

# WARANGA NEWS

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

Published fortnightly since 1978

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

Print Post Approved PP1000007000

FREE FOR CHRISTMAS

A community newspaper  
staffed by volunteers

Thursday 19 December 2024

## Colour and sparkle light up our towns

Sparkling house decorations, creative shop window displays and some ingeniously crafted Christmas trees have become the hallmark of our town Christmas displays. Each year, the decorations seem to grow more elaborate, with new themes and designs that capture the imagination and bring smiles to the faces of onlookers. The festive spirit is alive and well around our towns – no ‘Bah Humbug’ here!



### Christmas tree winners

The much anticipated judging of the Rushworth Christmas tree competition has taken place with the following results:

Best overall tree - No. 26 Rogers Family (Polar Express)

Most amusing tree - No. 45 Jenny and Pete (Elf-full Tower)

Best recycled - No. 21 Gilbert Family (Wheely good tree)

Most beautiful tree - No. 22 The General Store Rushworth

Most inventive construction - No. 12 Rushworth Machinery Preservation Club (and they are going to raffle it at Easter)

Rushworth Artistries Choice - No. 19 Waranga Aged Care Hostel.

*Congratulations to all the winners – and to everyone who worked to make our town look so festive!*



Rushworth's High Street - a forest of Xmas trees!

## A special holiday gift for our readers

2024 has been a big year for the Waranga News. In July our fund-raiser was successful beyond all our expectations due to the amazing generosity of our readers. The total, together with the matched amount offered by the independent newspaper association LINA, has gone a long way to keeping your community newspaper afloat and thriving. Then, in August, we were notified of our successful grant application to FRRR\* to expand our digital presence, focusing on a wider and more diverse readership, while retaining our traditional print model that remains popular with so many.

So, in this season of giving, we want to give you something special. As a gesture of our sincere appreciation for our readers' wonderful support throughout the year, we are delighted to offer you our bumper, full-colour Christmas edition of the Waranga News, filled with festive cheer, holiday stories, lots of partying people as well as all our usual features – FREE! We hope you enjoy your gift!

*The Waranga News editorial and production team, together with the Committee and volunteers, wish all our readers and advertisers a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas and New Year.*

**Waranga News is in recess and will resume publication on Thursday 6 February 2025.**

**(Copy deadline is Friday 31 January for that issue).**

The office will be closed from 20 December 2024 and reopen on 29 January 2025.



Merry Christmas

**BOLTON ESTATE AGENTS**

**0413 092 698**

# Opening Hours for Christmas and New Year

**PLEASE NOTE: This is not meant to be a comprehensive guide to all local businesses and services. Check shop-front notices.**

<b>POLICE</b>	Normal service provided by ringing 5856 1000 (Rushworth); 5857 2507 (Stanhope); 5826 2222 (Murchison). If attendance is required call 000.
<b>DOCTOR</b>	<b>Murchison Medical Clinic:</b> Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan. <b>Rushworth Medical Centre:</b> Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan. <b>Tatura Medical Centre:</b> Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan. <b>Waranga Medical Centre:</b> Closed 25, 26, 27 Dec and 1 Jan.
<b>WARANGA HEALTH AUSTRALIA POST</b>	Normal hours except for public holidays. District Nursing: Normal hours BUT no service on Christmas Day and limited services on public holidays. <b>Rushworth:</b> Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan. <b>Stanhope:</b> Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
<b>BAKERY</b>	<b>Rushworth:</b> Open Tue 24 6.30 to 3pm. Closed 25, 26 December. Open Fri 27.
<b>BANK</b>	<b>Rushworth &amp; District Community Bank:</b> Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
<b>BUTCHER</b>	<b>Perry's:</b> Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
<b>CAFE</b>	<b>Golden Nugget:</b> Closed 25 Dec. <b>Motofinish Cafe:</b> Closed from Tue 24 Dec, reopen Wed 8 Jan.
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>Rushworth Community House:</b> Refer to advert page 12 <b>Stanhope Business Centre:</b> Closed Tue 24 Dec - reopen Thu 2 Jan. <b>Stanhope Mens Shed:</b> Closed Mon 25 Dec, reopen 27 Dec.
<b>FOODBANK GIFT</b>	<b>Foodbank:</b> Closed from Tue 24, <b>due to warehouse closure</b> , reopening Wed 8 Jan. <b>Rushworth Variety Shop:</b> Open Tue 24 10am-2pm. Closed 25, 26 Dec. Closed 31 Dec and 1 Jan <b>Balloons &amp; Stuff:</b> Closed Christmas Day.
<b>HAIRDRESSER</b>	<b>Hairzone:</b> Closed from Tuesday 24 Dec reopen on Tuesday 7 Jan.
<b>HARDWARE</b>	<b>Rushworth Hardware Emporium:</b> Closed 25 and 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
<b>HOTELS</b>	<b>Colbinabbin Hotel:</b> Closed 25, reopen Boxing day from 4pm. New years day from 4pm Sat/Sun Breaky 9-11 <b>Rushworth Hotel:</b> Closed 25 & 26 Dec 12 noon, reopen 9pm both days
<b>ICE CREAM</b>	<b>Cottage Ice Cream Shoppe:</b> Closed Christmas Day only
<b>OP SHOP</b>	<b>Number 9 Op Shop:</b> Closed Christmas Day only.
<b>PHARMACY</b>	<b>Rushworth Pharmacy:</b> Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
<b>PLUMBERS</b>	<b>Lipshut Plumbing:</b> Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
<b>SCHOOLS</b>	<b>Rushworth Kindergarten:</b> Close 19 December. Reopen 28 January.
<b>SERVICE STATIONS</b>	<b>Colbinabbin Fuel Depot:</b> Self Service available 24/7. <b>Rushworth Metro:</b> Open 7 days. Mon - Fri 6am - 8pm. Sat & Sun 7am - 7pm <b>Murchison:</b> Closed Mon 23 Dec, reopen Thur 2 Jan. <b>Stanhope Fuels:</b> Open all days, normal hours. 7am - 7pm <b>Motor Mobile:</b> Closed from 25 Dec, reopen 27 Jan <b>Hotwire:</b> Close Lunchtime Friday 20 Dec and reopen Tues 2 Jan <b>Natrad:</b> Close Lunchtime 24 Dec and reopens Thursday 2 Jan
<b>SOLICITORS</b>	<b>Dawes Vary Riordan:</b> Close from 3pm Fri 20 Dec - reopen on Mon 6 Jan 8.30am. <b>Lipshut Law:</b> Will continue to be available over the break on 0427 134 929
<b>SUPERMARKET</b>	<b>Colbinabbin:</b> Closed 25. Open 26: 8am - 12pm. Fri 27: 7am - 5pm. Sat 28: 8am - 2pm, Sun 29: 8am - 2pm. Mon 30 & Tue 31: 7am -5pm. Wed 1: 8am- 12 noon. Thur 2: 7am-5pm. Fri 3: 7am - 5pm. Australia Post closed Christmas day, Boxing day & New Year day. <b>Rushworth:</b> Closed 25 Dec. Open 26: 9am - 5pm. Jan 1 Closed. Otherwise normal hours.
<b>VET</b>	<b>Farriervet:</b> Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan. (unless emergency).
<b>WARANGA NEWS</b>	<b>Office closing Friday 20 December, re-opening Wednesday 29 January. Next copy deadline is 31 January for 6 February edition.</b>



# Council votes to oppose solar planning application for Colbinabbin

**Campaspe Shire Council has agreed to formally oppose the planning application for the Cooba Solar Farm at Colbinabbin, citing significant concerns regarding its impact on agricultural land and the local environment.**

Canadian developer Venn Energy proposes to build the 500 megawatt solar farm and 300 MW battery at Colbinabbin which would be located at 4.5 km south of the town.

The fight against the 665-hectare project, has become increasingly controversial with local farmers and residents citing a flawed consultation process and impact assessments.

Colbinabbin Renewable Action Group (C.R.A.G.) members claim there are fourteen homes within a 1 km radius of the proposed site while only six neighbours have been included in the consultation process.

The group outlines a range of objections, noting the loss of prime agricultural land from production, the visual impact of 700,000 panels and potential detrimental impact on neighbouring vineyards.

It believes there have been critical research gaps in the planning process, including a lack of soil testing on prime agricultural land, flawed flood modelling, and no comprehensive assessment of impact on the wine region microclimate.

Concern in the community has grown over the past year, leading to an online petition against the project and a call for supporters to lodge objections to the Victorian Planning Minister calling for a rejection of the application.

“This isn’t about opposing renewable energy - it’s about protecting prime agricultural land and ensuring proper process. The assessment work simply isn’t up to standard,” a local wine producer said.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell noted that Council’s submission will argue that the project does not align with the strategic planning context and fails to demonstrate strong economic community benefits, particularly in relation to job creation and procurement.

“Whilst we fully support solar energy facilities in suitable locations, we feel that



**The site of the proposed solar farm on the Colbinabbin plain is overlooked by the many wineries along the neighbouring range.**

the Cooba Solar Farm’s proposed site and unresolved issues make it an unsuitable choice.

“Council has been advocating against this location for many months and provided supporting information to all members of the Legislative Council during its regional sitting in April in Echuca,” Mayor Mackrell added.

Council’s review, supported by independent technical experts, found the proposal contrary to the Campaspe Planning Scheme and the Solar Energy Facilities Design and Development Guideline. Key concerns include the loss of productive agricultural land, inadequate soil surveys, and insufficient information on decommissioning and land restoration.

The report tabled and endorsed at the

Council meeting recommends that the Minister for Planning reject the Cooba Solar Farm planning application due to its potential negative impact on agricultural land and the local environment.

Councillors also requested that Council officers write to the proponent requesting the project be referred to the Commonwealth Government Environment Minister to determine if the project is a controlled action under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999).



**Ironbark Dog Grooming Rushworth**  
0425 700 806 

## Rushworth Market

Village Green High st, Rushworth

### Saturday 21 December - 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


Find us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/rushworthmarket



# Get into the swim - use your local pool

Free regular entry is again being provided this summer to the Colbinabbin, Kyabram, Lockington, Rushworth, Stanhope and Tongala outdoor pools – just in time for what is tipped to be a hot summer.

Free season passes are available via the Council’s website. Simply create or log in to your account to register for a free season pass, which will be valid at all Campaspe Shire outdoor pools for the duration of the season.

Director Communities Jo Bradshaw said this was a fantastic initiative that promoted opportunities for relaxation and recreation in the warmer months.

“Coming into summer, we are delighted to again provide free pool access for the community.

“The outdoor pools offer the chance for residents and visitors to enjoy the beautiful weather in our region.”

The outdoor pool season has commenced and will continue until Monday 10 March 2025. During school terms Campaspe Shire’s outdoor pools are open from 4pm to 8pm weekdays and from 1pm to 8pm on weekends. During school holidays the pools are open from 1pm to 8pm every day except Christmas Day.



## Bush Nippers

Campaspe Shire Council is also running its annual Bush Nippers river safety program for children aged 5 to 14 years.

Bush Nippers is a regional and rural inland adaptation to the coastal nipper education programs. It is designed to educate young swimmers about river safety and offer water safety knowledge and lifesaving skills in open water environments. .

For more information on Council’s outdoor pool locations, free season passes, and the Bush Nippers program, visit <https://www.campaspeaquatics.com.au>.

## Rushworth Pool Party on Friday

Don’t forget the FreeZa Pool Party coming up on Friday 20 December.

The party for young people aged 10 - 17 will take place at the Rushworth Pool from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm and will feature music, activities and the chance to win prizes.

Registration will include free attendance

along with a complimentary ice cream, drink and a sausage sizzle.

The event will be fully supervised by trained youth workers and qualified life guards. It’s drug, alcohol, vape and smoke free, and there will be a ‘chill-out’ space available.

## Outdoor swimming in the district

Greater Shepparton City Council also provides a number of seasonally opened rural outdoor pools, including Murchison Swimming Pool and Tatura Swimming Complex, operating during the summer season from early-December to mid-March each year.

The Murchison Swimming Pool is a community run pool with volunteers organising its regular opening to the public as well as a calendar of events and activities.

The 2024-2025 season runs from Saturday 30 November 2024 until Monday 10 March 2025.

Opening times are 3.30pm to 6.00pm Monday

to Friday during School Terms. Weekends and School Holidays are 1.00pm to 6.00pm.

If the temperature is forecast to be 24°C or below, the outdoor pools will be closed. When the temperature is forecast to be 38°C and above, the pool opening hours will be extended.

(Above hours are subject to change.)



**MURCHISON SWIMMING POOL**

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**LEANNE & BRANDEN**

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BEFORE POOL OPENS

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**0413 906 449**



# Wallenjoie Hotel grand opening

After much local anticipation, Sunday 8 December saw the opening of the Wallenjoie Hotel (the former Stanhope Hotel/Motel) by acclaimed local chef Fiona Hansford and her husband Wayne Hansford.

Fiona has loved serving the Goulburn Valley for the last twenty years through her previous business Truffles Continental Foods. Some highlights have been catering her famous seafood nights, Italian Plate Day in Tatura, the Shepparton Harness Racing Club and many wholesome local events.

Fiona is now heading the kitchen in the Restaurant at the Wallenjoie and over the opening weekend served up many delicious meals to her very happy patrons.

Wayne is a born and raised Stanhope local who owns the local mechanics, Stanhope Automotive, making the Wallenjoie the perfect place to host local groups such as the three local car clubs they looked after on the weekend.

Now when Wayne hangs up his tools for the night you'll catch him moonlighting at the Wallenjoie and sharing a cheeky drink with the locals.

Fiona and Wayne are so grateful for their friends and family who have helped them renovate and bring the Wallenjoie to life. They have been incredibly humbled by the experience and absolutely love their community. They couldn't thank everyone enough for their love and support!



There was no shortage of patrons in the bar for the Wallenjoie Hotel opening.

(Right) Brett Maher, Fiona Hansford, Wayne Hansford and Tom Leahy ready to serve.



Maggie Cordingly, Tania Gledhill, Fiona Hansford and Shannon Miller

## HAIRZONE

8 Birdwood Ave STANHOPE

Ph. 5857 2264

Melinda would like to thank clients for their patronage throughout the year and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year

GIFT VOUCHERS & GIFT PACKS AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS







**Sam  
BIRRELL MP**

**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NICHOLLS**  
**THE NATIONALS**  
*for Regional Australia*

**Merry Christmas**

There's tinsel on the trees, crowds in local shops and smiles on children's faces – it's Christmas and however you decide to celebrate, it's a special time of year.



Our region has an endless range of goods and services on offer and I encourage you to shop local this Christmas.

Buying locally means your gift supports local jobs and helps strengthen our community.

Being the Member for Nicholls is one of the best jobs anyone could have in the Parliament - the diversity of the people, the determination of the local business community, the sheer 'goodness' of what we produce, and the beauty of the landscape makes it easy to constantly sing the praises of the region.

I continue to work collaboratively to ensure your voice is heard in Canberra, and that the Federal government understands what needs to happen to make our region thrive.

My office is here to help all constituents with Federal Government issues, so don't hesitate to reach out.

My office will be closed from 5pm December 20 and will reopen on January 2nd. I hope you have a safe and happy holiday, filled with lasting memories with family and friends. I look forward to meeting with many of you in 2025.

**Grab a 2025 Calendar**

My 2025 Places of Nicholls Calendar is now available. It features 14 stunning photos taken by locals of the beautiful places around our electorate.



Copies can be collected from Rushworth Community House as well as from my Shepparton office.

My office located at 426 Wyndham Street is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.



426 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630  
(03) 5821 5371  
sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au  
sambirrell.com.au

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

**MERRY  
Christmas**

**Waranga**  
Medical Centre

Dr Joe & the team at Waranga Medical Centre, wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas & a safe & happy New Year.

Our practice will be CLOSED:  
December 25th, 26th, 27th & January 1st

8 High Street, Rushworth VIC 3612  
P: 03 58518400  
F: 03 58518425  
e: warangamedical@gvhealth.org.au

**Wishing all  
a Happy  
Christmas  
& thank you  
for your  
ongoing  
support.**

**Angie Russi's Ceramic Studio and showroom is open weekly Friday to Sunday 10am to 3pm (Closed Christmas Day).**

*All of Angie's works are lovingly hand-crafted and painted. Inspiration comes from her environment and a particular love for birds.*

Angie can design ceramic workshop sessions for small groups.

**Ph. 0438 561 731**  
**E. [angie@angierussi.com.au](mailto:angie@angierussi.com.au)**  
**<https://angierussi.com.au/>**  
**Insta: [angie\\_ceramics](https://www.instagram.com/angie_ceramics)**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/angierussiartist>**



# Safety first when decorating at Christmas

It's that time of year again when Victorians string up their Christmas lights and set up their Christmas trees to celebrate the holiday season, but with the fun and festivities comes the potential for serious fire hazards. CFA and FRV are urging Victorians to check their Christmas lights before use to ensure they bring nothing but cheer this Christmas.

Using damaged lights alongside tinsel and paper on Christmas trees can present a fire risk. CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan urged everyone using Christmas lights to thoroughly inspect them for damage before hanging them on their trees and homes.

"Christmas lights are a wonderful way to brighten up Christmas but use year after year can result in

frayed wires, damaged bulbs, and other wear and tear that makes them unsafe for the tree or your home," Jason said.

