

# WARANGA NEWS

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Thursday 6 March 2025

## Artists' Studio Trail led to Rushworth

The weekend of February 22-23 saw the inaugural Campaspe Artists Studio Trail held across nineteen venues in ten towns within the shire of Campaspe.

Twenty-seven artists and makers participated in this unique event that focused on inviting audiences into artists' studios, along with three community arts venues. Visitors were able to engage directly with artists, to ask questions about their motivation, inspiration, materials and techniques. Most artists gave demonstrations.

Well over 200 attended. That number was recorded at just one venue where we're told they could barely keep up with recording the flow of visitors.

People came from 97 postcode areas - across Victoria and including some from South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland, Tasmania and New South Wales. Rushworth even had a visitor from Japan.

Everyone - artists and visitors alike - was delighted.



Kerrie Raglus and Gillian Schoenborn, two of the artists who had their 'studio' at the Rushworth Community Space seen here with their artwork.



### Visitor comments

"So much fun"

"Better than a wine trail"

"A really rewarding and interesting experience"

"So pleased to be able to experience such wonderful art"

"It was a great event. All the artists I've spoken to are buzzing. Can't wait to be involved in the next one".

More about the Arts Trail - page 13

# International Women’s Day 2025

## – accelerate the action

International Women’s Day (IWD) 2025, celebrated on March 8, is a global event recognizing the achievements of women while advocating for a gender equality that would ensure women from all backgrounds are empowered to succeed. This year’s theme, ‘Accelerate Action,’ highlights the importance of addressing the barriers and biases that hinder women’s progress in both personal and professional spheres.

While advances have been made over recent decades, current projections indicate that, at the existing pace, full gender parity may not be realized until 2158, approximately five generations from now\*. This statistic underscores the critical need to speed up efforts toward gender equality.

The ‘Accelerate Action’ campaign calls upon individuals, organizations, and communities worldwide to work together to progress towards a more equitable world for women and girls by working to:

- Support women-focused initiatives: Engage in fundraising and support for groups dedicated to advancing women and girls
- Implement inclusive practices: Adopt policies that promote women’s leadership and representation in various sectors
- Challenge discrimination: Actively oppose stereotypes and biases that perpetuate inequality.

While IWD is a celebration, it’s also a reminder that true equality requires continuous effort. By supporting women’s rights and inclusion in all areas of life, we move closer to a world where every woman and girl has the opportunity to thrive.

\* <https://www.internationalwomensday.com>

## Celebrating IWD around the region

Each year as IWD advocates for advancing women’s wellbeing, events around the world include panel discussions, workshops, and campaigns that amplify women’s voices and celebrates their achievements. Many communities and organisations celebrate by recognising women’s stories of resilience

and success of female pioneers in science, politics, business or the arts, and promoting programs and policies that foster equality.

Local events on the agenda include a dinner at Rochester, Soroptimists Breakfast at Shepparton and Breakfast at the Tatura Community House.

**Campaspe Shire to host IWD dinner at Rochester**  
**Campaspe’s special International Women’s Day dinner (tonight, 6 March) at Rochester will celebrate the achievements and contributions of women in the Campaspe Shire community and beyond.**

A panel of female presenters from Campaspe Shire will share their experiences and stories of how they have achieved success in their endeavours.

The event aims to highlight the contributions of women in various fields and inspire attendees to continue striving for gender equality while creating an inclusive world where every woman can thrive. The panel of speakers will include Campaspe Cohuna LLEN’s Executive Officer Jane Reid, The Holistic Care Collective’s founder and CEO, nurse practitioner Rebecca East, and Njernda Aboriginal Corporation’s Regional Aboriginal Development Officer Auntie Vicki Walker.

These inspiring women will share their insights and experiences, offering valuable

perspectives on the challenges and triumphs faced by women today.

Event MC will be Angela Parker, General Manager at 2QN and Edge FM Deniliquin and Echuca, and there will be live music provided by local artist Jessica Lorraine.

“We are thrilled to host this event and provide a platform for celebrating the remarkable achievements of women in our community,” Campaspe Shire Deputy Mayor Cr Jessica Mitchell said.

“International Women’s Day is a vital opportunity to reflect on the progress made towards gender equality and to reaffirm Council’s commitment to creating a more equitable society – and not only for women but for all in our community.”

## Your say can help shape Campaspe’s future

**Campaspe Shire Council is seeking community input to help inform decision-making in the 2025/26 budget through the wider consultation on the 2025-29 Council Plan.**

The community consultation seeking feedback on the Council Plan 2025-29 includes a budget question designed to gather feedback to help inform the 2025-26 Council Budget.

Already about 150 surveys have been completed, with one week left before the survey closes. The survey, which has been open since early February, can be accessed via the Council’s website – but those wanting to have their say need to be quick as the survey will close on 10 March.

Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Daniel Mackrell said Council was asking community members to contribute their opinion on priorities for the year ahead and the longer term.

“If you, or your community group, have ideas about particular service areas or projects that you’d like to see receive a boost, we want to hear about them so we can consider these as part of the budget process,” he said.

### Areas for consideration include:

- Assets and infrastructure (including roads, drainage and building maintenance);
- Regulatory services (including environmental health, animal management, statutory planning, local laws);
- Waste and environment (including waste management, climate action, environmental protection);
- Active recreation (including sporting and aquatic facilities, and the associated infrastructure);
- Passive recreation (including shared paths, trails, skate parks, playgrounds, open space, barbecues);
- Community services and programs (including children and youth services, health and wellbeing, positive ageing);
- Arts and culture (including libraries, public art, arts and music programs, cultural heritage); and
- Tourism and economic development

(including events, regional markets, industry development).

“We want to hear from community members about what is important to them,” Cr Mackrell said.

“We want people to be able to see their ideas come to life for the benefit of our shire.”

You can submit your ideas now via the Community Vision 2040 and Council Plan 2025-2029 Survey on Council’s website. Alternatively, you can call Council on 1300 666 535 or visit any Customer Service Centre to pick up a hard copy form.

Survey responses can be lodged up to midnight on Monday, 10 March, 2025.

The budget will be adopted in June for the upcoming 2025/26 financial year.

**Get your survey in  
by 10 March  
to have your say**



# Permit granted for Nagambie bridge demolition

Heritage Victoria has granted approval for the demolition of Nagambie's historic Chinamans Bridge. Opened in 1891, it is one of Victoria's oldest surviving timber road bridges.

The decision follows a detailed permit application process and extensive advocacy, ensuring the conservation of key heritage elements while addressing structural and safety concerns.

The approved works include the complete demolition of the existing timber bridge structure, removal of associated infrastructure, and restoration of the land-based abutments. Plans also involve rehabilitating the surrounding riverbank and implementing an interpretation strategy to commemorate the bridge's historical significance.

The permit, issued under the Heritage Act 2017, includes conditions to safeguard heritage values throughout the project. These conditions require engaging qualified heritage and structural consultants, comprehensive archival documentation (including photographic surveys and LiDAR scanning), a detailed Heritage Interpretation Strategy to educate the community about the bridge's history, and strict oversight by Heritage Victoria, including staged approvals and reporting requirements.

The Nationals' Member for Euroa, Annabelle Cleeland, has welcomed the demolition approval following ongoing community advocacy and discussions with the Victorian Government.

The heritage-listed timber structure, was severely damaged during the October 2022 floods. An engineering assessment in January 2023 confirmed extensive structural damage, posing a significant safety risk to the community, contractors and waterway users.

"Chinaman's Bridge, while an important part of our local history, is simply too unsafe to remain standing in its current state," Ms Cleeland said.

It is expected that the demolition and restoration works will be completed within the next four years.



The historic Chinamans Bridge - once an important river crossing for the Heathcote-Nagambie Road. The bridge takes its name from the Chinese market gardeners who grew vegetables on the rich soils of the Goulburn River floodplain, supplying their produce to surrounding settlements.

# Prepping for a big Easter in Rushworth

Preparations are underway for another exciting Easter in Rushworth with two major events on the agenda.

The Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival committee is in full swing to deliver another great festival on Saturday 19 April, with 90 stalls booked so far and all of the regular favourites locked in.

The Giant Red Dragon will be making its second appearance and other attractions planned are an animal farm, face painting, horse and cart rides, dog show and Easter Bonnet Parade - and much more.

A variety of food will be on offer and musical entertainment will be provided throughout the day by True Country.

Shearing for Kids with Cancer will hold a Wood Auction for the second year with all proceeds going to their invaluable fund-raising efforts for children's cancer research and patient support.

As has become tradition, the fabulous parade featuring steam machinery, beautiful Clydesdale horses and vintage cars will finish off a great family day.

On Easter Sunday the fun continues out at Moora Reserve. Another great day is planned



The popular Easter Parade attracts a great variety of vehicles!

with stalls, heritage craft demonstrations and the magnificent Clydesdale horses taking part in events. An added feature this year is a Mule Working Day - featuring demonstrations of mules working in harness, running an obstacle course and jumping mules.

For further information on the Easter Heritage Festival email [rushworthmarket@gmail.com](mailto:rushworthmarket@gmail.com) and for information on the Moora Muster email [lynreade@hotmail.com](mailto:lynreade@hotmail.com)

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My Take on the RBA Rate Cut

The RBA interest rate cut of 25 basis points is welcome news and will provide some relief in the cost-of-living crisis, but Labor's inability to get inflation under control sooner has meant they were too high for too long and Australians have paid the price. For inflation to reduce, consumers and governments must rein in spending.

The consumers did - they were forced to because of interest payments on their mortgages (which has affected rents also), but the Labor government did not - meaning the reserve bank had to wait longer before a cut. It's time for a change of government and some better economic management.



Expansion for Regional Students

It was fantastic to attend the opening of the La Trobe University Shepparton campus expansion this week. I was there when the previous Coalition government committed \$5 million dollars to this project. The Nationals remain committed to regional tertiary education, and this is a great example of that.

This expansion will help more students study locally and go on to work locally. The new facility offers expanded learning areas for practical nursing education along with new learning spaces including a library and café. I was proud to mention in my first speech to parliament that I was a former student of La Trobe University. I talked about the importance of regional education in my life and the impact it has had on so many regional and rural students and stated that governments must continue support for universities that have a genuine commitment to regional education.



Campaspe Community Satisfaction Survey 2025 coming soon

Campaspe Shire Council will soon begin its annual Community Satisfaction Survey. Market research agency Metropolis Research Pty Ltd will conduct a phone survey in March to assist Council to assess its performance across a range of measures.

In Victoria, local councils are required to conduct an annual Community Satisfaction Survey as part of their accountability and performance monitoring. The survey is coordinated by Local Government Victoria (LGV) and helps measure residents' perceptions of council performance in key service areas. It aims to identify areas for improvement and ways to provide more effective service delivery for residents.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Daniel Mackrell said the survey was the perfect opportunity for residents to offer feedback to Council, with the results helping to inform Council strategies and plans into the future.

Areas of council performance being assessed include customer service, roads and infrastructure, waste management, community consultation and overall council direction.

The survey is conducted by selecting a random sample of residents who are interviewed by

phone.

"Metropolis Research will be calling residential landline and mobile phone numbers, so we want to make sure that residents know the calls are legitimate, if they receive one," Cr Mackrell said.

The phone numbers that will be called for the survey are independently sourced, and the individual responses will be anonymous. They will be compiled into overall results by Metropolis Research and provided as a report to Councillors, with the results publicised for community members to read.

"To protect your privacy and security, please remember that the survey will not ask you to provide identifying information or financial details," Cr Mackrell said.

Last year's Community Satisfaction Survey results can be found here: [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/plans](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/plans)

Solutions from last edition

M	A	D	A	M		A		P		V		P
E			R		E	S	C	A	P	A	D	E
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7	9	1	2	3	5	4	6	8
3	4	6	9	8	1	5	2	7
2	8	5	4	7	6	3	1	9
6	2	3	8	9	4	1	7	5
4	7	8	5	1	2	6	9	3
5	1	9	7	6	3	2	8	4
8	5	2	1	4	7	9	3	6
9	6	4	3	2	8	7	5	1
1	3	7	6	5	9	8	4	2

KIDS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. What is the currency of Japan?  
Yen
2. Which is the tallest type of grass in the world?  
Bamboo
3. Which country has the longest wall?  
China
4. What is the capital of Turkiye?  
Ankara
5. What bird can fly backwards?  
Humming-bird
6. Which Australian state is known as the Sunshine State?  
Queensland
7. Which US state is known as the Sunshine State?  
Florida
8. Which planet has a ring around it?  
Saturn
9. Which part of a plant absorbs water?  
Roots
10. How many sides does a hexagon have?  
6



# Congratulations Michael Keegan!

Community Bank Rushworth & District has announced Michael Keegan as the Degree Scholarship winner for 2025. The scholarship is worth \$3500.

Hailing from Stanhope and a proud Kyabram P-12 College student, Michael has been accepted into RMIT University to study a Bachelor of Space Science. His ambition doesn't stop there—he hopes to pursue a PhD in Astrophysics and work in research for organisations like CSIRO, the Australian Space Agency, or even NASA!

Michael's achievements are truly remarkable:

- 2024 P-12 Kyabram College Captain
- 2024 Year 12 Runner-up DUX
- Gary Slade Prize in Mathematics
- 2024 Under 18's Captain – Stanhope Football Club
- Multiple Age Swimming Championship Awards
- ADF Future Innovators Award (2022)
- Public Speaking & Values Awards
- Melbourne University Kwong Lee Dow Young scholars Program (2022)

We can't wait to see what the future holds for Michael!



