matters of Life and Death' reached over 2.13 million Australians. This year, Palliative Care Australia (PCA) and its members around the country will take that up a notch, highlighting the real and growing need to educate and empower Australians about quality of life towards the end of life.

"As our population ages and levels of chronic disease increase, so does the demand for palliative care," says Camilla Rowland, Chief Executive Officer, PCA.

"Our research points to a 50% surge in demand over this decade,

doubling by 2050. This alarming data underscores the urgent need for us to proactively address the growing needs of Australians.

"Health reforms over the last couple of years are a good start, but we need both the government and the community to go further if we are to deliver on what is a human right."

This year's campaign will highlight the holistic nature of the palliative care that should be available to all Australians. A series of videos will capture the powerful voices of the broader workforce, first nations perspectives and individuals with personal experiences of palliative care - the people at the heart of quality palliative care.

"National Palliative Care Week is an opportunity to open minds and hearts to the profound human spirit that drives palliative care and unlock the knowledge

that comes when people and families are challenged by a life-limiting diagnosis that talks about death and dying."

PCA's most recent National Palliative Care Community Survey revealed that 90% of Australians believe end-of-life planning is important, but only 40% of people have done anything about it.

Reflecting on this, as part of the NPCW video series, Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner, Peter Jenkin said, "People are death denying, we don't want to talk about it because we are worried it will tempt fate, and I think there is a sense of - it's going to happen to someone else, not me."

National Palliative Care Week will confront those fears and empower people to have greater control when it comes to 'matters of life and death.'

New 'orange heart' symbol

Another significant part of NPCW this year, is the official launch of a new symbol for the palliative care sector - the 'Orange Heart.'



The 'orange heart' has been seen and used universally as a symbol of care and friendship. It is seen as being 'heart-warming and encouraging' and used as a symbol of 'always being there for me' - values that connect with palliative care.

Everyone is encouraged to buy and wear an orange heart lapel pin as a show of support for the people and families receiving palliative care and those who deliver it.

Orange heart lapel pins will be available for purchase at local events around the country and from the PCA website. Funds raised will support advocacy and policy initiatives that help deliver palliative care to more Australians.

MUD HUT YOGA
Peace ~ Flexibility ~ Strength

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

Palliative Care Australia
Matters of life and death

Lifeline celebrates the collective impact and experience of their legion of volunteers

This National Volunteer Week, Lifeline Australia is shining a light on its volunteers and the critical role they play in giving thousands of people across Australia hope and connection around the clock each and every day.

Lifeline Australia CEO Colin Seery said the organisation's services were under more demand than ever, with people reaching out for help in record numbers.

"The critical work that Lifeline does is only possible with the thousands of Lifeline volunteers available 24/7 nationwide who pick up a call from a person in crisis every 30 seconds, as well as all the others who ensure Lifeline can carry on our critical, lifesaving work," said Mr Seery.

"This week, we are making extra sure to thank and recognise each one of our volunteers for the meaningful impact they

are having on the lives of others - from our Crisis Supporters on the phone and digital services, to our retail workers and book fair volunteers."

"Those at the frontlines of crisis support demonstrate extraordinary empathy and generosity, listening without judgment and providing care and assistance to help seekers at their darkest hour."

"We are fortunate to be supported by so many wonderful volunteers who continue to build resilience and reduce stigma around mental health concerns and suicidality," Mr Seery said.

Breast Screening
Wednesday 29 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

Introducing P12s new school Nurse Educator

Promoting Health and Wellness

It is with pleasure that I introduce myself as a new addition to the school community – Secondary School Nurse Educator.

My name is Janaya, and I am excited to be a part of the team promoting health and wellness among our students.

My primary goal is to ensure the health and wellbeing of our students through ongoing Health Promotion activities.

Health Promotion is the foundation of my role. Here are some of the ways I plan to promote health and wellness within the College.

- Health Education Sessions: Topics such as sexual health, healthy eating,

hygiene, substance abuse, smoking and vaping.

- Wellness Campaigns: To celebrate healthy behaviours and raise awareness.

- Collaboration: With teachers, school staff, parents and carers to create an environment that fosters the overall health and wellbeing of students.

I am looking forward to getting to know all our students and families. I invite you to come and see me if you would like to know more about how we can work together.

Janaya Dwyer

The College are very happy to welcome Janaya as their new School Nurse Educator.



Caregivers afternoon tea

On Wednesday 8 May the Foundation Year 6 students were happy to host the Caregivers Afternoon Tea. This was an opportunity to celebrate all the special people who take care of them in their lives.

It was a great afternoon where students were able to show their special guests around and have a cuppa and a chat. The Foundation - Year 6 students also made a video to show just how much they love the people who take care of them in their lives which was enjoyed by all. We aim to share it soon.

A big thank you to all who attended and to all of those who play a part in the lives of the students in the Foundation - Year 6 classes.

Katelyn Russell and Jo Ireland



Armani, Mohammed and Jacob with their Mum, Adele.

Year 9/10 Netball at Winter Sports Carnival

Tuesday 7 May saw a team of very enthusiastic Year 9 and 10 netballers head over to Shepparton to compete in the GMD inter-school Netball competition. The girls played very well and managed to hold their own against the best teams from our opposing schools, coming away with one win and some very close results in their other games.

Congratulations to the girls on playing with determination and representing the school so proudly, and a huge thanks to the Year 11 students who joined us to act as umpires, scorers and coaches on the day.

Amanda Kelly



Makayla looking to pass into the goals despite strong defence from the opposition.

Food and Fibre School to Industry Partnership Program

Thanks to the RACE Goulburn program, funded through Ag Vic, the senior Ag students were treated to a day out visiting industry to learn more about Agricultural in the Goulburn region. After discussing the student's interests, two sites were organised to visit. The students were also tasked with taking notes as the visits were linked to some of their Unit 1 Agricultural and Horticultural Studies outcomes.

We were treated to a morning at Toland Poll Merino in Violet Town. Here they heard about the management practices used on farm and were able to see a feedlot being used.

The students got to see firsthand how Toland Merino use Gallagher technology to help manage their flocks and had the opportunity to draft a small number of sheep themselves.

After a quick lunch stop, we headed back to Stanhope to visit the Fonterra cheese production site to learn about their business and tour the production facility.

It was a great day, and we thank Grace and Anna from CQU for organising our tours.

Shona Janky

AG HORT news - Egg Hatching excites all year levels

At the start of Term 2, Maths teacher, Sorcha Curtis kindly brought in twenty fertilised eggs for us to put in an incubator so the students could watch the hatching process. The incubator was placed in the staff office against the window for all to monitor.

This tied in nicely to the Poultry Production unit of work that the Year 8 students have been working on in their Agriculture class.