"Turn your lights off before you go to sleep or leave the house to ensure they don't overheat and consider using battery operated or solar lights that don't require electricity."

Fire Rescue Victoria Deputy Commissioner Community Safety Joshua Fischer said it was also important to closely check and monitor any decorations containing a lithium-ion battery.

"Lithium-ion battery powered decorations and appliances have become increasingly popular, and we just want to ensure everyone is using them as safely as possible," Joshua

said.

"Only buy products from reputable suppliers, use the charging cords supplied with the device and only charge items outdoors or in rooms with a smoke alarm."

Christmas fire safety tips:

- When buying Christmas lights, make sure they have the Regulatory Compliance Mark tick of approval

- Consider using battery-operated LED or solar lights which don't require electricity.

- Inspect your Christmas lights for any sign of damage or wear and tear. Make sure there's no exposed wiring and that there are no missing globes.

- Don't overload power boards; use no more than three sets of lights per power board, even if there are



four or more outlets on it, and avoid using double adaptors.

- Place your tree as far as possible from any heat source, curtains or furnishings.

- Find more information at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/batterysafety](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/batterysafety) and [www.frv.vic.gov.au/battery-](http://www.frv.vic.gov.au/battery-)





# Police Beat

Greetings and welcome to your local police report for the Rushworth Police Service Area, for the month of November 2024.

The following is a list of reported incidents. Any information in relation to these crimes can be reported to the Rushworth Police Station on 5856 1000, or by calling Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 if you wish to remain anonymous. Any information is greatly appreciated by both victims and police.

- On 01/11/2024 police from Echuca, Kyabram, and Rushworth executed a drug search warrant at a property in Steigenberger Road Rushworth. A large quantity of cannabis plants was located. A male will appear at the Echuca Magistrates Court a later date.

- A burglary occurred at the Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve between 09/11/24 and 11/11/24. The roller door shutter was forced open with offenders stealing cash and alcohol valued at approximately \$1000.

- A burglary to a holiday home in Slaughterhouse Lane Rushworth occurred between 17/11/24 and 21/11/24. A sliding door was forced open to gain entry. The house was ransacked before offenders stole a Husqvana lawn mower and an orange Honda motorcycle valued at \$10000.

- A 2018 Toyota Hilux ute was stolen from a Bendigo-Murchison Road Colbinabbin property over night on 29/11/24. The vehicle had the keys inside and was valued at \$40000. The vehicle was located on 01/12/24 in Staffordshire Reef.

- Local members also attended three family violence incidents during the month, as well as four reportable fires.

That is our list of reported incidents for November. Now on to other matters of local interest. With the sharp increase in motor vehicles being stolen, please don't leave your car keys in your vehicles. Offenders are quick to look for keys and any other valuables left behind in vehicles. We have also seen a rise in fires being attended to. Having a safety plan is vital coming into summer. It only takes a few minutes to sit down with your family and put a plan in place. The CFA website is great for information about this. Operation Roadwise begins on 13/12/24. All operational police units will begin conducting daily breath and drug testing sites, as well as speed enforcement during every shift. It goes without saying if you are planning to go out for a few drinks, don't drive home. Even a short distance is no excuse for putting everyone's safety at risk. Licensed premises will be targeted during the operation.

Well that about wraps up another police report. Please stay safe over the Christmas period and remain patient when out on the roads. Enjoy time spent with your loved ones. Until we chat again.

*Ldg. Sen. Cons Steve Thomson  
Rushworth Police*

# Stanhope community celebrates with carols and Santa

Stanhope's McEwen Place came alive last Friday night with the carol singing and entertainment.

It was a wonderful night with a large crowd of over 100. Great entertainment was provided by Alia, Claire, Shine Church and Donald led the community singing where the Rushworth & District Concert Band played all the old favourites.

Stanhope Kinder children were dressed up and thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the crowd with their presentation. Stanhope Primary School children were delightful, and very entertaining. They are all very confident with a microphone!

Thank you to the pool committee for the children's entertainment and snow cones, thank you to Shine Church, to Kerryn, our MC, Trevor Gray for the truck and our Santa who arrived on the Stanhope Fire Truck.

Thank you to the BBQ helpers and the Shire of Campaspe for assistance with the road closures and to everyone else who helped make the night so special. The weather was perfect and no one was in a hurry to go home



afterwards. Those who stayed until dark were able to enjoy the fairy lights in McEwen Place and the Christmas decorations around town.

*Christine Dicketts*



Christmas carols, Santa and snow cones made for a great night of fun for the children.

# Friends of Hostel raffle winners

The Friends of the Hostel Christmas raffle has been won by Vicki Schade from Stanhope.

The prize was \$700 worth of vouchers, all donated by businesses around the town.

Second prize, a Christmas cake made by Rose McIntosh, was won by Sue Robertson, also from Stanhope.

Congratulations winners and thanks to everyone who supported this annual Hostel fund-raiser.



The lucky winner Vicki Schade.





# Lions raise funds for childhood cancer

HOPE Lions Club has been running a competition over the past few months to raise funds for childhood cancer research. The “drum” was rolled on Sunday 8 December at the Stanhope Community Garage Sale where the club has its “Blooms of Hope” plant stall each month.

The lucky winners were -

1st (Hand painted cross-cut saw): Kerrie Prkye - Upper Kiewa Valley

2nd (\$100 Bunning’s Gift Voucher): Ian Clark - Numurkah

3rd (Handmade Quilt): Mal Davey - Capel Sound.

4th (Bucket of car cleaning products): Lynda Shortis – Yackandandah

The club would like to thank all who supported this competition. It is anticipated that the funds raised will be in excess of \$1500.

All proceeds will be donated to Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation.

This Foundation supports Monash Children’s Hospital: Hudson Institute of Medical Research: Telethon Kids Institute: WEHI – Walter Eliza Hall Institute: Griffith University Institute of Glycomics: Australian Government Cancer Australia.

Each year approximately 1,000 children are diagnosed with cancer in Australia.

**Our Fight** - is for 100% survival for kids with cancer.

**Our Mission** – “preventing kids with cancer dying by raising funds nationally and donating those funds to the best high impact childhood cancer research conducted right across Australia”.

HOPE Lions Club also wishes to thank everyone who has supported their plant stall at Stanhope each month by purchasing plants or donating plants and pots.

*Every child deserves a chance at a better life.*

**HOPE Lions Club is sponsored by Cohuna Lions and most of its members attend online meetings. It takes a less formal approach than other clubs, with meetings online or in person but only when necessary.**



HOPE members ready to roll out the winning tickets!

(Right) HOPE Lions Club Branch presented Perry’s Butchery with an Appreciation Certificate for supporting the club over the past four years by purchasing Lions Christmas cakes and puddings. Hope Lions Club appreciates the opportunity to supply the cakes and puddings as a service to the community.



*Happy Christmas and all the best wishes for the New year. From Donelle.*

**Campbell-Smith & Associates**  
**Certified Practising Accountant**

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# Significant history now officially unveiled

New signage at the historic Aboriginal graves in Murchison has been officially unveiled clarifying who lies in which grave and correcting errors regarding dates of death.

It has been a long-term project to have the information accurately recorded. Support from the descendants of Tattambo, leader of the Ngurai-illum Wurrung clan original custodians of the Murchison district, City of Greater Shepparton, Murchison Cemetery Trust with Murchison Historical Society coordinating several aspects of what was needed, now means the story about these graves is clear and reflects the truth.

Tattambo died in 1868 but this has been recorded in history books and other records as several other dates – even on a boomerang attached to the grave. The official Register of Deaths shows he passed away on 1 January 1868 and this is now noted on signage at the grave and near the cemetery gate as well as the boomerang attached to the fencing surrounding the grave. Tattambo was highly respected by the Murchison community as demonstrated by the people of the town carrying out his wishes ‘to be buried in a box like a

white-man’. Prominent members of the town acted as pall bearers at the funeral and raised funds to erect an iron fence surrounding the grave which is still in place.

Tattambo’s son, known as Captain John (because he was at one time a Police Tracker) died in 1874 and had requested to be buried next to his father in the Murchison Cemetery. The day of Captain John’s funeral, Tattambo’s wife Mary died and so Tattambo’s grave was opened and Mary was buried there. Some years ago, a cemetery wide project placed white crosses at graves that did not have a plaque attached to explain who was buried where and by mistake. Mary was thought to be buried with Captain John and so a white cross with her name on it incorrectly indicated at that time, her last resting place. The new sign beside these important graves now clearly explains who lies in which grave.

The unveiling of the new signage took place on the 16 November this year with many of



Ngurai-illum Elder, Uncle Vince Peters with Kay Ball and Cr. Sam Spinks.

Tattambo’s descendants present as well Greater Shepparton Councillor Sam Spinks, Historical Society members, friends and interested local people. After the formalities the group enjoyed a tasty spread of afternoon tea at Murchison Heritage Centre.

It is wonderful to have all the correct details relating to these significant and rare historic graves of local indigenous people, the original occupants of the district, now available for the public to read when visiting the Tattambo family graves. It took a long time to negotiate the necessary requirements and

authority to alter something attached to a grave, namely the boomerang and to acquire funding. Fortunately, all parties involved were cooperative and the project initiated by the Murchison and District Historical Society came to a very satisfactory conclusion.

It has been an exercise that demonstrates the need to consult primary and accurate official sources for historic details instead of third hand accounts, so the truth is known.

*Kay Ball, President, Murchison and District Historical Society Inc.*



## THE COOBA SOLAR PROJECT

The proposed Cooba Solar Project has committed to an annual Community Benefit Fund (CBF) of \$200,000 per year, which equates to \$6M over the 30-year operational life of the project. This is an industry-leading economic package, which will provide funding to local projects and initiatives in the Colbinabbin community.

The project is in the initial stages of setting up a Community Reference Group (CRG), who will provide direct input into the structure and governance of the CBF. We invite community members who would like to provide their input or be involved in the CRG to get in touch with us.



VENN ENERGY

### CONTACT US

W: [coobasolarproject.com.au](http://coobasolarproject.com.au)

E: [info@coobasolarproject.com.au](mailto:info@coobasolarproject.com.au)

T: 0485 835 404

FIND OUT MORE



A large crowd of family and friends attended the unveiling.

Waranga News  
**Volunteers**  
always most  
**Welcome!**

5856 1120 or [wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)



# Health and Wellbeing

## It's in the bag!

A huge thank you to the Rushworth, Stanhope and Colbinabbin community for your generosity, kindness and support for the 2024 Share the dignity "It's in the bag" Bunnings Christmas campaign.

A total of thirty-eight bags were donated - an amazing effort in times when many families are already struggling.

These donations will help share a little love and hope to women in need at Christmas time, in particular those women and girls staying in a domestic violence refuge or homeless shelter.

*Michele Hanson*



Thanks to Glenda Cowie who coordinated the collection from the Stanhope Business Centre - she dropped off ten bags at Waranga Health.



Michele Hanson delivered the thirty-eight bags to add to the tally at Bunnings Shepparton.

Every time we try to eat healthy along comes Christmas, Easter, summer, Friday (or Tuesday) and ruins it for us!

Season's Greetings from the  
**FRIENDS OF THE HOSTEL**  
'Waranga Health' Rushworth



Thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

### Tips for a Healthy Christmas

- Don't sit down all day
- Go easy on the booze
- Don't give yourself a Christmas stuffing! (And don't create food waste.)
- Keep COVID and other nasties at bay
- Engage your brain
- Be a careful cook (don't poison your guests!)
- Eat fruit
- Don't stress



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*Peace ~ Flexibility ~ Strength*

**Seasons Greetings**  
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**mediconsul pharmacy**  
YOUR HEALTH. OUR CARE.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

*The team at Rushworth Pharmacy would like to thank all of our customers and health care professionals for their support over the past 12 months. We wish you a joyous holiday season and a safe, healthy 2025.*

**11 High Street, RUSHWORTH, 3612**  
**Phone 03 5856 1402**  
Lawrence Nguyen (Proprietor)  
**Monday to Friday: 8.30am - 5.00pm**





# Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

Phone (03) 5856 1295

Email:

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

Website:

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

Facebook:

**Rushworth Community-House**

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.**

## Community House farewells 2024

December is always a hectic month at Rushworth Community House. Activities conducted throughout the past year are gradually wound down while planning for the coming year begins in earnest. Preparations are made for the holiday break and everyone at the House pitches in to ensure the year ends well.

House Manager Anita Pirie penned some wise words for this final edition of the Waranga News for 2024. She wrote:

“I would like to firstly thank our Committee of Management who oversee, guide and direct happenings at the House.

“Secondly, thanks go to our members of staff - Prue who oversees the administration of the House, Craig who looks after our transport and Raylene who ensures that our finances are all up to date.

“Finally, to our volunteers working in the background to ensure that planned activities occur, a heartfelt big thank you.

“Our volunteers are a crucial part of what make a community house run; without them a lot of our activities would not be possible.

“This year has been an exciting one with the introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme, from which everyone in the community is benefiting. A big thank you to the volunteers who have been overseeing this project.

“Planning has begun for activities early in 2025 and you will shortly find our Term Guide in your letter boxes.

“A special event to mark in your calendar is the community dance that will be held at the Rushworth Shire Hall on Saturday 22 February starting at 7pm. A re-creation of times past, this is an event for everyone; we'll have more information in the New Year.

“The Community House also has its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 12 March 2025. Open to members of the public, this is an important opportunity for the House to reflect on its achievements during 2024, advise the Community of its future plans and elect a new Committee of Management team to manage the House during 2025.

“Everyone at the Community House would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2025, with both current and new activities and events.”

## A busy, varied year at the Community House



(Above) Large crowds attended the Easter Egg hunt in the Community Garden.

(Below) Rushworth Machinery Preservation Club begins using our Men's Shed facilities.



(Below) School students undertake practical learning sessions in the Community Garden.



(Above) Mitchell Petersen's "Be Connected" classes have been very popular during 2024

(Below left) The House hosted a Christmas lunch for its Carer Support Group and partnered with Latrobe University and Kyabram Community Learning Centre to run a well attended pop-up clinic at Max's Maze (below right).



(Below) Tens of thousands of cans and bottles are recycled at the Community Hub.



(Below) The 2024 Women's Health Night won high praise and will be repeated in 2025.





# Waranga Rail Trail first stage nears completion

The much anticipated 1km asphalt section of the Waranga Rail Trail is on track to be opened this week.

The new 2.5m wide asphalt path begins at the High Street footpath in Rushworth, passes alongside the historic goods shed and railway lines, and concludes at the Bendigo-Murchison Road.

The installation of the asphalt layer was completed last Friday, and this week will see the addition of line marking, signage, bollards, and fencing. These works will mark the completion of the first stage of construction for the Waranga Rail Trail.

Construction of the

second stage of the Waranga Rail Trail is progressing well. A significant portion of the 10km gravel path, extending from the Bendigo-Murchison Road crossing to Channel Inlet Road, has been installed. However, table drains and shoulder works are still required. Additionally, repairs to six VicTrack bridges are currently underway.

This section of the Waranga Rail Trail will remain closed to the public until construction is

completed.

Construction fencing and flagging have been installed at all bridges and road access points. Council has asked the public to stay off this path over the Christmas break and into the new year while the contractor, Northern's Constructions Group, completes the finishing touches to the new Rail Trail.

To stay up to date on this project visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/waranga-rail-trail.a](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/waranga-rail-trail.a)





## SEASONS GREETINGS

from

### RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY HOUSE

The Committee of Management, staff & volunteers of Rushworth Community House wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2025.

We would also like to acknowledge the generous support of the following organisations during 2024:



















# Deck the hall and pub with holly and Kinder Kids art

Get ready! Mrs Claus is on her way to the Colbo Pub for Carols by Barrels, this Saturday 21 December starting at 5pm.



Santa's a bit busy this time of year, so lucky his wife can help out, she even might have some elves with her too! It's Gravy Day so as well as the usual Chrissy carols you might also hear some Paul Kelly tunes. The Colbo Pub Choir will lead the singing and there'll be roast meat and gravy rolls available to purchase, as well as food for the kids.

## Little hands help decorate Colbo



The Colbinabbin Kinder children's decorating efforts were fittingly rewarded with a sit down and an ice cream.



### Colbo Diary

#### DECEMBER

Sat 21 Carols by Barrels 5pm @ CCH

Sun 22 Ecu Carol Service 8pm @ hall

#### JANUARY

Mon 20 Strength and Balance 3.30pm

#### FEBRUARY

Thurs 6 1st edition of Waranga News for 2025

## Colbinabbin Country Hotel



*We wish all locals and visitors a safe and joyful Festive Season, as well as a happy 2024.*

#### HOLIDAY HOURS:

- Saturday 21 Carols by Barrels 5pm (Roast Meat and Gravy Rolls \$10).

- Wednesday CHRISTMAS DAY - CLOSED

- Thursday BOXING DAY - Open from 4pm

- Wednesday New Year's Day - Open from 4pm

Lunch and Dinner 7 days

Sat/Sun Breaky 9-11am

Every other day open from 10am for coffee, cake, lunch and dinner

Booking appreciated.

