

Waranga News

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Published fortnightly since 1978

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A community newspaper
staffed by volunteers

Thursday 6 June 2024

Thanks from the Waranga News Team

Our News: Your Voice

A big thank you from our volunteers to all who have responded this week to our special fund-raising effort.

Your generous donations have delighted and encouraged us all. It confirms that together we can keep working to keep our communities informed, entertained and heard.

This commitment from our readers and supporters has ensured the future of the Waranga News looks bright – and long!

There are still two more days to go in our campaign that sees your donation matched by LINA (Local and Independent News Association), so if you wish to donate go to wnews.org.au and click on Support.

Back row: Denise, Helen, Glen, Rogie, Cate, Liz, Deb, Roseanne, Sue, Steve.
Front row: Mary Jo, Clem and Gillian.



KDFL 'Say No to violence'



'Prevent family violence in our community' was the message at all the KDFL matches in round six including at the Ironbark Stadium when Avenel played Rushworth. Violence is not acceptable in any way, shape or form. The motto for the day, 'You can't shake a hand with a clenched fist - Think twice before you strike!' President, Dean Shepherd read the speech to all senior football and netball players and included one minute's silence for all victims of violence, after which all shook hands.

Colbo kids learn to care for land



Waranga Catchment Landcare Collective and the Goulburn Murray Landcare Network team joined forces to talk about all things environmental in an adventure-filled day of nature education for the Primary School and Kinder children at Colbinabbin.

Turn to page 17 to read about more Landcare activities.



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Service Centre and Library officially opened

The refurbished Rushworth Service Centre and Library were officially opened on Friday 31 May.

In declaring the facility open Waranga Ward Cr Adrian Weston said it's great to see the project finished, being just one of a number of improvements in the Ward.

He said a number of exciting projects are underway, including the coming Rail Trail construction and noted the recent completion of the streetscape as a positive for Rushworth.

The new Rushworth Service Centre and Library is open 8.30 am to 4.30 pm (closed from 12 noon to 1 pm) on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.



Officiating: Taungarang man Mick Harding who gave the Welcome to Country with Cr Adrian Weston.

Library upgrade a big success

With its modern facilities and pleasant reading spaces the refurbished Rushworth library promises to become a popular community hub, attracting new registrations and significantly increasing book loans.

Already the new facility has welcomed 53 new members and seen a 25% increase in loans.

In addition to the upgraded surroundings, the newly fostered interest in books has been helped by the friendly welcome from librarian Renee George who has been with the library since 2021.

Renee, whose connection with the local community has deep roots, (her great-grandmother was born at Whroo!), grew up in Kyabram before moving to Echuca.

She loves the small community vibe of the local Rushworth library and is especially excited about her new surroundings and the events it accommodates, such as visiting author sessions.

Renee showed off the various spaces available for community use, including a computer hub, a children's nook (perfect for monthly story time) and a meeting room.

The welcoming atmosphere and frequent events have certainly made the library a vibrant space for all ages.



Renee George – the smiling face to greet you at the Rushworth Library.



The local playgroup ensures the old Waranga Shire Council Chambers have been put to good use!

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Have your say!

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

Has it really been that long?

Golly gosh! When did I get old enough to appear in the “50 Years Ago” column of this newspaper? But there I was in the edition of 23 May, described by the generous Alan McLean as ‘angelic’, alongside the names of other ‘littlies’ from the era. Most of us went right through school together and became lifelong friends, even though we don’t see as much of each other as we would like - hello to you all through the pages of this paper!

Congratulations to the Rushworth Kindergarten on its 50th anniversary. What a wonderful milestone for the community.

I have the vaguest recollections of being at kinder in Rushworth. The only memory I have of being at the Anglican Hall - apart from it being big and cold - was making something (I am not sure what) with the help of Mrs Coyle from toilet paper rolls. (Years later when my own children were at kinder, we weren’t allowed to donate toilet rolls - too unhygienic, apparently).

I can recall snippets of the first day at the new kinder, in particular a photographer taking pictures of us all engaged in various activities. I remember being posed at an easel next to Peter Cheatley, with his shock of beautiful blond hair, for a photo of us painting, then was posed alone for a similar one. Perhaps one of those is the one where Mr McLean says I look angelic - more likely shy and self-conscious, I think!

Another distinct memory I have of those times is being delivered back to Wanalta in the back seat of a fancy new two-door car (a Torana, perhaps) which belonged to either Liz Heath or Heather Curnick. (Wanalta mums were ahead of their time when it came to carpooling). We stopped at the drop-off point - the Wanalta Post Office - and I had a mild panic attack because I couldn’t find a door handle. I thought I was going to be stuck in the car forever! Thankfully, someone pulled the seat in front forward and I followed Scott Curnick’s lead to clamber over and out to safety.

The column also referenced the floods of that year. I remember those as well. As the waters rose around our house (between the Wanalta Creek and the Waranga Mallee Channel), dad (Ralph) packed us all in the Kingswood and we headed to higher ground at grandad and nannie’s (Jack and Nell). But when we got to Peperell’s corner, the car started to lose traction (one of the Peps took a photo of it - probably hoping for an action shot!). Dad managed to turn back and get us home again. From somewhere appeared a tractor (perhaps grandad drove it down) and we all piled in that - Simon crouching on the tray below holding a washing basket of nappies, (cloth in those days), that belonged to baby Anna, who was nestled on mum’s (Gen’s) lap in the open cabin, and Danny and I clinging tightly to the back of driver’s seat, balancing as best we could. Looking back, it must have been terrifying for mum trying to make sure none of her babies fell into the flood waters!

I enjoy reading Alan’s column each fortnight and being reminded of people and places from my childhood. My how the years have flown.

“Rushy” (and Wanalta and Colbo) was a great place to grow up. Thank you for the memories.

And thank you to everyone who works so hard to put this wonderful publication out each fortnight. There’s always something or someone mentioned within its pages that brings a smile to my face.

ANGELA CAREY (nee Barlow)
Ballarat

Biggest Morning Tea in Stanhope

Stanhope hosted their Biggest Morning Tea to aid the Cancer Council on May 23, and raised the amazing sum of \$557. About thirty people attended and enjoyed a wonderful morning tea with the added attraction of hearing local author, Tracee Spiby (pictured right) who described how she came to write the book on her grandfather’s life and his army service in WW1. She became interested when she read the many letters he had written home. Tracee read passages from the book which brought to life the world the men endured fighting and surviving. The book is aptly named ‘One Hell at a Time’.



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Harriman Point works completed

Waranga Basin's Harriman Point has reopened following the completion of boat ramp repairs.

The recreation area was closed in early May due to erosion occurring along the side of the high-level boat ramp.

GMW Storage Operations Manager South Paul Beard said the repairs went smoothly.

"We needed water levels at Waranga Basin to drop to make the works possible," he said.

"It was fortuitous that the water levels were low enough so we could complete the works during the colder months when usage of the ramp is lower and that we avoided any weather delays. We appreciate people's patience and cooperation during these works," Mr Beard said.

The work was contracted to Exton Earthworks who completed the job coming in under budget.

Harriman Point boat ramp was upgraded in 2022 with funding from the Victorian Government.

The ramp was doubled in size to boost capacity, improve safety and access and make launching easier for boaters heading out on the water.

Waranga Basin also has boat ramps located at Caravan Park Reserve and Sapling Point.



Fire safety a hot topic for winter

Fire safety is a hot topic this winter with data revealing firefighters respond to around 100 fires each year caused by heaters.

With the official start to winter tomorrow, Victoria's fire services are warning the community not to be complacent when heating the home as it is the peak time for heater fires.

In the past five years, CFA responded to more than 640 house fires caused by a heater.

These types of fire mainly start either due to a mechanical fault or because the heater is placed too close to flammable materials in a lounge room or sleeping area. Home heating systems vary and can include fixed electrical or gas-powered appliances, portable electrical, gas or kerosene heaters, as well as open fires and wood heaters.

As we begin to spend more time indoors, we should make sure gas and electrical heaters have been serviced at least within the past two years.

"Last year CFA responded to 87 house fires caused by heaters and in 2022 there were 119 fires. This decline is encouraging to see but ideally, we want to see a figure of zero," said CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan.

"A common mistake we're finding is households are keeping their drying clothes too close to heaters and fireplaces, so it's best to ensure they are at least one metre away

from all heating.

It's also important to remember to turn a heater off before you go to sleep or leave the house.

A working smoke alarms is another essential safeguard in your home. Many fatal fires are those that start in a bedroom or living room, so having smoke alarms installed in all hallways, sleeping and living areas is the best line of defence.

The colder months are some of the riskiest times of the year for fires in the home.

"You can reduce the risks by making sure your heating systems and devices are well maintained," said Mr Heffernan.

"Now is the time to install additional smoke alarms into all bedrooms and living areas. Ten-year long-life battery smoke alarms, suitable for all bedrooms and living areas, can save lives for around \$20."

Safety tips

When it comes to home heating, CFA recommends:

- Drying clothes and other items must be kept at least one metre away from all home heating devices.

- Children must be supervised near all types of heating. Maintain a safe distance

between children and heating.

- Never leave portable heaters and fireplaces unattended and turn off heating devices before leaving home or going to sleep.

- Residents should have their gas heaters inspected and serviced every two years to ensure the safety of loved ones from carbon monoxide poisoning or fire.


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Campaspe Council trending upward in community satisfaction

At Campaspe Shire Council's May meeting, Councillors noted the results of the 2024 Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted by market research agency Metropolis Research Pty Ltd during March.

Campaspe Shire Council Mayor, Cr Rob Amos said that it was pleasing to see overall improvement in community satisfaction, with Campaspe's results higher than the regional Victorian average.

"While we have scored well in excess of the sector average for many areas, we acknowledge that there is still room for improvement.

"We acknowledge that road maintenance and repairs remain a significant issue for the community while we continue to work through the back log of road maintenance that occurred due to the 2022 floods.

"The next review of Council's Road Management Plan is currently being conducted and will be released for public comment in the coming weeks, so there will be further opportunity for the community to have their say around the way that Council maintains and upgrades roads,

footpaths and drains," Mayor Amos added.

The Customer Satisfaction Survey was conducted via a phone survey of 400 people across all demographics within Campaspe Shire and included increased questioning around 24 individual services.

Council is required to survey the community every year to seek feedback on the performance of Council. The survey sample set is randomised based on people who live in Campaspe Shire. It is aimed to get responses across a representative section of the community across gender, age, and locality.

As well as the results from 2024, Council also received an update on the action plan which was implemented in 2023 to address lower scoring results from the 2023 Customer Satisfaction Survey, with over 83% of actions completed or on track for completion.



Councillors representing the six wards of Campaspe Shire Council. From the coming October election the Shire will no longer be divided into wards.

Mayor Amos highlighted some high performing areas including waste management and library services where Campaspe received excellent results.

"It's also very pleasing to see an upward trend in overall improvement in community satisfaction, particularly in relation to our consultation

and engagement as well as decision making on behalf of the community.

"The Customer Satisfaction Survey gives us insight into residents' expectations and where we can seek to improve our service delivery through the council decisions that we make," Mayor Amos said.

New carpark for Lions Park

The construction of a new carpark and road edge in front of the Lions Park toilets in Station Street, Rushworth has commenced.

The carpark has been a pothole haven for many years and will now be resurfaced. Vic Roads and Shire of Campaspe have outsourced the new works to Northern Constructions Group from Echuca.

Those travelling along Station Street will have to stop with lights whilst the construction is ongoing for approximately two weeks, weather etc pending.

Phil, from Northern Constructions Group said, 'The carpark will have one new marked disabled bay with spaces for other parking. The toilet is still operational and can be accessed from the east and west ends of the park as can the play area for children.'



The Lions carpark, which is full of potholes, will be resurfaced with bitumen.

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Rushworth Library Event
Meet local history author
Nicola Thomson
as she talks about her book
'Collected Memories of Whroo'.
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Book at Campaspe Library website
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Community Bank supports local sport

Local sporting clubs have been the latest beneficiaries of Community Bank Rushworth & District fund distribution. The Bank has awarded grants to support the clubs and promote their healthy activities.