Community Bank Manger Alex Stokes congratulates scholarship winner Michael.

## Firewood collection areas open in state forests

The autumn firewood collection season in Victoria commenced this week, running from 1 March to 30 June 2025. During this period, residents can collect firewood for personal use from designated areas in state forests.

While the season ends on 30 June 2025, collectors are reminded individual collection areas may close earlier if there is no more firewood available.

Within designated collection areas, collectors can collect and cut wood that is on the ground due to natural fall or forest and fire management works. Heavy penalties apply to anyone who cuts down a tree, living or dead.

### Guidelines for Firewood Collection

**Collection Limits:** You may collect up to two cubic metres of firewood per person per day and a maximum of sixteen cubic metres per household per financial year.

**Designated Areas:** Firewood must be collected only from designated collection areas within state forests. Maps of these areas are available on the Forest Fire Management Victoria website.

**Permitted Material:** Only fallen timber without visible hollows, moss, or fungi should be collected. Cutting down standing trees, whether dead or alive, is strictly prohibited.

**Equipment Use:** You may use tools like chainsaws, axes, or handsaws for collection. However, heavy machinery is not permitted. Always ensure safety equipment is used and refrain from using chainsaws on Total Fire

Ban days.

**Vehicle Access:** Vehicles must remain on formed roads or established tracks. Avoid driving off-road to prevent environmental damage. A wheelbarrow may be needed to transport wood to the vehicle as it cannot leave tracks.

### Keeping safe

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Director of Forest and Fire Operations, Aaron Kennedy, urged collectors to play it safe and check local weather conditions as well as their planned route before heading into the forest.

“When collecting, please drive only on formed roads, be aware of the environment around you and the safety of yourself and others as trees may fall or drop limbs without warning,” he said.

Mr Kennedy encouraged people who rely on firewood for heating and cooking to plan for their needs early. Collected firewood cannot be sold.

Financial assistance is available for



people on low incomes who need to buy firewood: [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support).

Find your local collection area and information about collecting firewood here: [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region). An interactive map includes details about vehicle access, while pdf maps include safety and other practical information.

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

**School Photo 1954**  
On Thursday 12 December I attended two funerals of men with whom I went to school at Rushworth H.E.S. in the early 1950s. One was at Kyabram cemetery for Cyril Evans (Stanhope) and in the afternoon one at the Rushworth cemetery for John Oliver (Rushworth).

(In due course I will put together tributes for both men.)\*

Meanwhile, readers might be interested in the enclosed photo. It is taken off a slide and consists of the school football team of 1954. John Oliver is at the left hand side of the back row and Cyril Evans is the second boy from the right hand end of the middle row.

**Peter McCullough  
Tyabb**

*\* Peter's tribute to Cyril Evans appeared in the last edition of the Waranga News on page 16.*



**What do you think?**      *Contributed by Graeme Hanigan*

I hope you're enjoying the series, but first let's have a quick recap.

#1 Socrates "the unexamined life is not worth living", and how strong is your epistemology?

#2 How our pattern seeking brains try to make sense of nonsense, this is called pareidolia.

And today we look at falsifiability, introduced by the philosopher of science Karl Popper.

It seems counterintuitive, but the first step in determining if a claim is true is to try to determine if you can prove it wrong.

Falsifiable claims can be proven false with evidence.

If a claim is false the evidence will disprove it. If it's true the evidence won't be able to disprove it.

The process of science involves trying to disprove falsifiable claims. If the claim withstands attempts at disproof we are more justified in tentatively accepting it.

Unfalsifiable claims cannot be proven false with evidence. They could be true, but since there is no way to use evidence to test the claim, any evidence that appears to support the claim is useless. Unfalsifiable claims are essentially immune to evidence.

There are four types of claims that are unfalsifiable.

1. Subjective claims: Claims based on personal preferences, opinions, values, ethics, morals, feelings, and

judgements.

For example, I may believe that cats make the best pets and that healthcare is a basic human right, but neither of these beliefs are falsifiable, no matter how many facts or pieces of evidence I use to justify them.

2. Supernatural claims: Claims that invoke entities such as gods and spirits, vague energies and forces and magical human abilities such as psychic powers.

By definition, the supernatural is above and beyond what is natural and observable and therefore isn't falsifiable. This doesn't mean these claims are necessarily false (or true!), but that there is no way to collect evidence to test them.

For example, so-called energy medicine, such as reiki and acupuncture, is based on the claim that illnesses are caused by out-of-balance energy fields or miasmas which can be adjusted to restore health. Whilst science is able to detect minute amounts of energy at great distance, these 'energy fields' are yet to be detected and do not correspond to any known forms of energy.

There are cases where supernatural claims can be falsifiable. First, if a psychic claims to be able to impact the natural world in some way, such as moving/bending objects or reading minds, we can test their abilities under controlled conditions. And second, claims

of supernatural events that leave physical evidence can be tested. To date tests of supernatural claims have not revealed any evidence other than fraud or sleight of hand as practised by magicians. A great story to read is the parapsychology hoax Project Alpha.

3. Vague claims: Claims that are undefined, indefinite, or unclear.

Your horoscope for today says, "Today is a good day to dream. Avoid making any important decisions. The energy of the day might bring new people into your life."

Because this horoscope uses ambiguous and vague terms, such as "dream," "important", and "might", it doesn't make any specific, measurable predictions. Even more, because it's open to interpretation, you could convince yourself that it matches what happened to you during the day, especially if you spent the day searching for evidence.

You will find that items sold as promoting good health often use vague terms. A popular marketing ploy is "strengthens the immune system," but who knows what this means? From a medical perspective the immune system is strengthened by exposure to antigens that the body then establishes immunity to, which is how vaccinations work.

4. Ad hoc excuses: These entail rationalizing and

making excuses to explain away observations that might disprove the claim.

While the three types of claims described thus far are inherently unfalsifiable, sometimes we protect false beliefs by finding ways to make them unfalsifiable. We do this by making excuses, moving the goalposts, discounting sources or denying evidence, or proclaim that it's our opinion.

For example, a psychic may dismiss an inaccurate reading by proclaiming her energy levels were low, an effect known as psychic brown out. Or, an acupuncturist might excuse an ineffective treatment by claiming the needles weren't placed properly along the patient's meridians. Conspiracy theorists are masters at immunizing their beliefs against falsification by claiming that supportive evidence was covered up and that contradictory evidence was planted.

The rule of falsifiability essentially boils down to this: Evidence matters, and never assume a claim is true, just because it can't be proven wrong.

I hope you've enjoyed this last article on thinking, more of which you can find at <https://thinkingispower.com/> or wait for the next edition of Waranga News.

Melanie can be contacted at [melanie@thinkingispower.com](mailto:melanie@thinkingispower.com)

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



# Local musicians Angelus join the tour

Popular local folk musicians, Julie Price from Colbinabbin and Louise Costa from Rushworth are all set to join the Festival Of Small Halls tour this month.

The couple have been collaborating with cellist Emma King from Shepparton to create musical trio Angelus, and the new group is greater than the sum of its parts!

Emma adapts her classical training, transforming Julie and Lou's music to create a rich and complex sound that features ear-worm melodies, clever harmonies, keys, strings and the odd kazoo solo.

With a mix of originals and refurbished covers, Angelus trio tell the stories of life, wrapped in an honesty that compels their audience with every song.

The group who recently played live on ABC radio have been booked for the Karramomus and Numurkah 'Festival of Small Halls' events on the 14 and 20



Jule and Lou (formerly known as Milkwood) with new collaborator Emma.

March, respectively.

They join talented roots music artists Hat Fitz And Cara from the hinterland of South East

Queensland's Sunshine Coast and Lucy Farrell from the UK with her contemporary English folk music.

For bookings go to [festivalofsmallhalls.com](http://festivalofsmallhalls.com) and pick your hall!

# You don't need a veggie patch to grow food

Discover your inner gardener and learn the secrets of creating a thriving edible garden using companion planting principles and organic methods when you meet Craig Castree at the Tatura Library on Tuesday 18 March at 10am.

This presentation, led by renowned horticulturist and author Craig Castree, will revolutionise your approach to growing food at home. You will learn tips about companion planting, a technique that involves combining plants for increased productivity and pest resistance.

There is also the opportunity to explore organic gardening techniques, chemical-free methods for a healthier garden and nutrient-dense produce. Craig will speak about soil health when he delves into soil microbiology and techniques for unlocking your soil's potential. The session also includes tips for vertical gardening so you can use space efficiently by growing both horizontally and vertically.

Craig Castree is an award-winning horticulturist with 45 years of experience in organic food production and edible garden design. He has a diverse background in both wholesale and retail nurseries across Victoria and has worked in fruit orchards. As the author of six books on horticulture and self-sufficiency, Craig is a passionate educator dedicated to teaching sustainable, self-sufficient living in urban environments. He serves as Vice President of the Werribee Park Heritage Orchard at Werribee Park Mansion, restoring old fruit varieties for future enjoyment.

Experienced gardeners, or those just starting their gardening journey will come away with lots of ideas about how to garden more sustainably. Join Craig at the Tatura Library on Tuesday 18 March at 10.00 am. Please contact Tatura Library on 1300 374 765 or email [tatura@gvlibraries.com.au](mailto:tatura@gvlibraries.com.au).

Copies of Craig's books will be available to buy at the event and Craig will be happy to sign them.

If the time or location doesn't suit, Craig is also visiting the Numurkah Library on Monday 17th March and the Violet Town Library in the afternoon of 18 March.

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



Around Rushworth

Summer endings

Summer is officially at an end, but we can still enjoy those last lingering weeks of sunshine before the chillier days set in. As with the season, also nearing its end will be the Waranga News summer time window display - so best hurry if you haven't swung by over the past couple of months to witness the leisurely (if hedonistic?) Summer lifestyle depicted by our window designer.

The Waranga News window has been a constant source of surprise and delight over the past year, for both volunteers and passers-by. Designer Liz never ceases to amaze us with her ideas and flair for capturing the mood of the moment!

Pay it forward

Next time you are at the Motofinish Cafe ask about their pay-it-forward-incentive. It is community supporting community. Fiona says, 'A free coffee can change someone's day. She recalls how this program affected some of the residents of Rochester after the floods. "The gratitude was immense!"

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Marty and Debbie celebrate 70 years each



Sonny and Cher (aka Marty and Debbie Morris) held a come-as-a-celebrity 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in Murchison with their four daughters (Sarah, Louise, Jenna and Leah) among many friends/celebrities helping them to mark the special occasion.

And another 70th - John McEvoy



John McEvoy had help from his grandchildren to celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel: (L-R) Hamish McEvoy, Clancy McEvoy, Edie McEvoy, Moira McEvoy, Lotte Vance and Leo Vance.

Birthday and Birds for Garden Lovers

Rushworth Garden Lovers celebrated their birthday at their last meeting, with special guest Sharon Perry showing her bird photography, Graeme Wall with the commentary and Graeme Hanigan on the projector. Thanks to Sharon and the two Graemes for their assistance.

Next meeting is on the 20 March when members will visit Rushworth Field and Game at their club rooms at the Rushworth football grounds. The meeting will be at 1.30pm and a presentation at 2pm. There will be the usual competitions, and members to bring a plate of afternoon tea.



New Holland honeyeaters enjoying a bird bath at Sharon's.  
(Sharon Perry Photography)

**Rushworth Market**  
Village Green High st, Rushworth  
Saturday 15 March 8.30am - 1pm

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

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

# A surprising and special find for Murchison

A delightful portrait of Florence Winter-Irving, painted by her husband Chefik Bey has been acquired recently by Murchison Historical Society due to an alert volunteer working at an opportunity shop in suburban Melbourne.

Due to information attached to the back of the painting, and after some internet searching, contact was made with the Society, knowing that the Winter-Irving family and Noorilim Estate where Florence grew up are part of our local history.

The Winter-Irving family were wealthy pioneering squatters with large land holding across Victoria who built the outstanding Noorilim mansion south of Murchison. Florence was the ninth born in the family of eleven children, and her father William was a member of Parliament and active in local civic affairs.

While travelling overseas in her mid-twenties, Florence met aristocrat Chefik Bey in London where he was a Turkish diplomat, and they married in 1913.

This caused great consternation in the family, as he was ‘a foreigner’, and a Muslim and the law of the day meant that a married woman was tied to the nationality of her husband, so her Australian citizenship was revoked. Victorian newspapers published a scandalous article that Florence had become one of Chefik’s wives in his harem – this was definitely not the case!

Even greater anxiety arose when War broke out in 1914 and Turkey and Britain were on opposite sides, with Florence’s brothers fighting for Australia while her father-in-law was Minister for Foreign Affairs for Turkey.

Life became very difficult for Florence and Chefik as they fled London and their living standards were greatly reduced. While in Berlin, Florence gave birth to their only child, a son named Reshid in 1916.

Eventually Florence regained her citizenship, returning to live in Australia in



(Above: Florence Winter-Irving through her husband’s eyes. (Right) Husband and wife, Florence and Chefik Bey.



1939, but by then she was terminally ill and sadly died a few months later. Her husband Chefik and son Reshid remained in Australia.