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Phone: 5432 9230 or 0408 602 841

Find updates on facebook or instagram

@colbinabbincountryhotel

## COLBINABBIN GENERAL STORE CO-OP<sup>SM</sup>

### Christmas & New Year Opening Hours 2024/2025

Monday 23rd Dec: 7am – 5pm

Tuesday 24th Dec: 7am – 5pm

**Christmas Day Wednesday 25th Dec: CLOSED**

**Boxing Day Thursday 26th Dec: 8am – 12pm**

Friday 27th Dec: 7am – 5pm

Saturday 28th Dec: 8am – 2pm

Sunday 29th Dec: 8am – 2pm

Monday 30th Dec: 7am – 5pm

Tuesday 31st Dec: 7am – 5pm

**New Years Day Wednesday 1st Jan: 8am – 12pm**

Thursday 2nd Jan: 7am – 5pm

Wednesday 3rd Jan: 7am – 5pm

**Australia Post Closed:**

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New Years Day

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Call 5441 5807

Email: info@colbostore.com.au



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## When will you see us again?

The first edition of the News will hit the streets on Thursday 6 February 2025.

## Strength and balance

Strength and balance classes at the Colbo Hall have finished up (the last one being cancelled because of the 40+° heat, remember that day?)

Classes will start again on 20 January 2025 at 3.30pm. Anyone (men or women) interested in joining the group can contact Anita at Rushworth Community House 0417 334 817.

## Bare foot bowls for fun

Colbinabbin Bowls Club will run a Bare Foot Bowls day on Sunday 19 January. Names should be in by 1.30pm for a 2pm start.

Come and enjoy a fun day of bowls. Afternoon tea provided. For details contact Shane Ryan 0409 820 854 or Kevin McTaggart 0407 503 339.

## More signs of the season

Just as blowflies signal that spring is coming, the town's Christmas candles are gradually re-emerging and lining Mitchell Street to give the place a festive air. . . and without the annoyance of blow flies (How DO those blow flies know when you've only just put a roast in the oven?)

We're very grateful for Julie Price and her team of hard-workers who collected the drums and painted them and the footy club blokes who distributed them down the street, as part of their training.

They've all now re-emerged from storage looking as good as new.

### LIBRARY

Jan 8	Pauline Wilson
Jan 15	Janice Tait
Jan 22	Lynn Rathjen
Jan 29	Margery West
Feb 5	Pam Nihill



### Cemetery Trust

**Mowing Roster** (lawn section only)  
 December - Carmel Turner  
 January - Ben McEvoy  
 February - Andrew Branson

### FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

Jan 5	Bill Johnson, Gerard Stewart
Jan 12	Matt Ryan, Martin Borger
Jan 19	Ray McEvoy, Pat Tuohey
Jan 26	Graeme Reid, Bill West
Feb 2	Ramon Rathjen, Darryl Rathjen

*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.*

## Cornella ladies and friends sit down to eat



Practising for Christmas lunch (L-R) Claire Lewington, Marion Burke, Maree Stewart, Pam Nihill, Pat Kennedy, Cate Furphy, Rose McIntosh, Marge West, Judy Phelan, Trish Pepperell, Maxine Ryan, Glen Avard and Leonie Lewington.

## A McArdle catch-up for Christmas @ CCH



'Twas an early Christmas celebration for the family of Bob McArdle (Rushworth born, who now lives in Kyabram). They had a lovely catch up over dinner at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel. (LR): Tristan and Elise Garcia holding Emmerson (3 months) Brianna Chiswell-Cassol with Ayla (3), Debbie McArdle, Brayden Cassol, Mark Squires, (little niece Julie Price), Sandra Garcia (McArdle) Lorraine and Bob McArdle.

## Winners are gridders

A very happy Matt (from Elmore) picked up \$600 cash last week when he turned over the Joker card at the Colbo Pub. Friday nights are Joker Poker night, you gotta be in it to win it!





# Christmas windows light up Stanhope

A massive thanks goes to Brett and Rick from Robgill for another wonderful opening of the Art Space Christmas display this year. They present a different theme every year which is beautifully curated.

A festive crowd enjoyed some drinks and nibbles after Des Crichton officially cut the ribbon.

Go along and enjoy the lovely colourful display and take some photos in the Santa sleighs nearby.



It's open! Des Crichton cuts the ribbon and invites everyone into the Stanhope Christmas Cave.

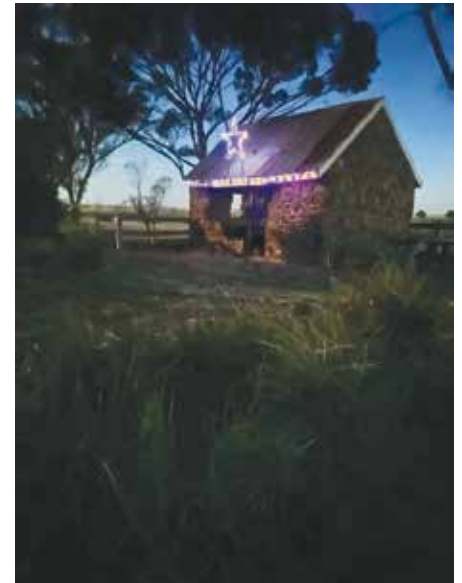


The eagerly awaited Stanhope Christmas windows unveiled - once again they didn't disappoint!



Creative pair Brett and Rick amaze Stanhope residents each year with their lavish Christmas window displays.

## Christmas star at Corop



Just like the stable in a Nativity scene, the Christmas star will lead you to the stone shelter at Corop.

**Stuck for a gift?**  
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**Lucy 0411 898 364**  
[cleanedge33@gmail.com](mailto:cleanedge33@gmail.com)

**Stanhope & District Men's Shed Inc.**

*Would like to wish all of our district community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

**Open Mon, Wed & Fri - 9 to 12 noon.**  
**Closed 25th Dec only.**



*Keep up to date with the WARANGA NEWS*  
[wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)



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**LAWYERS 146 Hogan Street, Tatura**



*The directors and staff wish our valued clients the compliments of the season and advise that our office will close from 3pm on Friday 20 December 2024 and re-open on Monday 6 January 2025 at 8.30am.*

**For appointments ring 5824 0300**



**Rushworth Variety Shop**

*Kelly and family wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year*



Open Christmas Eve:  
 10 am - 2 pm  
 Closed Christmas Day & Boxing Day  
 Closed New Years' Eve & New Year's Day

**0432 491 176**

**AUSTRALIA POST** **Stanhope Post Office**

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**Christmas/New Year Office Hours**

Wed 25 Dec	Closed (Christmas Day)
Thu 26 Dec	Closed (Boxing Day)
Fri 27 Dec	9am - 5pm
Mon 30 Dec	9am - 5pm
Tue 31 Dec	9am - 5pm
Wed 1 Jan	Closed (New Years Day)
Tue 2 Jan	9am - 5pm



**Please call in and check out our large range of Christmas gifts and cards. In addition, we can also book V/Line bus and train services.**

**Stephen and Meaghan Browne would like to wish everyone an enjoyable festive season, and look forward to your continued support in 2025.**

**BALLOONS AND STUFF RUSHWORTH**

*A Merry Christmas and New Year to all of our customers, friends and staff.*

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 Container Deposit Scheme

Stanhope Library Depot

*Best wishes for Christmas and a safe and happy New Year from the Stanhope and District Development Committee.*

*We welcome you to drop in to the Business Centre and experience the services we have to offer or even volunteer some of your time.*

**A Stanhope & District Development Committee Inc Project**



## Cooks Column

Once again we have come to the Christmas edition - and we thought we would repeat (yet again) that delicious no-cook brandy sauce that's so good dolloped on your Christmas Pudding . . . and in your Christmas coffee.

Soooo simple . . . whip a small bottle of cream with a tablespoon of soft icing sugar and the yolk of one egg until thickened. Beat the reserved white of the egg until stiff and fold gently through the cream with a good tablespoon (or so) of brandy. Enjoy! **and** . . . have a Happy Christmas!



### The Twelve Days of Christmas

*On the 1st Day of Christmas*, my true love said to me: 'I've just bought a big turkey and a proper Christmas tree.'

*On the 2nd Day of Christmas*, much laughter could be heard, As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

*On the 3rd Day of Christmas*, came people from next door. The turkey tasted just as good as it had before.

*On the 4th Day of Christmas*, we had the turkey cold – With mashed spuds and salads, our appetites to hold.

*On the 5th Day of Christmas*, outside the snowflakes scurried. But we were nice and warm inside: we had the turkey curried.

*On the 6th Day of Christmas*, the Christmas spirit died. The children fought and bickered. We had the turkey fried.

*On the 7th Day of Christmas*, my true love he did wince When we sat down at table and were offered turkey mince.

*On the 8th Day of Christmas*, the dog had run for shelter. He's seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka Seltzer.

*On the 9th Day of Christmas* by lunchtime Dad was blotto. He knew the bird was back again. This time as a risotto.

*On the 10th Day of Christmas*, we were drinking homemade brew. As if that wasn't bad enough . . . we were eating turkey stew.

*On the 11th Day of Christmas*, the Christmas tree was moulting. With chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

*On the 12th Day of Christmas*, we had smiles upon our lips. The guests had gone, the turkey too. We dined on fish and chips.

## Garden Hints & Tips

### Garden ornaments

One of the most polarizing garden things is the use of garden ornaments. Much comes down to personal taste and we do have the freedom to do whatever we want with our gardens (as long as it is legal). So, with people being so very different, so are the garden ornaments that people place in their gardens.

Some garden ornaments were originally functional. An example of this are the stone lanterns found in Japanese gardens. They were needed to light the way around gardens at night. Originally, they contained a lighted candle and their 'windows' were covered with translucent paper. Other ornaments are made from repurposed functional objects. In England, stone 'mushrooms' are often seen in gardens. These are the stone stumps that once supported granaries. In Australia all kinds of old things are repurposed as garden ornaments: anything from old single furrow ploughs to complete MacKay headers, even old windmills. Some ornaments actually have a function. Birdbaths, bird feeders, and bee hotels are all examples of functional garden ornaments. Ornamental pots also provide interest.

There is a huge range of concrete ornaments. Most look better if they look as if they have a bit of age to them. The trick is to smother new concrete ornaments with natural yoghurt and keep them in a cool shady place for a while. This will promote the growth of moss and lichen. This trick also works on terracotta.

The polarizing thing about garden ornaments is that many are not exactly.... tasteful. Really, there are many garden ornaments that leave me scratching my head and wondering what sort of person designed them and why does anyone even buy them

for their garden? But people do make them and people do buy them. Do we really want a mooning gnome in our garden?

Garden ornaments are a great way to add a feature or focal point to a garden. The trick is not to overdo it. Being the Zen Gardener, my mantra is less is more. A few modestly sized, well designed and made ornaments that do not dominate the garden work best for my aesthetic senses.

Try to avoid cliches like model windmills (Dutch or Australian), or real windmills for that matter. The same goes for gnomes and all forms of animal and bird monstrosities. At least in Rushworth we don't need kangaroo ornaments. We get the real thing.

The trouble is I tend to acquire garden ornaments. Some I make myself as sculptures, some I buy because they are so bad that they are good. Others are gifts that I really cannot hide or give away. My solution to this plethora of ornaments was to create a 'kitsch garden' in a corner that is quite shaded and difficult to grow much in.

Perhaps the best garden ornaments are the living ones: a shrub with interesting foliage, a tree with an interesting shape, not to mention the birds and other creatures that visit the garden. As for those gnomes, send them with a one-way ticket up to Canberra to Floriade!

**The Zen Gardener**



**Floriade, gnomophobes' worst nightmare.**

### Christmas hints and tips

*Hi there,*

*Recycling, Repurposing and Reusing has been very big on my list to try to do my bit for the environment ~ Christmas and Holiday time is certainly no different! Here is the last set of Christmas Hints and Tips for 2024 and can I just say 'CONGRATULATIONS' to you all in making our environment that little bit better for all your efforts during the year ~ 'well done!'*

**\* Christmas time for mums and dads is stressful, there's no getting away from it with kids home from school too!** – please take the time to have some 'me' time .... You need to unwind and relax in whatever situation that is for you! Sit and read a book, go for a walk with the dog, watch your favourite 'Christmas time' movie ... whatever means 'stressfree' to you! Your mind and body will thank you for it!

**\* Last minute shopping can be a nightmare** – writing down a list of what and where you need to go to complete your purchases or grocery shopping will help! I hope that it will also minimise ad-hoc purchases that were not envisaged in your budget!

**\* Making your own Christmas decorations can serve a couple of purposes.** Gives you a feeling of self-satisfaction, probably saves you the stress of colour-co-ordinating your decorations to your home or garden decor, and even a way to keep the kids occupied for a couple of hours! You might even be able to

recycle some items that would normally go straight to refuse – so win-win all around!

**\* Please remember those not as fortunate as ourselves at this end of the year.** Our local Op-Shop and Food Bank do an absolutely brilliant job in helping those that are in need for whatever reason, so take the time to say 'thank-you' in a way that's meaningful for you!

**\* Next time you are in the centre of town – take a few minutes to walk up and down the centre of the street, and have a look at all the beautiful Christmas decorations that have been lovingly created by members of our local community – of ALL ages.** A special thank you to you all for your participation in the celebrations of our town, your creativity, time and effort.

*From my home and family to yours ~ our very best wishes to you all, may this holiday season be safe, stress free and plentiful in whatever celebratory or peaceful way is you!*

*Until 2025, Lyn.*



# Arts & Tourism

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

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## All roads lead to Santa's Cave in Kyabram



Santa is waiting for you to tell him what you want for Christmas. Great chance to get your photo taken with Santa.

This is one of the artworks in the exhibition *Through the Eyes of Five Artists* at the Kyabram Town Hall Gallery by Judith Hutchins titled *Pink Morning*.

Love That Song by Splinter Contemporary Artists can be seen in the main gallery in January.

**Kyabram Town Hall Gallery closes at 5 pm on 22 December and re-opens on 2 January 2025.**

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## Santa's Cave

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**DECEMBER 2024**

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15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	11am-5pm
16 <sup>th</sup> Monday	11am-5pm
17 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	11am-5pm
18 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	11am-5pm
19 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	11am-5pm
20 <sup>th</sup> Friday	11am-5pm
21 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	11am-5pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	11am-5pm

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.



# NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.



## Happy Christmas and best wishes from us all

First of all, I will give you the opening hours over this Christmas/New Year period.

**FOODBANK:** Last day it is open is Monday 23 December until midday, then closed until re-opening Wednesday 8 January 2025. The emergency pantry will still be available.

**OP-SHOP:** Will be closed Christmas Day, then open on our normal days of Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings and that will INCLUDE NEW YEAR'S DAY.

As you can all see by the photos we all had a good Christmas party at the Colbo Pub, lovely food and Julie and staff serenaded us after lunch with a Christmas song.

We played a complicated game of Kris Kringle with rules that only Margaret Raglus knew, which deprived me of my tin of chocolates! Presents distributed included a rude toilet roll, embroidered pincushion and a garden gnome – definitely surprise packages.

We still have quite a few Christmas decorations left in the Op Shop at very low prices if you haven't put up a bit of tinsel yet. Also **lots** of items that would be ideal for gifts. A bag of children's clothes for **only** \$5 is an on-going bargain, as is five books for \$1.

Looking forward to the holiday period, if you sprain a wrist showing your kid how to do a somersault on a skate board or breaking a leg if you fall downstairs when you have your wobbly boots on, we do have some medical bits and pieces that could assist. Splint boots, wrist supports, elasticised knee supports and a crutch, also some back supports. They are kept out the back so you only have to ask for them. But to be honest, we'd prefer to keep

them there rather than you having an accident and needing to ask for them.

Even further ahead, we do have some local school uniforms out the back as well, which would help out with return to school expenses.

When you go past the Op Shop have a look at the lovely Christmas tree that Margaret fashioned out of clothes hangers. A very creative lady.

As this is the last Waranga News of the year the committee and volunteers of the Food Bank and Op Shop would like me to thank all our customers, clients and supporters. Your support means that we are able to assist members in our community who are struggling and ensure that people don't miss out on basic requirements. From them and from us **THANK YOU**.

Until next year. May you have full bellies and happy smiles.

*Heather Wellington*



**"An oven mitt and washing up liquid. Tina will be pleased"** Graeme Hanigan opens his Kris Kringle present.



**Children from Colbinabbin Primary School paid a visit to do their Christmas shopping at the Op Shop.**

### 'Twas the night before Christmas

*With apologies to Clement Clarke Moore*

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house

Small things were stirring, including a mouse.

The children were bouncing around on their beds

While visions of X boxes danced in their heads

And Mum in her slippers and me with a beer  
Had just settled down to consume Christmas cheer.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,

I sprang from the sofa to see what was the matter.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear

But a bloody big sleigh and eight strapping reindeer!

"Get off my lawn" I gave a great shout

"How dare you land here, you red-suited lout!"

But the kids had appeared so lively and quick

And shouted out "stop Dad, it's only St. Nick".

Out of the door they went in flash  
Planning to raid St. Nick's Christmas stash,

They jumped on the sleigh, tore open some presents,

Tweaked Santa's nose and ignored their parents.