Murchison Scoreboard Upgrade

Murchison-Toolamba Football Netball Club are the proud new owners of an electronic scoreboard thanks in part to a \$10,000 sponsorship from Community Bank Rushworth & District.

The project, which was close to twelve months in the making, finally came to fruition on 11 April, just in time for the start of the season.

“We are always looking for ways to support our community and community groups,” said Branch Manager Alek Stokes. “Assisting our sporting groups to bring their equipment up to date is just one of the ways we do this.”

Community Bank Rushworth & District return up to 80% of their profits to the local community through grants, sponsorships and scholarships. Enquiries about grants and sponsorships can be made to Charleen Warburton, Marketing and Local Engagement Manager, on 0408 572 808 during business hours. Applications can be made at <https://communitybankrushworth.smartygrants.com.au/>



Footy and cricket scores will be easy to see on the brand new Murchison-Toolamba scoreboard.

Stanhope Bowls Club upgrade possible thanks to Community Bank Rushworth & District

Stanhope Bowls Club is set to receive a big overhaul of their bowling greens to make them safer for bowler use.

A massive \$20,000 sponsorship was awarded to the Stanhope Bowls Club at the end of May by Community Bank Rushworth & District, without which the project was going to take a number of years to achieve.

The works, which includes repairing and renewing the surrounds of the bowling greens, will ensure that the playing surface is safe for players for many more years to come. Some of the infrastructure being repaired has been in place for over 70 years and was proving dangerous for patrons of the club.

Stanhope Bowls Club Treasurer, Greg Fitzpatrick, said that the club is extremely grateful to receive this sponsorship and support from Community Bank Rushworth and District. “The size of the project is quite large and when we approached the contractors for a quote we asked them to break it up into 3-4 different stages so we could fund it ourselves over a period of several years. By obtaining this sponsorship we will be able to undertake the whole project in one go and allow us to do preparatory works without worrying about leaving bits undone



and trying to match up the new works for a playing season. Most importantly it will help avoid cost blowout and price rises that would occur if it took us 3-4 years to complete the whole project.”

Branch Manager Alek Stokes said “we are committed to supporting all of our local community groups and couldn’t be happier to support the Stanhope Bowls Club. Their willingness to invest in improving their grounds for everyone to enjoy is admirable. Hopefully these upgrades will ensure that the club remains active for another 75 years and the grounds remain safe and enjoyable for all our community.”

Council Plan Progress Reporting

At the May meeting of Campaspe Shire Council, Councillors noted updates to its Council Plan Action Plan.

The report provided an update to the end of the third quarter on actions for the last year of the Council Plan 2021-25, detailing progress on 48 initiatives funded in the current budget.

Notable achievements included a residential land review for the shire, continuing infrastructure upgrades such as the renewal of the Echuca Aerodrome and Victoria Park Boat Ramp and environmental projects including the Integrated Water Management at Echuca Aquatic Reserve and sustainable initiatives in the Victoria Park Multi-purpose building design.

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Seeing Paris in Bendigo

When visiting Bendigo for the Paris experience a walk along View Street brings it to life with many businesses getting into the theme in a creative way even before going into the Gallery.

Exclusive to Bendigo Art Gallery, Paris:



Impressions of Life 1880–1925 takes visitors on a journey through the lively and picturesque streets of historic Paris.

The busy banks of the Seine, bustling marketplaces, grand boulevards, idyllic public gardens, and the heady atmosphere of bohemian Montmartre are brought to life in more than 170 works of art and artisan objects. From the renowned collection of the Musée Carnavalet - History of Paris, the iconic museum of the history of Paris, this exhibition reflects on an effervescent period of great social change, urban development and artistic innovation which shaped modern Paris and continues to capture the global imagination.

Four seven themed pathways and discover artisan street signs, historic couture, decorative arts, and everyday ephemera alongside paintings by artists including Jean Béraud, the pre-eminent painter of Parisian life in the Belle Époque, Maurice Utrillo and Paul Signac, pioneer of the artistic technique of pointillism, as well as vibrant graphic prints by Toulouse-Lautrec and his contemporaries.

The oldest municipal museum in Paris, the Musée Carnavalet was founded in 1866



to document the history, built environments, and celebrate the unique character of Paris during a period of rapid modernisation.

Proudly presented as part of Bendigo International Collections.

Exhibition organised by the Musée Carnavalet – Histoire de Paris, Paris Musées and can be seen until 14 July 2024.

Kyabram Town Hall Rathbone Collection

The Rathbone Collection (owned by Shire of Campaspe) is a group of seventy-one paintings of early Echuca and district, painted by George Martinmay Rollo Rathbone (1900-1989).

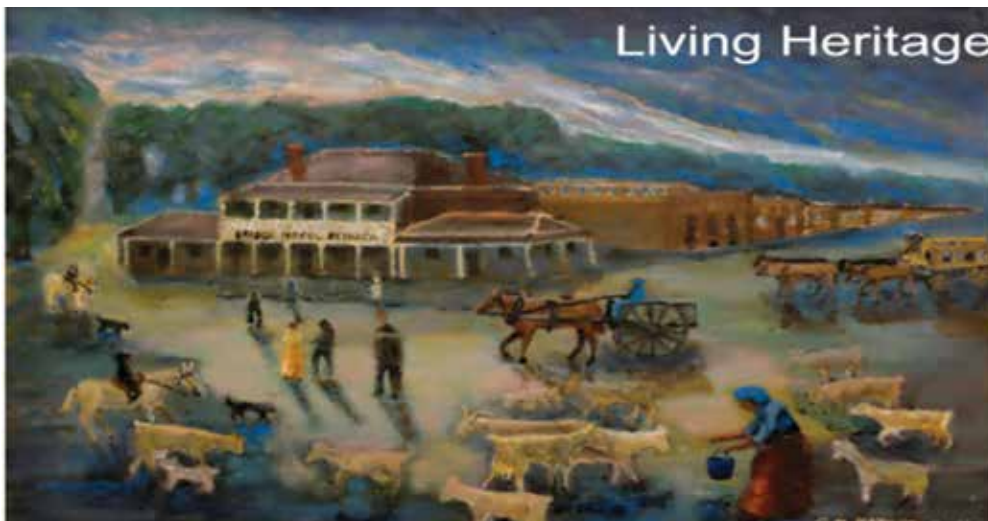
George Rathbone gained his love for Echuca and district from his ancestors:

“In 1875 my maternal grandparents came from Talbot beyond Clunes in a covered van drawn by one horse. They had three little girls, all born in Clunes, travelling with them. They brought their own goat to supply milk. One of these little girls, Mary Ann, became my mother. My mother went to school in

Echuca, and later worked for Mr Chenall.

Two women especially had a profound influence on me, as regards my knowledge of Echuca: my maternal grandmother, Mrs Peter Hart (née Agnes Mason 1851-1941) and my mother, Mrs George Rathbone (née Mary Ann Hart, 1872-1962). Both lived 90 years. My grandfather Peter Hart worked in the timber trade – sometimes in the bush and sometimes at Chadwick’s timber mill.”

Living Heritage



Kyabram Town Hall Gallery Exhibitions

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

- RATHBONE COLLECTION & REFORM MOVEMENT
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- KYABRAM ART GROUP - Artists' Exhibition

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Kennedy Shiraz 2019, Kennedy Cambria (Reserve) 2014, Kennedy Pink Hills Rosé 2021, Henrietta Shiraz 2020
Henrietta Rose 2022 available online and being served at Colbinabbin Country Hotel.

Exploring the beginning of irrigation in the Goulburn Valley

At the recent meeting of the Murchison Historical Society John Dainton from Shepparton was guest speaker. He has conducted wide-ranging research and has compiled a wealth of information about the beginning of irrigation that started in Murchison and has developed to the extensive system that we see today, throughout Victoria and beyond.

The first public funded irrigation system supplying many farms started flowing from a site on the banks of the Goulburn River near Murchison township in 1885. John Dainton's great grandfather built the brick lined well shaft that is still in existence. It is not accessible to the public but we were able to obtain permission, and visited the site following the talk and afternoon tea. It is amazing to view the remnants of the works and to ponder on the skill of the people involved who had the vision and ability to build, largely by manual labour, this original water supply for many farms.

The following is written by Historian Anne Tyson from Merrigum, to provide information for those enjoying Irrigation Tours during locally arranged Heritage Open Days.

'The importance of the United Echuca and Waranga Waterworks Trust's (UE and WWT) 1885 pumping station on the west bank of the Goulburn River south of Murchison lies in the fact that it was the very beginnings of the first publicly-funded irrigation scheme in Australia, the Goulburn River Scheme. This was the earliest of the large-scale irrigation schemes that would profoundly change the development of agriculture and patterns of settlement in Victoria.

The pumping station was the Trust's temporary solution to the pent-up demand for 'water for the northern plains' while the Goulburn Weir, a 'National' (State) project, was being constructed.

From 1882, utilizing government loans, the Trust had created an extensive system of channels awaiting both stock and domestic water and irrigation supply from the promised gravitational system based on the projected weir on the Goulburn. Difficult drought years, which led to an increasingly frenzied demand for water supply across the north of the state, and delays in construction of the Weir, led to the reluctant acceptance of the pumping station at Murchison.

A brick-lined circular shaft 3.7m in diameter and 14.5m deep connected with a timber-lined horizontal tunnel 21m long which ran from the bottom of the shaft to the steeply-sloping river bank. A timber sluice gate, operated by a gun metal screw, with a grate to prevent debris entering, led from the river into the tunnel. Two Robison Bros (South Melbourne) patent 26inch horizontal centrifugal pumps were fixed in the shaft, as close as possible to the river water level so as to maximise efficiency. Each had a delivery pipe of 838mm in diameter (the brick work



Timber inlet tunnel on the river bank is no longer in existence.

at the top of the shaft reveals the opening for these pipes). The pumps were driven by a pair of powerful horizontal compound engines, with multi-tubular boilers.

The two pumps were capable of delivering approximately one tonne of water per second or about 20,000,000 gallons per day. Staff were stationed with the pumps around the clock.

The water was discharged to a brick-lined settling pond before flowing into the Trust Channel', which was 137 km long and 2.5 metres wide. The Channel travelled to the west, across Gunn's Swamp (soon to be deepened and extended to become the Waranga Basin) on an embankment, and thence further west to the Campaspe River, passing south of Lake Cooper. From this, lesser branch channels ran north or north-west towards the Murray. The Commissioners of the Trust, in a phenomenal achievement (although many of the channels were later derided as 'gutters'), had endeavoured to ensure that no farmer would be more than a mile and a half from water. Some sections of the Trust Channel are still used, some sections can be seen but unused, and some have been filled in.

Initially the volume was only adequate to provide stock and domestic supplies. The pumps first supplied irrigation water in May 1886, a very limited number of applicants receiving water for up to fifty acres. These were the pioneer vine and fruit growers at Ardmona and Mooroopna who were the most vocal in their demands for irrigation water.

The Goulburn scheme thus preceded the Chaffey's famous private scheme at Mildura. Huge publicity had been garnered by the brothers' entrepreneurial approach, the audacity of their scheme and the speed of its realisation, but irrigation from the Murchison pumps had commenced over a year before the Mildura scheme, where water was not sent down the channels until mid-October 1887. Large-scale irrigation in the Goulburn Valley and indeed in Australia can be said to date from May 1886, from the pumping station at Murchison.

The pumps continued to supply the western Goulburn Valley until the Weir was completed in 1891, when they were removed and sold.

With the construction in 1910 of the East Goulburn Main Channel servicing the eastern Goulburn Valley centred on Shepparton, and the building of the Eildon Weir and Dam (1915-1929, with subsequent enlargement) providing a greatly increased volume of water, the pioneering irrigation scheme that commenced at the Murchison pump site became the largest and most productive of Victoria's irrigation schemes, the area described as the Food Bowl of Victoria.'