We discussed the conditions required for chickens to hatch successfully and how the incubator mimics what would occur naturally. Students were given the opportunity to guess how many of the twenty eggs they thought would hatch given all the parameters that could

impact this.

The Grade P-3 class, who are learning about life cycles, also visited each week to check on the progress and have a look at the hatching. They made a class chart with their guesses.

Of the twenty eggs, we only had eleven hatch. We did not have anyone guess eleven, however, Isaac guessed ten and Doz and Sam guessed twelve. All the chickens will join Sorcha's flock at home where she has others that were hatched at the same time.

The Hope class are doing a wonderful job building our new chicken pen and we look forward to chickens arriving at the College at the start of Term 3.



The VCE Ag/Hort class out the front of Fonterra on their recent excursion.

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

Mothers Day afternoon tea at Rushworth Kindergarten

On Wednesday 8 May the children at the Rushworth Kindergarten held an afternoon tea to celebrate the important ladies in their lives.

The children prepared for their special guests making some delicious snacks including pikelets with jam and scones with jam and cream and an assortment of mixed sandwiches.

When the special guests arrived the children were very excited to show their guests their favourite Kinder toys and the things they do at Kinder.

(Right) Ashlee Johnstone with mum Jade and grandmother

(Below) Ryleigh Bradshaw with mum Brooke, grandmother and little brother Tanner



Colbinabbin Primary School students meet with local MPs

Annabelle Cleeland, Member for Euroa, visited Colbinabbin Primary School to talk to students about her role as a Member of Parliament.

Ms Cleeland was joined by her colleague, Federal Member for Nicholls Sam Birrell, as the two spoke with classes about the differences in responsibilities for politicians at a state and federal level.

“Getting to join primary school classes around the electorate is always a highlight for me,” Ms Cleeland said.

“We were able to explain what being an MP is like, what responsibilities we have, and what we are trying to do for our local communities.

“It’s an opportunity to talk with kids about what they find important, how they view leadership, and just to have some fun.

“We conducted a mock election to show how preferential voting works, using some well-known names like Taylor Swift, Batman, and Dustin Martin to get the kids involved.

“The Colbinabbin children were such a joy and had so many great questions about our political system, my family, and our local electorate needs.”

The children also presented as the deputy for “Member for Colbinabbin” raising local issues regarding pedestrian safety, agricultural market prices and poor conditions of the roads were some of the topics addressed.

Ms Cleeland has visited schools right across the electorate to attend civics classes and share her insights into politics, and has previously met with the Colbinabbin Primary School and local families to discuss improving the safety conditions surrounding the school.

“The Colbinabbin community has been campaigning on this issue for over a decade now,” Ms Cleeland said.

“Local residents have made it very clear to me – this crossing is not safe for their children.

“They have told me of several near misses between the children and the heavy traffic and are rightfully concerned.

“I have raised this with the Minister and will be continuing to advocate for better safety measures for our local children.”

‘Pollies’ cheering along with kids



Sam Birrell and Annabelle Cleeland in amongst the cheering throng.

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

Mothers Day celebrations at St Mary's PS

Mother's Day Mass and Morning Tea

On Thursday, two dedicated dads took charge of organising a delightful morning tea for all the mothers, grandmothers, and aunts who joined us to savour scones with jam and cream, slices, and tea and coffee in our staffroom. We were thrilled to see such a fantastic turnout, with everyone enjoying the opportunity to chat and catch up on each other's lives. A big round of applause goes to Mrs Parry for stepping in for Mr Ryan to express gratitude to everyone involved in the set-up. Special recognition goes to Peta Williams for coordinating the flower arrangements and procuring some of the delicious treats from various local establishments on the day.

After the morning tea, a special Mass was held at St Mary's Catholic Church to honour Mother's Day. Let's give a round of applause to the students who served as readers, took part in the offertory, and extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Brook for her diligent efforts in organising the event. Additionally, a warm appreciation to Fr Minh, who travelled from Holy Rosary in Bendigo to celebrate Mass with us.

Mother's Day Stall

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the mothers who took the initiative, once again, to organise the ordering and availability of gifts for our students to purchase in time for Mother's Day. Your dedication to our school community is highly appreciated, and we are immensely grateful for all that you do. The students deeply appreciate the time and effort you invest in making their celebrations special. Your contributions make a significant difference in fostering a warm and supportive environment within our school. Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to St Mary's Primary School.

STEAM Gr 5 /6

Our students truly shone in their STEAM class last week, immersing themselves in the fascinating world of motion. The task was to create a moving object, and they met the challenge with a burst of creativity and enthusiasm. Using everyday materials like milk bottle lids, cardboard, a skewer, and sticky tape, they ingeniously crafted their own wheels. The palpable joy of discovery and the rewarding learning process were testaments to their remarkable spirit and ingenuity. Thanks Mr Keerins for facilitating this



Connor and his mother, Melissa.



Heath and his Grandma Kaylene.



Ollie and Amy with baby Zoe.



Sue, Oliver and Dee Walker enjoyed the Mothers Day stall and morning tea.

Photo below: Vince, Oliver and Heath testing their wheels on hand made cars.



Ethan with his model car made in STEAM



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

Making the most of the sunshine at St Mary's

Eating in the autumn sun

During lunch break, students relish the chance to sit down and enjoy their meals while engaging in lively discussions about their weekend adventures or their plans for playtime. ASPA

During the day on Tuesday we had two visitors from The Australian School of Performing Arts (ASPA) come to teach the Grade 3,4,5, and 6 students the dance and songs they will be performing for the Festival of the Arts. The students worked hard at learning the songs and dance. Our visitors were really impressed with our students' enthusiasm and participation.

MAV conference

On Friday 10 May the staff from St Mary's School participated in the MAV conference to gain insights into mathematics teaching and learning, hosted at Golden Square North Primary School. The teachers came away with many ideas to add to their maths lessons.

DART - Learning Hunting for Inspiration - Creative Writing

Students participated in an online workshop organised by DART at the Sydney Opera House, connecting with peers from schools across Australia to delve into the creative writing process. They discovered techniques for integrating tangible props such as fancy hats, beloved toys, photos of loved ones, and items with round shapes into their narratives. A refresher on the structure of creative writing, including orientation, complication, and resolution, was provided. The students found the experience highly enjoyable and left with a plethora of ideas to infuse into their future creative writing endeavours.



St Mary's students enjoying eating outside in the lovely Autumn weather



Daily Down Ball before the bell goes - everybody including Mr Ryan gets involved.

The Daily Down Ball game

Each morning, the entire school gathers, at St Mary's just before the bell goes, to participate in a continuous game of down ball. It's a cherished tradition for Mr Ryan to join in the friendly competition. This daily ritual provides an opportunity for students and Mr Ryan to bond, fostering connections and sharing genuine laughter along the way.