Reshid married Judy Chirnside, also a member of a wealthy Victorian squatting dynasty associated with the impressive Werribee Park Mansion. Interestingly, this property was also a large architect designed Italianate styled mansion completed in 1877 at the same time the opulent Noorilim Mansion was being constructed where Florence Winter-Irving had grown up.

It would seem Reshid inherited his father’s artistic talent, as he became a notable painter winning two Archibald prizes. Three of his portraits hang in the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra.



The Noorilim mansion near Murchison.

Source: Janan Greer, Florence’s great-granddaughter

Kay Ball,  
Murchison & District Historical Society.

## Murchison SES sending out SOS for more volunteers

Victoria Police along with members of the State Emergency Service, CFA and the wider community held a meeting on 10 December 2024 at Murchison SES station to identify ways to increase membership of the Unit.

The SES at Murchison is down to its last remaining members and is in dire need of community support to volunteer and keep the unit going.

The SES is a vital part of the community, providing invaluable assistance to those in need during floods and storms, fires, collisions and searches.

The skills learned within the SES are often transferable and provide members with a variety of opportunities, whilst also providing a service to the community and supporting other emergency services.

In March 2025 the unit will come together again to decide on the future of the Murchison SES. In the meantime, they will continue working hard to drive recruitment to keep the unit functioning. Look out for the date and venue on the Facebook page “SES Murchison Unit”

Residents are asked to please consider attending the meeting and volunteering for the community through the SES in some capacity. You can join at: [ses.vic.gov.au/join-us](http://ses.vic.gov.au/join-us)

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# MURCHISON

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# NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.

Hi everyone. Where did February go? I'm sure it had half as many days in the month as it usually does. Here we are in March already and I'm only just getting my head around the fact that it's 2025!

I'm very pleased to say Rushworth Community Support, which is the body that organises the Food Bank and Op Shop, was able to give three scholarships to three very deserving students at P-12 College. They are Matilda Brew, Chloe Johnstone and Tamikah Clark, all current Year 11 VCE students who will use those funds to support their learning in Year 11/12. One student has already used part of her scholarship to buy a calculator and textbook for one of her subjects. Very well done girls and all the very best for your future academic achievements.

Thanks must be given to our Rushworth Hardware Store for donating a watering can to replace one that was stolen from a small open shed at the side of our Little Green Shed.

Unfortunately a brand new flue that was also in that small shed was stolen as well. Hugh already had a buyer for the flue so the buyer was disappointed and no money was made to pass onto the Food Bank.

The police were informed and measures are being taken to make the small shed secure. A camera has also been put up in the vicinity. Maybe the flue will reappear magically?

With the end of summer (really!) summer dresses are down to \$5 but we also have a tub of dresses that are \$1 each. Jeans, shorts and swimwear are all \$3 and I have to say there is some very nice swimwear which would be

great to put away for next summer season. Children's clothes are still \$1 an item, games and puzzles \$2 (we have heaps) and books are now \$1 for three books for a while.

An ex-caterer recently donated a whole heap of crockery and kitchen-ware so we have plenty of those items available. Also the community has been very generous with their donations over the last few weeks so it is worthwhile coming in to see what bargains you can get.

Recently we had a young lady, Indi, come to our Op Shop with a gift voucher she was given for Christmas to the value of \$40. Indi says our Op Shop is the best she has been in and she has visited quite a lot. She bought a pink jumper, a wrap-around skirt, a blue shirt, one pair of jeans, one grey cardigan and two necklaces, which all came to \$30, so she still has \$10 credit on her gift certificate. She was ecstatic.

Op Shop Gift Certificates are available at the counter and can be spent on anything in the shop or Green Shed. Given the range of items we have to sell, a Gift Certificate would be appropriate for man, woman or child, would support the community and make your gift money go further.

Finally, I'd like to welcome new volunteer, Charmaine, to the team. We hope she finds it an enjoyable and rewarding experience working with us. Thank you for volunteering.

Until next time may you have a full belly and a happy smile.

Heather Wellington



Indi with her bargains and gift certificate.



## PLATES

Square plates, round plates, which do you prefer?  
Out of curiosity your voice I'd like to hear.  
Back in the Stone Age I think we ate off leaves  
Or maybe stones of different shapes which we could lift with ease.  
When grinding grain upon a stone you'd end up with a bowl,  
So maybe that's the origin of plates that're shaped like holes.  
And then we used wood, tin and lead and sometimes even gold,  
But using lead would make us sick and turn a body cold.  
Clay and a potter's wheel made plates so inexpensive  
And paints and patterns so diverse made art on plates attentive.  
In fashion now we have square plates that look so sleek and crisp,  
But I keep knocking off the edge which really makes me p.....d!  
Whichever shape you do prefer we've plenty here in store  
And if you keep on breaking them, come back and buy some more!

Heather



Welcome to the Op Shop team Charmaine!

Opening times		
<b>Rushworth Food Bank:</b>	<b>#9 Op-Shop:</b>	<b>Little Green Shed:</b>
Mon, Wed and Fri	Mon, Wed and Fri -	Mon and Fri
10am-12pm	9am - 2pm	9.30am - 2pm
	Sat 9am to 12pm	Sat 9.30am to 12pm





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Newcomer to the town

Congratulations to Will and Charlotte Morrow on the birth of their son, Edward William, born last weekend. . . another member to add to the New Parents Group in Colbo.(see this page!)

Cornella Care AGM

Cornella Care AGM will be held on Wednesday 12 March at 2pm at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel. All welcome.

At a later date, Wednesday 23 April, Cornella Care will host a Guest Speaker, Annabelle Cleeland MP at CCH at 2pm. More details closer to that date.

Stall holders for Market Day

Colbinabbin Primary School is holding its annual Market Day on 30 March and is looking for expressions of interest for stall holders. If interested please contact the Colbinabbin PS on 5432 9330 for further details.

Not news

There’s an embargo on the news that a local very creative person has just celebrated her important birthday. She says that no one else has to have their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in the News. Why should she?

Renovations at the hall

You will have noticed all the excavations going on around the Colbinabbin Hall and playground area. New public toilets are being erected on the north end of the playground and the hall toilets (accessible only from inside the hall) are being totally renovated. Restorations also include the relaying of the parquetry flooring.

The work is expected to take three months during which time the hall, including the library and health centre will be shut. The Strength and Balance classes will transfer to the bowls pavilion.

Colbo Diary

Coffee and Cake 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 10.15am @CCH  
Colbo Community Shed - Thursdays BYO BBQ lunch  
Colbo Pub Choir - 5pm Tuesdays at CCH  
New Parents’ Group 9am 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays @ CCH

MARCH

Wed 12 Cornella Care AGM 2pm @ CCH  
Sun 30 Colbo PS Market Day

APRIL

Wed 23 Annabelle Cleeland 2pm @CCH

FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

March 9 Christopher Ryan, Steve Tuohey  
March 16Bill Johnson, Gerard Stewart  
*If unable to attend for duty, call Chris/Leo.*

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

Cemetery Trust

Mowing Roster (lawn section only)  
March - Geoff Weppner

If it’s news in Colbo let us know . .  
Tell Natalie or Shell  
or email to [wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)

Muster Dog celebrity meets the locals



Colbo Pub welcomed Jack Kennedy and his daughter Mara recently, much to the delight of Gerard Stewart (right) and Clem Tuohey. The local lads took the opportunity for a photo with the ABC celebrity, who appears in the current series of ‘Muster Dogs’. Pictured also is proud mother, Clare Kennedy. Jack and his dog Pesto are doing pretty well on the show so far, but all will be revealed in the finale of the ‘Collies vs Kelpies’ series in a few weeks.

New parents’ gatherings at Colbo



Not sure what’s in the water out there, but there’s been a major baby boom in the sleepy little town of Colbo recently! This is great news for our town, to have young families returning to Colbo, choosing to bring their children up here, keeping the school and sporting clubs alive and above all maintaining the all-important community vibe that Colbinabbin is known for. If you’d like to connect with other parents/carers in a very casual atmosphere, rock up to the Colbinabbin Country Hotel at 9am on first and third Thursdays of the month. Toddlers also welcome, there’s babyccinos, toys and snacks available for them, and of course coffee, cake and brunch for the adults. Everyone welcome! Pictured are a happy group of mums and bubs at the first gathering.





# 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)

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Office Hours:  
Mon, Tues Thurs : 9.00am to 3.00pm  
Wed, Fri : 9.00am to 1.00pm



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### RCH Quilters are back in business “post-termites!”

The Community House has had quilting groups for as long as most people can remember and the current group that meets each Wednesday is as enthusiastic as any of its predecessors.

Rebuilding at the House after a major termite infestation saw the large multi-purpose room at the rear of the complex filled with kitchen and office furniture and fittings, forcing several quilting sessions to be cancelled.

Last week, with the multi-purpose room finally cleared, quilting was able to resume ... to the obvious delight of group members.

If you are interested in trying quilting, call the House on 5856 1295 for session details.



## Calling all Rushworth gardeners



Rushworth Community Garden has long been acknowledged as one of the best small-town community gardening facilities in northern Victoria. It is also an excellent learning facility for both adult gardeners who would like to improve their horticultural skills and for the groups of students from Rushworth P-12 College, St Mary’s School Rushworth and Rushworth Kindergarten who visit the garden throughout the year.

The garden features many innovations, including some Australian Native food species, and a variety of demonstration growing technologies and media.

Fruit and vegetables share space with ornamental plants, and the whole garden is always open to the public.

**Become a garden guru**

At present, garden crew-member numbers are less than ideal, and new volunteers would be given a huge welcome.

The garden is a great social space with lots to do across a wide range of skill-sets.

Come along and give it a try.

### Container Deposit Scheme change of hours

Beginning next Tuesday (11 March) Rushworth’s Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) will revert to winter hours of operation due to the likely downturn in the number of containers being used - then surrendered - during the cooler months of the year.

The new opening hours for the CDS will be as follows:

- Tuesday - 9am to 3pm
- Wednesday - 9am to 1pm
- Thursday - 9am to 3pm

The scheme operates out of the Rushworth Community Hub at the old Council Depot in Horne Street behind our Shire Hall.

#### You can help too

The CDS is always in need of volunteers to help run this important environmental activity. If you’d like to help out on one or more days per week, please call the House on 5956 1295 and let our receptionist know.



### Townwide garage sale is locked-in for mid-March

The Community House’s 2025 town-wide garage sale will be going ahead on Saturday 15 March, which is a Rushworth Market Day.

Previous multi-site garage sales have proved to be hugely popular, with many people on the lookout for bargains visiting numerous locations in and around Rushworth.

Garage sale location maps will be available from Community House personnel at the market between 8am and 12 noon. They are priced at just \$2 per map.

Sellers can still register by calling the House with an overview of their sale items.

### Community House AGM on Wednesday 12 March

This year’s Community House’s Annual General Meeting will be held in the spacious, air-conditioned multi-purpose room at 7pm on Wednesday, 12 March.

The AGM will report to the Rushworth Community about the status of the House and key events that have affected it during 2024, including the recent termite fight.

The meeting will also elect a new Committee of Management to govern the operations of the House during the ensuing twelve months.

The meeting is open to the public and a light supper will be served after the meeting.



# Arts & Tourism

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## Artists' Studio Trail 2025 a great success

Campaspe Artists Studio Trail 2025 was a huge success for the 27 artists who opened their studios for the weekend of 22 and 23 February around the shire.

### Artists who participated

Rebecca Wells and Kevin Williams from Gunbower. Glenda Cornell, Elizabeth Jawarski, Penny Silver, Kathleen Watson, Ellen Lee and Kerry Williams from Echuca. Murray Ross and Jenni Croft from Tongala. Dey Alexander, Gillian Banks, Anne Churches, Kim Lawrence, Maria Radanov, Sue Reid and Chris Hartley from Kyabram. Margaret Wilson from Lancaster. Kerrie Raglus, Gillian Schoenborn, Heather Wellington and Angie Russi from Rushworth. Cathy Branson from Colbinabbin and Edie May from Corop with Sonya Else and Tina West from Rochester and Maree Slatter at Diggora West.

Visitors came from far and wide with 97 postcodes being recorded. There were some from Queensland and even one from Japan.



Further examples of artworks on display at the Rushworth Community Space.



Angie Russi's studio (above) was a big hit in Rushworth and she also managed to run a workshop (above left) for all to see.

### Kyabram Town Hall Gallery Exhibitions

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

- A TEXTILE ARTIST'S ODYSSEY - Michael Hammer ends 17 May
  - THE PERFECT MIX - Art by John Stevens & Friends - ENDS 4th April
  - EXTREMITIES- Splinter Contemporary artists.
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Kennedy Shiraz 2019, Kennedy Cambria (Reserve) 2014, Kennedy Pink Hills Rosé 2021, Henrietta Shiraz 2020  
Henrietta Rose 2022 available online and being served at Colbinabbin Country Hotel.





## Cous cous that isn't

I admit to really enjoying a salad that has fresh or dried fruit in it. (Have you heard it said that intelligence is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad?) Oops . . I've slipped off the subject of sharing with you a recipe for a salad I really enjoyed.

I can tell you what was in it, but you can be pretty well guess the amount of each you want to put in. It was called cauli cous cous salad, but as you will see, there's no cous cous in it - but it looks like it! I used my V-form slicer to slice up the cauliflower before chopping the slices into finer pieces. Or a grater attachment on a food processor, if you have one.

Lightly toast the seeds in a dry pan to make them taste fresh and delicious.