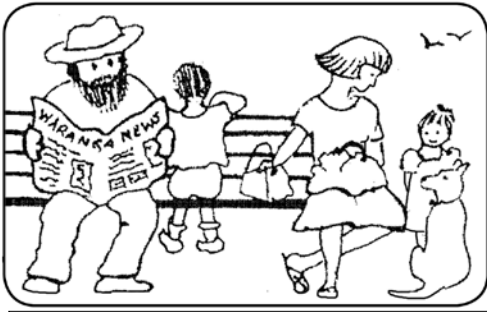
As the channel water is not currently flowing it was possible to also see remnants of a timber structure, flume No. 4 located south of the Pump Site, which is fully exposed. A flume is like a bridge or aqueduct built to allow water, as in this case the Stuart-Murray Canal, to flow over a creek or natural drainage depression. This clear view of the flume was an added bonus to our excursion that was primarily to view the Pump Site.

Kay Ball,

Murchison & District Historical Society Inc.
Flume number 4



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



Around Rushworth

On the grape vine . . .

- Special 90th birthday wishes going out to Mary Beck, make sure you send her good wishes if you see her
- Celebrating her 50th birthday this week is Belinda Simpson.
- Happy 18th birthday to Amber Clarke, daughter of Darren and Nicole Clarke.

* * *

Garden Lovers meet at Angie's pottery

For the Rushworth Garden Lovers May meeting, nineteen members first had a tour of Angie Russi's garden and pottery. It was a beautiful day for a wander around the paths through her beautiful garden. (Thanks Angie.)

The next meeting on 20 June is the AGM. This will be a lunch meeting, so please bring finger food to share. Come at 11.30 am to set up for to set up for 12 noon lunch.

Membership is due. Please put \$10 in an envelope with your name on it so it's easy for the treasurer.

Bring something to stock the trading table and there will be competitions as usual. (So, inside for the winter and a social day.)

Visitors are welcome - maybe you would like to join, with no obligation.



Angie's garden features her famous guinea fowls - both live and ceramic!

90th celebrations for Mary

Family from the UK, Perth, Echuca, Bendigo and Rushworth travelled to Melbourne to surprise Mary Beck for her 90th birthday.

The celebrations included a trip to the theatre, high tea at Mary Eats Cake, dinner at Crown, visit to Fitzroy to see the house Mary grew up in, games, trivia and lots of laughs.

It's very unusual to see Mary lost for words, but this happened when she realised everyone was there to celebrate her milestone birthday.

What a wonderful way to celebrate an amazing Mum, Nan and Great Nan!

Pictured (right): High tea guest of honour Mary Beck.



(Below) The Beck family - who took great delight in successfully surprising the lady of the day!



Rushworth Market

Village Green High st, Rushworth

Saturday 15 June 8.30am - 1pm

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

NEW STALLHOLDERS WELCOME E: rushworthmarket@gmail.com P: 0459 520 843



<https://www.facebook.com/rushworthmarket>



Colbo Tit Bits

Proudly Sponsored by **REID** Stockfeeds | Trusted Performance

Cornella's Cuppa for Cancer

Thank you to all who made Cornella Care's Cuppa for Cancer such a success. A total of \$1038.10 has been sent to aid cancer research.

Solar in Colbo?

For those interested and wishing to show support in petitioning against the Cooba Solar Factory, proposed to be located in Colbinabbin, Victoria, the link to the online petition is Cooba Solar Facility (parliament.vic.gov.au)

This petition, from residents in Victoria, draws to the attention of the Legislative Assembly the Cooba Solar Facility proposal for Colbinabbin. Those signing this petition are not against renewables, but are against the proposed location, being in the middle of the Heathcote Wine GI on prime, highly arable agricultural land on the eastern slope of the Mt Camel hill range.

We encourage you to share this with your wider networks.

Please note that this petition is for signing only by Victorian residents as it is being addressed to the Victorian Legislative Assembly. For anyone outside of Victoria, there is the option of the hard copy petition which is open to residents across any state. Please contact us if you'd like a copy of this and we can send one through.

Colbinabbin Renewable group – crag.colbinabbin@gmail.com

Claire Tuohey

FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

June 9 Bill Johnson, Gerard Stewart

June 16 Matt Ryan, Martin Borger

If unable to attend for duty, call Chris/Leo.

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

Cemetery Trust

Mowing Roster (lawn section only)

June - Ramon Rathjen

LIBRARY

Wed 12 June Lynn Rathjen
Wed 19 June Pam Nihill



Colbo Diary

Tuesdays - Colbo Pub Choir 5pm
1st & 3rd Tuesdays Coffee and Cake
Thursdays - Men's Community Shed

June

Sat 29 CFNC Barn Dance

July

Sat 20 Ladies and Sponsor Day, Auction

Sat 27 Back to Shamrock at Rochester

Team Building with a difference!



Tatura Childcare staff are pictured giving a whole new meaning to staff bonding, when they went on a sunny day tour in a limousine! The happy group stopped into the Colbo pub on their trip to enjoy a drink or two. Might inspire other local groups to follow their lead?

Happy Birthday, Rushworth's Niecy



Friends of Rushworth's well-known Niecy, (Denise Corbin), member of SES, sports writer and photographer at Waranga News, Rushworth Shire Hall Committee member, dog rescuer and many other volunteering jobs, came to the Colbinabbin Country Hotel to celebrate a surprise birthday get-together.

Good on you, Niecy . . and thanks for all the work that you do!



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

Office Hours:

Mon, Tues Thurs : 9.00am to 3.00pm

Wed, Fri : 9.00am to 1.00pm

Your local access

point for Medicare,
Centrelink and other
Australian

Government services.



Reception - a key part of the Community House

Reception is the gateway to Rushworth Community House and the volunteers who run our front desk play a vital role in the successful management and operation of the House and its many activities.

Reception volunteers usually work one day each week, although some come in more frequently. They enjoy the friendly environment, learn new skills and meet interesting people from many walks of life.

The House welcomes new reception volunteers, and offers them mentored training on the job, plus free training in *Learn Local* accredited courses. The House opens at 9am and finishes at either 1pm or 3pm each day.

The Community House is also approved for Centrelink mutual obligation hours.

Contact RCH Manager Anita Pirie at the House if you'd like to find out more about becoming a valued member of the House's reception team.



Image courtesy clipart.com

Housing help in Waranga area

Rushworth Community House is working cooperatively with members of the Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) to assist people to find affordable housing in Rushworth and surrounding districts.

Supported by the Victorian Government, HAAG runs a free service called *Home at Last* which provides confidential advice, support and advocacy for people aged 50 years and older to help them find housing.

HAAG is committed to the principles of social justice and strives to ensure that every individual is treated with dignity and respect, irrespective of their age, cultural background, ability, ethnicity, gender-identity, sexual orientation or religion.

How HAAG could help

Services available from HAAG include:

- Information about affordable housing options that may be available locally
- Support for people at risk of homelessness to obtain social housing

- Advice and advocacy for people living in retirement housing
- Assistance to register for aged care support and system navigation

The Community House will be hosting representatives from HAAG on a regular basis over coming months, and members of the local community will be able to book private sessions with Teresa from HAAG to help them secure long-term accommodation in the Waranga area.

Please contact the Community House for an appointment during future HAAG visits.

(If you are in need of immediate assistance with housing-related issues, you can also call HAAG directly on 1300 765 178 and ask to speak to their local housing workers)

Successful partnership at Men's Shed

The successful cooperative arrangement between Rushworth Machinery Preservation Club and the Community House continues to deliver great outcomes for both organisations.



RCH provided Men's Shed services in Rushworth for many years, located in one of the many sheds at the old Council Depot in Horne Street. The Shed closed during COVID, then the House was unable to secure a suitably qualified site supervisor. As a result, the Shed remained unused.

Late last year, an agreement was finalised for the Machinery Preservation Club to have exclusive access to the Shed to carry out its important conservation work.

The Club Committee agreed to provide on-going Men's Shed activities for members of the local Community, as well as conducting its machinery preservation work.

The Community House is also delighted with the valuable upgrading work on the Shed itself that is being undertaken by members of the Machinery Preservation Club.

The partnership is a clear demonstration of the benefits that can arise when agreements between community groups work well.

A blast from the past

For many of its regulars, Rushworth Community House is a bit of a comfortable home away from home.

Lyn Rumble was a popular Community House manager a few years ago, before she retired to concentrate on her artistic, culinary and craft-based endeavours.

However, Lyn maintains her ties with the Community House, running its *WebDotWiz* program each Tuesday evening, and participating in hands-on creative activities.

The picture at right shows Lyn in Easter Bunny ears, preparing to distribute chocolate eggs in the Community Garden on Easter Saturday morning in 2013. It was a hoot!



NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.

Busy, but fun, few weeks.

The committee of the Op Shop and Foodbank have had a busy, but fun, few weeks. Its time to distribute the extra funds we have after keeping the Foodbank stocked for another year.

This is a joyful time as we share some of the generosity of donations to the Op shop among the people of Rushy. This year is no exception, Rushworth Community Support have a total of \$25,000 to share out this year. There will be vouchers available like last year, at the Foodbank for fuel, groceries and meat and a few new initiatives. A huge thank you to everyone who supports the Op Shop!

Nine local community groups as well as the SES and CFA have benefited from the distribution of funds, the P-12 College and Community Taxi have had their additional funding renewed. Two new areas to receive financial help are the P-12 Food ROCKS programme and a trial of Karate classes for 10- to 15-year-olds at the Rushworth Shire Hall.

In response to requests for an activity

for our younger citizens we have contacted a local Karate teacher who will hold classes at the Shire Hall on Monday nights from 15 July (6:30pm - 7:30pm). The Op Shop and Foodbank will fund free classes for the first ten to enrol for the initial six weeks. Classes are conducted by a fully accredited teacher with his own insurance and are normally \$10 per person per class. If you are interested in joining this activity, please see Jean at the Op Shop and register. The classes will be ongoing after the initial trial subject to sufficient numbers, (minimum 5).

Happenings at the Op Shop this week include specials on books, 5 for a \$1 and a wonderful range of winter clothing.

Check out the furniture shed for a bargain. A call for more volunteers please! The Op shop would love to open the furniture store for longer hours but we need more help.

The winter soup and toast on Friday morning is well underway at the Foodbank. The 'little outside pantry' is always well stocked and available to anyone in need 24/7.



KARATE



Goju Ryu Genku Kai

Okinawa Karate Goju kai

Coming soon to Rushworth

Commencing: July 15th 2024

Rushworth Shire Hall

High Street Rushworth

Mondays: 6.30pm to 7.30pm

0409 809 612



Fifty years ago in our district....

Looking through the pages of past 'Rushworth Chronicles'

.....compiled by former district resident Alan McLean



Farming patience tried in early June 1974

Colbinabbin range farmers were persistent, re-sowing grain paddocks after heavy rains had created wash-outs. The ground was still very wet, tractors were regularly bogged and for the farmers involved, the re-plant was an act of hope rather than expectation. (These days most of those paddocks are vineyards.)

A shocking accident involving the PTO of Laurie Howell's tractor took the lower portion of his right leg. The Stanhope farmer lay in his paddock for an hour, awaiting attention from a doctor.

There was very little room in Stanhope Hall for other dancers as debutantes waltzed around, including Twinkle-Toes Geoff Cruz partnering Karen Clover. In the queue were Elwyn Bohn (Peter Lloyd), Gwenda Maxwell (Neville Cowie), Margaret Price (Gary Elford), Gail Job (Colin Emmett), Julie Kent (Robert Anderson), Pamela Hancox (John Holschier), Debra Holschier (Peter Sherman), Carol Hancox (Geoff Goode), Wendy McGuire (Graeme Wall), Susan Miller (Kelvin Argus), Gail Ryan (Tony Trist), Leanne Howard (Peter Finlay), Michelle Lonie (Alan West), Kerryn Northausen (David Argus), Tracee Spiby (Roly Miller) and Julie Shaw (Tony Kilmartin). (*I note that some of these couples later tied the knot.*)

Police and Court news

There was news of "planning approval" for a new police station and residence at Rushworth. No timetable was announced so Sergeant Geoff Durston had to endure the dilapidation.