Thrive Online

At St Mary's, every grade participates in a program known as 'Inform and Empower.' As part of this initiative, students engage in quarterly online workshops, each with a unique theme. This week, the focus for Grades 5/6 was to look at the amount of time they spend on screens compared to how much green time (playing board games, cards, talking to friends in person, etc.) they have, ensuring that students incorporate "Green Time" into their lives.

International ESO Day

Throughout the week, the St Mary's staff hosted intimate morning teas to express gratitude for the tireless efforts of our

Educational Support Officers (ESOs). These dedicated individuals provide invaluable support to both students and teachers, ensuring every student receives the optimal learning experience, regardless of their challenges.

Dance like a Chicken Day

As Tuesday, 14 May was the National Dance Like a Chicken Day, which encourages everyone to dance like a chicken, St Mary's staff and students enjoyed the flash mob organised by Ms Parry, which included all the staff and students. Mrs Parry, Mrs Brockett and Ms Parry got into the spirit of the day by wearing a t-shirt decorated by Ms Parry with musical notes and chickens. A speaker was placed on the oval and connected to the iPhone with the chicken song playing. Then we all danced the chicken dance to the music - it was a lot of fun.

Tables on strike in Gr 5/6

On Wednesday, 15 May, the Gr 5 6 tables went on strike. The students had to write a persuasive piece to gain them back.



Playing a game in Auslan class.



For the future - the UC in a flourishing future

The Act2 Project Unit commissioned this illustration for the cover of the Act2 report from talented Melbourne-based illustrator Cat MacInnes.

In her signature bright and whimsical style, Cat offered this image to fulfill the brief, 'For the future – the Uniting Church in a flourishing future'.

At the centre of the image, like at the centre of our life, stands the cross of Christ.

This cross is adorned with native Australian flowers, challenging us to grapple with how the good news of Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection is lived out in our time and place.

At the front are First and Second Peoples together, central to being an Australian Church.

The doors of the church are flung wide. While a place of love and welcome, the church building is only one expression of the church's life and of God's presence.

There are traces of the work of our agencies: a car heading off to remote places; the care of our community services and chaplains; the goodness, justice and peace being carefully tended in Australia and overseas.

The marching group stands in for thousands in our past and present who have proudly displayed the Uniting Church name as they've rallied in the streets for creation, refugees, disarmament, reconciliation, peace.

A version of the Uniting Church dove hovers over everything. It is not captured within our emblem but is the unchained, untethered Spirit of God, brooding over and



The cover for the Act2 report by talented Melbourne-based Cat MacInnes.

among us who can see across to the horizon when we cannot.

The illustration does not say everything but speaks to the heart of our life; to the story, symbols and practices which nourish and sustain us and have given us our purpose and meaning for almost fifty years. It speaks to the fruit of God's Spirit alive among us.



District Church Times and Contacts

Anglican

- St Paul's, Rushworth: 0419 512 632
- 9.30am 1st Sunday of month with Vicar
- 9.30am 3rd Sunday of month with Lay people
- Christ Church, Murchison: Rev Andre du Plooy 0458 155 930
- 10.30 am Thursdays Holy Eucharist
- 11am service every Sunday

- St Matthews, Stanhope: 0419 855 964 (Church Warden)
- St John's, Colbinabbin: 0428 329 344 (Mick Clayton)

Presbyterian

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

Catholic

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

Shine Church, Stanhope

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

Living Waters Rushworth:

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

Generations Church, Tatura

- 5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

Salvation Army: 5852 3875

Uniting Church

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

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

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

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

The link for the Zoom service can be found on our website warangaunitingchurches.net.au or can be emailed to you each week.

Pope Francis speaks for the poor in Care for our Common Home



... efforts to reduce climate change and help people in poverty should not be pitted against each other, but instead be pursued as a unified project.

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living the GOOD LIFE

Off its rocker

Back in January, I was driving my old 1964 Bedford J1 tipper truck into Colbinabbin, about 18km from our farm.

Halfway there, I smelled the distinctive rusty hot water scent that a leaky radiator creates. The temperature gauge was useless, as it had long ceased to show anything but 'cold.' I pulled over, lifted the bonnet, and saw steam rise from the open bonnet.

The radiator seemed to have sprung several leaks. Deciding to get back to the farm as quickly as possible, I found some water from a nearby trough and filled the radiator as best I could. As I drove away, the motor made loud, discordant noises. Clearly, I had damaged the motor. I held back my self-recriminations and concentrated on getting home safely, stopping once more along the way to refill the rapidly leaking radiator.

In the following days, I re-started the Bedford, hoping the problem might miraculously resolve itself. But no, although the motor started easily, there was a loud, metallic clunking noise each time.

I removed the radiator and sent it off to be re-conditioned. My local mechanic, recently retired, showed no interest in fixing it and advised me that the motor had probably overheated, causing a piston to "grab" the cylinder wall, making it difficult and expensive to fix.

I replaced the radiator and the Bedford limped through its responsibilities during harvest, making an awful racket the whole time.

Over the next few months, I spoke with anyone who professed mechanical knowledge, and everyone gave me the same impression: it would be difficult and expensive to fix. No-one was interested in doing the job.

This continued until a retired diesel mechanic working as a labourer around the vineyard, agreed to listen to the motor running. Over time, I had come to think the motor was just misfiring, perhaps due to a timing issue. We listened. The motor started easily and sounded smooth when idling, but the clanging and clunking began with any acceleration. My "I'm not a mechanic and I'm not interested" man agreed it sounded like backfiring.

We removed the spark plug leads, one at a time, to isolate the problem. When we removed the lead from cylinder number five,

the clanging stopped. We now knew where the problem was, but what was it? Suddenly, the man who "didn't want to know about motors" was hooked.

A 1964 Bedford is a pretty simple machine. It took about three minutes and a flat-head screwdriver to remove the eight screws securing the rocker cover. Upon removing it, we saw that number five exhaust pushrod was literally "off its rocker."

Within minutes, the problem that had seemed difficult and expensive became quick and simple. The pushrod was put back into place, the tappets adjusted, and the motor was purring. Well, maybe that's too strong an expression! It is a sixty-year-old Bedford, after all.



Ironically, the problem was something I could have fixed, even with my limited mechanical knowledge. All it needed was someone to look at the problem instead of theorizing without first-hand evidence.

There were two things I did wrong. Firstly, I was intimidated by others' opinions, and I catastrophized instead of quietly making a start.

Secondly, I had linked the radiator leaking with the motor clanking. They may have happened simultaneously, but it's unclear if one caused the other. "Correlation is not causation." is the oft-quoted maxim.