Santa's eyes how they twinkled! His dimples how merry,

His cheeks were like roses, his nose, now, a cherry.

With a twist of his head he looked right in my eyes

Then looked at the children and gave a big sigh.

"I know what you want, mate," he said loud and clear

"A house full of peace and a few quiet beers"

And laying his finger aside of his nose  
And giving a nod - everything rose.

The kids and the presents, the reindeer and sleigh

They went up in the sky heading far, far away.

Santa called as he flew, "Enjoy all your beer,  
Don't fret about kids, I'll return them next year"

I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night!



## Celebrating Christmas around our towns

# Book Club notches up another year

Wacomurst\* Book Club has celebrated its 26th Christmas gathering hosted, as is traditional (at least as long as anyone can remember), by Cate and Clem Furphy at their Corop residence.

Also traditional is the Christmas photo in the garden - needless to say there are a few little notable differences over time (perhaps mostly in hair colour!)

Pictured (right) are Mary Jo Fortuna, Jo Burgess, Glenda Smith, Cate Furphy, Marg Hoelter, Wendy Laurie, Pat Kennedy, Gillian Schoenborn, Sue Barlow and Mary Barnett.

\* The name Wacomurst was an early attempt to incorporate all members' residential districts - Wanalta, Colbinabbin, Murchison, Rushworth and Stanhope. Since then there have been some relocations by some members now coming from Wangaratta, Echuca, Kyabram, Shepparton and Bendigo. (There has been no attempt to update the name!)



# Beck family Christmas



The Beck Family enjoyed an early Christmas gathering at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel last Sunday. Mary was in her element, surrounded by loved ones!

# Op Shop Kris Kringle



Janis scored a new gnome friend when Op Shop volunteers enjoyed a Christmas lunch at Colbinabbin Country Hotel.

**Catherine Fraser**  
Civil Celebrant

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Celebrating Marriages and Funerals  
catherinemarycelebrations@gmail.com  
0427 572 549

**Next Waranga News out on**  
February 6th, 2025  
Happy hols TO YOU AND US!



# 50 years ago in our district....

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



## More disaster on local roads to close 1974

A road smash between Stanhope and Rushworth near the Woolwash swamp took the life of Deborah McKindlay of Moama, adding to an awful district road toll in the second half of 1974.

## Schools

As the school year neared closure, a dress-up day at Rushworth Primary was embraced by teachers as much as students. A grainy photo showed Mrs Mackinder in jolly mood and lively costume.

## Personal

Geoff and Lorna Britton, who had operated the milk bar now known as Gus and Ollie's, and then had roles at the Criterion Hotel, prepared to move to manage the Hotel Elizabeth, in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. *(Big change from the bright lights of Rushworth.)*

Arthur and Joan Harradence were licensees of the Criterion Hotel and advertised "good beer, good food and good accomodation", *(but bad spelling of accomodation).*

## Football

Summer or not, the talk was still about football, and the threat of 1974 premier Tooborac to quit the Heathcote League if a limit was imposed on the club's ability to field ex-radius players. Apparently few locals were available or interested to play footy. The nearby Pyalong area had just as few men or boys willing or able to pull on the boots for Tooborac.

## Cricket

In B-grade cricket, Ted Shanks (4/23), Stephen Teasdale (3/33), Roger Barnes (2/7) and Lurch Hoyling (1/3) dismissed Tatura for just 70 runs, in reply to Rushworth's 133. The Rushworth lads hung on to eight sharp catches.

In the next match Girgarre made 71 runs and Rushworth replied with 70. Batting again, Girgarre did a little better, getting 89. To win outright Rushworth needed 91 runs in 45 minutes. Ross Williams teed off with quick-fire 54, but the match was only a first innings result as Rushworth finished on 4/80.

A-grade was well behind on the first innings and faced the possibility of outright defeat against Kyabram Red, but compiled 5/180 to force a draw. Veteran Graeme Johansen scored 75, Trevor Hawking 30 and Alan Mee 20. In the following match Rushworth's 91 was well short of Cooma's score of 179. Alan Mee got 4/74, John Raglus 3/39.

## Tennis

Rushworth B-grade selected to play Harston Gold were Ross Burge, Rob Raglus, Colin Barlow, Mark Mackinder, Pauline Wootton, Julie Pearce, Judy Meagher and Yvonne Laurie.

C-grade sent out veterans Peter Davidson and Tom Harrop with Gerard McArdle, Geoff Burge, Miriam Poulson, Susan Barber, Jenny Hoyling and Meredith Heily, before the Christmas break. Matches were to resume in mid-January.

## Season's greetings in 1974

Chronicle proprietor Peter Davidson extended season's greetings to readers, on behalf of himself and office assistant Sharon Jones. *(Sharon is now Sharon Perry and her fine photos today would have greatly lifted the 1974 newspaper!)*

## Another tragedy

19 December, 1974, brought the darkest day in the life of our family. My mother Lorna lost her life in a collision at the notorious Midland Highway – McEwen Road intersection. This left our father Duncan hospitalised for three days and sister Isabel with a broken arm. She was just fourteen, and Barbara just eleven, the three boys being a little older, me the eldest on nineteen. It is fifty years ago, but we will obviously never forget that day, or the pre-Christmas funeral conducted by a minister who, unfortunately, had never met our mother.

The road toll across the district had been truly shocking in 1974, with a well-known Stanhope family about to be shattered early in 1975.

Another 50-year anniversary looming up is the Christmas Day 1974 destruction of Darwin by Cyclone Tracy. Anyone aged over about 65 now will remember where they were when that equally shocking news began to trickle out on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, after only the most basic communication contact was re-established with Darwin. *(Telephone lines smashed and blown away. Obviously no mobile phones.)*

## Repeat apology

Throughout 2024 this page has been dominated by Rushworth and Colbinabbin news. I have only been able to extract content from what was published in 1974, and unfortunately there was very little news included from Stanhope and Murchison.

## Season's greetings and a suggestion

Warmest compliments of the festive season to all volunteers and readers. The feedback reaching me this year about this

page has been positive (mostly), from residents who have been in the district for much longer than me, from people who left the area years ago, and from newcomers who have not been in this district for very long.

While attending local events like the Shearing for Cancer Kids day, and the old players' day at the Football Club, it has been good to have perfect strangers recognise me from my mug-shot above, and come up to say that they have enjoyed learning of historical events and about the people involved.

I would close with a suggestion. Anyone with a local interest and some basic writing skills is genuinely encouraged to make a contribution to the pages of this little community paper. Only about 22 issues are published per year, and you would obviously not need to contribute to all of them.

Just write up a couple of hundred words and submit them, especially on a current local event. Today's news. Historical columns have tended to be prominent over the past couple of years. Content from Murchison and Stanhope would be especially welcome. Plenty of people, not least the editor and her team, would welcome your contributions. Why not give it a go? If you like reading old newspapers, you could take over this page! Cheers!

Alan.

## Rushing to Whroo, 1853 to 1880



**\$25**

**Books available:**

Waranga News office and General Store Rushworth

**Order in the Court!**

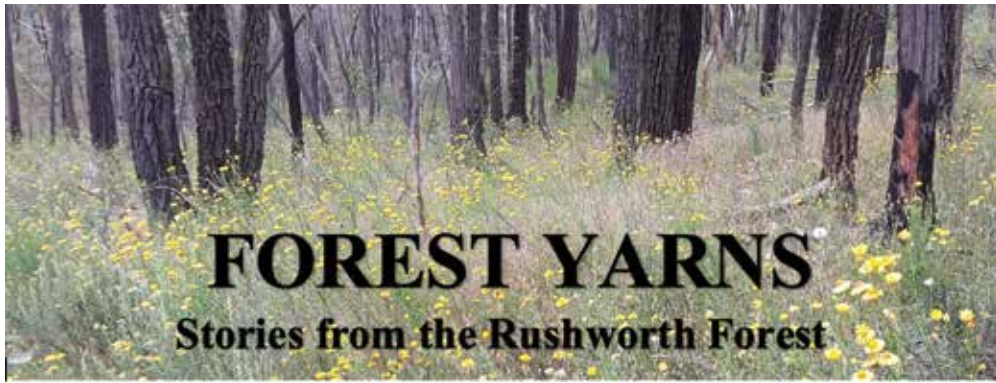
**Crime and punishment in the Rushworth district**

**\$20**

**Contact Alan McLean**

**0412 143 660**





## Rushworth forest timber output

From the gold rush until late in the 20th century, the output of timber products from the Rushworth forest has been enormous. Sawmills were established as early as the 1870s as the employment offered by the gold mines continued to subside. The timber industry grew rapidly and provided employment for many local people.

The Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV) holds two "Forest Output" books covering the period from 1917 to 1942.1 During that quarter of a century, which was possibly the heyday of the local forest industries, an incredible amount of product was sourced from the forest.

### Mining timbers

A substantial amount of timber was needed for the gold mining industry for shoring up shafts and tunnels, building infrastructure and providing the fuel to power steam driven equipment. The forest industry provided both round and split stays, as well as wooden slabs for use in the mines.

Obviously, this type of product was not in as much demand by the 20th century, apart from a spike in 1931 which might have coincided with the reopening of a mine.

### Sawn and hewn timber

In the short period between the two world wars, over a quarter of a million super feet (one super foot = one square foot, one inch thick, or in metric – 30.48 cm square x 2.54 cm thick) of sawn and hewn timber came out of the local sawmills. No reliable figures have been found for earlier periods, but sawmills had been providing that sort of product for nigh on 50 years before that.

### Railway sleepers

The development of the local forest industry coincided with the rapid growth of railways throughout Victoria, and to a lesser extent the tramways in Melbourne and large regional towns like Ballarat and Bendigo. There was huge demand for box and ironbark sleepers from the Rushworth forest. In the period covered by the two Forest Output books mentioned above, the number of hand-hewn sleepers that came out of the Rushworth forest exceeded 633,000. One year of figures is missing from the record, so in all likelihood, the output exceeded 650,000.

An incredible fact about the sleepers is that they were all hand-hewn – not cut by powered saws. The writer was privileged

to see Jack Miller, one of the last of the old sleeper cutters of the Rushworth forest, demonstrating the art at the 1978 Golden Guinea Festival in Rushworth. This was possibly the last railway sleeper hand-hewn in the district.

### Fencing and firewood

Fencing materials – strainers, posts, stays, rails, droppers etc - constituted a large part of the output of the forest. For example, in the period covered by the Forest Output books, over 1.1 million items were produced. Supplementary products included timber for the grape and fruit growing industries.

Firewood was a major industry with a number of firewood mills being established at stations along the Murchison to Colbinabbin line. The firewood was divided into three main categories – dry, green and long (usually 5 feet) dry – with the latter being used to power boilers of local industry such as dairy factories. Overall, in excess of 400,000 tons of firewood exited the forest legally during the 25 years to 1942.

### Poles

Another product for which there was increasing demand in the 20th century was poles for power and telegraph lines. Rushworth first had electric power in 1914, but a large number of poles were still required to extend the availability of power to rural areas of Victoria. In the period between the world wars, over 80,000 poles came out of the forest. These would be cut to the rigid specifications of the relevant government departments of the day – the SEC (State Electricity Commission, established 1918) and the PMG (Postmaster General's Department, established 1901).

### Summary

This is just a very brief summary of the timber products that came out of the Rushworth forest over some of the time that the forest was harvested for these products. Some of the upcoming stories will provide more detail on specific products and the people that were employed in the forest in private enterprise.

Later stories will also look at the role of the Forests Commission of Victoria in this area and the people who worked for that government organisation. Contributions from readers would be most welcome.

*Reference: 1 Public Records Office of Victoria, State Forests Output Books (Rushworth 1916-29 and 1929-42)*

## Name from the Past

### Annie Nielsen 1924 - Wife of Whroo grocer died at Girgarre

Almost 101 years ago, Mrs Annie Nielsen died on Christmas eve, and was buried on Boxing Day. A true pioneer, she had a most interesting life, spent in part at Whroo, Rushworth and Girgarre, and was the mother of eight children. Her story was told in the Rushworth Chronicle of 4 January, 1924, but fails to include her maiden name.

"NIELSEN. --- At the residence of her daughter, Mrs. N. H. Moller, Girgarre, Annie Marie, wife of the late Neil Nielsen, late of Whroo and Rushworth, and loving mother of Annie (Mrs. N. H. Moller), Andrew, Jack, Peter, Mary (Mrs. Thomson), Neil, Katie (Mrs Gould) and Minnie. Aged 70 years. Deeply Regretted.

We regret to have to report the death of another old and respected resident and pioneer of the Rushworth district, in the person of Mrs. A. Nielsen, relict of the late Mr. Neil Nielsen, of Whroo, who passed away at the residence of her daughter (Mrs. N. H. Moller, Girgarre) on Monday, 24th December.

The deceased had been ill for about twelve months.

The late Mrs Nielsen, who was 70 years of age at the time of her death, was born in Frankfurt, Germany, and arrived in Victoria in 1856, at the age of three years. She resided on the Bendigo goldfields until 1882, when Mr. Nielsen came to Rushworth, where he was manager of the Crown and Cross and Clousen's mines for about five years.

Mrs Nielsen then went to reside at Whroo, where her husband opened a grocery store.

After her husband's death, which took place at Whroo, Mrs Nielsen went to Werribee to reside, and afterwards resided for a time at Seymour. She afterwards came to Rushworth, where she resided for some time.

Her health not being good she gave up housekeeping and went to reside with her daughter (Mrs Moller), at Girgarre, where she died, as stated.

The late Mrs Nielsen leaves a family of four sons and four daughters, three of the family having pre-deceased her. The surviving members of the family being Mrs Moller (Girgarre), Andrew (Rushworth), Jack (Sunshine), Peter (Colbinabbin), Mrs. Thomson (Croydon), Neil (Korumburra), Mrs Gould (Wedderburn), and Minnie (Fairfield).

One of the daughters (Mrs Thomson) served through the war as a nurse, and one of her sons (Neil) also served at the front.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, 26th December, the remains being first taken to St. Paul's Church of England, Rushworth, where a short service was conducted, and afterwards to the Rushworth cemetery for interment, the Rev. F. Grist being the officiating clergyman. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. E. F. Anderson."

*Alan McLean*



# GENERAL STORE

General Store Rushworth had a very eventful year in 2024 and would like to thank the community for their continued support and promotion of our small business. Word of mouth about Rushworth is certainly out and we have people from all over the state visiting - from Bendigo, Albury, Wodonga, Ballarat, Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne. Some just passing through/travelling and many customers hearing about the store from family or friends. It is great to see so many visitors in our town!

## General Store Rushworth in 2024

### JAN - MARCH

Beautiful Oil Paintings arrive in store by Jud Keresztesi. Various sizes of landscape paintings of the local Goulburn River prove to be popular amongst customers.



Jud Keresztesi Oil Paintings of the Goulburn River Murchison.

### APRIL

#### Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival

The General Store Laneway was opened for access with local "Timmering" Produce on tasting with Narelle and "Nagamo Earrings" on offer by local Clare.



Narelle Gilsenan from Timmering Produce.

### AUGUST

General Store Rushworth recognised by Country Style Magazine Readers as one #1 Best regional boutiques in Victoria!



### OCTOBER

Our first fashion Parade was on Friday 4 October at St Paul's Church Hall Rushworth.

Regional Manager and compere for the night, Meliza Van Oosterwijck from Fashion Label Orientique/Escape described every outfit as the girls paraded down the 'runway'. Orientique/Escape has been an Australian label for over 50 years and mainly specialise in natural fibres like linen, cotton and rayon.

It was an enjoyable night out for all with complimentary homemade food and drinks and a fun atmosphere. Over 110 people attended the evening, travelling from Bendigo, Nagambie and Euroa – and some special guests from the Rushworth Aged Care.



Jasmin Le Deux - New Women's Clothing range in store specialising in Natural fibres (Linen/Cotton/Rayon) and classic pieces.



## General Store Range

- Indoor & Outdoor Plants
- Garden ware, Knee Pads, Gloves, Secateurs Chimes, Pots, Tools & Decor
- Natural Skincare - Eco Sonya & Dindi Naturals for Women & Men
- Etikette Candles & Diffusers (including our very own "Rushworth Candle & Diffuser")
- Milkwick Candles
- A variety of Books
- Children's soft Toys/Games/Books
- Children's Finger Puppets (Handmade in Nepal)
- Wooden Games - Planet Finksa
- Ladies Clothing - Linen/Cotton
- Homewares - Enamel ware, Ceramics
- Rushworth Wildflower 2025 Calendar (by Ironbark Belle) @\$20 and local 51 Trees Calendar @\$25

- Christmas Decorations
- Paintings
- Wicker Baskets (laundry/wood baskets etc)
- Opinel Knives
- Small Furnishings
- Earrings - Nagamo, Handmade by Helen & The Sista Label





# RUSHWORTH 2024

## FASHION PARADE

Thanks to our local models, Christine Hardie, Marcie Martin, Grace Le Deux, Kylie Carmichael, Lauren Moore, Leah Newton - who needs supermodels when you have these girls? They were fabulous!

Also special thanks to Joy O'Donnell for hire of the hall and supporting the event and for everyone who attended.



## NOV/DEC

Due to the overwhelming response to last year's Christmas Wreath Workshops, we decided to organise them again this year.