Stanhope dairy farmer was fined for three offences after evidence led by the Department of Agriculture. Officials had inspected and laid three charges that he had failed to keep a dairy clean, failed to keep yards clean, and for permitting an accumulation of manure. Farmer was fined \$15 (yes, \$15), with \$68.16 costs for Department inspectors to attend the hearing.

Waranga Shire

After six years as Shire Secretary, Graeme Calder resigned, becoming Malvern Town Clerk.

Community

Rushworth Fire Brigade members were photographed after receiving awards at a dinner attended by CFA Assistant Chief Officer Harry Rothsay. Tom Moylan, Graham Hawking, Eddie Gleeson, Gordon Raglus, Aub Geisler and Alf Raglus looked very smart but Ron Wootton, receiving his 12-year badge, missed the memo about wearing his brigade uniform.

Colbo Guides had a trip to Puffing Billy in the Dandenong Ranges, as Julie Morgan was selected for a camp in South Australia.

Schools

Rodney Jones won High School cross-country open event for boys, sister Denise (now Snelling) winning the girls race. (*All Bibby and Irene's training paid off!*)

Primary School Grades 1 and 2 composite made a scarecrow of sticks, hay and old clothes.

Grades 2 and 3 were "finding out about life in science. First we are going to study plants, then we will get animal organs and look at them". (*Apologies to those reading over breakfast.*) Submitting Grade 4 report about a stamp club was Craig Miller.

Personal

Jodie Perret's brother Dean was born to Margaret and Trevor of Rushworth, as David and Bev Rogerson welcomed Julie to Stanhope.

Bill Lambden, believed to be recovering from a stroke in Kyabram hospital, died suddenly. Details may be found in today's Name from the Past column.

Iris Anderson of Stanhope, wife of Bob, also passed in Kyabram hospital.

District residents were reported as recovering in hospital after health emergencies. Cr. Len Coyle was in Mooroopna hospital after a heart attack, and Sam Cheatley of Colbo in Rochester hospital after a stroke. Alan Jackson (snr.) had returned to Rushworth from Melbourne after "a 7-hour operation to transplant veins from a leg to replace diseased arteries near his heart".

Wes Risstrom was reported to have "clutch and gearbox problems" but I assume those issues were only in his truck! Poor Murray Hitchcock had "a major re-build on his engine"! Again, I am guessing that this only took his truck off the road, while Terry Gleeson's "diff broke on Macquarie Pass". While Terry was getting help, some low individual stole \$3000 worth of tarpaulins and fittings.

Terry loaded a trailer with camping gear, fuel and various other fluids, setting off for a chat in his car with Pluto Perry, Jim Perry, Stephen Brown and Ian Dunstall, and heading for Bourke to see shearer Graeme "Ginger" Perry in action.

Norm Smith commenced as manager of Stanhope branch of the State Savings Bank of Victoria. (*Remember the SSB?*)

Football

Colbo's 15-15 was too much for Rushworth's 10-12. All the Macs were best

for the winners: McCormack, John McEvoy and Ken McMurtrie, together with Lundberg, Slimmons, Ken Wilson and Graeme Reid who kicked five goals after coming on as 19th man. (He must have gone to the wrong end of the ground! He was a full-back!) Farrer, O'Sullivan, Lambden, McKeown, Roberts and young Lloyd best for the Tigers, as Herb Barlow booted four goals.

20th man John Brown came on for Colbo in the final minutes, his 200th senior appearance.

Colbo Seconds kicked a goal with five seconds remaining, to win 7-8 to 6-8. Alf Raglus named Colbo's best as Bill and Trevor Johnson, Glen Rathjen and John Brown. For the Tigers, he found Maurice Clarke, Trevor Hawking, Chip Hageman and Rodney Jones, the cross-country runner.

Opting out on a very windy day at Tooborac were John Lambden, Pluto Perry, Bill and Herb Barlow (all claiming injury), giving Chip Hageman his first senior game for 1974. He saw Tooby kick ten goals in the first quarter. Rushworth had an eight-goal quarter after Ross Williams went off, replaced by Twinkle-Toes Cruz. Tooborac 22-18, Rushworth 11-7. The reporter spotted Glen Heily, John Raglus, Alec Horne, Ray Cruz, Mick O'Sullivan and Noel Lloyd as best players.

Stanhope were struggling in the Goulburn Valley league, down 7-9 to Euroa's 21-14. Stanhope had won just one game, the Seconds not being quite so successful.

Netball

Netball victories were shared; Rushworth easily in A-grade, Colbo narrowly in B-Grade, and Rushworth very comfortably in C-grade, Lyn-Maree Pearce and Denise Jones, the cross-country runner, shown as best.

Against Tooborac, Rushworth B and C-grades were successful with mentions to Robyn Roberts, Bev Draper, Cathy Poulson and Debbie Harrop.

In a Sunday tournament at Tatura, star players were Gillian Risstrom, Debbie Cruz, Denise and Wendy Jones, Lyn Merryfull and Isabel McLean.

Golf

Ivan Jell won B-grade on handicap with nett 62, edging out Bruce Wootton nett 64 and Gordon Raglus 65. A-grade was won by Mal McLeod, with just 75 off the stick, 61 nett, so he was playing off 14 handicap. (*Way too generous!*)

The Associates event had Shirley Harrop knock it close to the pin, putting to get her birdie two! The day was won by Norma Bolden.

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

STORIES OF CHINESE IMMIGRANTS TO THE
WARANGA AREA

Chinese gambling

Gambling by Chinese immigrants was usually described in negative terms by the press of the goldrush era. Terminology included phrases such as “gambling dens”, “unlawful games” and “gang of Chinese gamblers”. The reality was that people of virtually all ethnic backgrounds engaged in gambling on the goldfields, of one form or another.

China had a long history of gambling. Chinese immigrants (before and during the goldrush) brought their own games with them, but also tried other games that were new to them. It is likely that some European miners reciprocated by trying games that the Chinese had introduced to them.

Victorian attitudes

Although gambling on horse-racing had been common in Victoria since European settlers arrived in numbers from the 1830s, and other forms of gambling (cards, dice etc) were tolerated, there was a lot of anti-gambling sentiment. Much of it came from Protestant clergy and moralists who thought that gambling constituted anti-social behaviour, was likely to water down the work ethic and would inevitably lead to a degradation of moral values.

Government felt under pressure to regulate gambling, in part to try and ensure that any gambling that did occur was carried out in a fair and equitable way. In 1852, the infant Victorian Government introduced the wonderfully named Act to Restrain the Practice of Gambling and the Use of Obscene Language. At the same time, The Vagrant Act prohibited gambling on “unlawful games” and in public places. Anyone arrested for doing so could come under what was then a broad definition of a vagrant and be fined or gaoled.

In part, this legislation was used to vilify and harass the Chinese. Some of the so-called “unlawful games” were those that had a long history of being played by Chinese people. Newspapers from the last half of the 19th century contain a litany of stories about raids on Chinese gambling “dens”. In the 1860s, police were sometimes paid bonuses for arresting Chinese gamblers and those running such institutions. No such problems for horse-racing, which was controlled by the ruling classes of the day.

Types of gambling

One of the oldest card games much enjoyed by the Chinese diggers was Fan Tan, also known as “Sevens”. In the game, the object is to get rid of all your cards first. The player who does so wins the pot. Players place a chip in the pot at the start of the game and each round where they cannot make a move (i.e. place a card).

Faro was another old card game that was once played regularly, but these days in casinos it has been replaced by poker. In 1865, a raid in the Little Bourke Street Chinatown precinct led to 25 men being charged with playing a version of Faro, which was illegal at the time. They were each fined 10/-, with the alleged organisers coping £5 fines.

There were also variations of lotto games, such a Pah-ah-pu. In this game, the player buys a ticket with 85 printed Chinese characters, on which they mark ten. Pre-determined prizes are given to anyone who selects at least five correct characters, with prizes rising progressively for those with six to ten correct characters. Other Chinese games such as Mahjong and Pai Gow (the latter using 32 dominoes as part of the game) could also be used as a basis for betting.

These days, apart from some gaming that occurs in casinos in Macau and Hong Kong, gambling is largely banned in China. No doubt it still occurs at the local level as a form of entertainment.

Waranga goldfields

Although there is little newspaper coverage of Chinese gambling in the local area during the goldrush, it is likely that it would have been a common occurrence. Whether this amounted to addiction, which was a generalised claim made in some newspapers, is debatable. In any case, it did not seem to affect the work ethic of most Chinese diggers, who were generally considered to be most hard-working ethnic group in their pursuit of gold.

Similarly, in a male-dominated society with few other sources of entertainment, the European diggers were drawn to different forms of gambling. More often than with the Chinese, this gambling would be accompanied by alcohol consumption, with its potential to fuel arguments and possible violence.

Sources: *1 Argus 25.10.1865*

A Name from the Past

Bill Lambden -

Butcher and community man

Archived newspapers report on at least six generations of Lambdens living in our district. One who left quite a legacy was William Henry Arthur Lambden, known to all as Bill, who died just fifty years ago this month, aged only 64. He had been married to Eileen, nee Coyle.

Grandchildren surnames include Halsall (mother Wendy, Bill and Eileen’s daughter), Le Deux (mother Val), Ogden (mother Judy), Phillips (mother Robyn), and of course Lambden, thanks to father John. There have been numerous great-grandchildren added to the clan.

Bill operated a family butchery at the premises now a medical clinic, beside the Aged Care Hostel. Taking extracts from Bill’s long obituary in Rushworth Chronicle of 11 July, 1974:

“He joined Rushworth Fire Brigade in 1935. He was a keen competitor, being a champion hydrant man. One big success was winning the Champion Four event at the Goulburn Valley demonstration in 1939 with G. Peart, G. Wootton and D. Wootton, a photo of which holds pride of place in the Fire Station..... He was elected Captain in October 1948, a position he held till he resigned in 1967, a period of almost 19 years.

“He was made an Honorary Life Member and awarded a Life Member Jewel. [He took] part in discipline contests [essentially uniformed marching] and winning the Torchlight Procession from over 100 brigades at Bendigo in 1957.

“Football took up a lot of his time over many years. In his early life he was a player, then took on the role of head trainer for the Rushworth Football Club whilst in the Goulburn Valley League. When Rushworth transferred to the Heathcote League in 1965 [winning that premiership], Bill became President, a position he held for three years. A selector and committee man right to the end, he had been awarded Life Membership.

“He donated the Lambden Cup, to be awarded to the club’s best and fairest player each year.

“In his private life he was very fond of gardening and took pride in his flowers. He was also a lover of horses.

“St Paul’s Anglican Church was packed to overflowing, hundreds not being able to gain admission for the service. The Rushworth Fire Brigade truck was covered with wreaths. As the procession passed down High Street, the fire-bell was tolled as a token of respect. At the cemetery gates a guard of honour was formed by members of the Rushworth Football Club as the cortege passed through.

“And so came to the end a member of the community who had given service to the town of Rushworth, to the best of his ability.”

Time creates perspective. As I was growing up, Bill was an “older bloke”. Now I realise that I have outlived him, as he died at just 64. Perhaps that indicates that I, and most of my mates, are now “older blokes”. Could that be right?



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.

Black duck rescue

I guess it wouldn't be winter unless I had to take the plunge into the ice cold waters of one of our rivers, a dam or a creek.

I was called to Nagambie Leisure Park to help a Pacific black duck with a hook in its bill just over a week ago. Once we reached the location, despite searching the entire park on both the river side and the lakeside, my son and I couldn't find any Black ducks. All ducks seemed to be missing in action.

Apart from a pair of Wood ducks, we failed to find any, which is a bit unusual for the Leisure Park! We had searched for over an hour but didn't want to leave as Nagambie is a bit of a trek for us and knowing it was a resident duck, we remained hopeful he'd turn up before dark. We knew if he didn't show up, we'd have to return to try to find him the following day.