How often in life do we make small problems big ones by catastrophizing? How often do we join the dots and create a false narrative about why things happened? We all have a desire to find meaning and to understand why things happen to us, our loved ones, and to make sense of world events. Often, we can find a cause or reason. Sometimes, when there is no apparent reason, people blame God.

In Jesus' time, the causes of sickness and disease were not well understood. Religious

authorities believed that if someone was sick or suffering, it was because they or their ancestors had sinned, so God was punishing them.

Many people today still believe that misfortunes are God punishing them. This belief becomes harder to defend when explaining the suffering of babies.

The Gospel of John records an incident like this:

Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, 'Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?' Jesus said, 'You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines.'

(John 9:1-4 The Message)

Life, much like my old Bedford truck, often presents us with challenges that seem insurmountable at first glance. We can easily get overwhelmed, assuming the worst, just as I did with the clanking motor.

But sometimes, the real issue is much simpler than we imagine, requiring just a bit of patience and the right perspective to see it clearly.

Just as Jesus urged his disciples to stop looking for someone to blame and instead look for what God can do; we too should shift our focus. Instead of catastrophizing and seeking reasons for every misfortune, let's learn to approach our problems with a calm and open mind, ready to see the simple solutions that might be right in front of us. After all, life's bumps and clunks might just be a pushrod off its rocker, waiting to be gently nudged back into place.

This is the Gospel and it's good news.

*Brian Spencer, Minister
Waranga Uniting Churches.*

Celebrating Pentecost

Last Sunday was the feast of Pentecost - quite often referred to as the 'birthday' of the Church.

So, after 9am Mass at Cornella, the congregation gathered around the boiling urn to enjoy a cuppa and morning tea.

It might be time to re-establish the regular lighting of a 'twiggy' on Sundays when there's Mass at Cornella - the mornings now are certainly cold enough.

There was certainly a spot for a fire last Sunday as the wind was icy and a fire would have been very symbolic for the feast of Pentecost!

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119 Albion Street, Kyabram 3620

Phone: 5852 1061 Mobile: 0409 935 375

WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHS

FRASER - GENTLE

Simon and Cate Fraser are delighted to announce the safe birth of their eleventh grandchild Eliza Joyce Fraser, born at Goulburn Valley Health, Shepparton on 6-05-2024 to James and Ingrid. Eliza is a sister to her brothers Xavier and angel Charlie.

All well.

Deo Gratias.



IN MEMORIAM

HORNE, Pam Jean

Passed away 18 May 2023

It's been a year since you left us but it seems like an eternity. There hasn't been a day gone by that you are not in my thoughts. I miss you so much my amazing 'sis'.

Love always, Dave

HORNE, Pam Jean

Passed away 18 May 2023

Thinking of you and missing you every day Mum.

Your loving son, Brendan

(You were my strength)

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Community groups can benefit from container deposits

Rushworth's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) can be used as fund raiser by multiple community organisations. Operating out of the old Council Depot in Horne Street, the scheme accepts many type of drink containers and offers one dollar for every ten items deposited. The refund can be paid in cash or into a personal bank account. Importantly, it can also be paid directly to any organisation which has registered to become a beneficiary of the scheme.



Open each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning, the scheme has already accepted thousands of cans, bottles and other containers, with hundreds of dollars paid out.

People can drive into the old depot precinct through the double gates near the Shire Hall and offload their containers at the shed (above) for processing by volunteers from Rushworth Community House, which manages the Container Deposit Scheme in Rushworth.

The Scheme offers ten cents refund for each eligible container presented at the site.

Eligible drink container types include aluminium cans, glass and plastic bottles and paperboard cartons (under 1 litre). Containers should be uncrushed and lids can be kept on.



At this stage, milk, cordial, wine and spirit bottles cannot be deposited through the scheme. However, they can be recycled at Council Resource Recovery stations.

Paper cartons holding one litre or more cannot be recycled at present and should be placed with general household waste.

Scheme can benefit others

Schools, churches, sporting clubs and other community organisations can now register to receive donations directly from the scheme.



For information on how to join the scheme, contact Anita Pirie at the Community House, then complete the online registration process.

Members of the public using the scheme can then either accept a personal refund (cash or bank deposit), or allocate their deposit funds directly to their favourite registered community organisation.

Help keep the scheme going

Community House volunteer Deb (above centre) is one of a small band of dedicated people running the scheme. However, more volunteers are needed to keep the scheme going and to expand the times when members of the public can access this valuable service.

Please call the Rushworth Community House if you can help!

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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

MAY

Thu 23	Rushworth Community House, Cuppa for Cancer 10am at Rushworth Community Garden
Thu 23	Cuppa for Cancer at 10 am at Stanhope Seniors Rooms.
Thu 23	Goulburn Murray Landcare at Colbinabbin Kinder and Primary school teaching "Mini beasts".
Sat 25	Rushworth Speedway: Amca's, GP Midgets Master Series, VSC Mar Beattie Memorial, GV Open Saloons, GV Productions, GV Ladies, GV Juniors.
Sun 26	Goulburn Murray Landcare Wetland Walk
Wed 29	St Mary's Primary School, Cuppa for Cancer 11am, rsvp by Fri 24 May to the school.
Fri 31	Opening of Campaspe Rushworth Service Centre and library

JUNE

Mon 3 - Sun 9	Waranga News Fundraising campaign - see website or socials for the link (any donation over \$30 gets an annual online subscription)
Sun 9	Stanhope Monster Garage Sale - from 8.30am
Sat 15	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
Sat 15	Rushworth ART Depot, ART Circle drop in 10am - 1pm

Meetings & Activities - around the district

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

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

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

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

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

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

DOCTORS:
Rushworth Medical Centre..... 5856 1329
Waranga Medical Centre..... 5851 8400
Stanhope5857 0452
West Goulburn Comm Health....5857 2400
Murchison Medical Centre.....5826 2575

HOSPITAL:
Waranga Health5851 8000

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

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

WARANGA NEWS OFFICE.....5856 1120

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

NEXT EDITION

Display Ads: Friday, 31 May
Classifieds: Noon Monday, 3 June
wnews@iinet.net.au

Waranga News



A Voluntary Community Newspaper

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Project Update

Works have begun on the Rushworth section of the Waranga Rail Trail. The initial stage of this project will install a 1km asphalt path from High Street to the Bendigo - Murchison Road crossing and will be completed in July. The project received funding from the Australian Government under Local Roads and Community Infrastructure and Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant programs.



Coming Up ▶ Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 18 June | Echuca Civic Centre

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



Reconciliation Week Community Walk

Monday, 27 May, 10 - 11:30am starting at Alton Reserve - Hare Street, Echuca. Join as one community for a Reconciliation Week Walk and gather together to unite and celebrate our cultural differences and diversity with respect and acceptance through acknowledgement of our combined histories. The event will begin with a Smoking Ceremony, we will then start our walk along Hare Street down to the historical Port of Echuca and onto Hopwood Gardens for a Welcome to Country and Guest speakers.