Marli Kelly Designs loves to teach people how to create their own Christmas Wreath with real foliage.

In a three hour workshop, guests leave with a beautiful handmade wreath to hang on their door or place on the Christmas table.

Classes sold out quickly again this year. Thank you to all who supported this event.

## WORKSHOPS/EVENTS 2025

We will be hosting a Winter Fashion Parade in 2025 (date to be confirmed) and also some other workshops such as Painting, Macramé and Basket Weaving. Please let us know if you have any other ideas for workshops you would like to attend in the future.

During the busy Christmas and holiday season we have decided to open every day (7 days a week) 10 am to 4 pm for December & January. We will re-assess in February 2025 whether we continue 7 days a week.

### CHRISTMAS HOURS

Late night trading was very popular last year, so we have decided to do it again..

- Friday 13th Dec- 10am-8pm
- Friday 20th Dec 10am-8pm
- Sunday 22nd Dec 10am-7pm
- Monday 23rd Dec 10am-7pm
- Tuesday 24th Dec 10am-6pm (CHRISTMAS EVE)
- CHRISTMAS DAY - CLOSED
- Thursday 26th Dec 10am-4pm
- NEW YEARS EVE - 10am-4pm
- NEW YEARS DAY - 10am - 4pm

### Normal Hours Resume -

OPEN EVERY DAY 10-4pm

We would like to remind our customers that we do accept phone orders and we offer to post items in the mail. Please call 0448 842 881 or email - rushworthgs@iCloud.com

The Store is all stocked up for Christmas and we have a unique range of gifts for all ages.

If you are stuck for an idea - we also offer General Store Rushworth GIFT VOUCHERS for any amount.

We have hampers available and can customise these to your liking.

We have some hampers currently available ranging from \$45 up to \$150.

There is something for everyone and our friendly team members are there to help.

From all of the General Store Rushworth Team we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and safe and prosperous New Year.

Warm Wishes,  
Jasmin





## 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.*

# Reflecting on the life of a wildlife rescuer

It's hard to believe another year has rolled on by so quickly! It has been one with the obligatory mixture of highs and lows; we don't expect anything else in the wildlife rescue world.

Today has been a scorching hot day and is still 35 degrees Celsius outside on the veranda at 9.36 pm as I write. Tomorrow will be cooler at least. The day has been steady with calls, but not as busy as I expected with the heat of today. Thankfully it is only one day.

This is the time of year many people are preparing for and looking forward to a hard earned holiday. Life for us at the shelter is quite different. We recognise and celebrate like the next household...but my kids know I can be called out at any time and it's a given that this happens on Christmas Eve and Day, as well as at New Year.

Weekends for us are no different than weekdays, they can actually be busier as more people are out and about outdoors and find wildlife in trouble. For each and every one of you who stop to help and call to get assistance for wildlife, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You are the first on site to help and we are the 'paramedics' who tend to the patients. It is a team effort by people

who care which gives our critters a second chance to get back out into their wild homes.

Although busy, it's a time I always feel at home in. The house is full of various baby birds, cheeping, chirruping, humming, although I cannot find words to describe the constant and penetrating sounds the galahs, cockatoos and corella babes make – maybe it's akin to a creaking door only times ten the volume!

Our days start early with bird feeds and calls then after the first call-out I am often out on the road until well after dark. If I'm lucky, I may get time to come home to the shelter for a short while before hitting the road again. At the end of the day, I'm exhausted. There are nights I fall asleep with my boots on because an intended powernap has turned into a necessary sleep.

Sometimes I ponder what life may look like if wildlife rescue was not my life; it is difficult to even imagine. In that moment when I begin to think how much easier it could make things, the flip side always comes to mind – what would become of the wildlife who need a helping hand if I stopped and they found nowhere else to get help?

It is becoming harder and harder for wildlife shelters to operate. The costs have

climbed markedly and because we are few and far between, we are all tired. If I want to be reminded of the reason I do it, I only have to think of the Tawny Frogmouth chicks and Rosella chicks now grown and preparing for release. The pelican from the fish farm being released tomorrow as his wounds are healed. The native ducks who are flying in and out from the rehab dam since being released and the ducklings in light boxes inside who will grow to join them.

I guess for me the busy season means long days, utter exhaustion and, most of all, the hope that I feel for the world when there is new life all around me.

A very special shout out to my family for putting up with shelter life and for all the work they put in tending the critters while I attend rescues and pick ups, it would be impossible without them.

An extra loud shout out for the kind hearted support we receive in the form of donations. We couldn't keep our doors open without you all. Deb and I are always humbled by the support we receive.

I wish you all a safe and wonderful Christmas/New Year from all of us here at Bohollow. Bring on the adventures of 2025!

*Kirsty*

### ***Bohollow calendars 2025 supporting wildlife rescue***



The popular Bohollow calendars featuring Kirsty's superb wildlife photography are again available for 2025. These can be purchased for \$25 at a number of the region's veterinary clinics, including FarrierVet, Shepparton Veterinary Clinic, Kialla Veterinary Clinic, Mooroopna Veterinary Clinic, G.V. Vets, Echuca Veterinary Clinic, Kyabram Veterinary Clinic, Euroa Central Veterinary Clinic, Nagambie Central Veterinary Clinic.

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



## ON THE BRINK *by Neil Laurie*

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

### Reindeer

This Brink has a Christmas theme: reindeer. Some readers may remember an earlier Brink column about caribou. Caribou and reindeer are the same species, the main difference between them being geographic. Caribou are from Arctic North America and reindeer are from the far north of Scandinavia and Russia. Caribou are completely wild animals whereas reindeer can be wild, semi-wild or domesticated.

The caribou and reindeer populations have plummeted, largely due to the effects of global warming (about four times faster in the arctic than the rest of the world), on their habitats. They live mainly on the tundra, primarily eating lichens and shrubs. The problem is that with a warmer climate the forests are creeping north, encroaching on the tundra. Another key issue for the caribou and reindeer is during winter they dig through the powdery snow to graze. With warmer winters the snow can get slushy or rained on and then refreezes into concrete-hard icy snow which is almost impossible for the deer to dig through, leading to starvation.

The lives of the Sami of northern Scandinavia are so closely linked, culturally

and financially, to the reindeer that should the reindeer population crash, so will the Sami way of life. While there are significant herds of wild reindeer, particularly in Norway, most of the reindeer are in Sami herds.

The reindeer of the Sami and other ethnic groups in Russia provide another twist to climate change. The growth of shrubs marks the beginning of the trees invading the tundra. This 'shrubification' acts like a blanket keeping the ground and snow under the shrubs warmer, accelerating the whole process. However, it has been discovered that the Sami's reindeer can be used to fight shrubification.

The border between Norway and Finland is fenced -reindeer cannot cross into the other country. It has been noticed that on the Finish side of the border there are few shrubs and the tundra is largely intact while on the Norwegian side there are more shrubs and less tundra (it is even noticeable on Google Earth). Why?

The answer lies in differing herd management practices either side of the border. In Finland reindeer herding is

more 'hands-off' with the deer left on the tundra all year while in Norway the deer are moved into enclosures to be hand fed over the winter. It was found that in Finland the reindeer were browsing on the shrubs when snow made lichen was less accessible and also trampling them in the process. The reindeer were not only stopping the spread of the forest but were also slowing down climate change. It is an example of how a simple, easy thing can have a big effect.

While the caribou and reindeer are the same species (*Rangifer tarandus*) there is a subspecies, *Rangifer tarandus rudolphii*, which is distinguishable by its red nose and is seldom seen except for late December.

*Merry Christmas*



## Greens Lake to close for New Year's Eve

Greens Lake at Corop will be temporarily closed over the New Year period to ensure public safety.

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) first closed the lake for the New Year's period in 2014 at the urging of emergency services following several unsafe situations that occurred at the lake. The lake has since been closed around the same time for each subsequent year.

GMW Water Delivery Services general manager Warren Blyth said continuing to

close the lake was the sensible decision.

"The advice from emergency services is that we continue to close Greens Lake during the New Year's holiday period," he said.

"Doing so has effectively reduced the type of incidents that led to the closure, so it is the safest option available."

Greens Lake will be closed from 10 am on Tuesday, 31 December 2024 and reopen at 12 pm (noon) on Wednesday, 1 January 2025.

Members of the public who are camping at Greens Lake before the closure must

remove their camps before leaving the area.

"We have been closing the lake at this time for a decade now, so most potential visitors are aware that spending the New Year there is not an option

"We appreciate people's continued cooperation and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday period."

For more information, phone the GMW Customer Experience Team on 1800 013 357, or visit the GMW website.



**Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival Committee**  
wishes our stallholders and all who have supported our markets a very **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

**We hope to see you at our 2025 Markets**  
Last Market for 2024 – Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> December  
First Market for 2025 – Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> January  
Easter Festival - Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2025

Proudly sponsored by:

  
 Community Bank  
Rushworth & District

  
 Campaspe  
Shire Council

  
 Bendigo Bank

**Rushworth Post Office**

*We wish all our customers a safe season*

**Ph. 5856 1201**





# Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our Kinder kids wind up the year with song and dance

The families of the Rushworth Kindergarten came to together on Thursday November 28 to celebrate the the winding up of kinder year.

The children entertained their families with a concert, performing a number of dances for their captive audience.

Some of the dances performed on the night included Ghost Busters, Eye of the Tiger, Gangnam Style and We Will Rock You.

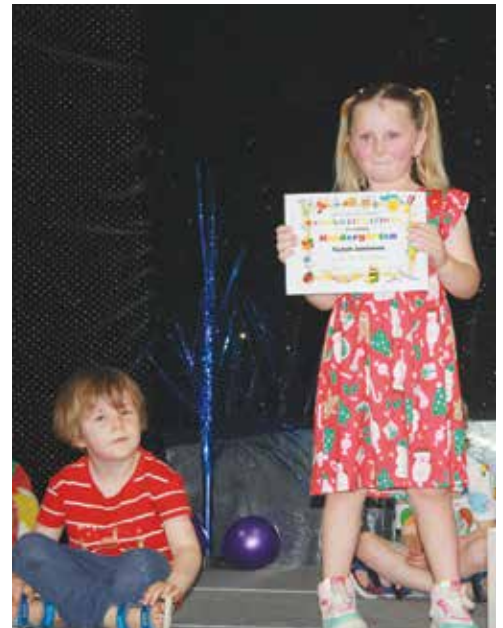
Following the children's amazing performances the graduating class of 2024 were presented with graduation certificates and their portfolios from the year.



The Kinder children enjoyed performing for their families.



Ryleigh Bradshaw and Payton Thompson get right into the groove.



Taylah Jamieson receives her graduation certificate

## Christmas card competition winners announced

Artwork by three primary school students will feature on the cover of Nationals Member for Euroa Annabelle Cleeland's Christmas card this year.

Clare Bickerton of St John's Primary School in Euroa, Evie Holland of Puckapunyal Primary School, and Macey Shields of St Mary's College Seymour were chosen as the winners of the competition for their brilliant designs.

Ms Cleeland invited students from schools across the region to design a card that reflects what they love best about their local area, with a touch of Christmas.

Hundreds of entries were received this year, with Ms Cleeland excited to keep the tradition running for future years.

"I was looking for a design that meaningfully

represented our great part of the state and I was very impressed with the way these students captured the spirit of Christmas in our region," Ms Cleeland said.

"Our young students have incredible artistic talent and the designs they created were outstanding.

"The students took inspiration from a range of places and facets of life in our electorate, including our native animals, our warm Australian summer, as well as some classic drawings of Santa, reindeers, and Christmas trees.

"Looking through the beautiful designs our local students created was a wonderful way to end the year, and I sincerely thank the students and schools for taking the time to design a Christmas card for me this year."

While Clare, Evie, and Macey were announced as the overall winners, designs from twelve other students from schools across the region will be featured on the back of Ms Cleeland's card.

These include Sammy (Heathcote Primary School), Lani (Nagambie Primary School), Lily (Stanhope Primary School), Lucas (St Patrick's Kilmore), Dusty (Broadford Primary School), Jaymz (Seymour College), Finley (St Joseph's Nagambie), Sully (St Joseph's Benalla), Vince (St Mary's Rushworth), Zara (Girgarre Primary School), Nyah (Euroa Primary School), and Maddi (Benalla P-12).

"In the eyes of our children, Christmas is about being together, sharing a meal, and making lasting memories," Ms Cleeland said.

"Our littlest people remind us of the true spirit of the season through their creativity and show us that presence is more important than presents.



# St Mary's end of year Mass and Yr 6 Graduation

The Year 6 students once again demonstrated great leadership during the Graduation Mass. Another big thank you goes to all the readers and participants in the Mass, they showed maturity, poise and remained calm while speaking in front of the packed, hot St Mary's Catholic Church.

After the Mass speeches were given. Mr Ryan presented the cheque to Mrs Maree Stewart for St Vinnies. Then he awarded Mason and Jensen for the Kindness Matters Award. Similarly, Mrs Parry, Mrs Brook and Mrs Brockett gave their speeches for the recipients of the prestigious Mary of the Cross MacKillop Awards to Alyssa, Zoe and Ollie respectively.

Following this, the Yr 6's were gifted a Mary MacKillop bottle brush plant and a school photo. Mrs Brockett spoke to each student in her speech of their individual qualities. Here is an excerpt from the end of her speech:

'It's been a true privilege to watch the Graduating Class of 2024 learn, grow, and become the remarkable individuals they are today. Over the past 600ish days, they've shown incredible leadership, enthusiasm, and perseverance, inspiring everyone around them.

You will be missed, but I'm excited for the new friendships and adventures that lie ahead for you. Always remember to appreciate the



**2024 Yr 6 St Mary's School Graduates. L to R Ollie, Logan, Ameila, Ruby, Charlii, Sofia, Pippa and Heath. Absent: Ethan**

small things—this will keep life real and help you maintain a positive mindset. As you move on to high school, I'm confident you will look back on your time at St. Mary's with gratitude for the lessons, successes, and friendships that have shaped you. Carry the spirit of St Mary's with you and let the words of Saint Mary MacKillop guide you: "Never see a need without doing something about it."

May God bless you all on your journey. May you continue to make a positive impact, just as you've done here, and thrive as you move on to high school.'

A big thank you to Fr Minh from Holy Rosary Parish in White Hills, Bendigo, who has travelled to Rushworth all year for our School Masses.



**Mary MacKillop Award for Yr 5/6, Ollie, with Yr 5/6 classroom teacher Mrs Brockett and Fr Minh.**



**Zoe the Mary MacKillop Award winner in Yr 3/4 with Mrs Brook, Yr 3/4 classroom teacher, and Fr Minh.**

## Mini Vinnies

This year the Year 3/4 have sold zooper doopers to the whole school on Tuesday's and Thursdays in Term's 1 and 4 to raise money for St Vincent de Paul via Mini Vinnies. This year the students have raised approximately \$320. Well done, on the team efforts to make this happen, Mrs Brook and Mrs Jamieson and Yr 3/4.

**Front Row from LHS: Matilda, Sienna, Taya (squatting) Mason and Bryce (holding Zooper Doopers- icy tubes)**

**Back row from LHS: Amelia, Ebony, Ella, Liam and Conor.**

**Far right: L-R Mason, Mr Ryan and Jensen. Recipients of the Kindness Matters Awards St Mary's Rushworth.**





# Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our St Mary's Specialist Showcase

St Mary's School hosted a vibrant Specialist Showcase last Friday, highlighting the diverse talents and achievements of students across various disciplines.

The event featured Science Exploration projects, where students presented their hands-on experiments, demonstrating their understanding of key scientific concepts, from chemical reactions to sustainability initiatives.

The Art section of the showcase was equally impressive, with students displaying a wide range of creative works, including paintings, sculptures made from recycled materials, and paper art. These pieces highlighted their artistic skills and imaginative expression, developed through exploration of various techniques and materials.

Well done to Mrs Jamieson and all the staff involved in organising the event—it looked amazing! It was wonderful to see students proudly sharing their artwork with family and friends.

The Performing Arts photos, shown on the Amphitheatre's projector, featured moments from the school's successful production 'The Lighting Express', written and produced by Ms Parry. The images captured the energy and excitement of the performance, showcasing the hard work and talent of the students involved in drama, music, and stage production. The

play, a vibrant adventure story, was a major highlight of the year, reflecting the dedication of both the students and Ms Parry.

Overall, the Specialist Showcase was not only an opportunity to celebrate student work but also to emphasize the school's commitment to providing a well-rounded education. Through projects in Science, Art and Performing Arts, the event demonstrated the school's dedication to nurturing creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. It was a proud moment for both students and staff, reflecting the strong, holistic educational foundation they are building together at St Mary's!



Ruby showing mum, Rebecca, her art work while Suzie (foreground) admires the art display.



Mia proudly shows her art work.



Liam and Brylee show off their art pieces.



Pippa displaying her art piece at Specialist Showcase.

## Advent Liturgy led by Years 5 / 6

On Friday of the second week of Advent the school's Advent Liturgy, was led by Years 5/6, in the school's lovely Amphitheatre, following on from the Specialist Showcase.

On the Sunday of second week of Advent, the candle is lit symbolising Peace.

As part of the liturgy, the students learnt how many Aboriginal people find comfort in Mary, the Spiritual Mother, as they are now disconnected from their land.