We were retracing our search pattern when a staff member called to ask where I was because some people fishing had a few Black ducks turn up looking for scraps. We made a beeline to the location, threw out some tucker but sadly, our hooked duck wasn't with this group.

Anxious we were running out of time, we continued our search along the riverbank, retracing our previous searches yet again. A couple of swans were walking along the bank, saw our bucket of tucker so came to investigate. We obliged by throwing some seed out in the hope that we'd attract more than the swans. A few water hens, an Ibis and some Black ducks suddenly appeared. As each duck arrived we checked for hooks. Still no hooked duck.

Then suddenly I realised I was staring at the last one to climb out of the water and up the bank, less than a metre away from my feet and it had a hook sticking out the side of its bill!

I already had the pole net on the ground in place but had to wait for him to get in the right position beside my net to quickly flip it over to catch him. I also had the net gun on me. I decided to use the net gun to speed things up as it was getting late and cold. I didn't seem to be quite on my game that day as the first shot flew a centimetre over his head.

The net gun is a great rescue tool and I've caught many flying birds with it over the years. I have a new one which was kindly purchased for me by the Goulburn Murray Landcare Network last year when my old



net gun finally packed it in. The new gun is supposed to be the same, it is not.

Like everything these days, modifying something on the whim that it is better, at the sacrifice of a design that works perfectly, seems to be the standard.

The new net gun does not perform as well and it is taking me awhile to adjust to its shortfalls. Disappointed, I repacked the net head, which takes a bit of time, then stood ready for my second opportunity, waiting for him to come back into range.

The problem now was that most of the birds were full and weren't that fussed to come in for food.

Finally, our hook victim decided to exit the water again. I was getting worried that I may not get another chance that day so took the shot. Got him! Both duck and I shot into action.

It's important to run as soon as you make a successful shot as the net entraps them, but the bird can still attempt to get out of the net and sometimes can, if they've only been caught close to edge of the net.

This duck took off to where it knew it was safe - back to the water. He made it into the river, net and all. My heart sank as he struggled to swim, fully entangled in my net. These nets have small weights on each corner and I knew if I didn't go after him, the hook was going to be the least of his problems!

Throwing off my coat and shoes, quick check of my pockets for anything not waterproof, I took the plunge, all the while hoping the duck didn't make it all the way out into the centre of the river.

Lucky for me, the bottom of the net got snagged on an underwater branch about five or six metres out. Unlucky for me, the river here is well over my head about one step from



the bank so entailed a full swim. I reached the flailing duck pretty quickly, grabbed it but the net was really snagged below the water. I didn't like the thought of destroying an 80 dollar net but could not reach down enough while holding the duck to free it so I ended up pulling hard, felt something break and I hightailed it back to shore carrying the entangled duck.

Once high, but certainly not dry, we set to work extracting the poor duck from the net. Remarkably, my net was still entirely intact, even all the weights were there!

I was able to remove the hook on-site without causing any further damage. The hook was not embedded in the duck's bill as first thought, it was straight through the centre of the tongue. The duck was a good weight and the hook hole was healed already at the edges of the wound due to how long it had been embedded, so we were able to release it immediately.

The duck certainly was happier than I as I knew my backpack of spare clothes that usually travels with me for just these occasions, was not in my van. It was going to be a chilly hour travel back home.

I cannot thank the couple enough who were holidaying in the cabin right where we caught the duck. I am not good with names so cannot recall their names but I was provided with a dry shirt, long pants and socks to change into! I was still very cold but considerably more comfortable for the journey home than I would have been.

I've never had a bird drag my net gun net so far out from the shore in deep water before. I did not anticipate getting wet for this one. Moral of the story...always expect the unexpected and people please, PLEASE pick up discarded lines and hooks.

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

Waranga Catchment Landcare

- "We may be small but we're busy!"

by Louise Costa

May was jam-packed with something for everyone.

Our 'Biodiversity Education, Aquatic Discovery' day at Colbinabbin was a huge success with lots of budding ecologists learning about 'mini beasts, turtles, tracks and scats and the value of habitat along the beautiful Cornella Creek which is also home to the Colbinabbin Bush Kinder.



The new Junior Landcare team at the Rushworth P-12 College has enough enthusiasm and energy to power the school!

This group is working their way through the invasive *Crassula* weed in their forest landscape and has introduced their new mascot. Plans are in place to run a school-wide logo design competition and the group is planning their own Landcare activity day in August.

Saturday morning wetlands walk



And just add water to an ephemeral landscape and watch the birds arrive.



Binoculars assisted in the identification of the myriad birdlife on the wetlands.

Under yet another warm blue sky, Landcare members and friends gathered to learn about the positive outcomes of targeted environmental water for environmental benefits.

As we watched the families of black swans, mountain ducks, wood ducks and grebes paddle in the background, we heard Jane White of the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group and Simon Casanelia from the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority talk about the importance of wetland habitat in supporting much larger ecosystems and creating refuge for many species including the threatened brolga.

Upcoming events

The Waranga micro-catchment takes in Harston and Girgarre and this month we'll be exploring and introducing our members to some of the projects those Landcare groups have been working on. All are welcome to join.

- 15 June 'Stockyard Plain tour' hosted by the Harston Landcare Group

- 23 June 'Gargarro tour' hosted by the Stanhope/Girgarre Landcare Group

For more information or to find out how to become a Landcare member, please contact warangaclc@gmail.com

New campaign calls for help to solve wildlife crime

The community is being reminded of the valuable role they play in solving wildlife crime, as Victorian authorities encourage people to come forward with any information that could help solve cold cases, including a dog attack on two eastern grey kangaroos in December 2023.

Crime Stoppers Victoria and the Conservation Regulator have launched the 'Wildlife crime: It's your call' campaign, to help the public recognise and report wildlife crime.

The long-standing relationship between the two agencies aims to empower the community to report information about suspected incidents and perpetrators of wildlife crime by raising public awareness and providing education on the nature and seriousness of native wildlife crime.

The partnership has also streamlined community reporting, with Crime Stoppers Victoria recording an 88% increase in reports supplied to wildlife authorities in the past year.

To report wildlife crime call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or at crimestoppersvic.com.au.



Chicken/Sausages with potatoes, onion and rosemary.

This recipe started out with pork sausages but I only had chicken thighs in fridge! So that's what I used. Feel free to go with the 'snags'

Ingredients

- 6 x chicken thighs
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 x cloves crushed garlic
- 1 x brown onion cut into 8 wedges
- 2 tsp rosemary leaves
- 500 gm small potatoes halved
- 250 mls dry white wine
- 250 mls chicken stock
- 150 mls cream
- 20 gm grated parmesan
- S & P
- 1 cup finely chopped silver beet

Method

1. Preheat oven 120° C.
Put chicken in a bowl toss with flour and season.
2. Heat 1 tbs oil in a large ovenproof pan, add half the chicken pieces turning occasionally until lightly browned. Remove to a plate and cook remaining chicken.
3. In the same pan using remaining oil add onion, garlic and rosemary stirring often.
4. Add potatoes, wine and stock. Return chicken to the pan and bring to the boil. Cover with lid and transfer to oven to cook for two hours.
5. Remove from oven, stir in cream and parmesan. Season, stir in silver beet, cover and cook for another 15 minutes on stove top over low heat. Scatter with remaining rosemary leaves.

Serve with rice or other vegetables.

If using sausages the recipe calls for removing the skins and breaking meat into 3cm pieces - small meatballs!

Bon Appetite
Pauline



Potting mix – to buy or not to buy?

Most gardeners who have at least some pot plants on the go will have discovered potting mixes available (especially at the popular big chain store) vary greatly in quality.

It doesn't need the frequent encouragement from Gardening Australia to 'look for the red ticks' – the temptation to opt for the much cheaper brands can sometimes result in choosing a bag of mostly wood chips and often pesky little gnats that are especially unpleasant indoors.

A good potting mix is essential for the healthy growth of container plants. It should be lightweight, well-draining, and rich in nutrients. Key features of a good mix are: organic matter, good aeration, mineral content, nutrient content, pH balance (around 6.0 to 7.0 for most plants)

A good potting mix balances all these components to create an environment that supports root health, water management, and nutrient availability, promoting vigorous plant growth.

One question facing keen gardeners is – do we buy it in or do we make our own? Our answer may come down to a simple matter of time or cost, but there are a few other considerations.

Pros of commercial potting mixes

1. Convenience: Ready-to-use with balanced ingredients.
2. Consistency: Formulated for specific plant needs, ensuring uniform quality.
3. Sterility: Often sterilized to prevent pests, diseases, and weed seeds.
4. Nutrient-rich: Contains added fertilizers for initial plant growth.

Cons of commercial potting mixes

1. Cost: More expensive than homemade mixes.
2. Environmental impact: Often contain non-renewable resources like peat moss.
3. Limited customisation: May not meet all specific plant requirements.
4. Potential additives: Can contain synthetic chemicals and fertilizers not suitable for organic gardening.

On the other hand, making your own potting mix allows you to tailor it to your plants' specific

needs and can be cost-effective.

Here's a simple guide to creating a versatile, high-quality mix:

1. Base Ingredients

- Coconut coir or peat moss (40-50%): Both materials help retain moisture and provide a light, airy structure. Coconut coir is now considered a more sustainable option compared to peat moss (which used to be recommended).
- Compost (20-30%): Adds essential nutrients and beneficial microorganisms. Ensure the compost is well-aged to prevent it from overheating and harming plant roots.

- Perlite or vermiculite (20-30%): These materials improve aeration and drainage. Perlite is ideal for plants needing excellent drainage, while vermiculite is better for moisture-loving plants.

2. Additional Ingredients:

- Sand (10-20%): For extra drainage, especially in mixes for succulents and cacti. Use coarse sand to prevent compaction.
- Worm Castings (5-10%): Rich in nutrients and beneficial microbes, worm castings enhance soil fertility.

3. Optional Additives:

- Lime: To adjust pH if using peat moss, which is acidic. Add about 1 tablespoon per gallon of mix.
- Blood and bone: Organic fertilizer that provides a slow-release nutrient boost. Follow package directions for amounts.

Steps:

1. Mix the base ingredients thoroughly in a large container or wheelbarrow.
2. Gradually add any additional ingredients, mixing well to ensure even distribution.
3. Adjust the mixture's moisture content by adding water if it feels too dry or more perlite if it's too wet.

Then you can store your homemade potting mix in a sealed container to keep it fresh and ready for use - without having to go to the shops!



Handy Hints - from Lyn Rumble

Hi there,

This issue gives you some good money saving tips to help with the household budget! Add to that a good homemade ice-pack tip that's cheap as! Works on my swollen ankle! And - after finding No. 5 tip (even though its now June!) – I'm definitely doing that each big supermarket shop!

Lyn Rumble

* **Sharpening scissors the thrifty way** – take a piece of aluminium foil and fold it in half, shiny side up. Snip it five or six times with your scissors, and your scissors will be definitely sharper.

* **Homemade ice pack** – 1 part rubbing alcohol to 3 parts water. Put into a double seal ziplock bag and expel all the additional air then seal the bag. The bag will get very cold, but will never harden so you can manipulate it to suit where you want to place it ie ankle, arm etc. Keep in the fridge when not using it.

* **How to remove a permanent marker** – on clothes = hand sanitizer; on walls =

toothpaste or hair spray; on wood = rubbing alcohol; on carpet = white vinegar; dry erase board = dry erase marker; furniture = milk;

* **Shelling hard-boiled eggs** - add ½ teaspoon of baking soda when boiling your eggs. The shells should slide right off!

* **Are you lousy at saving up for anything?** Why not buy a gift card each pay-day or month when you visit a large department store or supermarket!. If you do that each period, from January to November, then in December you can use them all to buy all your Christmas shopping, whether for groceries or presents!