Road Closure - Reconciliation Week Community Walk

The Reconciliation Week Community Walk will be conducted on Hare Street (from Alton Reserve to Radcliffe Street) and Murray Esplanade on Monday, 27 May from 10 - 11.30am. Road Closures and detours will be in place, however access to private property will be maintained.

Red Cross Volunteer Information Session

The Red Cross are holding an information session for people interested in volunteering for their Emergency Services Team who help people prepare for and respond to emergencies, and support people and communities through their recovery. Scan the QR code to register to attend online or in person on Tuesday, 4 June from 6.30 - 7.30pm at the Rochester Shire Hall.



Campaspe Animal Shelter Adoption Drive

The Warm Hears adoption drive returns at the Campaspe Animal Shelter until 31 May. Visit the shelter to see the range of kittens, puppies, cats and dogs. Find your new fur friend today. Scan the QR code to see reduced fees and the animals available.



Dr Rob Gordon - Free Community Presentations

Dr. Rob Gordon, clinical psychologist and expert in disaster recovery having supported communities following the Port Arthur Massacre, Bali Bombings, the Christchurch Earthquakes, and major floods, cyclones and fires is coming to Rochester and Echuca. Everyone is welcome to come along and listen to Dr Gordon's insights.

- Wednesday, 29 May, 7 - 9pm at the Echuca Paramount Theatre
- Thursday, 30 May, 8.30 - 10.30am at the Rochester Shire Hall

Register for tickets via Council's website campaspe.vic.gov.au or call 1300 666 535

Immunisation Sessions

By appointment only. Register at 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.

Monday, 27 May

- 9 - 10am | Tongala Service Centre
- 11.30am - 12noon | Lockington Bush Nursing Centre

Tuesday, 4 June

- 5.30 - 6.30pm | Rochester Service Centre 43 - 45 Mackay Street

Need help making an appointment?
Please call Council on 1300 666 535.

Now Open

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



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 how we can improve our services and resources. Paper versions are also available at all of our libraries and depots. 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.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

We are 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. We are subsidising the cost of this course thanks to the Victorian Government's 'Engage' and Emergency Recovery Victoria's Recovery Hub Program funding. You can register for any of the sessions being held in Echuca, Rochester (in person) or Kyabram and Rushworth (blended online and in person) during June. If you need more information or assistance, contact our Youth Community Development Officer.

Employment

#campaspecareers

- Early Childhood Educator Co Worker - Casual
- Early Childhood Educator Room Leader - Casual
- Flood Recovery Officer
- Group Fitness Instructor
- Learn To Swim Teacher

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

SES grateful for continued donations

Two years ago Rushworth SES started a 'go-fund-me' to help Paul Archer from Natrad Shepparton buy an appropriate truck in order to collect wrecked cars, batteries and scrap metal for his ongoing great causes; \$10,000 later and a truck was bought!

It needs a little work but it's on the way to helping financially support more charities and non profit organisations.

Paul has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of children at the GV Health's children ward, (monies from the batteries) donated to the Kiwanis (monies from scrap metal) and to the Rushworth SES (monies from cars).

Paul helps the Rushworth SES to improve and buy new equipment necessary to maintain their professional job in the community.

"I thought it was extraordinary that SES volunteers could be working at four o'clock in the morning, cutting someone out of a car that's been in an accident and would have to spend time during the week cooking barbecues to raise money to help boost their funds," he said.

Paul needs your continued support. So if you can help him with cars/scrap metal or batteries don't hesitate to contact him on 0457 000 423 or at Natrad Batteries located at 20 Campbell Street, Shepparton. **Paul Archer in front of his newly aquired truck, necessary for his needs.**



SES at their monthly bbq to raise monies



Monthly Market bbq - SES members Hailey Lemin and Sue Bloomfield serving sausages to SES supporter Tim Le Deux.

Contributors thanked

Matt Horne and Paul Archer were both presented with a certificate of thanks for their generous donations at the Rushworth SES Unit on Wednesday 7 May.



Rushworth Controller, Raymond Barber, presents Matt Horne with a certificate of thanks for his generous donation at Easter.

Local gold miner has a story to tell

Rushworth resident Neville Rogerson has lived a fair part of his life like a rabbit. During large parts of the 1970s and 1980s, he spent many working hours underground.

Operating his Humbug gold mine, not so far from his home on Murchison Road, Neville played out the role of the deep lead miners of over 100 years prior. He spotted a site offering some possibility of gold, and finding some small particles, dug down searching for further signs of encouragement.

As he made his way deeper below the surface, Neville came across some vertical hanging walls of quartz, removing them with his tools and taking them away for crushing in Bendigo, just as was once done at Rushworth and Whroo, but with rather more sophisticated crushing equipment last century than during the previous.

During his push deeper underground, he fitted a powered windlass to retrieve the gold-bearing material for examination on the surface, while taking strong timber slabs down the shaft to guard against the potential for cave-ins, just as was done in deep lead mines over a hundred years earlier.

Neville also encountered the deep miner's primary danger, foul air, causing a suspension of his work under lamplight in the deepening shaft.

Neville, who is "around the 80 mark", kept a diary of his search, which has been seen by Waranga News. It notes that he needed to retro-fit a lease application after a

period when he might have been operating just outside regulations. The diary also records that he faced another gold-era problem, that of attempted claim-jumpers. He acted swiftly to move some gold fossickers after finding them on his by-then official lease!

After reaching a depth of close to 50 metres, Neville gave the mining task away as returns diminished and he struggled with ill-health.

Where was the mine? It no longer matters as it was completely filled in.

How much gold did he find? That is for Neville to know, and he might just reveal. If you see him around town, he will be very pleased to tell you all about his life as a rabbit!



Neville in action in the Humbug mine in 1976, photographed by Rushworth Chronicle editor Peter Davidson. This was no mean feat as Peter was a large man, needing to edge down a narrow shaft, and back up again.

New project for Rushworth Field and Game

Rushworth Field and Game is starting on a restoration project of the old tennis club-rooms at the Rushworth public park. This building has been vacant for quite some time and is in a state of disrepair. Rushworth Park Trust, and the club have done a handshake agreement to move into the building.

Although the Rushworth Field and Game is only a small branch it has an effective conservation program with successful hatchings of parrots, sugar gliders, and ducks. The building will alleviate the storage in members' sheds of nest boxes and hen houses that have been made and others that are brought in off the wetlands for maintenance.

The branch's conservation program has already been recognised with a media award, but to further enhance it they required an area for the construction of bird breeding boxes, hen houses as well as a meeting room.