### Ingredients salad

1 sml cauliflower shredded  
half a red capsicum finely diced  
sml handful of toasted pepita seeds  
sml handful of toasted sunflower seeds  
sml handful of sliced olives  
sml handful of currants.  
sprig parsley finely chopped  
sprig of mint leaves chopped

### Ingredients dressing

1/4 cup olive oil  
1/4 cup vegetable oil  
1 tspn turmeric  
salt and pepper

### Method

Toss all salad ingredients together. Mix dressing ingredients well and pour over salad and toss through. *Glen*



Cauliflower cous cous salad.

## Handy Hints - from Lyn Rumble

Repurposing or Reusing everyday items that maybe you hadn't thought of, is what I like to do. Some of the things covered here will possibly be using items completely differently than you're used to. During the past years I've managed to find some pretty useful everyday things to help out in one way or another – so hope you get some benefits from these tips I'm sharing this issue!

*Lyn*

1. Dissolving adhesives – an additional use! Last issue I gave you a hint for dissolving gunk left over from labels. Well I found that an added bonus was that the brush I used to carry out my hint got quite a good clean from the eucy, as well getting rid of yuk down at the furrule! (*Last issue WN it was Hint No. 2 – check it out*)

2. Recycling empty fruit punnets – these make really handy containers for many things. You can add potting mix to them and use as seedling trays in your propagating, store small breakable glass items in them to help protect them, or you could use them to pack small items going into a box for sending in the mail. They are lightweight, come in varying sizes, and are easy to open up and/or pack with tissue paper as needed for extra padding!

3. Why is it your sock drawer is usually chockers... That's because you can never find the missing one of the pair! I tipped out my sock drawer the other day on the bed and matched all socks I could – the rest – OUT! But no – I didn't – I separated out the cotton ones for cleaning, the woolly ones for golf club protectors, the odd big thick ones (doesn't matter if they don't match) for my wellies, and the one that was almost brand new – I used as a soap sock (for the shower) – the last three went to the rubbish bin! At least I can find a pair now!

4. If you have kids, and when they use the toilet – does half a roll of toilet paper roll out on the floor? Try squishing the toilet roll inner tube so it's not a smooth circle, and then when the toilet paper is pulled – the roll won't readily free-fall to the floor!

5. Got a BBQ happening, food almost ready, but the flies are driving you crazy while you're trying to lay food on the table! A couple of good clean sheets make terrific table covers to protect the food dishes until all is ready for people to sit down to eat.



## Dirt(y) secrets of the garden

Summer is a test for all gardens. Today I want to 'dish some dirt' ... on soil!

We moved to Rushworth after twenty years of living across the road from the beach! When working in the garden there, I used to say that 'I was playing in the sandpit!' Water would go straight through the light, often poorly nutritious soil. Coupled with that the salt wind would often dry out and burn the leaves of my plants.

Here in Rushworth my husband says that we have 'water proof soil'. How many of us have tried watering the garden just to see the water run off without soaking in?

Another issue is that there are only a couple of centimetres of soil before hitting rock or hard clay. Each time we plant something that requires considerable root space, a metal fencing bar is needed. We have even used a jack hammer in extreme cases to dig a decent sized hole.

Adding gypsum to this hard, clay soil in granular or liquid form helps to improve the soil quality and water retention. Similarly, water saving granules or liquid used regularly, according to the amount and directions on the pack, is needed especially at time of planting.

Finding the best compost or additional nutrients for your soil boils down to personal choice. For me, it has been a bit of trial and error. I have used my own garden compost, mushroom compost, Biomix and well aged animal manure - occasionally, too enthusiastically and resulting in a bit of leaf burning due to over fertilization or alteration of the soil PH.

### Environmentally sustainable coir

Most recently I have been using coir to mix in with the top soil or added at time of planting. Premium coir is a renewable resource that is sourced from coconuts. It as an environmentally sustainable material, as neither the bark nor the tree has been harmed. It has no hazardous disposal problems and there are no known bacterial risks associated.

The coir is easily transported in a compressed state. Easy to buy in a small block and super easy to use. Put in a wheelbarrow or large tub, fill with water as per instructions and watch it expand. The coir maintains excellent air filled porosity and has excellent water retention. So far I have found it very effective.

The use of the shade cloth on days of extreme heat is also beneficial. To top it all off, many different types of mulch are available. My preference is sugar cane mulch. It looks neater than straw in a garden of smaller plants and flowers. It also breaks down well without compacting into hard impenetrable cover that doesn't allow water / rain though to the soil.



*Baby Boomer Bloomer*



# Health and Wellbeing

## New Warramunda digital in-home care platform

Warramunda Village in Kyabram has launched a new digital care platform ahead of the Federal Government’s introduction of the new Support at Home program.

Warramunda Village has more than 100 clients receiving in-home Community Care support and has made a decision to move forward with The Lookout Way, an Australian-made system that has become one of the nation’s leading home care management platforms.

The Federal Government is introducing the Support at Home program, set to commence on 1 July 2025, to enhance and streamline in-home aged care services. This program will replace the existing Home Care Packages (HCP) Program and the Short-Term Restorative Care (STRC) Programme.

Warramunda has chosen the digital system due to its remote care monitoring

feature and ability to analyse care notes for real-time action.

It aims to align the in-home service, now known as Community Care, with the aims of new Support at Home program.

“Both aim to deliver a simpler and more equitable system that allows older people to stay at home for longer,” said Warramunda Village Chief Executive Officer John Clark .

“The Lookout Way will give our care workers access to digital systems through their phone, iPad, or laptop that contain essential care information, schedules, travel routes, and important real-time details that allow for improved planning and care delivery,” he said.

An app will allow authorised people to view who is providing care, on what day, at what time, and provide notifications of upcoming visits or cancellations.

The new system will be trialled during the next three months and rolled out in April or May — well ahead of the introduction of Support at Home.

For more information about Warramunda Village’s Community Care program and what will be available under the new Support at Home program and through The Lookout Way’s introduction, contact the Home Care team on 5852 2611.



Waranga Health

### Skin Cancer Information Session

28th March 2025 @ 9.30am



at the Murchison Men's Shed  
10A Watson Street  
Murchison

Guest speaker:



Dr. Matthew Wong,  
GV Skin & Specialist Centre  
Skin Cancer Doctor & Dermoscopist

All Community members are welcome to attend this FREE event

Morning Tea Provided

Enquiries or bookings Contact:  
Dennis: 0428.148210  
Con: 0421.525665







Warramunda Community Care clients, Tania and Joe Martello are given a first-hand preview of the new digital care platform - The Lookout Way - by Personal Care Assistant Peter Morrison.

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## 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.*

### Hooks, lines and sinkers

On Friday I was called to a little pied cormorant who was caught on fishing line on the river near the Goulburn Weir. Not that long ago I attended an entangled corella who was stuck in fishing line up a tree right at the weir.

Discarded fishing line is something I despise. So much wildlife gets entangled in the rotten stuff. Sometimes they are snared by hooks, sometimes it's line only. The injuries sustained from being entangled can be horrific; many critters require euthanasia, while many others don't survive the stress and injury even when we treat viable wounds.

I left immediately as the bird was hanging just above the water line by his wing by a line which was hooked and entangled around a branch pretty high, overhanging the water.

The only way to retrieve him safely was to go out to him in the water - I could just reach him by hand. Out I went, unsure of the water depth. I got lucky as I was still able to touch the bottom out where the bird was hanging. I had scissors with me to cut the line. Once I reached the poor cormorant, I secured his head and bill first as all fish eating species have powerfully sharp bills and a long reach with their neck. They are fast to strike and do so with precision accuracy at eyes and flesh. I gathered the bird up the best I could, trying to save myself from his attempted strikes, held his body, bill and all in one hand while using the other on the line. I gave it a tug to see how much line I could reach as we always attempt to retrieve as much from the site as we can to minimise future entanglements. I was lucky and the line snapped easily close to the branch it was entangled on. I couldn't retrieve the hook, line and sinker still wrapped around, high up on the branch but was satisfied I had got as much as I could. I carried the distressed bird back to shore, scrambled back up the bank with the aid of my son and promptly sat down to assess things.

On the way back to shore I could hear internal fluid inside the bird. It's a sound we hear when a critter is aspirated, caused by taking in water or sometimes another fluid, such as blood. I called out to my son on shore saying that I think the bird may have taken in water at some point while he was hanging, even though he was above the water line. Maybe in his initial capture by the line he was in the actual water. This was highly likely as he had the line tightly wrapped around one wing and also around his body. This would have happened when in his attempts to fly away, causing him to get more and more entangled until he was left hanging just above

the water.

Halfway back to shore I realised there was an alarming amount of blood on both me and the bird, I couldn't tell whether it was from the bird or from my arm where he'd managed to get a good bite in while I was restraining him with one hand while bringing the line down.

On shore I immediately sat down at the water's edge to determine who was bleeding. Sadly, it was the bird. He had lots of blood dripping from his bill, coming from down his throat from something internal. He proceeded to cough up lots of clotted and free flowing blood. I made the decision to work on cutting the line from him then and there. With all the line removed, he had some lacerations on his body from the line but his wing was good and otherwise no other external injuries.

The blood was of real concern. Maybe he'd ruptured something from working so hard to free himself before we arrived. The caring couple who initially discovered him and made the call had decided to move away from the sight of the bird while waiting for us to arrive as they said he was very distressed and putting in a huge effort to free himself while they were on shore. This decision may have saved his life as they said he then went very still, accepting his fate. Death by stress and prolonged elevated heart rate in entanglement cases is a very real thing.

We set him up for comfortable transport back home to the shelter but both my son and I did not hold much hope due to the amount of blood the bird had thrown up. The cormorant stood though, was alert and where there's life, there is hope.

We attended another call out in Kyabram on the way home and when we got back, we apprehensively peeked in his transport carrier, expecting the worst. The cormorant was still standing, still bright, alert and feisty - that was a good sign. Whatever was bleeding inside appeared to have stopped. I'm happy to say the bird has settled in well. He still wants to take my face off, but is eating and doing everything right. I think he's going to make it!

He was extremely lucky he was sighted by the couple who found him. It was pure luck that the couple had pulled up to take a break and happened to notice him flailing in the line. This bird would not have survived for much longer. As his weight was down a bit and by how he was entangled and his wounds, he had likely been stuck for awhile. - much longer would have meant death.

The suffering wildlife endures when entangled is heartbreaking. This little pied cormorant is one of the lucky ones who was found just in time and he was found by people who knew they couldn't get him down but still called for help in the hopes that someone could. They saved his life and helped stop further suffering.

Fishing line is a huge problem everywhere. I retrieve it from channels, lakes, rivers and as a snorkeller in Port Phillip Bay I carry a dive knife now to retrieve it from under the piers. A lot of people leave free-cut line on banks and on top of the piers without a thought of where it ends up. Please pick up and retrieve your line, people. A second of your time can save an animal endless hours of suffering and in many cases death.



**Little Black Cormorants taking a break from fishing on a fallen log in the shallows at Loch Garry Wetland**

**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.

**Why do we need environmental flows?**

An environmental flow involves the release of water for environmental reasons. Until recent times water was seen as a resource to be managed for agricultural uses. Waterways were dammed and controlled to ensure a supply of water for agriculture over the drier months of the year. However, this resulted in smaller flows through our natural waterways and wetlands in ‘normal’ years and in dry years these could dwindle to zero. Our wetland environments started to die.

The first things to die are the aquatic creatures. Not only do the fish die, but also a myriad of aquatic insects which make up a major part of the food chain. Yabbies last longer in deep burrows, freshwater shrimp eggs can survive without water for a few years but unless given a replenishing flood of water they will also die. Frogs, without water to breed in, will eventually die out. Without aquatic life to sustain them, creatures such as turtles and snakes either move away or die. Many water birds require wetlands for feeding and also for breeding grounds safe from predators. Water-loving plants such as reeds and sedges also die, followed by larger shrubs. The last things in a wetland to die are the redgums. With their deep root systems they can linger on for many years but eventually they will deplete the moisture in the soil and die. They will not be replaced by new generations of redgums who need floodwaters to germinate. Much of this goes unnoticed. Often the first inkling that something is wrong is when the trees start to die. By then it is too late.

While most of our agricultural water used in central Victoria comes from snow melt and run-off from alpine regions, a significant amount is pumped from rivers and creeks. In western Victoria river

systems have become so depleted that they have dried up, along with their lakes.

The shortage of water in our waterways and wetlands has been exacerbated by lower rainfalls. We are having fewer wet years and when we do have a wetter year it is characterized by extreme weather events, often resulting in flooding.

In some regions salinity has impacted upon wetlands and waterways. While much has been done to counter salinity, the damage to wetlands, especially to the trees, has sometimes been permanent and requires remedial work to allow them to become functioning natural wetland environments.

It is far more effective and cheaper to restore regular flows of water to sustain the wetland environments than it is to restore them after they have been badly damaged. It also ensures an unbroken lineage of species.

The issue with environmental flows is that the water is already allocated for other uses. If water is used for environmental flows, it is at the expense of these other uses (usually agriculture). The Murray-Darling Basin Plan is proving to be very unpopular with the farming community, especially cotton growers (cotton is a very ‘thirsty’ crop). The indications are that the environmental flows implemented in the Plan are insufficient to maintain the environments in these river systems and more water needs to be allocated to them. Blue-green algae is still present along much of the Darling River and hypoxic water still periodically kills off masses of fish. Locally and on a smaller scale the environmental flows into Gaynor Swamp (near Corop) under its management plan have been working splendidly and seem to have the support of local farmers.