Health and Wellbeing

GV Health pioneers steam therapy for prostate health

A first for regional Victoria, Goulburn Valley Health is introducing new, groundbreaking technology to diagnose and treat benign prostate enlargements.

The treatment — known as Water Vapour Therapy (Rezum) — is a steam treatment which involves steam injected directly into the tissue that's causing problems, destroying the extra tissue.

Rezum is a minimally invasive surgery, unlike traditional major surgery, as it requires no cutting or permanent implants.

"There's a prevalent condition that can cause annoying urinary symptoms like poor flow, urinary frequency and urgency," urologist Dr Daniel Lenaghan said.

"The advantage of this machine is that it can quickly inject steam into the prostate to allow it to shrink back and restore a better channel through the prostate where it's been enlarged."

GV Health is the second hospital to offer the treatment in Victoria, after St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne.

However, it was the first Victorian hospital to purchase the equipment.

"GV Health is the first regional hospital to offer Rezum, which is a considerable achievement as it eliminates the need for patients to travel to Melbourne," Dr Lenaghan said.

"Patients can still choose to have the traditional operation

because that has its advantages, but until now, Rezum has only been available in Melbourne.

"The procedure itself only takes around ten minutes, which is rapid and can be done as a daily procedure, so patients get home on the same day,"

GV Health clinical nurse specialist in urology, Sindhu Joby, said while Rezum has its health advantages, it also alleviates the stress of bed-stay issues at GV Health.

"The bed issues at GV Health have always been a concern for prostate treatments.

"We have had to cancel traditional procedures because there were no beds for our patients to stay overnight.

"The great thing about Rezum is the patient does not have to stay, and they can go home after treatment," she said.

Ms Joby said Rezum had received praise from health professionals and patients, so she was excited to now be part of the advancement.

"We have met the few patients who have had the treatment at St Vincent's in Melbourne, and they are pleased with the results and said they were comfortable with the procedure, so it is great to now offer the service to regional Victoria," she said.

Measles/mpox vaccine alert

People planning overseas travel this winter are being urged to ensure their routine and travel vaccinations are up to date.

The call comes amid an increasing number of returned travellers to Victoria presenting with vaccine-preventable travel-related illnesses, such as measles and mpox*.

Ten measles cases have been reported in Victoria this year, five of which were from returned overseas travellers, with a further five linked to those cases.

Meanwhile, there has been a local outbreak of mpox with cases reported in Victoria this year which were acquired from overseas travel.

Anyone planning travel overseas should seek advice from their doctor before booking.

It's best to see your doctor six to eight weeks before you travel to ensure you have the best protection. This includes anyone travelling to visit friends and family, or people travelling to their countries of birth.

People returning to Victoria from international travel was a significant source of Australian measles cases.

Travellers should ensure they have received two doses of measles-containing vaccine.

There has also been an increase in mpox cases at many popular travel destinations in the northern hemisphere. It is best to take precautions when overseas to limit risk of infection.

Mpox infection remains a risk for people travelling internationally, with case numbers in Victoria this year greater than the whole of last year.

Those planning travel to countries with active mpox outbreaks should make time to receive two doses of the vaccine, 28 days apart, for optimal protection, with those most at risk including men who have sex with men.

The mpox vaccine is free for those eligible and is available through more than 250 providers across Victoria.

GPs can advise on travel health and vaccine-preventable diseases, such as influenza and COVID-19, gastrointestinal illnesses, hepatitis A and typhoid as can pharmacists participating in the Community Pharmacy Prescribing Pilot.

Doctors can also advise if you need booster shots to catch-up on vaccines that have been missed.

Being up to date with influenza and COVID-19 vaccination before travel is also important to protect yourself while travelling.

Any returned traveller who develops illness after returning home, such as a fever, new rash or diarrhoea, should seek medical advice immediately.

* Mpox is a viral infection that usually results in a mild illness. Most people recover within a few weeks. However, some people may develop severe illness and require hospitalisation. There have now been sixteen confirmed cases of mpox in Victoria since 18 April 2024. Thirteen of these cases were locally acquired. Prior to this, the most recent cases were reported in January 2024.



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Kids Corner

- interesting things to know!

Hey Kids! Are you feeling the cold? Why not try a delicious and warming comfort food like baked beans on toast? Beans are packed with lots of healthy nutrients, and provide many benefits such as helping to prevent heart disease. Read all about the wonderful world of beans, and then have a go at the wordsearch.

Beans keep you full for longer. Beans contain fibre, complex carbohydrates and proteins, substances that signal to your body that you are full.

The healthiest beans to eat are chickpeas, lentils, peas, black beans, kidney beans, and soybeans.

Beans make people gassy because our bodies do not have the correct enzyme to process them completely. Which means our intestines ferment them, leading to gas.

Humans have been eating beans for thousands of years, so long that beans might be one of the first cultivated plants.

Many different plants produce beans, but they are all members of the same scientific family. The family includes peas, peanuts, and lentils as well as beans. These plants grow in most parts of the world. Most types grow either as a bush or as a climbing plant.

Beans come in many colours—white, green, yellow, tan, pink, red, brown, purple, and black. They also have different shapes. Some are nearly round or oval. Others are flat or kidney-shaped.

One of the most useful beans is the soybean. Many chemical products, including paint, are made from soybean oil. Soybeans are fed to farm animals. They are also a rich source of protein for people around the world. They are used to make soy milk, soy sauce, and tofu.

In ancient Greece minor officials were elected by putting one white and many black beans in a pot. Whoever picked the white bean got the job.



Baked Beans were originally sold in the UK by Fortnum and Mason in 1901 as a luxury item. A large can would cost 9d (the equivalent to AU \$6.30 by today's prices).

The small white beans used to make canned baked beans are a type of haricot bean called 'Navy' beans. The other main ingredient is tomato puree, along with herbs and spices.

They were originally called BAKED beans because the can is first filled with blanched beans, then the sauce, then the can is sealed with a lid, and THEN the cooking begins. The beans are cooked inside the sealed can. Yes that's right - INSIDE THE CAN - and not before they go into the can.

SPC Baked Beans are made in Shepparton. Next time you are feeling hungry, why not try this locally made meal with toast and butter - yum!



h	m	p	b	t	l	h	p	e	a	s	l	w	h	c	w	t	x
i	c	h	r	a	x	e	f	o	c	z	h	o	e	a	v	d	b
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d	k	e	g	a	s	s	y	t	o	f	u	s	s	e	n	s	s

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

- | | | |
|--------------|---------|-------|
| carbohydrate | healthy | toast |
| baked beans | comfort | gassy |
| shepparton | lentils | fibre |
| breakfast | soybean | navy |
| chickpea | protein | tofu |
| climbing | legume | peas |
| benefits | kidney | |
| haricot | tomato | |

Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our **STEM a focus at Stanhope Primary School**

The theme for Education Week this year was a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects. Students did a number of experiments around static electricity with balloons and movement resistance using difference surfaces.

It's been a very busy week, with students enjoying a very 'hands on' nutrition session with Kyabram Health's dietitian Sally Elliott. Sally spoke about the importance of nutrition and eating a wide range of fruits and vegetables. Students were able to cut up and eat a variety of vegetables, along with some delicious hummus or tzatziki dip for extra flavour!

Congratulations to our students, Lily, Xyla, Cooper and Daisy, also represented our school by competing in the Campaspe Cross Country against 428 students from 16 different schools. Special mention goes to Lily who came in the top 20 competitors in her age group.

Our school community would also like to welcome Deborah Dodd to our closely-knit team as Disability and Inclusion Officer. Deborah comes to our school with many years' experience in working with young people, in alternative and specialist school settings and in the disability sector. She is passionate about supporting students with a holistic approach.

Right: Spencer, Tyler and Mercedes experimenting with movement resistance on difference surfaces.

Below: Cooper, Alexis and Cass use their balloons to explore.



Students enjoying their nutrition session with Kyabram Health dietitian Sally.



Above: Xyla and Lily moving their butterflies with static electricity.



Deborah joins Allison (Tutor), Simon (Wellbeing Officer), and Jody (Classroom Aide) as our student support team.



Students (L-R) Campaspe Cross Country competitors Lily, Cooper, Xyla and Daisy.

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

Busy time at St Mary's - excursions, stories and more

Whole School Excursion

Here is our recount of our whole school excursion to Legoland and Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre. We'll let the photos tell the story of our awesome day!



- Rushy have hit the city! What an amazing place Legoland is!



We are having a spot of lunch and then heading to the Mary MacKillop Museum. Kids are doing an awesome job. The teachers are doing pretty well too!



We are at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre. The children have been learning all about Saint Mary MacKillop through interactive workshops at the centre.



Legoland... was.... Amazing! Highly recommend!!



Some families may recognise the lady who is in the photo with Mr Ryan? (Sr. Geraldine Larkins was the last sister of St Joseph to be principal of St Mary's School).

National Simultaneous Storytime

On Wednesday, 22 May, all our classes participated in the National Simultaneous Storytime event. We were delighted to have Rushworth Kinder join us for the book reading and activity.

Together, our students joined over two million other children for a special reading of Aura Parker's book, "Bowerbird Blues." This enchanting story follows a bird on a quest to collect blue items, like bread tags, scraps, and pegs. The bird embarks on an adventure, exploring cityscapes and diving under the sea in search of more blue treasures. Along the way, it even makes a new friend who isn't blue at all.

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) is an annual event designed to inspire young Australians to read and enjoy books.

St Mary's Biggest Morning Tea

What an amazing morning we had on Wednesday 29 May for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. What wonderful community support our school has! Thank you all for your donations which will go to the Cancer Council. We raised \$430.65 on the day, not including our tea cup coins or online donations!! Mr Ryan and Mrs Brockett drew some beautiful tea cups on the ground where students were invited to add their 5c and 10c coins to; we are in the process of adding up the coins. Thanks to the Grade 3/4 class who took on the huge job of counting all of our 5c and 10c coins.

Thanks to the staff and children for their contributions also. Thank you to Perry's Butchery and Dean Jamieson for their generous donations.

Counting Coins for cancer



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

National Reconciliation Week

Last week at St Mary's, we celebrated National Reconciliation Week with a variety of engaging activities for our students.

The week began with the Fire Carriers ceremony on Monday, setting a meaningful tone for the days to come. It concluded with a heartfelt Reconciliation Week Liturgy on Wednesday afternoon. Throughout the week, our Grade 3/4 class immersed themselves in Indigenous narratives, creating stories using a range of different Indigenous symbols.

Students across all grades participated in various activities that fostered understanding and appreciation of Indigenous cultures and histories.

Fire Carrier Ceremony

On Monday 27 May, we had our FIRE (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education) commissioning. We thank Michael Chisholm from CES for attending and acknowledging the country.

Well done to the Year 5 students who applied to be FIRE carriers and were accepted. They discussed, in their letters, being good role models, looking out for the younger kids, recognising history and speaking for all Australians. Such a proud moment for our children.



Grade 5/6 Camp

From Monday 20 to Wednesday 22 May, Grade 5 and 6 adventured out on their camp.

We have selected some of our favourite photos from the Grade 5/6 camp.

We hope you enjoy seeing what our students got up to!

Next edition we will share some writing about our camp experiences.



St Vincent de Paul Rushworth parish conference

The Rushworth St Vincent De Paul Conference has been offering welfare assistance to people in this area for many years.

It continues to do so with an 'open door' each Thursday between 1pm – 2 pm at the Vinnies room

in Southam Street (at the back of the Parish House, opposite St Mary's school).

Murchison Vinnies Conference members are available at the Neighbourhood House every Friday 2 to 3 pm.

Moving focus

While Vinnies has been mostly known for assistance with food and household items for anyone in need, in recent times the expansion of community foodbanks and other material support has allowed members to focus more on other support, such as help with bill paying arrangements, negotiating with the utility providers, essential travel assistance and basic financial planning.

For emergency support

For emergency support, phone St Mary's conference of St Vincent de Paul on 0417 597 468.