Listening to elders and attuning to the seasons were central to Aboriginal life, deepening their connection with the Creator Spirit. This bond is fulfilled through Mary, an ordinary girl who, by listening and trusting in the Creator's message, became the mother of Jesus, bringing the Word of God to all cultures.

For Christian Aboriginal people, the coolamon—a vessel for carrying babies, seeds, and food—becomes a powerful Advent symbol. At the start of Advent, the coolamon is placed upside down to signify



Pippa and Sophia at the Advent table with the lit Hope and Peace candles along with the upside down Coolamons.

waiting for Jesus' birth. On Christmas Day, it is turned upright to receive the Spirit Child, symbolising Jesus as spiritual nourishment, as in the Eucharist.



Mia and St Mary's display.



Charlii and Sofia with some of the art on display.



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

# Sun shines on St Mary's annual Swimming Carnival

Last Monday, the St Mary's community enjoyed its annual Swimming Carnival at Stanhope Swimming Pool. The perfect weather and enthusiastic participation made the event a great success.

Senior students stood out for their positive attitudes and encouragement. Congratulations to Pippa and Heath for their race wins!

The staff versus student race was the closest in three years, with just a metre between the teams, especially showcasing Year 6 teamwork. Thanks to Mac (a past St Mary's student) who filled in.

It was great to see all year levels take part, with some students swimming two laps. Special thanks to Mrs Morse for her excellent organisation. Great effort by all!



Charlii and Ruby receiving the Woods Winners Cup at the Swimming Carnival.



Heath and Pippa individual winners at St Mary's Swimming Carnival 2024.

## Jude Rochester Dux



Congratulations to Jude Ryan from Colbinabbin who has taken out the title of Rochester Secondary College Dux for 2024 with an impressive VCE ATAR of 95.05.

## St Mary's students KK tradition lives on

The students at St Mary's participate in the KK tradition each year for the Advent season. It's great to see so many already prepared with their small gifts, which will be handed out on the last day of term. The focus behind the gift giving is for students to show kindness to their KK person while embracing the Christmas spirit.



Isaac and Lylaa with KK gifts and Christmas tree in the F/1/2 room.

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*We wish you a very festive  
Christmas and New Year  
Closed Christmas Day*





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# 2025 P-12 College Captains announced

The College has finalised the student leadership selection for next year and I have the great pleasure to announce the positions:

**School Captains:** Ella Johnstone and Millie Simpson

**House Captains:** Jemma Albrey (Brocklebank) Jackie Jones (McNamara)

**School Representative Council (SRC) Leader:** Rachelle Rodwell

These students all presented a great case for their leadership of the school in 2025 and demonstrated their capacity and passion to make key improvements to the school next year. It will be great to have their support with ensuring that all students are safe, listened to and included, and overall helping to make the school climate more positive for all.

*Mr Peter Bovell,  
Acting Principal*

## 2025 Primary Captains announced

After a round or two of applications and interviews it was announced that Gypsy Harrison and Mohammed Salem will be Primary Captains for 2025.



Mohammed and Gypsy are looking forward to being the Primary Captains at Rushworth P-12 College in 2025.

## Rushworth P-12 College Presentation Night 2024 - Award Recipients

- ADF Long Tan Awards – Leadership** - (Year 10) – Matilda Brew
- Prep - Year 6 Endeavour Awards** - Reece Ferguson, Layla Olsen, Hudson Hourigan, Jonathon Goddard-Crilly, Tolly Gleeson, Joshua Hawking, Tyson Jackson, Zandar Parker, Sophie Porter, Wyatt Rodwell, Mohammed Salem, Eli Shelton, Edward Wicks, Armani Salem
- Year 7 - 9 Endeavour Awards** - Archer Finnigan, Aiden Porter, Charlotte Sumner, Desiree Swallow, Makayla Lockwood, Emma-Leigh Marshall, Eryn Kruizinga, Nevaeh Shelton, Ellis Roberts, Keleigh Balmer, Michelle Fung, Kaelee Wicks.
- Year 10-12 Endeavour Awards** - Emily McLean, Matilda Brew, Amelia Simpson, Jemma Albrey, Teaghan Robertson, Jacquelyn Jones, Haylee Marshall, Tamikah Clark, Chloe Johnstone.
- Dawes Vary Riordan Legal Prize** - Sharmayne Robertson
- Campaspe Cohuna LLEN VET Excellence Award** - Amelia Simpson, Ella Johnstone
- Rushworth & District Community Bank Community Spirit Award – (Year 5/6)** - Godfree Freeman
- Rushworth & District Community Bank Endeavour Award (Year 10)** - Haylee Marshall
- Jeanette Wallace Literacy & Numeracy Awards - Literacy** – Jacob Salem, Joshua Hawking, **Numeracy** – Erick Curtis, Wyatt Rodwell
- Year 6 Grace Semmens Medal (DUX)** - Zandar Parker
- Domain Excellence Award Winners**
- English** - (Year 7) – Faith Hickford., (Year 8) – Cooper Gleeson, (Year 9) – Keleigh Balmer, (Year 10) – Matilda Brew, (Year 11) – Teaghan Robertson, (Year 12) – Sharmayne Robertson
- Maths** - (Year 7) – Michael Evans, (Year 8) – Desiree Swallow, (Year 9) – Keleigh Balmer, (Year 10) – Matilda Brew, (Year 11) – Teaghan Robertson
- Humanities** - (Year 7) – Jasmine Horton, (Year 8) – Aiden Porter, (Year 9) – Matilda Lockwood, (Year 10) – Amelia Woodfine, (Year 11) - Amelia Simpson
- Arts** - (Year 7) – Nevaeh Shelton, (Year 8) – Ellah Langman – Airs, (Year 9) – Archer Finnigan, (Year 10) – Brodie Shepherd
- Health & Physical Education** - (Year 7) – Jasmine Horton, (Year 8) – Aiden Porter, (Year 9) – Keleigh Balmer, (Year 10) – Chloe Johnstone, (Year 11) – Jemma Albrey
- Science** - (Year 7) – Jasmine Horton, (Year 8) – Charlotte Sumner, (Year 9) – Keleigh Balmer, (Year 10) – Matilda Brew, (Year 11) – Teaghan Robertson
- Design Technology** - (Year 7) – Billie Johnstone, (Year 8) – Evie Jones, (Year 9) – Will Patrick, (Year 10) – Charlie McLean, (Year 11) – Jemma Albrey
- Food Technology** - (Year 7) – Kaelee Wicks, (Year 9) – Emma Leigh Marshall, (Year 10) – Matilda Brew, (Year 11) – Rachelle Rodwell
- Marg Hoelter Art Award** - Charlotte Sumner
- College Sports Star Award** - Keleigh Balmer
- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards** - Keleigh Balmer, James Bloomfield, Aydan Braun, Makayla Lockwood, Matilda Lockwood, Emma-Leigh Marshall, Tyra Roberts, Noah Saltmarsh, Bryce Shepherd
- HOPE (Hands on Practical Education)** - Archer Finnigan
- VALUES Awards ASPIRATION** - Lily Collyer, Desmond Curtis, Calais Harris, Jacob Salem, Mohammed Salem, Sophia Porter, Zandar Parker, Tyson Jackson, Layla Flynn, Eli Shelton, Gypsy Harrison, Edward Wicks, Samuel Finnigan, Jasmine Horton, Mia McGowan, Kaelee Wicks, Michael Evans, Desiree Swallow, Aiden Porter, Charlotte Sumner, Conor Finnigan, Shyanne Jessup, Joe Bathman, Archer Finnigan, Keleigh Balmer, Will Patrick, Emma-Leigh Marshall, Makayla Lockwood, Will Patrick, Amelia Woodfine, Matilda Brew, Emily McLean, Brodie Shepherd, Ella Johnstone, Teaghan Robertson, Amelia Simpson, Jacquelyn Jones, Jemma Albrey, Rachelle Rodwell, Sharmayne Robertson
- VALUES Awards PRIDE** - Douglas Wicks, Jacob Salem, Reece Ferguson, Wyatt Rodwell, Joshua Hawking, Zac Marshall, Billie Johnstone, Eryn Kruizinga, Michelle Fung, Zac Bergman, Kaelee Wicks, Romy Conway, Noak Donders, Aiden Porter, Charlotte Sumner, Lailah Francis, Keleigh Balmer, Makayla Lockwood, Emma-Leigh Marshall, Tyra Roberts, Matilda Brew, Emily McLean, Brodie Shepherd, Jemma Albrey, Ella Johnstone, Teaghan Robertson, Amelia Simpson, Rachelle Rodwell, Oscar Warneke
- VALUES Awards RESPECT** - Tolly Gleeson, Jake Flynn, Flynn Braun, Sophia Porter, Antavia Shaw, Michelle Fung, Jasmine Horton, Declan Hawking, Rory Bone, Noah Donders, Aiden Porter, Joe Bathman, Lailah Francis, Bryce Shepherd, Keleigh Balmer, Archer Finnigan, Emma-Leigh Marshall, Tyra Roberts, Aydan Braun, Seth Slama, Tamikah Clark, Matilda Brew, Emily McLean, Haylee Marshall, Noah Saltmarsh, Brodie Shepherd, Amelia Simpson, Rachelle Rodwell, Teaghan Robertson



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# Year 6 Graduation celebration

On Thursday 12 December the Year 6 Students celebrated their achievement of finishing Primary School.

In front of friends, family, staff and peers each student shared their presentations and spoke about their aspirations for their future. It was a great way to celebrate all that these students have achieved over the past seven years. We wish them all the best of luck as they head into Year 7 next year.

*Miss Russell*



**Pictured with Miss Russell and Mr Bovell are our Year 6 graduates.**

# Celebrating the Class of 2024

**The Senior are a bit different this year. For the first time in a long time we had a very small cohort of Year 12 students.**

Recently we celebrated the achievements of our two VCE Vocational Majors, Sharmayne and Oscar, with a special, intimate celebratory lunch with their families in our new building.

Our 'Chef' Steve Rix was capably assisted by some of the VCE Food Technology students, Rachelle, Teaghan, Flynn and Hayley, who donated their time to assist.

The menu provided was well received.

Mr Cloake hosted the event, and by all accounts those in attendance enjoyed their afternoon.

All at the College wish Sharmayne and Oscar all the best in their future endeavours.



**Right: Mr Bovell congratulating Oscar on his Year 12 successes.**

**Far Right: Mr Bovell congratulating Sharmayne on her Year 12 successes.**

## VCE Dinner Menu

### Main

Braised Lamb Shank on Garlic Mashed Potato and fresh buttered beans and finished with a beef jus.

Filo wrapped Chicken Breast filled with sundried tomatoes and fetta on a potato rosti, accompanied with snow peas and a garlic cream sauce.

### Dessert

Vanilla Bean Panna Cotta with a berry compote.  
Individual Sticky Date Pudding with a butterscotch sauce and double cream.





# Have your say!

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

## Campaspe Mayor's Christmas message

As Christmas approaches, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the year we've had. There have been both challenges and opportunities across our Shire, and it is the way we respond to these that shows the true character of our communities.

From volunteers helping those in need to local businesses adapting to tough times, everyone has played a part in making our Shire a great and welcoming place to live, and I am always proud to see evidence of the strength and kindness of our community.

The festive season is a time to enjoy the simple things — sharing meals with family and friends, appreciating our beautiful surroundings, and taking part in local events.

This time of the year can also be sad or lonely for some, so I encourage you to check on friends and neighbours; something as simple as a conversation or a kind gesture can help make a difference.

I want to thank all the community groups, emergency services, and council staff who work hard throughout the year to keep our Shire safe and welcoming. Your efforts are truly appreciated.



As we look forward to the new year, let's carry forward the spirit of Christmas — kindness, generosity, and hope. Together, we can continue to build a strong and connected community.

On behalf of the Campaspe Shire Council, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

*Mayor  
Daniel Mackrell*

## Congratulations Campaspe Council

Campaspe Council are to be congratulated for their vote to send their objection to the Department of Transport and Planning calling for the Minister to reject Venn Energy's Cooba Solar Project at Colbinabbin.

While the council has already endorsed solar projects at Carag Carag, Stanhope, Girgarre, Corop, and Muskerry, they have recognised that the highly productive land with its unique soils, microclimate, irrigation, infrastructure is best preserved for our future food security and sustainability. If only Venn Energy consulted with the Campaspe Council to locate a site in the shire suitable for such a large-scale industrial facility, then neighbours and community would have been saved two years of considerable mental stress and strain fighting for land, wineries and wildlife corridors that should never have been considered for industrial development in the first place.

*Kind regards  
Claire Tuohey  
Colbinabbin*

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Annual subscriptions \$65.00 posted - \$30.00 online  
[wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)

## Lodge your objections

Colbinabbin community is facing its biggest agricultural challenge of all time given the public notice that has been issued by Venn Developers for the largest solar factory in Australia.

If this goes ahead it will change the landscape of Colbinabbin and community for ever.

The application is deficit in many ways, including fire risk, Indigenous and European heritage, damage to roads, and wrong use of prime agricultural land.

Further it is smack bang in the middle of the Heathcote Geographical Index for Viticulture which is an international index.

We urge you to lodge your objections by email before Christmas by following the reference below.

The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP  
Minister for Planning  
Department of Transport and Planning  
GPO BOX 2392  
MELBOURNE Vic 3001  
[development.approvals@transport.vic.gov.au](mailto:development.approvals@transport.vic.gov.au)

Re: PA2403122  
Address of Land:  
124 Cornella Church Rd, COLBINAABIN VIC 3559  
Plain Road COLBINABBIN Vic, 3559

*Mary Ann Morgan, Lawyer  
40 Burgundy St  
Heidelberg*



## RUSHWORTH METRO FUEL

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from our family to yours. Happy holidays! Metro Rushworth.

God blessed us with a baby girl so on this occasion we want to discount some beverages, snacks and other grocery items to know more about the discounts please head to the store.



*Harja Kaur Toor*

Open 7 days  
22 High Street, Rushworth, 3612.  
Ph: 5856 1548



# Brolga breeding success

Rushworth Field and Game along with a local farmer are celebrating the successful hatching of a pair of young brolgas on his wetland.

The brolga parents also seem quite chuffed and protective of their young chicks. The farmer has been quietly awaiting a photo opportunity, having seen the chicks a few weeks back. Since seeing the chicks earlier, they have not been sighted which is normal until they start to develop feathers.

Although not unknown, it is also unusual to have two chicks because they only lay one egg or leave the area with the successfully hatched chick.

The farmer has been removing foxes on a regular basis for many years and, combined with fox shoots carried out by Rushworth Field and Game, this has created a safe nesting environment for brolgas in Northern Victorian wetlands.

The wetland these brolgas breed on was filled and maintained by the farmer, so it is a particularly satisfying result

Rushworth Field and Game Conservation officer Graeme Wall said there had been four successful hatchings in the local area this year which was particularly satisfying after a relatively dry winter.

Brolga numbers continue to improve in the Corop area but there are always opportunities to improve on this success with developing habitat and predator reduction




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*Rex and staff would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!*

**126 Hogan Street, TATURA, VIC, 3612.**



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Lipshut Law.**

**Thank you for your support throughout the year.**

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We will continue to be available for you over the break on 0417 134 929 and [geoff@lipshutlaw.com.au](mailto:geoff@lipshutlaw.com.au)

With thanks, Geoff, Robyn, Lucy, Carmel, Helen, and Geraldine



# GVHealth Waranga Health News

December 2024



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



It has been a pleasure being part of the Waranga Health family and local communities over the last year.

At this special time of year, we give thanks for our residents, patients and their families who make our jobs enjoyable and our lives more fulfilling.

Working with them year-round is an honour and a privilege, and we look forward to continuing our partnerships next year.

During the holiday season as we reflect on the good things we have and the strong local support of our services, we are grateful to be part of this amazing community.

I hope that the holidays and the coming year will bring you all happiness and success.

Happy and Safe Christmas Season to all.  
- Nadiene Jerram, Director of Nursing, Waranga Campus

## TAKING A WELL EARNED BREAK

The Rushworth Carer Support Group recently had a Christmas lunch. It was a chance for our carers to take a break and enjoy an early Christmas celebration. We thank the Community Bank Rushworth and District for their ongoing support with funding that allows us to provide meals and outings for our carers throughout the year.



## SAVE THE DATE

### Prostate Cancer Information Session

Guest speaker: Sonia Strachan Prostate Cancer Nurse

When: Thursday 30 January 2025

Where: Rushworth Cricket Club

Time: 7pm

All community members are welcome.

## HELPING THOSE IN NEED



A huge thankyou to the Rushworth, Stanhope and Colbinabbin community for your generosity, kindness and support for the 2024 Share the Dignity 'It's In The Bag' Christmas campaign.

A total of 38 bags were donated - an amazing effort in times when many families are already struggling.

These donations will help share a little love and hope to women in need at Christmas time, in particular those women and girls staying in a domestic violence refuge or homeless shelter.

## CELEBRATING THREE DECADES OF HEALTHCARE



Congratulations to Kylie Rogerson, who recently celebrated 30 years at GV Health. Here's what Kylie had to say after reaching the milestone.