Field and Game has a long history of conservation and the Rushworth branch has worked closely with Shepparton over the last few years on some new and innovative projects.

Community building restoration

Conservation officer Graeme Wall said this week that this is a project to benefit not just the club, but also the local community as the building has fallen into disrepair and is infected with wasps and iron bark itch and has had extensive building damage to windows, toilet facilities, fencing and stolen copper pipe and a water pump.

The club is lucky to have skilled and enthusiastic members prepared to work to restore the building and is going through a heightened membership boost as hunters across the region and from Melbourne are joining the branch to help with building and conservation projects. While many clubs are suffering due to a lack of members, Rushworth membership is rising.

A number of tradies have offered donations of their time to help with repairs and together with members and their friends are helping to bring the building and surrounds back to a usable state.

The rooms still have the original honour boards which will be stored during repairs and painting and then refitted to recognise their historic value to the building.



New life: For many years the centre of a thriving tennis community, the old clubrooms had fallen into disrepair.

Thanks for the help

The club is grateful for the offers of materials and labour that has been offered at working bees and a plan to move the building plan forward will be discussed at its next meeting on 13 May.

Robbie Donovan, President of Rushworth Field and Game, was enthused with the community support and said the club is hoping to return the building to a usable condition over the next few months.

Peter Raglus from the Rushworth Park Trust is overjoyed that the building will be used after such a long period and said "we are lucky to have an organisation in town that does so much conservation work and has taken on the restoration of this building".

Replacement windows are being installed on 14 May and Field and Game members have done some preliminary cleaning of the exterior. Residents will see an increase of activity and work there in the next few months.

Rushworth Hardware

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GV Central Junior Football League's final season

By Tony Ford

Back in 1931, the Rushworth Higher Elementary School hosted Kyabram HES for competition in football and netball.

Rushworth thrashed the visitors in footy and A Grade basketball (now called netball), and snuck home in the B Grade basketball by three goals.

The Rushworth footy team included three players (Budd, Peart and Curtis) who played in the GVCJFL on Saturdays. They dominated the game. This put the writer in mind of turning up at the Ex-students' Commemorative Oval opposite the Rushworth cemetery in 1964 with a Tatura State School footy team, resplendent in their flash new blue and gold guernseys, expecting to win comfortably. Instead, we were comprehensively thrashed by a rag-tag bunch of Rushy kids in mismatched footy gear.

During 1932, the Merrigum Football Club promoted a Goulburn Valley-wide High Mark Competition. Every team in the major and minor leagues in the Goulburn Valley had the opportunity to nominate one player to enter the competition. The main Rushworth team nominated Vic "Wizzy" Howard, mentioned in the Sporting Globe as "a young player who is rapidly asserting himself as a great flier".

Because Rushworth had two teams, they were able to nominate one of the Schumann brothers (probably Fred) as their entrant, while Stanhope put forward Dan Liddell.

Press reports of the contest were scant, so it is uncertain how the locals went. However, it is clear that the specky was alive and well ninety years ago. Jack Dougherty of Merrigum won the competition, taking the ball 10 feet (just over 3 metres) above the ground, presumably without the aid of another player to jump on/over.

In 1932 the Goulburn Valley Central Junior Football League attracted two new clubs – a Tatura seconds team and Colbinabbin. Colbo had been playing in the six-team Campaspe Valley Association prior to this, against Corop, Mount Pleasant, Toolleen, Goornong and an Elmore "junior" team. The new clubs brought the membership of the GVCJFL back to six teams, in what would be the league's final season. It disbanded at season's end and was not reformed.

This appears to be the first time that Rushy and Colbo competed in the same association. There had been many social games between the two clubs previously, but not as part of a formal competition. The season comprised three full rounds before the finals, with the top four teams playing off in the final series. As with previous years, first on the ladder at season's end played third, and second played fourth in the semi-finals. This determined who would play off in the big one. The minor premier then had the right to challenge the winner if they lost a final.

In its semi-final, Stanhope played Merrigum and won. Rushworth played Tatura seconds in the other semi-final and lost. Stanhope then played Tatura in the



Rushworth Junior Football Club 1932 Premiers

Back: A Budd, N Geddes, J Howard, F Schumann, L Coyle, T Coulter, R Duke, C McLeod
Middle: A Furphy (trainer), G Peart, A McCauley (VC), E Cheong (C), G Curtis, A Lloyd, J Hawking, C Rowlands (trainer)
Front: A Abikhair, J Budd, S Collover, R Abikhair

final. In a very tight match, they won by the narrowest of margins – 8.8.56 to 8.7.55.

Being the minor premiers (finishing on top of the ladder after the home and away games), Rushworth then challenged Stanhope for the premiership and was successful in winning its second premiership in the GVCJFL.

In the premiership game, Rushworth kicked incredibly straight to secure the win by three goals - 15.2.92 to Stanhope 10.14.74.

Fred Schumann kicked 8 goals for the Tigers, with Hec Downing and Bill Buzza combining for 7 between them for Stanhope.

Best players for Rushworth were Schumann, Macauley, Coyle, Peart, A Abikhair, J Budd and Cheong, while Stanhope was best served by Bill Buzza, Linford, Paynter, Wright, Smith, Golding and Robertson.

A GVCJFL Best and Fairest Award was presented in 1932 to Johnson of Murchison, with Arthur Bird of Merrigum being the

runner-up. This was the first record in the newspaper reports of such an award being made.

The four GVCJFL seasons seem to have provided the basis for the long-running rivalry between Stanhope and Rushworth teams which persists today, nearly one hundred years on. Long may it continue!

G.V. CENTRAL JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

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Rushworth v, Stanhope

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Rushworth winter bowls

First day of winter bowls Thursday 16 May. It was beautiful weather, a full green and judging by the chat and laughter, everyone had a good time.

Photo right: Winners for the day were new bowler Glenys, Bruce and Janice.

The winners of week three, on what was once again a beautiful day were the team of Mavis Marshall, Geoff Mulchay and Barry Williams, three games 51 points over Keith Smith three games 46 points.

Below: Glenys, Debbie and Barry Thompson

Below right: Week three winners - Geoff Mulchay, Mavis Marshall and Barry Williams.



Lovell appeals for cricket change rooms

Liberal Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell spoke in parliament this week to support the appeal from grassroots cricket clubs to have modern change rooms that will encourage new players, including women and girls to slip on the whites and take to the field.

Elite competitions receive substantial funding for renovations and upgrades, but grassroots cricket, where every future champion starts, is severely underfunded.

Goulburn Murray Cricket reports that most change room facilities in the regions are outdated and have not been upgraded since the 1980s.

Many are not female or junior friendly, and do not meet the current standards of Cricket Australia.

Young women have been inspired by standout players like

Ellyse Perry and if more girls are to participate in cricket the State Government must invest in facilities that are modern, comfortable and safe.