National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 'Now More than Ever' 29 May - 4 June 2024

From 27 May to 3 June, National Reconciliation Week (NRW) has been an opportunity to learn more about the shared histories of this country, its ancient cultures and to acknowledge the enduring contribution of First Nations people.

This year's theme, 'Now, More Than Ever', is a rallying cry for us all to reflect and take action for a more just and reconciled Australia.

Uniting Church

"It's still a reminder to us that we fight for the things that God would fight for. We stand up for the things that Jesus would stand for and that we, as a Church, are called upon to be that voice in this community..."

The Uniting Church Assembly has joined over fifty organisations in signing a new Statement of Commitment to the principles of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, released by the Allies for Uluru coalition.

The Statement is an expression of the Assembly's commitment to the full implementation of the Uluru Statement, seven years on from when it was first signed by a historic consensus of First Nations leaders.

Catholic Church

The journey to reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples is not easy, but the Catholic Church remains hopeful of healing. That is the message from Chair of the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Bishop Charles Gauci, as Australians mark National Reconciliation Week.

"There has been much that needs to be healed—there has been injustice, discrimination, dispossession, and all that accompanies these issues.

"As we journey together, we must continue to heal from the past while also looking toward the future. We need to find effective ways to ensure the common good is shared by all people of this nation, especially our First Nations People.

"We need to narrow the gaps in life expectancy, housing, employment, and mental health. There are no easy answers. We need to prayerfully reflect, be guided by the Holy Spirit, listen to each other with respect, and walk together to find the best way forward."

He stressed the importance of mutual respect and equality: "There is no room for paternalism, for pushing people where they don't want to be, and no room for any form of disrespect.

"This journey is not easy. Love demands sacrifices—it's about giving, respecting, and wanting the absolute best for others."

"We, as a Church, need to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth, working together to eliminate anything that prevents us from being brothers and sisters with equal dignity, equal opportunity, and equal rights," he said.

"We will be companions in making our Great Southern Land a better and fairer place for all. We need to walk side by side, with each other, and with Jesus Christ."

District Church Times and Contacts

Anglican

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

Presbyterian

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

Catholic

St Mary's Parish. 1st and 3rd Sundays: Cornella 9am; Stanhope 10.30am. 2nd and 4th Sundays: Rushworth 9am; Murchison 10.30am.
5th Sunday: One Parish Mass - Rushworth.
Contact a team member on the parish mobile phone: 0459 898 925. Sunday Mass continues online from St Kilian's Sundays 10am.

Shine Church, Stanhope

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

Living Waters Rushworth:

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

Generations Church, Tatura

5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

Salvation Army: 5852 3875

Uniting Church

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

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

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

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

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

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



GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Let's close our eyes and say a prayer.
Thank you for the food we share.
Amen.

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Life fragility and treasure

Life is so very fragile, isn't it? We realize that so powerfully when we hold a newborn baby in our arms. This tiny life is so fragile, so dependent, so precious, and so alive with wonder. We want to protect that child from all harm forever.

We also realize how fragile life is at the end of life, when a loved one is no longer with us. He or she quietly and suddenly slip away, and their loss reminds us how delicate life is. But even as I write this, I know that each of you are remembering someone. Loved ones gone before us live on in our memories, in objects, in our homes, and with God.

In moments of clarity, we come to understand what really matters in life: falling in love, the birth of a child, sickness, tragedy, natural disasters, the death of a loved one. These experiences strip away our pretences, bringing us face-to-face with our deepest needs and desires.

Love and belonging

We all crave love and belonging. It is why we are here. It is what gives purpose and meaning to our lives. This is what life is all about. But there is something that absolutely unravels our sense of love and belonging: shame.

Shame is the fear of being unloved. It is the nagging question, "Is there something about me that, if other people know it or see it, will make me unworthy of love?" It's universal. We all have it. The only individuals who never feel shame are those who lack the ability to empathise or love.

Shame is rooted in the feeling that we are not enough. We all know that feeling: "I'm not good enough," "smart enough," "successful enough", "pretty enough." This fear and shame can prevent us from experiencing true love and belonging.

Vulnerability and trust

To combat shame, we need to embrace vulnerability. Vulnerability involves the willingness to be seen as we truly are, with all our weaknesses and fears. It means asking, "Can I show you who I truly am? Will you still love me?" Writing to the young church in Corinth, Paul wrote, "But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us." (2 Corinthians 4:7) This verse reminds us that

our vulnerability and fragility highlight God's power and love within us.

We need to believe that what makes us vulnerable also makes us beautiful. Vulnerability isn't about being comfortable, but it isn't excruciating either. It's necessary. It's the willingness to be the first to say, "I love you", to do something when there are no guarantees, to invest in relationships that may or may not work out. Our attempts at perfection, especially in raising our children, are misguided. Our job is not to keep our children perfect. Instead, we must acknowledge that our children are imperfect and wired for struggle, yet they are worthy of love and belonging.



Embracing imperfection

In Jesus, God chose to be seen deeply and vulnerably. God loved us whole-heartedly, even without the assurance of being loved in return. Instead of questioning ourselves, asking, "Am I good enough?" "What if people really knew me?", we need to embrace our vulnerabilities, saying, "I'm truly grateful because feeling this vulnerable means I'm alive."

Most importantly, we need to believe that we are enough. When we operate from the belief that "I'm enough," we stop worrying about ourselves and start listening to others. We become kinder and gentler to the people around us and to ourselves. In our imperfections, we find the truth of the vulnerable God: Immanuel, God with us.

The true treasures

The most important things in the world are not material possessions but virtues such as hope, courage, joy, love, trust, and faith. We fail in many ways: our love is imperfect, our relationships struggle, our church isn't always everything it aspires to be, our sense of belonging falters, and our courage, faith, joy, and trust are flawed.

Yet, as Paul writes, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not

forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies." (2 Corinthians 4:8-10) Our flaws and failures do not define us, rather, they allow God's power to shine through us.

Kintsugi

The Japanese art of Kintsugi involves repairing broken pottery, using lacquer mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. Kintsugi transforms what was once considered broken and worthless into something precious and unique, highlighting the beauty of restoration.

Both Kintsugi and the writings of the apostle Paul remind us that our flaws and brokenness are not reasons for despair. Instead, they are opportunities for God's grace to shine through, making our lives testimonies of God's redemptive power. In our brokenness, we are made whole, not by our own strength, but by the loving hands of our Creator, who fills our cracks with divine light and love.

Conclusion

Life is fragile and we are imperfect but within our clay jars we hold a treasure: God's extraordinary power and love. Embrace your vulnerability. Believe in your worthiness. Let God's light shine through your cracks. In doing so, you will find true love and belonging, and you will experience the fullness of life that God intends for you.

This is the Gospel and it's good news.

*Brian Spencer, Minister
Waranga Uniting Churches.*

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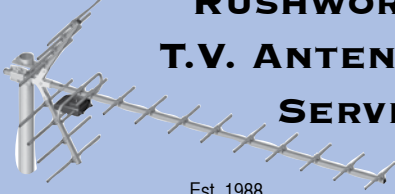
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WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

JUNE

Mon 3 - Fri 7	Waranga News Fundraising campaign - wnews.presspatron.com (any donation over \$30 gets an annual online subscription)
Sat 15	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
Sat 15	Rushworth ART Depot, ART Circle drop in 10am - 1pm
Sat 15	Landcare collective: 'Stockyard Plain tour' hosted by the Harston Landcare Group
Thu 20	Rushworth Garden Club AGM at former Senior Citizens 12 noon
Sun 23	Landcare collective: 'Girgarro tour' hosted by the Stanhope/Girgarre Landcare Group
Sat 29	SES Rushworth Open Day - 10am to 3pm, 4 Barlow Avenue Rushworth.

JULY

Sat 6	Antique and Collectables Market, Rushworth Shire Hall, 8.30-3pm
Mon 15	Karate Classes - Rushworth Shire Hall 6.30pm-7.30pm
Sat 20	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm

Meetings & Activities - around the district

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

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

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Waranga News



MEMBER 2024

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Project Update

The Kyabram Northern Oval Amenities upgrade is underway with demolition of the old Cricket Club amenities and preparations for the new slab pour completed. The project includes upgrades to both male and female amenities with estimated completion by the end of June.



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

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



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.

Thursday, 6 June

- 9 - 10am | Echuca Library
- 11.30am - 12noon | Stanhope Community Health Centre

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



Employment

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- Early Childhood Educator Co Worker – Casual
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- Flood Recovery Officer
- Group Fitness Instructor
- Learn To Swim Teacher
- Library Shelving Assistant
- People & Culture Officer

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



Active Stadiums

Campaspe Stadiums and Healthy Loddon Campaspe's Active Stadiums Pilot Program enters its last month. Join the team for pickleball and Strength and Balance for Seniors at the Echuca and Kyabram Stadiums. For more information, scan the QR code.



Lunch n Links

The Lunch n Link series is an opportunity for the Recovery Hub to provide outreach services across the shire. Join the Recovery Hub, and select services for a few hours of conversation, connection and of course, lunch.

10am - 2pm, Thursday, 6 June
- Colbinabbin Lunch n Link, Colbinabbin Memorial Centre, Mitchell Street.

10am - 2pm, Thursday, 27 June -
Kyabram Lunch n Link, Kyabram Community & Learning Centre, 21-25 Lake Road.

Coming soon

Dr Michael Carr Gregg (Child and Adolescent Psychologist).

Following the success and impact of his 2023 session, Dr Michael Carr Gregg will return to Rochester in September.

Now Open

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

EOI Echuca War Memorial Artwork

Council is seeking Expression of Interests (EOIs) from suitably qualified and experienced creative professionals/artists to design, develop and install a 3-dimensional creative piece/sculpture, to be located within the Echuca District War Memorial precinct (Hare Street, Echuca). Expressions of Interest close Friday, 14 June. Please direct any questions relating to the EOI to Kris Tito, Arts and Culture Coordinator on 1300 666 535. Visit the Now Open section of Council's for more information.

Campaspe Murray Business Awards

Nominations are now open for the Campaspe Murray Business Awards, showcasing excellence and innovation across a range of business and industry categories. Applications are open to businesses operating within the Campaspe Shire and Murray River Council areas. There are three new categories included this year including Excellence in Marketing, Excellence in Health and Wellbeing and the Community Impact Award. The online application form is available at www.campaspebusinessawards.com

Mental Health First Aid

Council's Youth and Recovery Hub teams 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. The cost of this course is subsidised thanks to the Victorian Government's 'Engage' and Emergency Recovery Victoria's Recovery Hub Program funding. Register for any of the sessions being held in Echuca or Kyabram and Rushworth (blended online and in person) in June. For more information or assistance, contact Council's Youth Community Development Officer.

MP acknowledges building and conservation work

Rushworth Field and Game were pleased to be contacted by Annabelle Cleeland MP to have a look at the building repair work at the Rushworth Public Park and to look at one of the local wetlands. The following are Annabelle's comments:

"It was fantastic to visit the Rushworth Field and Game to see all their fantastic work on the former tennis rooms and new club rooms and visit the Weston wetlands to see their conservation work first hand.

They have constructed and installed nest boxes and hen houses to continue improving the wetland ecosystem and I am looking forward to returning during breeding season to see the fruits of their labour and baby ducks galore.

The sound of frogs, majestic broilgas and black swan cygnets made it such a magical setting. I also want to thank Campaspe councillor Adrian Weston for dedicating his private land to this conservation and rehabilitation. The passion between the Rushworth Field and Games members and Cr Weston was contagious.

Their commitment to conservation work in our region's wetland is inspiring. Current and future generations are grateful for your vision and dedication to the environment."



(Above) On tour at the Weston wetlands.

(Above left) Annabelle Cleeland visited the new Field and Game rooms at the Rushworth Public Park.

(Left) A group took part in a fox shoot on 26 May.

Rushworth Field and Game's busy month

by Graeme Wall

Members have been working away on the previous tennis club rooms now Field and Game building.

The building restoration has been welcomed by many within the town and community support through donations has shown both donations of funds and labour.