"Working at Waranga, my hometown, has been rewarding and valuable.

I work with a great team and feel privileged and proud to work locally.

GV Health provided me with the opportunity to support my nursing career and ongoing professional development needs.

I love and appreciate working within my community."

## NOTICEBOARD

### Community Walking Group

When: Thursdays

Where: Meet front of Waranga Health, 14 High Street, Rushworth

Time: 8am - 9am

No cost

All abilities welcome

### Rushworth AA Group

When: Thursdays

Where: Waranga Health

Time: 7pm

No cost

Phone: Jenny 0430 103 145 for more information

### Carer Support Group

When: Thursday 6 February 2025

Where: Rushworth Community House

Time: 2pm - 4pm

New members welcome

Phone: (03) 5851 8026 for more information

### Women's Health Clinic

When: Wednesday 19 February 2025

Where: Waranga Health

Time: 2pm - 5pm

No cost

By appointment

Phone: (03) 5851 8000 to make an appointment

## WARANGA HEALTH - COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE

PHONE (03) 5851 8000 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON:

Alcoholics Anonymous

Cardiology

Country Hearing Care

District Nursing

Exercise Physiologist

Podiatry

QUIT Educator

Women's Health / Sexual Health

Nurse

Waranga Campus Rushworth | P: (03) 5851 8000

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



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





# Kids Corner

- interesting things to know!

**Hey Kids! Merry Christmas and happy holidays!** There are so many beautiful (and delicious) fruits in season at this time of year - in this bumper edition of the Waranga News we are taking a look at Fruit Salad ingredients.

**A blueberry** is a berry; a very small fruit. It grows in a type of woody plant called a shrub. Many types of blueberries grow in North America and eastern Asia.



Blueberries have a sweet taste, with a little acidic hint. Wild blueberries have a stronger taste. Blueberries are good for making jelly, jam, pies, muffins and many other foods. The most widely cultivated species of blueberry is *Vaccinium corymbosum*. Some similar kinds of berries are called

blueberry or huckleberry in different places.

**A cherry** is a fruit that grows on a tree or a bush. It belongs to the genus *Prunus*. It is red in colour, with a seed in the middle. It tastes slightly sour and is often used to flavour cakes and ice cream, or is baked in a pie or cobbler. Cherries are also a good source of Vitamin B.

**Kiwifruit** (*Actinidia deliciosa*) is a fruit. It has an oval shape. It is green on the inside with small black seeds that can be eaten. The kiwi has furry brown skin that is edible but is usually removed. The skin is relatively thin.

The kiwi is native to South China and China produced 50% of the world total of kiwifruit in 2017.

The fruit was named in 1959 after the kiwi, a bird and the symbol of New Zealand. Before that, its English name was Chinese gooseberry.

The kiwifruit is healthy and contains many vitamins and minerals. Kiwis are rich in vitamin C, vitamin K, potassium, and fibre. Kiwis have more vitamin C than an equivalent amount of orange.

The fruit of a **strawberry** (*Fragaria ananassa*) is rose when ripe, and has edible seeds on the outside. Many people eat strawberries on ice cream or dip them in sugar. Strawberries are rich in vitamin C and manganese. Many strawberries are grown on strawberry farms and the farmers often have hives of bees that live on the farm to pollinate the strawberries. Strawberries are technically aggregate fruits, containing more than one fruit. Strawberry stems are called runners. They grow above ground. They are a type of stolon. Seeds (the achenes) are the true fruit.

**A raspberry** is an aggregate fruit, meaning it has many parts joined together. It is similar to a blackberry but the fruit is hollow on the inside. There are many different species of raspberry plants, but only a few of them have fruit that are sold in grocers. Leaves of the raspberry plant are also used fresh or dried in herbal teas. The raspberry is red when ripe, and is also a source of nectar for juices.

**The blackberry** is an edible fruit made by any of several species in the *Rubus* genus of the Rosaceae family. The blackberry shrub is called "bramble" in Britain, but in the western U.S. "caneberry" is the term used for both blackberries and raspberries.

It is a widespread and well known group of over 375 species which reproduce by apomixis. They are native all over the temperate northern hemisphere and South America. The blackberry grows to about 3 m in height. It makes an edible black fruit known by the same name. The plant tolerates poor soil very well.

**Grapes** are the fruit of a woody grape vine. Grapes can be eaten raw, or used for making wine, juice, and jelly/jam. Grapes come in different colours; red, purple, white and green are some examples. Today, grapes can be seedless, by using machines to pit the fruit.

Wild grapevines are often considered a nuisance weed, as they cover other plants with their usually rather aggressive growth.



**A plum** is a sweet fruit that grows on a plum tree. The scientific name for the tree is *Prunus domestica*. When the fruit is dried, it is called a prune. The color "plum" takes its name from the fruit.

*Prunus domestica* is the European plum. Most of the plums we eat are grown on varieties of this tree. Greengages and damsons are varieties of plum.

**The peach** (*Prunus persica*) is a deciduous tree native to the region of Northwest China between the Tarim Basin and the north slopes of the Kunlun Mountains, where it was first domesticated and cultivated. It bears an edible juicy fruit called a peach or a nectarine.

The specific name *persica* refers to its widespread cultivation in Persia (modern-day Iran), from where it was transplanted to Europe. It belongs to the genus *Prunus* which includes the cherry, apricot, almond and plum, in the rose family. The peach is classified with the almond in the subgenus *Amygdalus*, distinguished from the other subgenera by the corrugated seed shell. Due to their close relatedness, the inside of a peach stone tastes remarkably similar to almond, and peach stones are often used to make a cheap version of marzipan, known as persipan.

**The pineapple** was brought to northern Europe by the Dutch from their colony in Surinam. The first pineapple to be successfully cultivated in Europe, is said to have been grown by Pieter de la Court at Meerburg in 1658.

**A banana** is the common name for a type of fruit and also the name for the herbaceous plants that grow it. These plants belong to the genus *Musa*. They are native to the tropical region of southeast Asia.

It is thought that bananas were grown for food for the first time in Papua New Guinea. Today, they are cultivated in tropical regions around the world. Most banana plants are grown for their fruits, which botanically are a type of berry. Some are grown as ornamental plants, or for their fibres.



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

- |            |          |       |
|------------|----------|-------|
| WATERMELON | TROPICAL | SALAD |
| BLACKBERRY | MANDARIN | MANGO |
| STRAWBERRY | DAMSONS  | GRAPE |
| GOOSEBERRY | APRICOT  | PEACH |
| NECTARINE  | BANANA   | KIWI  |
| RASPBERRY  | CHERRY   | PLUM  |
| BLUEBERRY  | ORANGE   |       |
| PINEAPPLE  | FRUIT    |       |



## TV Mass lives on

Australia's longest-running religious television program, Mass for You at Home, will continue its ministry into 2025.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Diocese of Wollongong have signed an agreement to continue producing and broadcasting the program, which first aired on Australian television in 1971.

Mass for You at Home will be broadcast every Sunday at 6 am on the Ten Network and multiple times during the week on Foxtel's Aurora (Channel 173).

Wollongong Bishop Brian Mascord said he was delighted Mass for You at Home would continue in 2025 and emphasised the importance of the program in providing a spiritual lifeline to those unable to attend Mass in person.

"For 54 years, Mass for You at Home has been a vital link to the source and summit of the Christian life for those who are unable to attend in person, including parishioners in prisons, nursing homes and those who are sick or housebound," Bishop Mascord said.

An important part of the program is Auslan interpretation for the deaf community, which will continue in 2025.

Bishop Mascord expressed heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of support from viewers, dioceses, religious orders, and sponsors – including major sponsor Catholic Mission – which enabled the program to continue.

"I have been deeply moved by the prayers and generous financial support of the Mass for You at Home community," Bishop Mascord said.

"The outpouring of support gave me cause to discern what the Spirit is asking of us at this time."

# 2024 Christmas Messages from Leaders of Christian Churches

Christmas messages from the Australian leaders of fifteen Christian denominations have been published by the National Council of Churches. The messages are prefaced by the following statement from NCCA President, Reverend John Gilmore:

*Love is born  
With a dark and troubled face  
When hope is dead  
And in the most unlikely place  
Love is born  
Love is always born  
(Michael Leunig)*

This poem written by Michael Leunig captures something of the mystery of the birth of Christ celebrated at Christmas. The social reality of the time of Jesus' birth was one of military occupation, and it was an environment of violence with little justice or compassion. This is seen in the decision of Herod to kill first born infants, and the resulting need for the Holy Family to seek asylum in Egypt.

There are parallels with our global environment. What is very different, though, is the ease with which we have all this darkness, trouble and hopelessness presented to us on a daily basis. Media giants thrive on doing this and we can experience hopelessness.

To see, become aware of, and point to love being born takes a different sense of insight and awareness. The Christmas story describes how Mary and Joseph knew love was being born. The shepherds knew this, and the travellers from the East also knew. In a humble setting in Bethlehem, not in a place of power, in a feeding trough love was born.

Love continues to be born in kindness, forgiveness, compassion, peace, and justice. These are among the signs of the continuing presence of Jesus in and around us. In small ways as we nurture the signs of the presence of Jesus, no matter how small they may be, love is born, and it grows.

May you in this Christmas season, wherever you are, and in whatever circumstances you find yourself in, see and experience the ongoing birth of love.

**The Christmas messages from church leaders can be downloaded from the NCCA website [ncca.org.au](http://ncca.org.au)**

### Giving at Christmas

At Christmas, donating to charity is a meaningful way to spread joy and make a positive impact. Whether it's supporting local food banks, children's hospitals, or international relief efforts, your gift can bring comfort and hope to those in need. Many organisations also offer gift options, allowing you to donate in someone's name, making it a meaningful present. In a season focused on giving, contributing to a cause you care about amplifies the true spirit of Christmas—compassion, kindness, and generosity. This holiday, consider making a difference by sharing what you can with others.

## District Church Times and Contacts

### Anglican

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

### Presbyterian

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

### Catholic

St Mary's Parish. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays: Cornella 9am; Stanhope 10.30am. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays: Rushworth 9am; Murchison 10.30am. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: One Parish Mass - Rushworth. Contact a team member on the parish mobile phone: 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](http://warangaunitingchurches.net.au) or can be emailed to you each week.

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



### GRACE BEFORE MEALS

May the hungry be filled with good things,  
and may our table and home be blessed.  
Amen.

## CLIVE COVENTRY FUNERALS

*Providing an individual funeral to celebrate life's journey*

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*Reasonably priced funerals to suit all budgets*

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living the  
**GOOD LIFE**

My brother Noel died last week. He would have turned 74 on Christmas Eve. Despite being only three years older than me, he had been living with early dementia in a nursing home.

My family of origin has never been particularly expressive. We're not big talkers. We are not inclined to share our feelings. For many years, we only met at Christmastime or for occasional, brief visits. Yet for the first sixteen years of my life, Noel and I shared a bedroom. Proximity has a way of creating a certain closeness, even if words are often unspoken.

Noel's death has evoked a mixture of emotions in me. Sadness, but also quiet gratitude for the rhythms of childhood: the simple, everyday experiences that create bonds that outlast the ravages of distance or time.

After Noel died, his wife shared a tender story with me. She had spent the day keeping vigil at Noel's bedside. As evening approached and she prepared to leave, Noel opened his eyes for the first time that day. She leaned in, kissed him on the lips, and to her surprise, he kissed her back. (After his dementia developed, he normally didn't.) Just five minutes later, Noel took his last breath.

This moment, full of both joy and sorrow, reminded me of Brené Brown's description of joy as arising from connection, gratitude, and purpose. Joy, I realised, can co-exist with sorrow, offering a sense of meaning and hope even in the saddest of times.

The death of Noel has also prompted me to reflect on my own health. Last week, I had a colonoscopy, and the surgeon found five polyps. They've been sent off for a biopsy. While I'm optimistic, waiting for the result compels me to confront uncertainty and my mortality.

The four Sundays before Christmas mark the start of the Christian year. It is called Advent. Advent is a season of waiting and preparing for Jesus' coming. Each week we reflect on a different value: hope, courage, joy, and love. These values make an interesting lens for making sense of grief, uncertainty, and mortality.

Grief is such a deeply personal thing, and I've come to realise there's no one "right" way to process it. Each loss I've faced has been different. As a child, I grieved the deaths of pets and grandparents. Later in life, my grief was for my parents, the heartbreak of a broken marriage, and the pain of unwanted career changes. More recently, it's been the deaths of two brothers. Through it all, I've found myself wondering if I'm grieving the "right" way. Am I feeling the sadness I'm supposed to feel? Am I failing to articulate what I believe about the afterlife?

I've come to realise that grief doesn't

## Noël, Noël, Noël, grieving Noel

come in tidy shapes or sizes. It's not just about sadness. It's also about learning to live with loss and trying to make sense of it.

Sometimes, I feel a numbness or quietness when I think I should feel more. Other times, unexpected emotions rise up—anger, guilt, even moments of joy—reminding me how complicated grief can be.

The way I grieve my brothers feels different from how I grieved my parents, and I'm beginning to accept that this difference is okay.

When it comes to the afterlife, I feel uncertain. I don't always know what to believe or how to put it into words. As someone steeped in Christian tradition, I encounter so many different perspectives, from biblical promises to deeply personal and symbolic ideas.

For me, the afterlife feels more like an open-ended mystery. Perhaps it's not about visualising the specifics but trusting that love endures in some way I can't yet fully understand. Yes, my brothers live on in the memories I carry, in the ways they've shaped me, and in the love that still connects us, but I also trust that they live on in the embrace of God.

Grief, I've realised, isn't linear. It ebbs and flows. Some losses feel more "resolved" over time, while others remain tender. Sometimes a new loss even re-awakens the pain of earlier ones. But I'm trying to give myself permission to grieve in my own way, without judging whether I'm "doing it right."

I've found a few things helpful as I navigate this journey. First, I try to accept the ambiguity. There's no perfect way to feel or respond to loss, and it's okay if my grief looks different than I expect.

Second, talking or writing about my memories, my brothers, or even my uncertainty about the afterlife helps me process those emotions.

Third, I've found comfort in honouring the relationships I've lost through rituals or moments of reflection.

And finally, I return to my faith, not looking for fixed answers but for reminders of hope and resurrection. The themes of Advent: hope, courage, joy and love remind me that loss doesn't have the final word.

As I reflect on this season of Advent, I'm reminded that waiting is a central part of faith. Advent invites us into the "not yet," a time of hope and expectation. In this waiting, I'm reminded that what matters most in life is not the material things that fade, but the enduring qualities of the spirit—hope, courage, joy, and peace. And in this waiting, we are never alone. This is the promise of Christmas: You shall call him Emmanuel—God with us. Even in our grief, in our uncertainties, and in the quiet moments of life, God is present, walking with us, holding us, and bringing light to our darkness.

So, as we wait for Christmas, I wish you moments of stillness, hope in the face of uncertainty, courage to meet the challenges of life, joy that surprises you, and peace that settles deeply within. May the light of this Season of Advent fill your heart and your home. Merry Christmas!

This is the gospel, and it's good news!

*Brian Spencer,*

*Minister, Waranga Uniting Churches*



### VALLEY FUNERALS

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Elva Moody is our Rushworth Representative

**Phone: 0428 859 593**

**119 Albion Street, Kyabram 3620**

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



# WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

## DEATH

**MILLER, Robert John (Bob):**

In loving memory of Robert John Miller 14/6/49 – 12/12/24 (75yrs)

Loving husband to Carmel, beloved father of Andrew & Narelle, Brendan & Joelene and Mark. Adored pop of Danny, Jemae, Eloise & Leo, friend of Elly. Forever loved and remembered.

Passed peacefully after a short illness, will be missed dearly and remembered always.

Graveside funeral 11am at Rushworth Cemetery Saturday 21st December 2024.

**OLIVER, John:** Fond memories of our early years in Rushworth.

Peter and Wendy McCullough

**POOLEY, Raymond Francis: 04/02/52 – 07/12/24**

Passed away in GV Shepparton, Critical Care Unit, following a sudden acute illness.

Son of Reg and Doris (both dec), brother of Margaret (dec), Ken, brother in law of Bob and Sue and loved Uncle of his nieces and nephews.

So very loved by all, dearest friend of Christine.

A true gentleman and friend, who touched the lives of everyone. Meticulous, in his professional and community service work.

A Funeral Service to celebrate Ray's life will be held in the Shire Hall Rushworth, on Thursday 19 December at 11am. Followed by a private cremation.

**POOLEY, Raymond Francis:**

RFP thanks for 25 years of great memories. The dinners, the laughs, the fun, the cheese and port nights. It's far too soon - there's still port in the bottle! GC.

## TRADE & SERVICE

### Jaq's Bookkeeping Services

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## IN MEMORIAM

**THORNE, Sandy: 7/2/1948 - 30/12/2009**

Hi my darling, another year has passed, 15 years all told. Miss you and think of you every day. Love always Bryanne.

**THORNE, Sandy:**

Sandy, hi Dad we all miss you. Love from Chris, Jeni, Karen, Owen, Michelle, Dannielle and grandkids.