Allocating water for environmental flows will continue to be a contentious issue. Somehow a sustainable balance must be found.

**Landholders can enjoy the benefits of native vegetation**

**Landholders across the region can enjoy the benefits of having native vegetation on their property, under a local carbon offset project managed by the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA).**

The Grow Towards Zero project, funded by the City of Greater Bendigo, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Council and Mount Alexander Shire Council, aims to assist councils in Central Victoria in achieving their net-zero emission targets.

The initiative focuses on supporting revegetation efforts to offset local carbon emissions, while also benefiting the environment by restoring critical habitats, connecting fragmented landscapes and addressing biodiversity loss.

The North Central CMA is actively seeking landholders interested in participating in this project and calls for expressions of interest from across the North Central CMA region or within the areas of participating councils.

“We’re looking for landholders keen to have trees planted on their property to offset local carbon emissions and take on-ground climate change action,” North Central CMA Business Development Manager Matthew Dawson said.

“Native trees and shrubs bring all kinds of benefits to a property. As well as looking great, native vegetation means increased habitat for wildlife and can help reduce soil and wind erosion.

Grow Towards Zero aims for individual sites where the combined planting area is five hectares or more, or a group of neighbouring landholders looking to create corridors of native vegetation. Landholders would not be required to provide a financial contribution or place a covenant on the site.

It is hoped that by generating local carbon offsets, the project will not only aid councils in offsetting their emissions but will also enhance environmental, social, and economic benefits for the community.

For more detailed information or to get involved, landholders and interested parties are encouraged to contact the North Central Catchment Management Authority directly. [www.nccma.vic.gov.au/grow-towards-zero](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/grow-towards-zero).



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## Fifty years ago in our district....

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



### Shearing in the pub in late February 1975

Stanhope and District Apex Club joined with Stanhope Lions Club to form a committee to do a feasibility study on options for sites to locate a Community Health Centre. This action had been recommended by the committee managing Waranga Memorial Hospital. It was hoped to replace the consulting room behind the pharmacy operated by Stephen Hopley.

Dr Tai was announced to be commencing at Rushworth and Stanhope, according to the Waranga Hospital Committee. *(It was not to be a happy appointment. Stay tuned.)*

The Criterion Hotel put on a display of sheep shearing, can you believe it? Graeme "Ginger" Perry had his elbow bent on the handpiece, John and Rod Lockwood managing equipment and on the broom, with Stephen McArdle supervising and in charge of refreshments. There was a front page photo but not of sufficient quality to reproduce here.

### Community

Hume Street Rushworth was the venue for scouts from throughout the Rodney Group to contest the annual billycart derby. Catchers and hay bales slowed the racers after their 250 metre contest down the hill. *(Can you imagine the insurance and other red tape for such an event today?)*

### Schools

Rushworth Primary preps were tested when "Chris Garvey brought a red-back spider to school in a jar". That took the spider population in the classroom to six. All were alive.

There was excitement in Grades 1 and 2 as "Wayne told us about four kangaroos that hopped across in front of the school bus". Six non-swimmers from Grades 4 and 5 were receiving daily swimming lessons from Mrs Johansen, and seven children in the same class "are now allowed to write with pen".

Darren Clarke was the hero of Grades 5 and 6, after bringing a "small tortoise to school", together with worms to feed him. He was kept in the fish tank and had been timed underwater for 2 minutes and 8.5 seconds. *(Just thought you might like to know!)*

The House swimming sports saw superfish Claire Meagher (now Campbell) retain her girls champion title, with Stephen Crosbie taking the boys' award. In the all-important duck dive, the best ducks were Paul Beck, Jamie Poulson and Wendy Hawking. The wading race for boys under

six years was won by Wayne Martin, M. Garvey the quickest of the girls.

Rushworth High School students benefitted from a donation of \$400 from the Ladies Auxiliary to purchase new equipment. A remarkable thirty-four mothers attended a meeting, even allowing that there were far fewer mothers employed in the workforce in those days.

Seventeen mothers attended a meeting of St Mary's Mothers Club, including newcomers Mrs Irene Perry and Mrs Pat Synan. Sister Nora, one of the nuns, addressed the meeting on priority items needed in the classrooms and the playground.

Stanhope Primary School mothers also met, with Mrs B. Stewart re-elected as president, Mrs J. Murray as secretary and Mrs G. Roberts the treasurer. Others on the committee were Mrs M. Adams, Mrs S. Spiby, Mrs S. Armstrong, Mrs J. McCague, Mrs G. Hitchcock, Mrs M. Poole, Mrs M. Coulston and Mrs R. Johnson.

### Personal

Ian Micheel from near Elmore married Dianne Perry of Rushworth, with the wedding photos tested by high winds as the bridal party left the Anglican church. Matrons of honour were Dianne's sisters Helen and Ethel, and her twin brother Pluto was a groomsman. Mrs Salter played the organ, Rev. D. McDougall conducting the service, and the celebrations were held at the Shire Hall.

Chris Flynn of Murchison East married Noel Brady, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Brady of Murchison. That wedding was at St Brendan's Catholic Church in Shepparton.

Schoolboy athlete Brendan Clark, sixteen, of Stanhope, competed in 100m, 200m and long jump events at the Victorian Athletic Championships, in the Under-17 division. He was in Form 5 at Rushworth High School and in a family of mostly sporty boys including Gary and Ashley.

There was a tribute to Mrs Edith Fox, aged 90 when she had passed, leaving nine children.

Mr Lance Schade died suddenly at his Stanhope home, aged just 63.

Miss Olive Sprunt of Rushworth turned 90, and was presented with five cakes! She had been the infant mistress at the Rushworth School for an extraordinary 28 years from 1922 until retirement in 1950. She was born at Burrumboot East in 1885, and at just fifteen years began her teaching at Nathalia, and later taught at Teal Point near Koondrook, Knowsley, Bendigo and Kyneton. *(Do we have any readers who were taught by Miss Sprunt?)*

### Sport

Not sure why it was news for the Chronicle's front page but in February it was announced that Tooborac Football Club, the reigning premiers, would go into recess until the Heathcote League granted permission to play six local players with the other fourteen to be recruited from anywhere. The battle lines had clearly been drawn.

Murchison Bowls Club president Ron Baker was absent, so Keith Gregory presented Bill Winnell, Kevin Spriggs and Joan Hammond with trophies for winning a mixed event.

Rushworth bowlers Don Perry, Jack Borger, John Aitken and Norm Geisler were the silver medallists in the rinks event within the tournament held by Mooroopna Golf Bowls Club

Playing for Kyabram Cricket Association at Country Week in Melbourne, John Raglus took five wickets for 16 runs against Mininera and 4/21 against Wimmera. Prahran Cricket Club may have spotted this, as he later had several seasons at that club, before playing for Brunswick.

C-grade tennis team at Rushworth was Peter Davidson, Ray Cheatley, Gerard McArdle, Meredith Heily, Karen Oliveiri, and Cathy Poulson, after she was dropped from B-grade the previous week!

B-graders the previous Saturday had been Colin Barlow, Rob Raglus, Ross Burge, David Roberts, Pauline Wootton, Liz Heath, Judy Meagher and Cathy, but after the big loss to Tatura, the selectors had to wield the axe. Out went Cathy!

### Rushing to Whroo, 1853 to 1880



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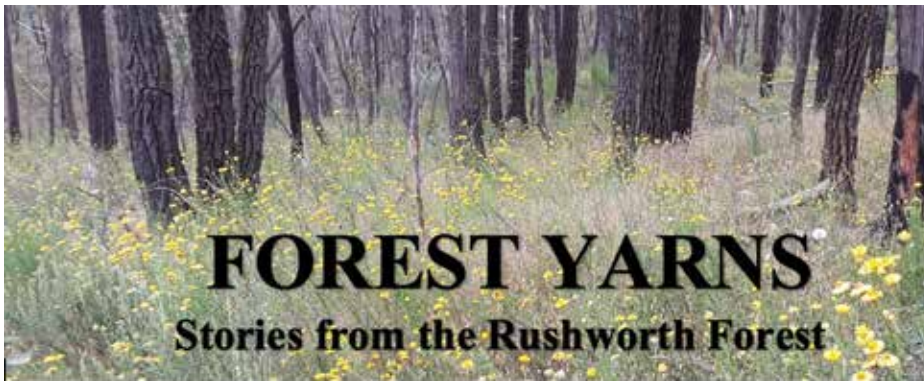
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## Output of railway sleepers

There was a chief forester appointed for the Rushworth district for the first time in 1890. Mr W F McNamara was the father of Frank McNamara, who later won the Victoria Cross in World War 1. In 1900, McNamara reported that the average production of railway sleepers out of the forest was about 50,000 per year between 1895 and 1900.<sup>1</sup> This seems to have been the first reliable indicator of the level of output of railway sleepers from the Rushworth forest.

Not all the sleepers produced were for the railways. In 1915, Berry Brothers of Rushworth gained a tender to supply 23,000 sleepers to the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust. The contract stipulated a price of 4/4 or 4/5 per sleeper (44c or 45c).<sup>2</sup>

As mentioned in an earlier story, in the 25 years from 1917-42, the average output of sleepers as recorded by the Rushworth Forest Commission office was still over 25,000 per year, a total of around 650,000. This statistic is misleading though, because the industry was in steady decline from the mid-1920s. Highest production year was in 1924 when nearly 91,000 sleepers came out of the forest.<sup>3</sup> By the early 1940s, only a few thousand were being produced each year, although that may have been influenced by wartime constraints.

It was also clear that the forest could not sustain the sleeper hewing industry at the level it had in the past, and the Victorian Railways looked to other sources for most of their supply.

## Shortage of timber

One of the ongoing issues for sleeper hewers was access to areas where they could do their work. Forest areas were being increasingly restricted from the late 19th century onwards. The sleeper hewers looked to other areas for a supply of suitable timber, using local politicians to present their case to the government.

Doctor Swamp near Murchison was opened to sleeper cutters in 1898. The request to government came from local member John Morrissey, Member for Rodney, who said "The labourers would thus be able to compete with capitalists who, at present, get all the advantages from the contract price and the men's

labour." H Wootton of Rushworth sent a congratulatory telegram to Mr Morrissey on behalf the local workers.<sup>4</sup>

As works were under way to develop what would later become Waranga Basin, the local member, Mr Mason MLA made representations to the government in 1900 to allow hewers access to what was then known as Gunn's Swamp.<sup>5</sup> The area was to go under water within the next few years.

Gunn's Swamp was seen as a convenient area for the sleeper hewers to work because it was not far from the Rushworth to Murchison railway line, so transport would be much easier than from deep in the Rushworth forest. After many earlier unsuccessful attempts to gain approval for access to this area, Mr Mason's proposal was taken up by the government. However, this was only a short-term fix for sleeper hewers, as there was only a limited supply.

## Victorian production

The production of railway sleepers in Victoria peaked in the 1933-4 financial year when nearly a million sleepers were produced. However, by this time, the expansion of railways throughout Victoria was largely over, and a high proportion of the output was then used to replace the existing sleepers. Output from the Rushworth forest by this time was in severe decline because of the lack of available trees.

Consequently, the number of sleeper cutters in the Rushworth forest area was reduced from around 250-300 in the peak years to around 10% of that number by the late 1920s. The skill of sleeper hewing was kept alive by a small number of men like Jack Miller after the Second World War, but is now a distant memory.

What stands out is how hard those men worked, for so little reward. There was no alternative employment and they had to feed their families through tough times such as the Great Depression of the 1930s.

1 *Lawrence, Ruth and Bellette, Marc, Gold, Timber, War and Parks: A History of the Rushworth Forest in Central Victoria (CSIRO Publishing 2010)*; 2 *The Age* 28/6/1915; 3 *Public Records Office of Victoria, State Forests Output Books (Rushworth 1916-29 and 1929-42)*; 4 *Tatura Guardian* 3/6/1898; 5 *Shepparton Advertiser* 6/2/1900

## A Name from the Past Albert Curtis - timber man

Rushworth Chronicle of 6 April, 1934, tells of a man from a family active across the district.

"The friends of Mr. Albert Ernest Curtis received a painful shock when they heard the sad news that he had passed away after a week's illness.

Mr. Curtis was seized with a violent pain in the neck while visiting one of his properties at Moora on Friday, 23 March. He immediately drove home in his car to his residence, Esmonde street, and medical aid was summoned. He lapsed into unconsciousness about two hours after, but regained consciousness and a specialist was sent for from Melbourne. He again became unconscious, and although everything medical skill could do was done, he passed away shortly after midnight on Sunday morning last. He was 52 years of age.

The late Mr. Curtis was born at Abbotsford (Melbourne), and was the second-eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Curtis, South-Crescent, Northcote. He came to Rushworth when eighteen years of age. With his brother (Mr. E. W. Curtis) they started wood mills at Youanmite and Yabba North, and also at Rushworth and did a large trade. The partnership was carried on for twenty-one years, after which it was mutually dissolved.

The late Mr. Curtis carried on a section of his business up to the time of his death. He also acquired mills at Colbinabbin, Erwen [Moora] and Wanalta. He subsequently sold the mill at Colbinabbin to his brother William.