James Stokes, Operations Manager for Goulburn Murray Cricket, has called on the Minister for Community Sport to assist in building better cricket facilities, after reports that some young women have had to change behind cars because of the lack of female friendly change rooms.

Victorian duck season 2024 A resounding success with unmatched hunter compliance

Field and Game Australia said the 2024 Victorian duck season has been nothing short of a success, marked by outstanding hunter compliance and an exhilarating experience for participants.

“The behaviour of hunters is exactly what we expect; as a community, they are highly compliant,” said Field & Game Australia CEO Lucas Cooke.

He said one of the most notable highlights is the incredible level of compliance among hunters. With more than 1,000 hunters checked in the first weeks of the season, fewer than 10 infringements have been issued. This is a testament to the dedication and responsibility of the hunting community, demonstrating that they take game management regulations seriously and strive to uphold them.

“As the season progresses, it’s clear that responsible hunting is a positive force, not just for those involved, but for conservation and the environment,” he added.

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Colbinabbin seniors run away with the wins

Results - Round 7

Football

Seniors

Colbo 119 def LBU 58

Best on ground - Charles Ryan, Julian Bull, Jude Ryan, William Lowe, Geordie McMurtrie and Nick Knight

Reserves

Colbo 27 lt LBU 150

Best on ground - Tyler Howlett, Jack Palmer, Timothy Hill, Bodey Abbott, Xavier Maher and Hugh Barlow

Netball

Under 13

Colbo 14 lt LBU 52

Best on court - Lola Anderson and Hailey Johnstone

Under 15

Colbo 26 lost to LBU 41

Best on court - Harriet East, Evie Riordan and Zac Morgan

Under 17

Colbo 37 lt LBU 61

Best on court - Brigid Connelly and Grace

McIntrye

B Reserve

Colbo 31 lt LBU 51

Best on court - Lily Cattanach

B Grade

Colbo 16 lt LBU 47

Best on court - Keely Parker

A Reserve

Colbo 55 lt LBU 57

Best on court - Aggie Minne and Mikayla Palmer

A Grade

Colbo 77 def LBU 34

Best on court - Team Effort

Rushworth Reserves step up against Dookie United

The Reserves and the 17 under girls were the great winners for the day at Dookie.

Round 5 - Football

Under 15s

Dookie United 13-11-89 def Rushy 1-1-7

After having two weeks off, the boys really struggled to get started against a bigger Dookie side. Dookie kicked five unanswered goals in the first quarter to have a handy lead heading into the second quarter.

The boys came out after quarter time with a little bit more fire in their bellies, with Lucas Jones kicking our only goal in the second quarter. The boys held Dookie to only one goal, too. After halftime Dookie ran away with an 82-point win.

1st Incentive: Bryce for his great movement in the forward line with his pace

2nd incentive: Brodie for his consistency in the backline

3rd incentive: Zade our most physical player for his in-and-under attacking work over the ground. Umpires award was given to Jaydn for great work all day.

Congratulations also to Roy Gleeson for his first game for the club.

Reserves

Dookie United 8.10-58 lt Rushworth 9.9-63

The Reserves started the day with a quick couple of goals, including an absolute ripper, Adam Treloar style, from the boundary from Cooper Horsfall earning himself best on ground!

Drew Clarke was in his best form, taking some strong marks including a mark of the year specky! Scotty Saunders was brilliant in the ruck and the club were happy to welcome back Rushy legend Ryan Raglus who definitely hasn't lost it.

Other notable mentions go to Kaleb McIlroy, Jacko and super-coach Kelso (playing two quarters and slotting a goal) who helped the boys over the

line!! The crowd was up and about seeing the boys over the line to win by five points. Super proud of the team especially doing it with only fourteen players for the last quarter!

Seniors

Dookie United 19.16-130 def Rushy 8.10-58

Seniors knew they had a hard slog ahead of them, but went at the contest head on with a never say die attitude! VC Ethan gave his all for a best on ground performance, as well as the big man Liam!

Jack Luttick provided a nice target in the forward fifty and managed to get three goals.

Nick Oaten played brilliantly all over the field and even snagged a goal for himself.

A bit of work to be done by the boys, with a few more players coming back next week.

Netball

11/U

Rushworth 7 lt Dookie 12

Incentives: Mason, Sophie and Aliesha

13/U

Rushworth 27 lt Dookie 31

It was a close game this week, with all playing very well. The girls were leading going into the third quarter however with a solid effort they lost by four goals.

Incentives: Sofia, Eryn and Pippa.

15/U

Rushworth 23 lt Dookie 53

Incentives: Matilda, Chloe and Keileigh

17/U

Rushworth 64 def Dookie 32

Again the girls were slow off the blocks against Dookie. They presented great passages of play down the court and capitalised on turnovers in defence. The attacking end worked well together in and around the ring. Rushy came away with

another win.

1st incentive: Grace Barlow

2nd incentive: Jackie Jones

3rd incentive: Emma Francis

C Grade

Rushworth 12 lt Dookie 56

Incentives: Emma, Hailey and Sara

B Grade

Rushworth 36 lt Dookie 52

B Grade had a fantastic game that provided a lot of excitement for their fans. Difficult to pick incentives as all players excelled and worked well as a team.

1st incentive: Montana Mylon who was a powerhouse in defense and provided some height in the defensive end.

2nd incentive: Maya Barlow who continues her excellent season moving well in the ring and shooting well.

3rd incentive: Laura Martin got the final incentive playing a beautiful strong attacking game and combined well with Maya.

A Grade

Rushworth 28 lt Dookie 79

A Grade had a slow start but started to move well in the later part of the game. Lots of players in new positions, combining well and supporting each other!

First incentive: Crystal who played an excellent defensive game and a very busy day! She kept her head up and had some great intercepts especially when people were getting tired in the last quarter she rose to the occasion.

Second incentive: Janelle who had a strong game down the attacking end, moving well in and around the goal ring.

Third incentive: Shanae who always works tirelessly and hunted hard for many intercepts and some beautiful rebounds.

This weekend the Ironbark Stadium welcomes Avenel to the realm for a great day of sport.

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Social Calendar

25 May, Round 6

- Reverse Draw

Tickets are still available - see any of our footballers, netballers or committee members to purchase your ticket!

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First ticket drawn - \$100 Good Luck!!!

1 June, Round 7- Junior Ball

Sports Report

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A Grade netballers continue their wins

After a month of unbelievable weather, the rain gods opened up and gave us a well-deserved and much needed drenching, putting all in a good mood, except for the early birds who had to contemplate the muddy tracks and water-filled potholes around the Mt Pleasant ground.