## BEREAVEMENT THANKS

**RISSTROM, Loris Eugenia**

Donald and Rhonda, together with Travis, Malessa, Shelley, Adrian, Kimberley and Daniel and families wish to thank all family, friends and community groups for their cards, phone calls, personal messages of sympathy and condolences following the recent passing of our dearly loved Mum, Mother in Law and Ma.

The family are very grateful for your support, kind loving words and caring support during this sad and difficult time.

Please accept this as our personal thanks.

## WANTED

### LOOKING TO RENT

Family of three looking for two or three bedroom home in Rushworth or surrounding area.

**Good references available**

**Phone 0439052707**

## TRADE & SERVICE

### Workmate Earthworks

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**0409 001 239**

Email: [work-mate@bigpond.com](mailto:work-mate@bigpond.com)  
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Rushworth Medical Centre

**Festive Season Hours**

**SURGERY WILL BE CLOSED**

**Public holidays:**

25 and 26 December & 1 January

**Dr Singh and Staff wish you all a very Happy Festive Season.**

*Please attend the Goulburn Valley Hospital Shepparton or contact 000, in the event of an emergency.*

### Colbinabbin Bowls Club

#### Bare foot bowls day

**Sunday 19 January**

Names in by 1.30pm for a 2pm start

Come and enjoy a fun day of bowls

**Afternoon tea provided**

**For details contact:**

**S Ryan 0409820854**

**K McTaggart 0407503339**

## TRADE & SERVICE

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P.O. Box 295, Kyabram 3619  
Victoria



# Murchison celebrates with Christmas Market and carols

A delightful, if slightly warm summer's afternoon and evening was the setting for the 2024 Murchison Market and Carols event on Sunday 15 December.

Held in the Murchison Riverside Gardens and organised by the Murchison Neighbourhood House, the event was very well supported by the local community.

The entertainment commenced with musician MJ Rijs and then two Murchison Primary School students, Zara and Stella, Masters of Ceremonies for the evening announced the 'housekeeping.'

The Murchison Primary School Choir and Band provided entertainment and Christmas cheer and children from the Murchison Kindergarten also provided entertainment with their Christmas carols. Much joy and pride was shown by the families of the children performing.

The Shepparton Brass and Wind Band played carols following the children's performances. Singing carols along with the Band was a popular ending to the event. Murchison local Bridie Sanderson also entertained with wonderful carol singing to round off the evening.

Bridie and technology company Power and Audio, were responsible for the musical accompaniment of the childrens' choirs and performances.



**Murchison Primary School Band**



**Family dressed for Christmas**

Food trucks offering a variety of dishes and drinks were popular throughout the evening and market stalls ranged from quilting and handcrafts to hair braiding and of course Santa Claus arrived with goodies for the children at the end of the event.

Thanks must go to Jessie and her band of community volunteers from Murchison who organised the music, stall holders, food trucks and the seating and setting for the event.

Murchison Primary School staff and students were also an integral part of the evening as were the Murchison Kindergarten staff and students. Thank you to all who made this event such an enjoyable community function.

Coming together as a community at this time of the year is a wonderful feeling – and makes us grateful for the work that community members perform during the year. It is also heart-warming to see the local children enjoying the sharing of their developing musical and performance talents.



**Enjoying the Christmas Entertainment**



**Murchison Kindergarten children**



# INFORMATION BOARD

## WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

### December

<b>Fri 20</b>	Rushworth FreeZa pool party 3.30pm-5.30pm
<b>Sat 21</b>	Rushworth Market - 8am - 1pm
<b>Sat 21</b>	Carols by barrel 5pm Colbinabbin Hotel
<b>Sat 21</b>	Colbinabbin Christmas Carols, Memorial Hall - 8pm
<b>Tue 24</b>	Rushworth Fire Brigade Christmas Eve Fete 5 pm

### January

<b>Wed 8 - Sun 12</b>	Girgarre Music Muster
<b>Sun 26</b>	Australia Day
<b>Fri 31</b>	Deadline for 1st Edition of the Waranga News for 2025

### February

<b>Thu 6</b>	First Waranga News for 2025
<b>Sat 22</b>	Community Dance - Rushworth Shire Hall 7pm

## Meetings & Activities - around the district

- Rushworth SES training: Wednesday evenings at 7pm
- Rushworth CFA: Tuesday nights
- Rushworth Food bank: Mon 10am -12pm, Wed 10am-12pm, Frid 10am-12pm
- #9 Op-Shop: 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
- Rushworth ART Depot (RAD) - every Market day - Sat 10am -1pm
- Murchison CFA: Meeting 1st Monday 8pm - training on 3rd Monday 6.30pm
- Murchison Community Garden: Wednesdays 9am - 11am
- Rushworth Museum: every Saturday 10am-12 noon, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11am - 1pm
- Rushworth & District Community Bank Board: meets 1st Tuesday monthly, at 6pm
- Rushworth Events Inc: meets bi-monthly, third Wednesday at 7pm
- Community Walking Group: Thurs 8 - 9am meet at front of Waranga Health
- Stanhope Mens Shed: Mon - Wed - Fri 9am - 12 noon
- Murchison Mens Shed: Wednesdays 10am – 3pm
- Rushworth Garden Lovers Club meet 3rd Thursday Month 1.30pm at old Senior Citizen's building
- Friends of the Hostel: Third Monday 1.30pm monthly
- Alcoholics Anonymous(AA) meetings, 14 High street , Rushworth, Thursdays 7pm

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.

## LOCAL SERVICE PHONE NUMBERS

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

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

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

**DOCTORS:**  
Murchison Medical Centre.....5826 2575  
Rushworth Medical Centre..... 5856 1329  
Stanhope Telecare Medical Centre  
4800 5291  
Waranga Medical Centre..... 5851 8400

**HEALTH:**  
Stanhope Health.....5857 0451  
Waranga Health .....5851 8000  
Nurse on call..... 1300 606 024

**HELP:**  
Lifeline.....13 1114  
Kids Helpline.....1800 551 800

**POLICE:**  
Rushworth.....5856 1000  
Murchison.....5826 2222  
Colbinabbin.....5856 1000

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

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

## ADVERTISING DEADLINES

### NEXT EDITION

**Thursday 6 February**  
Display Ads: Friday, 31 January  
Classifieds: Noon Monday,  
3 February

## Waranga News



### A Voluntary Community Newspaper

Printed by Maxam Printing, Shepparton  
Published by M.J. Fortuna,  
of 3 Phillips Street, Rushworth, 3612 for  
*Waranga News Incorporated*  
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9.30am - 5.30pm

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33 Moora Road, Rushworth.

Postal address: **PO Box 53, Rushworth, 3612**  
*E-mail address: wnews@iinet.net.au*  
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Advertising & Accounts: (03) 5856 1120  
Editor: 0407 561 311

**Annual subscription: Online \$30;**  
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## Project Update

The annual program to resurface sealed roads across the shire has been completed with 72 segments renewed, totalling 52km.



## Coming Up

**Council meeting** | 6pm Tuesday, 18 February 2025 | Echuca Civic Centre  
 Meetings can be streamed live: [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming)

## Immunisation Sessions

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

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

### Monday, 23 December

• 9:30 – 10am | Tongala Service Centre

### Thursday, 2 January 2025

• 11:30am – 12 noon | Rochester Service Centre

### Tuesday, 7 January 2025

• 5:30 – 6:30pm |  
 Kyabram Senior Citizens Centre

### Wednesday, 15 January 2025

• 9:00 – 10:30am |  
 Kyabram Senior Citizens Centre

### Thursday, 16 January 2025

• 11:30am – 12 noon |  
 Lockington Bush Nursing Centre

### Thursday, 16 January 2025

• 5:50 – 6:20pm | Echuca Library

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

## Employment

### #campaspecareers

- Communications Officer
- Early Childhood Educator – Co-Worker
- Early Childhood Educator – Room Leader
- Group Fitness Instructor
- Learn to Swim Teacher

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

## Tenders

### Request for Tender 24054 Sturt Street Carpark, Echuca.

Campaspe Shire Council is seeking submissions from suitably experienced contractors for the above work. A non-compulsory site meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17 December 2024 at 10am.

RFT submissions must be uploaded to the eProcure tender portal no later than 2.00pm on 8 January 2025. Late submissions will not be accepted.

## Now Open

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



### Community Flood Recovery and Resilience Grants

The Community Flood Recovery and Resilience Grants aim to support individuals, families, and organisations affected by the October 2022 flood event and plan for a flood-resilient future. The grants provide funding of up to \$10,000 to eligible not-for-profit community organisations, groups, social enterprises, and creative organisations. Each eligible applicant can submit one application per project or event, with a maximum of five applications per organisation. Activities must be completed by April 30, 2025.

### Community Vision Survey

With the newly elected Council, we're renewing our Community Vision. We have a few quick questions to ask community members that will help us to understand your views on the current Community Vision. Visit the "Now Open" section on our website for more details.

### You could win \$100 by doing our Community Grants Survey

Council's Community Partnerships Team is currently conducting a survey about our various community grants programs and is seeking community feedback. By completing the survey, you could win a \$100 gift card. You can find the survey on our website in the "Now Open" section.

## Free workshop: Social media and content marketing

Campaspe Shire Council and Business Victoria, in collaboration with Monarch Institute, are offering this free workshop to give small businesses guidance on how to improve their social media and content marketing skills.

'Social media and content marketing' is a free three-hour workshop which provides actionable tips, tools and strategies to enhance your understanding of customers, competitors, branding, and your unique selling proposition.

This workshop is for small business owners and entrepreneurs who want to master social media and create compelling content.

Date: Wednesday, 19 March 2025  
 Time: 10AM-1PM  
 Venue: Echuca Library



**RUSHWORTH KINDERGARTEN & CHILDCARE**



The Children, Parents, Committee & Educators wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a terrific New Year.



**Helen Truran**  
**Marriage Celebrant**

Mobile: 0419 529 155  
Phone: (03) 5826 2001  
Email: [hjtruran@gmail.com](mailto:hjtruran@gmail.com)

*Ceremonies with compassion*

**Motofinish Café**  
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*Motofinish cafe wish all their valued customers a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year*



Closed from: Tuesday 24 December to reopen Wednesday 9 January  
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**Merry Christmas to all!**

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Phone (03) 5821 8500  
Fax (03) 5821 8462  
[natrad.com.au](http://natrad.com.au)

Merry Christmas and have a safe and good New Year.  
*Keep an eye on your kids!*  
Close lunchtime 24 December, reopen Thursday 2 January.

Nip into Natrad



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**Thank you to all our customers and we wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year!**

**Christmas hours:**  
Close Friday 22 December and reopen 8am Tuesday 2 January.

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- 24 Hr. Coin Car Wash facility

*Ralfy, Annette, Snow and Mason wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and New Year.*  
Closing 12pm Tuesday 24 December, reopen 8am Thursday 2 January.



LEARNING  
SUCCESS  
RESPECT  
CITIZENSHIP


**Stanhope Primary School**

Would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported us over the last 12 months.

We wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

**Merry Christmas**

*'Inspiring Lifelong Learning'*





# Moora great training ground for GV Equestrian Club

Goulburn Valley Equestrian Club (GVEC) has had a very successful year with many members using the Moora Recreation Reserve for training in all areas of equestrian sports including dressage, showjumping, x-country training, Western Horsemanship, and 3PE familiarisation. They held rallies each month with instructors and ran a successful Navigation Ride around the beautiful area of Rushworth.

GVEC is an inclusive club who welcomes all people to join from beginners to Advanced Dressage riders. Everyone is respectfully treated.

GVEC has had many members contending competitions in Dressage, Showing, Navigation Rides, Show Jumping, Horse trials and 3PE Riders have achieved great results and hitting personal targets of improvement.

GVEC is a volunteer run club with many hours put in by members to achieve smoothly organised rallies and competitions. This year the 'Volunteer of the year Award' went to Sherie Kealy.



**Skyla Cox on Winter.**

**(Right) AED machine and First Aid Supplies to be installed at Moora Recreation Reserve.**



**Emily Walker on Brando**

GVEC was also the recipient of a grant from Rushworth and District Community Bank for the opportunity to purchase a AED machine and First Aid Supplies to be installed at Moora Recreation Reserve. We are very grateful to the Bank Committee for this grant as we know we now feel comfortable if somebody were to need a Defib machine we have one on site.

Many exciting events are planned for 2025 so if interested to join or come along to see what the Club is about please reach out via email [gveqclub@gmail.com](mailto:gveqclub@gmail.com)

**Tonia Lincoln**  
*GVEC President.*



**Sherie Kealy on Henry.**



**Indi Funston on Pumpkin.**



**Jahnae Parrish on Winter.**



# Rushworth Cricket December results

## Wednesday 4 December

Under 13's went to Stanhope small oval to play against Stanhope. Stanhope won the toss and were 6/92 after 25 overs, while winning the game Rushworth were 3/97 after their 25 overs. There were five players (Josh Hawking, Zoe Perry, Heath Ogden, Sophie Garvey, and Michael Evans) that retired after reaching the 20-ball or 20 runs limit. Best batsman on the day was Heath Ogden with 20no from 10 balls. Our best bowlers for the game were Heath Ogden with 2 for 3 off 4 overs including 2 maidens. Declan and Josh Hawking and Oliver Walker all taking 1 wicket each. The game award was given to Heath Ogden.

## 7 December

Today Rushworth played a double header at Rushworth for our Pink Ladies Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Thank you to Tongala and Colbinabbin for being part of this special day for the club which raised \$3339 on the day. Cut out Pink Ladies surrounded the oval including one male cut out representing the men who fight breast cancer.

D grade played Tongala up first at 9:30. Tongala won the toss and elected to bat. Rushworth won the game getting Tongala out for 74 from 29 overs (rain reduced overs) while Rushworth were 6/74. Our best bowlers were Heath Ogden with 4 wickets for 21 runs from 5 overs, Declan Baldwin with 3/13 from his 5 overs and Dean Shepherd 2/12 from his 5 overs. Our batsmen for the day were Brett Pateman 27no and Bradie Chillingsworth 16.

B Grade played Colbinabbin at 1:30. Colbinabbin won the toss and elected to bat first up. Colbinabbin who were 10/127 from the 27.2 overs while Rushworth 10/104 from 27.3 overs. Colbinabbin won the game. Shannon Jarrett was the best bowler on the day, taking 4 wickets for 22 from his 7.2 overs, and Justin Slater took 3 for 29 from



Both teams proudly wear their pink shirts to support Breast Cancer Awareness.

6 overs. Our batsmen were Josh Francis on 34no, Liam Francis 23no and Michael Enrico on 23

## Wednesday 11 December

Under 13's game had the bye

## 14 December

B Grade played Kyabram Fire Brigade at Ironbark Stadium. Fire Brigade won the toss and elected to bowl. Rushworth won the game 7/177 from 40 overs getting Fire Brigade all out 10/151 from 38 overs. Best batsmen on the day were Josh Francis 51 from 39 balls, Tommy Stevens 35 and Liam Francis 34. Our best Bowlers for the day were Shannon Jarrett taking 5 wickets for 27 from his 8 overs and Liam Francis taking 3 wickets. Justin Slater, Tommy Stevens and Jac Barrett all taking one each.

D Grade played Bamawm/Lockington United (BLU) at Bamawm. Rushworth won the game 5/157 BLU all out for 136. BLU won the toss and elected to bat. The best bowlers were Heath Ogden taking 3 wickets

from his 6 overs for 21 runs, David Baldwin 2/23 from 3.5 overs Brodie Shepherd, Ahmad Karamat and Dean Shepherd all taking one wicket each. Our best batsmen for the day was Brett Pateman 50no (compulsory retiring after making 50 runs) and Peter Francis 30.



Heath Ogden and Charlie McLean.

## Season's Greetings from Coghlan's IGA

Dave, Li & Staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe, Happy New Year.

### HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS:

Monday 23 8.30am - 6pm

Tuesday 24 Christmas Eve 8.30am - 6pm

Wednesday 25 Christmas Day CLOSED

Thursday 26 Boxing Day 9am - 5pm

Normal hours 27 - 30 December

Tuesday 31 New Year's Eve 8.30am - 6pm

Wednesday 1 New Year's Day Closed

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## Rushworth Golf Club

Would like to wish all of our district community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

New members, young and old, welcome to come along and join in the fun.



Many thanks to all our sponsors and remember to support the businesses that support us.



# Sports Report

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ACCOMMODATION**

## New Committee for Hill Top

Tatura's Hill Top Golf and Country Club is entering an exciting period as its new Committee of Management (COM) takes on the challenge of continuing to improve the sustainability of the club and the services it offers to Tatura and surrounding communities.

In recognition of this, the COM has introduced a revised social membership structure to encourage all members of the community to take advantage of a \$5/year or \$20 for 5 years social membership for which discounts apply for food and drinks, plus a

birthday gift of a \$20 meal voucher.

President, Allen Gale, said "Hill Top is a hidden gem for the people of Tatura and surrounding communities to enjoy good food and a drink in pleasant surrounds and with good service. We also welcome green fees players, with the opportunity to hire a golf cart for those who don't enjoy the walk while searching for their golf ball in the rough! Of course, you can play anytime as often as you like if you become a full golf or bowls member."



Hill Top COM members from left to right – Royden James, Col Read, David Roberts, Allen Gale, Col Barlow, Trevor Downie, Mike Jeffers

  
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