He married Miss Ruby Leister, of Melbourne. There was no family of the marriage. He leaves a widow, five brothers: Messrs E. W. Curtis, J.P. (Rushworth), Walter (Northcote), Henry (U.S.A.), Harold and Arthur (Northcote), and four sisters: Nellie (Mrs. Wardrop, Thornbury), Pauline (Adelaide), May (Mrs. Shugg, Northcote) and Lillian (Mrs. Hood, Camberwell).

The late Mr. Curtis was a member of the Jubilee (Rushworth) Masonic Lodge and the Ancient Order of Foresters. He was also a vestryman of St. Paul's Church of England. He was well-known in Rushworth and district and made many friends. He assisted many local movements and his untimely death will cause a gap in the community.

The funeral which took place on Sunday last was one of the largest seen in the town. The remains were taken to St. Paul's Church where a short service was held by Rev. H. F. Goss. The funeral, headed by the members of the Masonic Lodge, and followed by a long line of cars and pedestrians, representative of the town and surrounding district, then proceeded to the Rushworth Cemetery. The Church of England burial service was conducted by the Rev. H. F. Goss at the graveside and the Masonic service was read by Wor. Bro. A. Wilson.

The pall bearers were Messrs. J. McKenzie, B. Hannah, A. Roberts, P. Ryan, W. A. Cochrane, Jas. Potter. The coffin bearers were Messrs. T. J. Coyle, J. L. Ralph, E.F. Lyndon, J. C. Smith (members of St. Paul's Vestry), W. Laurie, W. B. Heily. Flower-bearers were Messrs J. Ferguson, E. Geisler, T. Seignior, K. King, H. Geisler. There were many floral tributes including wreaths from the Masonic Lodge and St. Paul's Vestry."

*Alan McLean*



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# Students recognised at P-12 College assembly

At the most recent P-12 assembly on the 24 February, several students were recognised for becoming Student Representatives on our SRC.

The Primary School is represented by the primary captains - Gypsy Harrison and Mohammed Salem. Year 7/8 are represented by Stella Balmer, Jack McGowan and Aeris Honey. Year 9/10 have Doz Lockwood, Ellah Langman-Airs and Aiden Porter representing them. In Year 11 and 12 we have Emily McLean and Rachelle Rodwell. Rachelle will also represent the student body on college council as the Student Voice representative. Congratulations to all these students for being a voice for their peers and championing their causes at the College.

Then it was time to announce the swimming champions and present the shield to the winning house captain. Ms Bromley a keen McNamara supporter herself had great delight in announcing the winner, by too many points to mention, and watching Jackie Jones, House Captain hoist the shield high in celebration!



The swimming champions were very happy to be recognised at our recent college assembly.



Staff member Laura Bromley presenting McNamara House Captain Jackie Jones with the swimming shield.



VCE VM Catering – Grace, Chloe, Millie, Brodie, Liam and Ella were recognised for their hard work catering for the swimming carnival.



Charlie McL, Lucas J, Wyatt R and Reece F received awards for their display of House Spirit at the recent swimming carnival.

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**HOPE prepare to move into new building at P-12 College**

**On Friday the team at ELEV8 Maintenance & Installations ‘handed’ over the new HOPE learning area to the college.**

Mr Hunt and the HOPE (Hands On Practical Education) students have been waiting eagerly to move into this area, and the college can’t wait to see what this group of students accomplish over the coming year. The next step is for the HOPE students to ‘fit out’ their new learning area, with painting, some basic plumbing and more. These tasks are just the beginning of this group of students developing skills that will be of use in their future working lives.

A huge shout out to Daniel and his team at ELEV8 Maintenance & Installations for not only an exemplary job but supporting our HOPE students through several projects whilst they have been on site the past year. They have always been willing to share their expertise, and work side by side with our students.



**The NEW Hands on Practical Education Centre was handed over by Daniel from Elev8 to Peter Bovell, Principal.**

**Insects in Agriculture**

Last year, the Year 4-6 students investigated bugs. They looked at pollinators, pests and beneficial bugs. This year we are continuing that work and will be preparing entries for the School Plant Science ‘Insects in Agriculture’ competition.

So far this year, we have been learning about mealworms, their lifecycle and how we can farm them at school. Our mealworm farm is set up according to their lifecycle and we have had fun trying to keep all the different stages separate. We even tasted flavoured mealworms and crickets!

The class is also looking



**Whyatt and Jack getting to know the stick insects they have hatched.**

after the recently hatched stick insects, refreshing their browse food and ensuring that it is kept moist. Any

new hatchlings are being collected and transferred to their new enclosure.

*Ms Janky*



**Students in Years 4-6 have enjoyed raising mealworms in the Ag Hort class.**

**Special Valentine’s Day Assembly**

On 14 February our primary school community came together for a heartwarming Valentine’s Day Assembly, celebrating love, kindness, and appreciation. Families were invited to join us as our primary students shared special handmade gifts, expressing their gratitude for the care and support they receive.

It was a wonderful opportunity for students to reflect on the importance of family and friendship, and to say thank you in a meaningful way. Thank you to all the families who attended and helped make the day extra special!

**Valentine’s Day Assembly Address**

Hello Families! Happy Valentine’s Day.  
Hope you have a good Valentine’s Day this year.  
We all love our families.  
Thank you for taking care of us.  
We appreciate your help.

We appreciate your love and support.  
Thank you for coming to our Valentine’s assembly.

*Madison Sikorski and Audrey Parker*



**Shannon with Erick**



**Cassie and Tolly**



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# Colbinabbin PS welcomes Acting Principal



James Sait (left) has been welcomed as Acting Principal at Colbinabbin for this term while Michael Greenaway is on long service leave.



Grades 3-6 students travelled to Elmore to participate in the annual Cluster Swimming Sports last Friday.

## Exciting times at Murchison Pre-school

The past few weeks at Goulburn Region Preschool Association’s Murchison Preschool have been packed full of excitement!

We have had a visit from Nicky and Chuck as they facilitated the Responsible Pet Ownership Program. Our children demonstrated patience as they waited to greet Chuck and we learnt some songs to help us remember how to greet unfamiliar dogs, as well as what to do if we are approached by an unfamiliar dog. We also learnt how to read some warning signs that a dog is uncomfortable and how to safely approach a dog to pat it.

Another interesting visit was from Mel at AFL VIC. We learnt how to handball, kick, and also played ‘Angry Ogre’. We might be biased but we think we have some little stars in our midst.

Children have begun planting some seeds to plant in our vegetable patches and have been using some of our edible plants in cooking.

During our daily Acknowledgement of Country we discussed how we show respect to First Nations people and their perspectives throughout the day and spoke about using some of our edible plants to add flavour to our bread as well as keep knowledge of bush tucker alive.



Many hands contribute to healthy kitchen results when using produce from the kinder garden.

As the year progresses we will continue to strengthen our knowledge around native plants and their many uses. If anyone has a lot of knowledge in this area we would love you to reach out! We also now have an Instagram account - give us a follow.

If you would like to be involved in our learning please contact us at [murchison@grpsa.com.au](mailto:murchison@grpsa.com.au)

*Miranda, Natalie and Lily*



Seeds are sown and now we wait for a bumper veggie crop for the coming season.



Valuable lessons from Nicky to ensure happy puppies and happy kids.



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# Welcomes and farewells at St Mary's

This week marks the mid point in our term and we can't believe how much learning has already happened in such a short period of time!

We are now in the full swing of things with our new program 'Magnify Sandhurst'. Magnify has been designed to optimise the learning outcomes of our students and we are already seeing great results.

This week we had our beginning of year school Mass. It was excellent to see so many parents, grandparents and parishioners attending. After the Mass we celebrated the new school year with a BBQ lunch.

## Best wishes Mrs Parry!



This week we farewell Mrs Parry as she begins her maternity leave. Thea has been a dedicated and knowledgeable teacher and leader in our school, she will be greatly missed while she is away.

*Bianca Brook  
Classroom Teacher*



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The Harvey family enjoy a barbeque lunch together after the year's commencement Mass.



Sienna, Jaida, Indi and Alyssa and (right) Taylah and Rose at lunch after the Mass.



## Breakfast Club

Last week St Mary's started up its breakfast club again. We are grateful to have donations from the IGA, the Rushworth Bakery and the Food Bank to help us provide our students with a nutritious breakfast so they can be best prepared for a day full of learning.

*Celebrating 5 years in Rushworth.*




**Balloons  
AND STUFF  
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# Break - fast




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of our breakfast club!





# World Council of Churches calls for just peace in Gaza

The World Council of Churches has called on President Trump to follow international law for a just peace in Gaza.

World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev Prof Dr Jerry Pillay has described the proposal of US President Trump as “tantamount to proposing full-scale ethnic cleansing and neo-colonization of the homeland of the two million Palestinians of Gaza.”

The proposal violates every applicable principle of international humanitarian and human rights law, flouts decades of efforts by the international community – including by the USA – for a just and sustainable peace for the peoples of the region and would, if implemented, constitute multiple international crimes of the most serious kind. “The standing of the United States of America as a responsible member of the international community has been gravely diminished by the proposal itself, not to speak of any actual implementation thereof,” Pillay said.

“The World Council of Churches calls on President Trump to reconsider this disgraceful proposal, and to respect international law and equal human dignity and rights of the people of Gaza,” Pillay said. “Further, the WCC calls on all people of faith and good will to stand against this egregious violation of human dignity and international law.”

Pillay further urged churches and Christian communities worldwide to raise their voices in defence of justice, to advocate for the protection of Palestinian lives and rights, and to press their governments to reject any proposal that facilitates ethnic cleansing and permanent occupation.

“We affirm that peace cannot be built on the dispossession and suffering of an entire people but must be rooted in justice, dignity and the fundamental rights of all,” said Pillay. “May the churches be steadfast in their witness, as Christ calls us to stand with the oppressed, and seek peace that is founded on justice. We pray for peace, justice and respect for all people who suffer under the tyranny of the powerful in this world.”

# Knowing more about Ramadan

The first day of Ramadan fasting this year began on 1 March 2025.

**Spiritual Renewal:** Ramadan is a time for Muslims to reflect on their lives, seek forgiveness, and draw closer to Allah (God). It is a period of spiritual growth and purification, where Muslims are encouraged to reassess their values and priorities.

**Empathy and Charity:** One of Ramadan’s core values is empathy for those less fortunate. Muslims are encouraged to increase their charitable efforts, both through zakat (mandatory almsgiving) and sadaqah (voluntary charity), to help those in need.

**Community and Solidarity:** Ramadan is a time for communal bonding. Muslims gather for prayers, meals, and reflections, fostering a sense of unity and solidarity both within families and communities.

**Spiritual Cleanse:** Ramadan is also a time of spiritual renewal. Beyond the physical fast, Muslims use this month to focus on their connection with Allah (God), putting worldly matters aside. It is seen as a time for a spiritual cleanse, where individuals aim to purify their hearts, strengthen their faith, and grow closer to their Creator.

**Laylat-ul-Qadr (The Night of Power):** It is during the last ten days of Ramadan that the Quran is believed to have begun its revelation. Laylat-ul-Qadr, or the Night of Power, is the most sacred night of Ramadan, often observed on one of the odd-numbered nights in the final ten days. Prayers made on this night are particularly powerful, and it is a night of great mercy and forgiveness.

**Eid-ul-Fitr:** Ramadan culminates after twenty-nine or thirty days (depending on the moon sighting) with the celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr. This celebration marks the end of Ramadan and is a time of joy, giving thanks and gratitude for the strength to complete the fast. On this special day, Muslims greet one another with the phrase Eid Mubarak, which translates to “Happy Eid.”

## Does it sound familiar to Christian’s Lent? For Christians, the time of fasting for Lent started on Ash Wednesday 5 March 2025.

Lent is a forty-day season that ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. The season of Lent offers Catholics an opportunity to reflect on where they have failed to love God, their neighbour and themselves and to seek ways to heal what is broken. Alongside this reflection on how they are living their lives, Catholics commit more fully to prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

## 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.

## AN EVENING PRAYER FOR CHILDREN



God bless mothers and fathers and grand-  
parents too,  
Uncles and aunts and friends old and new.  
AMEN

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**GOOD LIFE**

**What we remember most**  
**It had been a week of shifting gears, literally and figuratively.**

The week began, as it usually does, with me leading and preaching at our Sunday church service.

By Monday morning, I had transitioned from the pulpit to the vineyard, overseeing the start of our grape harvest. The picking team were in full swing by early morning, but my day took a detour as I led a funeral service, standing with a grieving family in their moment of loss.

Tuesday and Wednesday saw me overseeing picking and driving truckloads of grapes to Leocata's Transport in Tatura, ensuring our deliveries made it to Brisbane and Sydney.

Then came Thursday, another day of picking, until I had to pause mid-morning to attend our Parish AGM. At these meetings, I usually offer a brief reflection to set the tone, but as I sat there, I realised, not only had I nothing prepared. Worse still, my mind was completely blank. In a week packed with different roles and responsibilities, my thoughts were scrambled. I tried to recall what I had preached about on Sunday, but for the life of me, I couldn't remember a single word of my own sermon.

What I did remember, however, was a conversation I had after the service. We had visitors that day, a young family juggling small children, and they had made a point of telling me how much they appreciated the sermon. They found it relevant, they said, and the highly visual way I presented it made it easy to follow, even in the midst of wrangling little ones.

It struck me that while I couldn't recall my own words, I remembered how people's response to the sermon felt good.