Round 6: Colbo v Mt Pleasant Football - Seniors

Colbinabbinn 4.11. 35 lt Mounts 16.13. 109

Taking a bit of winning form into the clash with last year's premiers was always going to be helpful, however that form didn't come over the hill with the boys, unfortunately.

The team were lucky enough to have three Queenslanders jump on a plane again and come for another game; if only they had brought a few more guns with them!

Anyway, an ordinary first quarter set up the flavour for the game. There was no credit taken away from Mounts in this scenario though. They were pretty bloody good!

It took until the third quarter for the boys to change a few things and get their act together, and they decided to take a bit more pride in their disposal. This was led by the little man in the number 30 jumper, Jude's brother Charlie. He found a connection between him and the forwards, hitting them up and giving them multiple opportunities.

Captain Lowe was battered and bruised from the first contest, but he played through some sore ribs and copped a pounding all day. He continued to give plenty of run and carry and provided some grunt in the middle of the ground.

Clint Shields was the only shining light up forward. Every time the ball went down to his part of the world, he made something happen. Apart from missing a couple of shots, he was still the most lively target, nailing two goals.

The big old bull in the ruck battled tirelessly and dominated in many areas, assisted by the young calf Alex Carr who was unstoppable in the air. 'Judge Judy' Ryan also did what he does best which is just about everything he does; it's sickening how good he is.

In what turned out to be a bit of a demolition job, the boys never gave in, but failed to turn strong efforts into scores on the board.

Mounts ran out comfortable winners by 74 points.

Goal kickers: Clint Shields 2, Charlie Ryan 1, Jai Carn 1

Best on ground: Charlie Ryan, Will Lowe, Clint Shields, Julian Bull, Alex Carr, Jude Ryan

Reserves

Colbinabbinn 1.1. 7 lt Mounts 26.15. 171

Rare scenes this week for the Reserves as two consecutive weeks have gone by with a full squadron of 22 players. What an achievement in itself. So with a few ring-ins, and some players having a trot for the first time in many years, including the fly-in of a favourite son, the makeshift team went into battle in what was always going to be a hard slog.

Mitch McEvoy flew down from Brisbane courtesy of Red Bull Racing, and it was like he never left the place. Straight into the ruck and straight to business as usual for him, his size and ability was dominant in the ruck and around the ground.

Jack Colbert was all sorts of creative, that's

why we call him the "creative man", but his form this year has been elite, and we think he's on the doorstep of the senior selection table.

Bodey Abbott was also back to his best after a slow start, but he started getting the ball and breaking lines and couldn't be tackled. The old boy, Mr President, made his return back to where it all started, straight to full back where he had 67 kicks and only five of them hit a target, outstanding work though 'Tractors'!

One of the ring-ins Maxwell Campbell showed that Sandhurst shouldn't have dropped him. He just loves running and with the ball in hand he runs even more! He patrolled the wings all day long.

A gallant effort but ultimately outplayed by the stronger and fitter mount boys; the mountain men running out 164 point winners.

Goal kickers: Jack Colbert 1

Best on ground: Jack Colbert, Bodey Abbott, Tim Hill, Harrison Lewis, Mitch McEvoy, Maxwell Campbell

Netball - A Grade

Colbinabbinn 62 def Mounts 32

The vibes were high amongst the girls after a win last round against Huntly. Mounts came out strong in the first quarter, but Taznin and Elle worked strong on defence, keeping Mount Pleasant to low scoring quarters, particularly in the last quarter. Across the court, all the girls did their jobs and were able to win by 30 goals. The girls' connections are getting stronger with each game and their work at training is paying off.

Best on court: Taznin Myers

A Reserve

Colbinabbinn 45 lt Mounts 65

A tough game against Mounts as they came out strong in the first quarter. The girls stayed calm and composed throughout the whole game.

Mardi had a great game playing in the mid court bringing the ball down feeding it into the ring perfectly for Lily or Dom to shoot, as well as having a go in goals herself.

Mikayla played strong in defence with Charlotte holding their own with the last quarter being the strongest.

Best on court: Mardi Ryan

B Grade

Colbinabbinn 43 def Mounts 26

The B Grade girls put up an excellent fight coming away with the win! Lucy got the well-deserved best on court for her relentless work in WA.

The whole team applied great pressure down the court getting many intercepts and turnovers. The defenders were a force to be reckoned with. Hannah and Kaitlyn had their hands up and over everything that came their way. Sarah and Emma both worked well together in the ring, shooting the teams way to victory.

Best on court: Lucy White and Sarah McIntyre

B Reserve

Colbo 28 lt Mounts 51

A cold and wet start to the day at Mounts but A Reserve were lucky enough to get the dry court at

the end of the day.

Although a good first quarter by the girls, Mounts were just too strong in their attack. Lilly Cattanach did a fabulous job in GD second quarter. Georgia and Alex goaled very well together for most of the game. Third quarter saw the two Martin girls shine in the defence end. Kate Else had a ripper last quarter in WD. Gabby also impactful in C. Georgia's determination and commitment to the game saw her receive the 'best on court'. Another competitive game that the score didn't reflect.

Best on court: Georgia Waters

17 and Under

Colbo 36 lt Mounts 52

The 17s took to the new Mounts courts with drive and determination for a close game. For the first half of the game the girls worked hard in all areas of the court bringing the ball up to the goalers.

The defence was tight putting pressure on the Mounts shooters and the Colbo goalers shot with accuracy. Mounts was able to gain the lead in the last quarter of the game, but Colbo still kept up their efforts. The girls produced a great game to watch, with their hard work at training evident in their performance.

Best on court: Mikayla Cornish

15 and Under

Colbo 19 lt Mounts 66

15s came out firing against Mounts with accurate goaling from Harriet and Evie, as well as pressure all over the court, especially defenders Macey and Zac. Abbey was a real asset in WD helping bring the ball down the court. However, Mounts proved to be too strong in the end. Audrey, Ella and Evie worked hard all game in the midcourt driving and running all game. The 15s should be so proud of how they played this week. Highlight was Zac scoring his first goal!!

Best on court: Ella Patrick

13 and Under

Colbo 10 lt Mounts 33

The Colbo kids ventured over the hill for a high intensity game against Mt Pleasant. The group worked hard to ensure swift changeovers between positions and made clear leads across the court.

Once again, we had quite a lot of rotation within the goals and the defence which worked well and in turn, showcased the groups highly versatile skills. Tall, accurate shooters from Mounts made defence hard, however the constant pressure down the court made the job much harder for them to score.

The weather wasn't in our favour, despite being spared from the rain shower. This made the ball and court slippery and had the poor Lilly's on the edge of their seats as they were concerned that an injury may arise. However there was nothing to be worried about as the team calmly played in these conditions. Well done everyone and bring on next week!

Best on court: George McFadzean and Ruth Woodman

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