It would be remiss not mention the significant donation from the Rushworth Tennis Club which is now in recess and decided to distribute their funds \$7724.17 to the Rushworth Field and Game to assist with the building and their conservation projects. Jarrett's Tree service removed some iron bark trees and mulched up the heads that were infected with the itchy grub causing the locally known ironbark itch to anyone entering the building and toilets. While in the area Shannon trimmed and mulched up some low limbs on the iron bark trees at the western end of the football ground. Shannon did this work as a donation to the project when

offered a payment for his fuel and machinery he declined and asked we donate it to the Shearing Day for Kids with Cancer appeal on the 26 July 2024 at Wanalta. The wood from the trees will be cut into blocks and then donated to the Kids with Cancer appeal either to be auctioned at the shearing fundraiser day or at the wood auction on Easter Saturday.

There have also been donations from the Rushworth Opportunity Shop and the Rushworth Football Club. Club members have been working away over the last two weeks cleaning out the contents of the building and washing everything in the cupboards and the pennants to rid it of the itchy fibres.

On 19 May there were twenty members to empty the furniture and pressure wash the building interior and all the furniture and fitting and for a third time the toilets were washed out as they were near the iron bark trees. There were covers put on windows, rusted spouting removed, fencing works and

outdoor seating sanded and painted and a load of rubbish and damaged furniture taken to the tip along with other building repairs. The building committee were pleased with the enthusiasm of the members who turned up on the day to help and are heartened by the offers of help from the community.

This project is bringing to the fore what a great town Rushworth is and we are receiving so many compliments and community feedback on this building and our conservation work in conjunction with local landholders and managers.

Fox shoot on 26 May saw thirty hunters spend the day removing seventeen foxes from local wetlands and farmland, vitally important as many sheep in the district are lambing and many native animals are taken by foxes each year.

Graeme Wall is Conservation Officer at Rushworth Field and Game.



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Swimming talent trials for Olympics

Local Waranga Basin resident, Branden Wilson has qualified for the 100m Breaststroke, aiming for a spot on the 2024 Australian Olympic Swim Team.

His coach, Leanne Houkes-Wilson (his mum), will be by his side as he competes. He is competing against top national swimmers at the Australian Olympic Swim Team Trials from Monday 10 June to Saturday 15 June at the Brisbane Aquatic Centre.

We wish him all the best of luck for this exciting and tremendous effort!



Winter Bowls in Rushworth

The last two weeks of our winter bowls have produced a couple of different teams in the winners circle.

Thursday - 23 May

The Stanhope team of Tom Young, Hans Smidt and Dave Millard won on 23 May, with 3 wins 51 shots. Runners-up were the Kyabram team of N Walters, M Hately and G Woodcock, 3 wins 47 shots.

Thursday - 30 May

Another good day on 30 May for bowls and how good were the bowlers? They finished the games just in time to have arvo tea and watch the rain in comfort.

Winners on the day were another Stanhope

team, Tom Young, Tony Trist and Austin Maxwell. It's very lucky Tom is having a couple of wins; it covers his fines for wrong biases.

The runners-up were Sue and Taffy Moreton and Barry Ibbot.



Above: l-r Stanhope winners 23 May - Tom, Dave and Hans



Above: l-r - Stanhope winners 30 May - Tom, Tony and Austin

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Strength against Avenel makes a great game

Round 6 Football

U/15s vs Dookie

Rushy 0-2-2 to Dookie 13-10-88

The boys took on Dookie again for the second week in a row at the Ironbark Stadium. They knew they were up against a taller side, but they tried their best. The score did not reflect the boys keen play.

1st incentive - Bryce for his continuous running over the ground as well as his strong marks.

2nd incentive - Brodie for his great defensive work in the backline.

3rd incentive - Heath for run and carry of the footy and his good teamwork. Umpires award went to Dusty for his determination to the footy all game.

Leavii Penwright played his first game for the Tigers. We welcome him to the club.



Reserves

Rushy 3-0-18 to Avenel 29-14-188

The Reserves had another tough task on hand with a few players stepping up to seniors and a couple unavailable, so they hit the track undermanned once again.

Thanks to Avenel for lending us a few players! The boys worked hard all day.

Top incentive - best on ground performance from Rags; a few years off footy and he hasn't lost his touch!

2nd incentive - Declan's applied the pressure all day, even though one had a few kicked on him!

Seniors

Rushy 8-10-58 to Avenel 14-12-96

The Senior boys were hit hard with injury, but still came together and worked hard to keep up with Avenel going goal for goal in the third quarter, but unfortunately they let it slip in the last!

The 'big horse' stepped up and played a ripper game. Birthday boy Ando had a cracking game, as well as Nick Oaten and Jarryd Shepherd who returned this week from concussion!



Rushworth netballers stand out against Avenel

Round 7

Netball

11/U

Rushworth 22 def Avenel 0

13/U

Rushworth 26 def Avenel 13

The girls were well oiled machines this week. They took out a win with all players in strong form.

Well done to Pippa, Kaitlyn and Willow who took home the incentives.

15/U - n/a

17/U

Rushworth 35 def Avenel 28

In the first quarter the girls came out guns blazing against Avenel which was great to see. Although passing lacked strength, they held their heads high and adapted. Defence end applied great pressure for turnovers.

Another win for the tiger cubs!

Incentives: Ella, Zahley and Jackie

C Grade

Rushworth 19 It Avenel 47

1st incentive - Heidi,

2nd incentive - Hailey

3rd incentive - Britt

B Grade

Rushworth 30 It Avenel 52

B Grade continue to grow as a team and came out strong against the opposition.

1st incentive - Kiarrah Lehmann who held tall and strong against her shooter,

2nd incentive - Anita Barlow who had some great talk and run into the ring.

3rd incentive - Jess Pilling who ran hard all day and had great positioning on the ring.

This team has been such a pleasure to watch and are really starting to come together.

A Grade

Rushworth 25 It Avenel 66

A Grade old ducks had their fast feet on and held their own against a strong opponent.

1st incentive - Beef Bolognaise who was moving at the speed of light and bringing some nice flow down in the attack end.

2nd incentive - Mary for her positive attitude and good vibes, she also played some great netball.

3rd incentive - Kat who always has such great direction and leadership in the attack end, her vision is always 20/20

Thanks

Thanks to everyone who supported the Club Reverse Draw and congratulations to all the winners on the night.



Sports Report

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CFNC - Netballers still leading the way

Round 9: 1 June

Colbo v North Bendigo

Round 9 saw a return to the fixture, after a well deserved bye weekend. A pretty decent day weather-wise which hasn't been experienced for quite a while. The injury list had climbed; some young players and some old players, and some even older players (Toot). But it's a testament to the club and the people in it to keep the wheels turning in whatever way they can.

Football - Seniors

Colbo 9. 8. 62 lt Nth/Bendigo 19. 11. 125

The Seniors went into their game with similar problems to the Reserves, low numbers and a high injury count. The start was as hot as it could be, Colbo jammed the goals in early to get a good start to take an early narrow lead.

From here that's about as close as Colbo got to the Doggies, as the bigger stronger side used their small home ground to their advantage. They kicked away from Colbo pretty easily after half time.

The boys were forever up for the fight, and never let in, but were always a bridge too far behind in this one.

Goal kickers: Alex Carr 3, Jed Brain 2, Charlie Ryan 2, Jordan Wilson 1, Dutchy 1

Best on ground: Charlie Ryan, Geordie McMurtrie, Julian Bull, Toby Howlett, Alex Carr, Nick Knight

Reserves

Colbo 1.4. 10 lt Nth/Bendigo 23.12. 150

The poor old Colby Reserves had to go about it this week in typical 'poor old Colby two's' fashion. Undermanned, undersized, and up against it from start to finish.

Blokes dropping like flies everywhere. It wasn't until the last quarter where the boys had something to cheer about. An intercept mark, a duck, a dive, a weave and a 23 metre mongrel tumbler of a kick from President Tractors

landed in Ned Flanders (Morgan) hands at the top of the goal square. Ned kicked the goal, and Tractors still got the assist.

Xav Maher providing some clearances going forward.

Goal kickers: Ned Morgan 1

Best on ground: Xavier Maher, Zeke Bourdamis, Ashley Bayliss, Jack Palmer, Maity Connoley

Netball - A Grade

Colbinabbin 65 def Nth/Bendigo 50

With a game to win before donning the ball gowns – the tans were spectacular and something to behold. With a little bit of injury to contend with and illness it was a strong four quarter performance to get a good win.

Best on court - Matilda and Kasey but the real question is who was best on court at the ball?

A Reserve

Colbinabbin 34 def North Bendigo 31

A gusty game by the girls with a different looking goaling set up. Taking a while to adjust to this they were playing catch up for most of the game. However, with an awesome display of composure and belief they were able to slowly claw back the lead going into the last quarter three down.

Great running by Macy through the middle in the last and Charlotte adjusting to the move from defence to goals – it was incredible to watch.

Best on court: Charlotte Ashford-Meehan and Morghan Hughes (closely followed by everyone else!)

B Grade

Colbinabbin lt Nth/Bendigo (scores unavailable)

Best on court: Kaitlyn Morgan

B Reserve

Colbo 27 lt North Bendigo 59

Best on court: Shannon Hill and Gabby

McCaig

17 and Under

Colbo 21 lt North Bendigo 42

Beautiful conditions for a game of netball The girls were a little rusty coming off a bye but by the first quarter break they were just four goals down. The Bulldogs picked off some easy gets, converting and slipped away on the scoreboard.

Best on court: Zahara Ali

15 and Under

Colbo 49 def North Bendigo 8

A strong win from the U15s this week. There was great pressure all down the court which caused lots of intercepts and held balls.

Best on court: Harriet East and Evie Riordan

13 and Under

Colbo 34 def North Bendigo 22

What a game. Our Under 13 superstars came out raring and ready to win, taking the lead right from the first quarter. With a few swaps in attacking and defence, the North Bendigo girls were rattled, not knowing what to expect next. It was a really great match between the two sides in terms of height and skill levels. The young Hoppers didn't miss a beat and should be so very proud of their efforts.

Best on court: Lola Anderson and Isla Knight

Annual Club Ball

The boys and girls all headed to GPO for the Annual Club Ball after their games, where a lot of fun was had, and I'm sure a lot of stories will come out. Well done to the social crew and all who organised the event.

As we said goodbye to one Bye, we welcome another with a General League Bye, so everyone enjoy and have a fun and safe long weekend, and we'll see you all down at Heathcote on 15 June.



Colbinabbin Bowls Club Annual General Meeting

After two years, Donald Risstrom has stepped down as President of the Colbo Bowls Club and thanked the committee members for the work over the past bowling season.

The new President is Wayne Goodear, with Kevin McTaggart remaining Secretary.

We may be a small club but we would like to grow our membership base and if you are interested in joining, please contact Kevin McTaggart on 0407503394 for further information.

*Donald Risstrom
Outgoing President*

Rushworth legend honoured

Wonderful to see a great sporting career and story of service to town, club and country honoured as Keith Kane was inducted into the GVL Hall of Fame.

Stories like Keith's when highlighted and celebrated provide us all with timely reminders of the dedication, effort and love for clubs that builds and sustains them for so long.

Having existed for over 140 years, clubs like ours and those of our opposition, experience ebbs and flows of success and struggle, each era providing different challenges that must be overcome by strong characters on and off the field like Keith to keep them viable for future generations to enjoy and support.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all past and present people involved in the Rushworth Football Netball Club as we look forward to the rest of this season and beyond.



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Low cost courses for all Victorians
at over 200 locations across the state.

Your goals, your way



Visit vic.gov.au/learnlocal
to explore courses near you.



**Under 5 hours sleep?
4 times more likely
to crash.**



Fatigue is a contributing factor in 16-20% of all road crashes in Victoria.
If you're feeling tired, arrange an alternative mode of transport,
postpone your trip, or get more sleep before driving. Because when you
drive on less than 5 hours sleep, you're 4 times more likely to crash.

Driving tired? Wake up to yourself.

TAC

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