**The power of feeling over words**

This reminded me of something I've long believed about funerals. When preparing a funeral service, celebrants take great care in choosing the right words, crafting prayers, readings, and eulogies that honour a person's life, but in reality, most people in the depths of grief will struggle to recall exactly what was said. What they will remember is how they felt, whether they experienced comfort, dignity, and love in that sacred moment of farewell.

We see this dynamic in the Gospels as well, for example, the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. Preceding this event is an entire day of Jesus' teaching, including a whole sermon, possibly, many sermons, but not a single word of that teaching is recorded by the disciples. Instead, what they remember, and what they pass down to us, is one simple instruction from Jesus: "You give them something to eat."

What stayed with the disciples wasn't the content of the lesson, but the feeling of responsibility and challenge that Jesus placed upon them. And the miraculous way in which the crowd was fed.

So, as I sat in that AGM, still struggling for something to say, I decided to tell this story. I shared how I had completely forgotten my own sermon, but that our visitors had remembered that it made them feel welcome and included.

To my surprise and delight, several members of our congregations jumped in to remind me of key points from my sermon. They had remembered! But their memories weren't just about the words I had spoken; they were about how those words had connected with their lives.

**Showing up, even when we have no words**

This brings me to something we all experience at some point: the fear of not knowing what to say.



How often do we hesitate about visiting someone who is grieving because we're afraid we won't have the right words? How many times have we avoided difficult conversations with a friend going through a hard time because we don't know how to respond? But what if words are not the most important thing? What if, instead, our presence and our willingness to simply be with someone, is what truly matters?

Some of the most meaningful encounters I've had with people in times of grief or difficulty have involved very few words. A hand on a shoulder, a listening ear, a shared

silence, these can speak more powerfully than any well-crafted sentence. In those moments, what people will remember isn't what we said, but how we made them feel.

**Being people of grace**

So, what does this mean for how we live?

I believe it calls us to be people of grace, people who make others feel loved, accepted, and welcome, whether or not we have the right words.

It means showing up for those who are hurting, not with answers or solutions, but with kindness and presence. It means being intentional about how we make others feel, knowing that long after words fade, emotions remain.

Most of us won't be remembered for our speeches, sermons, or clever conversations but we will be remembered for the warmth we brought into a room, the encouragement we offered in a tough time, the way we made others feel valued and cared for.

As we go about our busy weeks, juggling responsibilities, shifting from one role to another, perhaps we can let go of the pressure we put on ourselves to always say perfect words. Instead, we can focus on being fully present, offering what we have, and trusting that it is enough.

Because in the end, people may forget what we say, but they will never forget how we made them feel.

This is the gospel and it's good news.  
*Brian Spencer, Minister,  
Grapegrower and Truck Driver*

**World Day of Prayer**  
**The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative.**

It is run under the motto 'Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action,' and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.

The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.



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**119 Albion Street, Kyabram 3620**  
**Phone: 5852 1061 Mobile: 0409 935 375**



# WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

## DEATH

**CRUZ (nee McInnes), Margaret June**  
**27.06.1937 – 22.02.2025**

Dearly loved Mother/Mother-in-Law of Ian (Abid), Suzie and Pluto (dec), Debbie and Barry.

Loved Gran/Pinhead to 11 Grandchildren  
Loved Old Gran/Pinhead to 32 Great-Grandchildren.

Dearly loved twin sister and Aunt to Shirley and her family.

*Thank you for being our mum.*

**CRUZ (nee McInnes), Margaret June**  
**27.06.1937 – 22.02.2025**

Dearly Loved Mother/Mother-in-Law of Debbie and Barry.

Loved Gran/Pinhead of Carita and Justin, Aidan and Ellen and Shaun and Karlee.

Loved Old Gran/Pinhead of Lexi, Nyla, Kaide, Lily, Maisie, Esme and Coby.

*Gone but not forgotten.*

*Forever in our hearts.*

**CRUZ (nee McInnes), Margaret June**

Adored Mum/inlaw of Suzie and Pluto (dec), dearly loved and loving Gran/Pinhead of Clinton and Amy, Tamara (in heaven), Tav and Nat, Jacinda (Mezzo) and Steve, Tootie and Kizza, Jedd and Cristel, Jake and Helene (Tilty).

Very proud and loving Old Gran/Pinhead of 21 great grandchildren.

Reunited with Dad/Pop - forever in our hearts. Love ya heaps.

## THANK YOU

### A BIG THANK YOU

The volunteers on the Rushworth Cemetery Trust are ‘exceptional’ as we found recently when we commissioned for a memorial installation at the Rushworth Cemetery. From our initial phone call to completion of project, the volunteers gave excellent service, knowledge and labour. Rushworth and District is very fortunate to have such committed volunteers caring for this beautiful Cemetery.

Well done and thank you to all involved.

*Allan and Marg Howard.*

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Cornella Care**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday March 12**  
**at**  
**Colbinabbin Country Hotel**  
**at 2.00 pm.**  
**All very welcome.**

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

MARCH

Thu 6	International Womens Day Rochester Booking 03 5481 2200
Fri 7	Kyabram Rodeo
Sat 8	Songs at the Silo's Rochester
Wed 12	Free BBQ - Murchison Neighbourhood House - 11am - 1pm
Sat 15	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
Sat 15	Rushworth Town wide garage sale. To register call 03 5856 1295
Sat 22	Rushworth Community Social Dance - at Shire Hall 7pm-11.30pm Bookins 5856 1295 \$10Audlts \$5 Children
Sat 29	Rochester Mural Festival

APRIL

Sun 6	Stanhope Town Garage Sale from 9am
Thur 10	Rushworth Shire Hall Age Care Expo - all Services Providers
Sat 19	Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival Market, High Street - 8.30am

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, Fri 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 9.30am at McEwen Place
- Stanhope Community Garden: Wednesdays 8.30 to 9.30am
- 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
- Rushworth 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 st, Rushworth, Thursdays 7pm
- Stanhope: Chris's exercises at Seniors: Mondays 10.45am
- Rushworth: Chris's exercises at Rushworth Community House Mondays 1 - 2pm
- Colbinabbin: Chris's exercises at Colbinabbin Hall Mondays 3.30 - 4.30pm

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**

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## Project Update

Works have now been completed on the new Football Interchange Boxes at both Lockington and Colbinabbin Recreation Reserves.



**Coming Up** Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 18 March 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.

### Wednesday, 19 March

9.20 – 10.20am | Kyabram Senior Citizens Centre

### Thursday, 20 March

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

### Thursday, 20 March

11:30am – 12 noon | Gunbower Primary School

### Monday, 24 March

9:00 – 10:00am | Tongala Shire Hall

### Monday, 24 March

11:30am – 12 noon | Rushworth Service Centre

**Need help making an appointment?**

**Please call Council on 1300 666 535.**

## Tenders

### Request for Tender 25008: Echuca Holiday Park Cabin Refurbishment.

Council is seeking submissions from suitably experienced providers for the above work.

A non-compulsory site meeting is arranged for 10:30am on 5 March 2025, meeting point at Echuca Holiday Park, outside reception. RFT submissions must be uploaded to the eProcure tender portal on Council's website no later than 2pm on 18 March 2025. Late submissions will not be accepted.

### Request for Quote 25010:

#### Aquatics and Wet Play Strategy.

Council is seeking submissions from suitably experienced providers for the above work.

RFQ submissions must be uploaded to the eProcure tender portal on Council's website no later than 2pm on 24 March 2025. Late submissions will not be accepted.

## Now Open

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



### Community Vision 2040 & Council Plan 2025-29 Survey

This survey is part the community consultation to update the Community Vision, and the Council Plan for 2025-2029, guiding how Council supports the community over the next four years.

The survey also includes some budget consultation questions.

Your feedback about what you think Council needs to focus on and prioritise will guide Council's future actions. Survey closes 10 March.

### Draft 2025-30 Campaspe Library Service Strategic Plan

The draft 2025-2030 Campaspe Library Service Strategic Plan is now open for public comment.

We encourage everyone to review the

draft strategy and provide their input by 16 March.

### Volunteers sought for Ripple Fest

Want to be part of upcoming arts festival Ripple Fest but don't have an artistic bone in your body? Or perhaps you do, but would prefer to work in the background? Either way, we've got you covered!

We're looking for volunteers to help bring this exciting festival to life in Rochester and Echuca from 22-25 May, 2025. Visit the Now Open section on Council's website to register your interest. The survey also includes some budget consultation questions. Your feedback about what you think Council needs to focus on and prioritise will guide Council's future actions. Survey closes 10 March.

## Community Transport Drivers wanted!

Join our team of volunteer drivers in Campaspe Shire and help us make direct, positive impact every day! Our service allows you to provide a trusted link to regional/city health specialists for local people. As a volunteer driver, your tasks will include:

Providing safe, reliable transport to out-of-town medical appointments; operating the supplied vehicle in a safe and efficient manner at all times, complying with Council policy and procedures; and providing a friendly

and supportive environment to empower our regional residents to keep accessing the best healthcare in Victoria no matter where they live.



To apply:  
Phone Narelle Betts,  
Community Transport Officer on 1300 666 535  
or email [shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au)

## Employment

### #campaspecareers

- Duty Supervisor - Pools
- Early Childhood Educator (Casual)
- Early Childhood Educator (Permanent)
- Group Fitness Instructor
- Learn to Swim Teacher
- Rates and Revenue Officer

**For all positions currently open and application details, visit Council's website or call 1300 666 535.**

## Works Notice

Culvert and bridge renewal construction works in Two Tree Road, Stanhope, are scheduled to start in early March and will take about four months to complete. During the construction period, Two Tree Road will be closed between Girgarre-Rushworth Road and Geodetic Road North.

Detours will be in place, but access to properties will be available. Some traffic delays may occur, but council will endeavour to minimise the disruption as much as possible.

Readers' Corner

- interesting things to know and do!

Book it in

'Shakespeare – The Man who Pays the Rent' by Judi Dench

Many of us have had a limited exposure to the works of William Shakespeare, and have often been put off by dreary secondary school lessons where we had to 'do a Shakespeare' as part of the English curriculum in our early secondary school years. My father attended the Carag Carag School and as 'Dux of the School' in 1912, was awarded The Complete Works of Shakespeare as a prize, consisting of 37 plays and all his poems including the Sonnets – over 1200 pages of fine print on thin pages. What a thrill for a fifteen-year-old!

My first experience was the play Julius Caesar and I was totally mystified by the language. When my class all went to a very dreary performance of the play at the old National Theatre in Melbourne, I was not inspired by a group of men wearing white sheets standing around talking in a foreign language, and not even much evidence of blood and gore in the murder scene! Next year it was Macbeth, and the following year Hamlet. All hard work. In my final year at school I was cast in a role in Twelfth Night and for the first time started to 'get' Shakespeare.

Dame Judi Dench is now best known as a film and TV star, was 'M' in a number of Bond movies, and starred in the long-running TV series 'As Time Goes By', but for much of her long career, she played with Britain's Shakespeare companies, mainly the Royal Shakespeare Company. Most of the female leads were performed by her at one time or other.

This book is in the form of interviews between Dench, and actor and theatre director Brendan Ohea, and covers twenty of the best-known plays. How I wish I had had access to this book as a schoolboy. It gives such clarity to what the plays are all about, particularly from the perspective of the characters Dench played, and also insights into how a great actor gets inside the character, and understands or creates the motivation behind what the character does.

It's a great bedside book, as it can be dipped into, play by play, with occasional diversions into discussions between Dench and O'Hea about the world of theatre and the amazing actors with whom Dench worked.

Thoroughly recommended for Shakespeare lovers, and if you are not one of them, this book might change everything for you!

Contributed by Clem Furphy

KIDS' QUIZ

1. What is the currency of Japan?
2. Which is the tallest type of grass in the world?
3. Which country has the longest wall?
4. What is the capital of Turkiye?
5. What bird can fly backwards?
6. Which Australian state is known as the Sunshine State?
7. Which US state is known as the Sunshine State?
8. Which planet has a ring around it?
9. Which part of a plant absorbs water?
10. How many sides does a hexagon have?

Did you know? . . . All the world's bacteria stacked on top of each other would stretch for 10 billion light-years.

Sudoku and Crossword puzzle

HOW TO PLAY

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in:  
Each of the nine vertical columns  
Each of the nine horizontal rows  
Each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes  
Remember no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.

ACROSS

1. Coach pick-up point (3,4)
4. Stoppers
7. Punctured
8. Burn with steam
9. Crow relatives
12. Victim of war
15. Combination of symptoms
17. Fortune
18. Jewelled headband
21. Got tired
22. Easy (job)
23. Landlord's customers

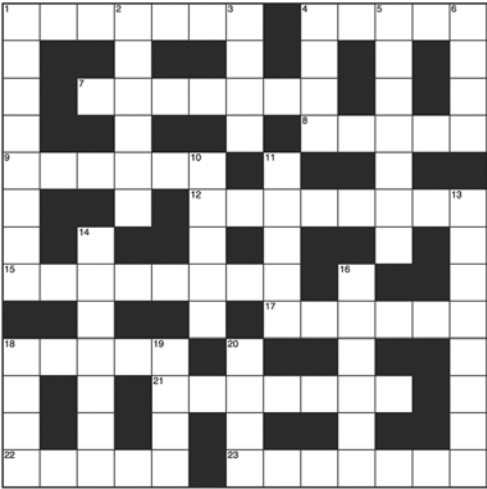
DOWN

1. Bread shops
2. Herbs & ...
3. Treaty
4. Seed cases
5. Effeminate
6. Hourglass contents
10. Ice cream server
11. Awry
13. Eastern veils
14. Guts
16. Photo machine
18. Body powder
19. Absent
20. Tense

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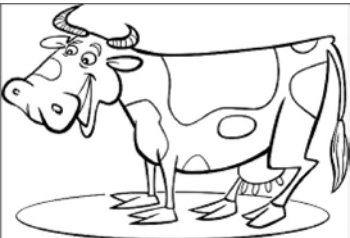
4		8		9				1
				2				
6	9	2		5				8
	5		9			3	1	
	1		3		6		8	
	6	7			8		4	
7				6		1	2	3
					7			
9				2		8		7

Crossword No: 47



Solutions will appear in the next edition.

C is for Cheese



. . . that's made with milk that comes from a cow. Although it also can be made from sheep's milk, goat's milk - I suppose, even camel's milk!

There are hard cheeses, like parmesan, delicious shaved over a salad or on top of spaghetti.

There are soft cheeses, like camembert or brie which are best served at room temperature with dry biscuits.

But if you want to make a cheese toastie and you want it stretchy and stringy, go for mozzarella, with some cheddar for a really yummy treat.



Yum - cheese toastie.



Cheese comes in many varieties.



# Busy Stanhope pool season coming to a close

Another busy pool season is coming to an end and what a season it has been!

It was another season filled with local swimmers, swimmers from neighbouring towns and also the people passing through who stopped in to cool off.

The pool users were fortunate to have the inflatables visit multiple times this year and it was so nice to see the young and the old making the most of them.

The committee are thankful for the support of Angelo's Pizza Shop for well loved Pizza Nights, and to the pool patrons who come along and support all of our fundraising events throughout the season. There will be an eight month break before the children are loaded with snow cone sugar again! Whilst the pool closes for the winter months, the committee will continue to meet and organise to make next season even better!

The committee would like to pass on a very big thankyou to the amazing group of lifeguards present throughout this season. This season has been the first with zero days when the pool was unable to open due to lifeguard shortages!

The committee will be holding an AGM on Wednesday 26 March at 7pm at the Stanhope Business Centre. Everyone is welcome to come and learn more about the work of the committee, or to join, please come along.



Pool exercises have been contributing to a healthy and fit Stanhope population over summer.

## Pool exercises popular

Over 30 people have enjoyed pool exercises since January in the Stanhope pool. The numbers fluctuate but have been excellent overall. People comment that they are feeling the benefits of the exercise with less joint pain since they commenced.

The group is of varying ages, is very keen, shows up regularly, exercises to music, tries all exercises suggested, and regularly exercises their laughing gear as well!

Thanks to Glenda Cowie and Jenny McGrath who have run the exercises competently and well. The pool has been

great this year and with the long hot summer, there is no stopping until the pool closes. Thanks to Campaspe Shire for allowing free entry again this year, this boosts the numbers.

When the pool closes, exercises will continue with chair yoga at the Senior Citizens at the same times as the pool exercises. 4pm Monday and Fridays and 6pm Wednesday.

Come along and try a different exercise, join a friendly group, work at your own pace and experience the hidden benefits of chair yoga.

## More qualifications for Rushworth SES members

Rushworth SES members have a myriad of training available to them from boating courses, road accident rescue training, chainsaw courses, four-wheel driving courses and even truck licences and many, many more.

The unit is very lucky to have our specialist trainer, Hailey Lemin and Wednesday nights are a surprise as to what is to be performed and practiced on the night. New members are welcome.

The latest course achieved by four members of the unit is a Crew Leader course.

The intense two-day course in Cobram was passed by four members - Sue Bloomfield, Hailey Lemin, Susan Perry and Mike Perry. Well done!



New Crew Leaders - Sue Bloomfield, Hailey Lemin, Susan Perry and Mike Perry.



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## F Series roundup to meet at Motofinish

There will be an influx of F Series Fords visiting Rushworth on 8 and 9 March.

Between 8.45 am and 9.30 am at the Motofinish Cafe you can see the F Series lining the streets ready to leave in convoy to head to Echuca for a day of show ponies and working horses.

If you own an F Series you are invited to bring it along. The cars and their owners will meet back at the Cafe at the end of the day.

The drive is in honour of the passing of one of their members.





# Sports Report

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## RFNC - Tigers first practice match



Rushworth are looking forward to their first practice match for the year at Picola on Saturday 8 March.

- C and C Reserve match starts at 10:30am
- A and B Grade match starts at 10:30am
- Football kicks off at 11:00am.

### Thank you

Thank you to the forty plus Tigers who supported the wood cut in February. As most people would know, you can buy tickets to the wood raffle as you enter the gate on home matches. This is a big fundraiser for the club each year.

It was a very successful event. Thank you to our local arborists, 'Fish' Barlow, Shan Jarrett, Jake Carrick and Jake and Ike Jones for their generous donations of wood and their time to ensure the day ran very smoothly.

Also a huge thank you to Tommy Stevens

for providing the club with a place to store the wood.

Also a very big thank you to Kaylene Raglus for opening and running the bar.

After the woodcut the boys had the opportunity to catch up over a beer and bbq thanks to Sharon and Calvin Gleeson.

### Another signing

The club is thrilled to welcome another new footballer to the team, Paul Vavlitis. Paul plays mainly as a small forward. His intensity and commitment to the contest will be great to watch.

After reaching the 19.5's Grand Final last year, but unfortunately missing out on the win, Paul has decided to join Rushworth with a few mates this year. Welcome to Tigerland.

## Sixty-year milestone for some old remaining Tigers

Rushworth Football Club endured a thirty-year premiership drought after 1935 in the powerful Goulburn Valley Football League.

Sixty-year milestone for some old remaining Tigers Rushworth Football Club endured a thirty-year premiership drought after 1935 in the powerful Goulburn Valley Football League. Moving to the Heathcote District Football League for the 1965 season, the club won the flags in both Seniors and Seconds competitions, sparking a night of spirited celebrations by the drought-breaking players and their supporters.

The upcoming season will mark sixty years since the exciting day and night. Naturally many of those players have taken their final rest, but all will be warmly remembered by those who remain. Successful sporting teams create extraordinary bonding, even when life takes the players on very divergent pathways.

Murray Hitchcock (the team vice-captain), Ivan Baldwin, Paul Barlow, Ralph Barlow, Robert Betson, Graeme Hageman, Bill Heath, Malcolm McLeod, John O'Donnell, Wes Ristrom, and Jim Strain (11 in all) will recall team-mates the late Bill Cruz (captain-coach), Graeme Collard, Ian Coyle, Howard Hawking, Peter Home, Alec Horne, Graeme Johansen and the nineteenth and twentieth men Jamie Williams and Peter Keogh.

Players were in short supply. With a few injuries across both teams, Peter had to occupy the bench after winning the Seconds Grand Final earlier in the day. Two flags inside five hours. What an honour!

Joining Peter on the list of Seconds players now gone are the late Len "Tony"

Cruz (captain), Rob Borger, Peter Cleary, Barry Howard, Linton Gleeson, Frank Leggett, John Maloney, Les Morgan, Mick Quirk, Fred Smith, Dick Talbot, and John P. Williams.

The remaining seven victorious Tiger Seconds players are Bill Barlow, Michael Barlow, Ross Coyle, Les Hoyling, Lyle Parker, Ross Williams and Ken Wilson.

Over the years the two teams have come together a few times, including in 2015 to mark fifty years, but a sixtieth-year reunion of any sporting team is a truly remarkable event. Some of Rushworth's regular club reunion organisers are giving thought as to how best to recognise the extraordinary milestone during the upcoming season. Watch this space.

## CFNC - Training camp makes ready for season



The canteen roster is out, training camp has been run and the fixture is out.

Make sure you check the canteen roster and mark it in your calendar so you don't forget. If you cannot do your allocated shift, get in early and arrange your own shift or make contact to sort it out.

### New member

The club would like to welcome Dom Monteleone to the Hoppers for the 2025 season. Dom is another boy who has come over from the Mooroopna Bears. We look forward to seeing him hot on Dutchy's tail, if not in front of him!

### Merchandise

New merchandise is available through Breach Apparel. Check the link on the

Facebook page or head directly to Breach Apparel website. Clothing can be ordered throughout the season and delivered to your door.

### Fixture

Check out the new updated fixture starting with round one on 12 April and write up your calendar.

### U17 netballers

The club is still looking for U17 netball players for the season. Please talk amongst your friends and see if you know anyone who may like to join the club. To register interest or find out more information please contact Carlie on 0417351918.

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# GVAC - Rushworth Speedway action

Another race meeting was held on 1 March and with a last minute cancellation from the Amca's it would leave the club classes to run.

The drivers all kicked into heats and as always gave the crowd some action packed racing.

The juniors had a couple of different winners for the heats with John Hooton winning heat 1 and William Hickey taking the win in heats two and three and also the win in the final, followed by John Hooton second and Abbey Britton third.

The ladies, as always, showed their talent and also had a couple of different winners for the heats with Larissa Ahearn winning heat one and two and Mia Lamb winning heat three being her first final win in the ladies.

Productions started the night off with some excitement with Hodgey rolling his car on the front straight. Luckily he walked off the track and was ok. His amazing pit crew and helpers managed to get his car back out on the track for him and Chelsea to finish off the night; what an effort.

Warren Alexander had his car performing like a dream and took out all his heat wins and also the final.

The Mods had a smaller group of cars this meeting but enough to still split them into two heats. There were different winners for all the heats, which made a good mix for the final. The drivers all did great smooth laps and Tyler Brown took the final win in front of Josh Brown second and Jacob Tinworth third.

Thank you to all who helped on the day and also to those who took on tasks they had



Above: Tayt Sargeant winner of heat 1, GV Mods 1A.

never done before still giving it a go.

**VSC Standard Juniors:**

- 1st - William Hickey
- 2nd - John Hopton
- 3rd - Abbey Britton

**Productions:**

- 1st - Warren Alexander
- 2nd - Keiden Britton
- 3rd - Darren Hodge

**Ladies:**

- 1st - Mia Lamb
- 2nd - Larissa Ahearn

3rd - Chelsea Hodge

**Mods: 1st** - Tyler Brown

**2nd** - Josh Brown

**3rd** - Jacob Tinworth

**Thank you sponsors:** Perry's Butchery, Rushworth Bakery, MJ Skip Bins, Central Vic Roadworthy and Mechanical, Motion Exhaust Bendigo, Motacare Bendigo, Provac Poultry, Abbott Supply Bendigo, Claridge House Removalists and Super Balance.

# Grants now open for local cricket clubs

All local eligible cricket clubs can apply for the grants available under the Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund (ACIF).

The ACIF is funded by Cricket Victoria and Cricket Australia to support community cricket facility projects, with a focus on growing participation and promoting greater access for all Victorians.

Over sixty projects were funded in season 2023-24 and over \$250 million of partnered investment with Federal, State and local governments has been generated since the ACIF's inception in 2019.

The ACIF is open to all clubs, associations, schools, local government and cricket facility managers, acknowledging the important role these partners play in providing and maintaining facilities for community cricket

across Victoria.

The ACIF provides funding in the following two categories:

- **Community Cricket Infrastructure Grant – Minor: \$1,000 - \$15,000**
- **Community Cricket Infrastructure Grant – Major: \$15,001 - \$40,000**

Applications over \$40,000 will be considered on a case-by-case basis under the Strategic Cricket Infrastructure Funding category. Projects under this category will generally be multi-faceted and provide a broad regional benefit for cricket.

Local clubs can contact Ms Cleeland's office on 03 5762 1600 or email her

at [annabelle.cleeland@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:annabelle.cleeland@parliament.vic.gov.au) to arrange a letter of support for their application.

Applications close on Sunday 23 March 2025.

Further information on the ACIF including guidelines can also be found at: <https://www.cricketvictoria.com.au/clubs-support/grants/>



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# P-12 Annual Swimming Carnival – McNamara make a splash!

Rushworth P-12 College students took to the water to participate in their annual whole school swimming carnival on Monday 17 February.

The rivalry between the two houses, McNamara and Brocklebank, was tense as competitors and spectators headed to the Rushworth pool for the day.

Races included freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke as well as some fun races like egg and spoon race, pool noodle relay, piggyback races and a staff vs students' race.

Following the races everyone was treated to a BBQ lunch by some of the VCE VM students, Chloe, Jimmy, Millie, Brodie, Grace, Liam and Ella.

### House pride

After lunch a house pride parade took place, where two students from each house were chosen by school captain Ella to be presented with awards for representing their house with vigour and passion.

The winners from McNamara were Charlie and Lucas and the winners from Brocklebank were Wyatt and Reece.



Winners from McNamara(Purple) were Lucas and Charlie and the winners from Brocklebank(Yellow) were Wyatt and Reece.

### Champions on the day

After a competitive day the winning house, for the fifth year in a row, was McNamara!

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| The age level champions were:        | 16 year old - Doz L and Shannon S     |
| Grades F-3 – Lily C and Tolly G      | 17 year old – Tildy B and Charlie McL |
| Grades 4-6 – Amelia P and Mohammed S | 18 year old – Teaghan R               |
| 13 year old – Stella B and Heath O   |                                       |
| 14 year old – Kaelee W and Declan H  |                                       |
| 15 year old – Willow P and Joe B     |                                       |



Geoffrey Lipshut

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