

# WARANGA NEWS

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

**Published fortnightly since 1978**

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

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**A community newspaper  
staffed by volunteers**

*Thursday 3 April 2025*

## Food and fun at Colbo Market Day

The weather was perfect as a large crowd came together on Colbinabbin Primary School's Market Day to enjoy the stalls, the food, the music and a great range of kids activities.



The huge smiles on the faces of Mila and Freya (pictured) reflect the excitement of the day which was once again the huge success we have come to expect.

There was a wonderful variety of stall-holders, a spinning wheel, raffles, and delicious food and refreshments to be enjoyed, while a highlight of the afternoon for many was participation in the annual auction. Entertainment by popular trio Angelus added to the relaxing vibe of the afternoon for the adults, while the children enjoyed the jumping castles and some creative face-painting.

Market Day is the Colbinabbin Primary School's major fund-raising event for the year and it is due to the hard work of the school community and its supporters that the day is such a wonderful success. (More Market Day photos on page 20.)

# Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival

This free family-friendly festival is run by volunteers to benefit our community and support local clubs and businesses.

Stroll down High Street, visit the stalls and the food court and enjoy the free entertainment. Check out the great displays of steam machinery and vintage and classic cars and trucks and stop to cast a vote for your favourite vehicle.

Take part in the Easter Bonnet and Doggy Catwalk competitions and from there it's a short walk across the road to the Wood Auction where you can buy your winter supply of wood and support Shearing for Kids with Cancer.

At 1.00pm find a vantage point anywhere along High Street to see the Grand Parade led by the fabulous

Moora Working Draught Horse Clydesdales. The Easter Bunny makes an appearance, and the steam engines and vintage cars join the parade to finish off the day.



## PROGRAM

See map below for locations

8.30am

Festival Opens

9.00am

Easter Egg Hunt

10.00am

Easter Bonnet Parade Competition

10.30am

Doggy Catwalk Competition

11.00am

Wood Auction by Shearing for Kids with Cancer

1.00pm

Grand Parade

## ALL DAY

Music by True Country

Food & Coffee Vans

Art Exhibition



First Aid Station located at 35 High street

## SPONSORS

The Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival Committee would like to thank all of our sponsors for their generous support

Bolton Estate Agents

Colbinabbin Country Hotel

General Store Rushworth

Goulburn Valley Mulching and Slashing

Kanangra Accommodation

RENZ Support Services

Shire of Campaspe



Community Bank Rushworth & District



## DONATIONS

We have also received many generous donations from businesses in Rushworth and surrounding towns.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

## Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival – Site Map



First Aid – 35 High Street

Parking – Old School Oval – Tatura Road, Murchison Road, Station Street and Ironbark Stadium

Toilets – Old Railway Station and beside the Big Red Dragon Maze



# GV Tree Group celebrates 40 years

The Goulburn Valley Tree Group’s native nursery at Kerferd Street, Tatura was the scene of much celebration on Tuesday morning March 18 when the group celebrated forty years of propagating indigenous trees and plants for the local district communities. An extra bonus of the fortieth birthday celebration was that it fell on season’s official opening day for sales.

Joining the current group were many past volunteers, providing a wonderful opportunity to catch up and hear some really interesting and amusing stories about the group in its earlier days, especially how they worked with very limited resources – a credit to them and their achievements. All members, both past and present, are very proud that the group is still providing native plants for their very loyal regulars as well as new customers.

Current member Deb Lynch said it was wonderful to have so many volunteers present. Some of the long-time members attending were Yvonne Russell who was present at the first meeting and an active volunteer for many years, Bruce Wehner who has been Secretary for 40 years this month, Tom Dumaresq who was President for over 30 years and Inez Raleigh and Nancy Bloodworth, both past Nursery Managers.

## More events to come

Save Saturday morning 3 May in your calendar for the GV Tree Group’s very successful annual Biodiversity Day.

Presenters on this free day will include Kirsty from Bohollow Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation (and Waranga News columnist), Clancy Lester to discuss the secret lives of our native bees, John Laing’s Mini Beasts with his crawling spiders and other small creatures and Kylie Hoskin, Environment Officer for Greater Shepparton, who will talk about the benefits of planting indigenous species of plants on your property.



Past volunteers: Yvonne Harper, Betty Harvey, Rhonda Vincitorio, Yvonne Russell, Roger Clements, Nancy Bloodworth, Tom Dumaresq, Lorraine Pratt, Marg Foord and Inez Raleigh.

The nursery will be open for sales and Drew Baglin will have his incredible standard Grevillias for sale on the day.

There will be lots to see and learn and the kids will get some wonderful hands on experiences with native creatures and plants.

Morning tea is provided including the always popular sausage sizzle and everyone is welcome to come along for a morning of lots of informative fun for everyone.

After the rain it’s happy planting time!



Tom Dumaresq and Yvonne Russell cut the cake.

Goulburn Valley Tree Group Native Nursery  
6 Kerferd Street Tatura  
Open Tuesday and Saturday mornings.



Tom Dumaresq, Inez Raleigh and Nancy Bloodworth.




Bruce Wehner, Inez Raleigh, Lorraine Pratt and Cecily Dumaresq.

Sam  
BIRRELL MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NICHOLLS

**THE NATIONALS**

*for Regional Australia*



The federal election has been called for Saturday, May 3.

This is a critical election for Australia’s future, we can’t afford three more years of the Albanese government.

Groceries, energy bills, rent, and mortgage repayments are through the roof. Regional communities have been left behind with cuts to funding and infrastructure spending.

Labor has the wrong priorities with wasteful and reckless spending keeping inflation and interest rates higher for longer.

It’s time to change course.

The Nationals have a clear plan to fix the basics and get Australia Back on Track

- Lower inflation by cutting red tape and stopping wasteful spending.
- Immediate Cost-Of-Living Relief by halving fuel excise tax immediately delivering a 25c saving on every litre of fuel.
- Cheaper Energy through reliable and balanced solutions –including getting more gas into our energy system quickly to bring down prices.
- Affordable Homes by investing in infrastructure to accelerate land releases and stopping foreign buyers.
- Safer Communities with more CCTV to support police efforts and a plan to bring community leaders and stakeholders together to tackle local crime.
- Quality Healthcare by investing \$9 billion in Medicare, reducing the cost of medicines and \$580M for women’s health.
- Stronger Regions by restoring our fair share of funding.
- A stronger Economy giving small businesses a \$30,000 instant asset write-off, funding more apprentices in training and clearing red tape.

I have been honoured to be given the opportunity to represent this amazing community and over coming weeks I will be humbly seeking your support to continue that work, there is much more we can achieve.

I will also be laying out how the Nationals will deliver for the people of Nicholls.

Fixing the fundamentals is the priority, but you don’t get anywhere by standing still and I’ve been fighting hard for commitments to priority projects in communities across my electorate.



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

# Waranga Rail Trail opened this week

Construction of the Campaspe Shire section of the long-awaited Waranga Rail Trail is now complete and open to the public. An official opening ceremony will take place on 17 May.

The newly completed section offers 11 kilometres of trail between Rushworth and the Campaspe Shire boundary at Channel Inlet Road.

The trail features two surface types. A wheel-friendly 2.5m-wide asphalt path extends for 1 km from the High Street footpath and concludes at Bendigo-Murchison Road, while a 10km gravel section continues east to the shire boundary where it meets with the Murchison section of the trail developed by Greater Shepparton City Council in 2015.

Funded by the Australian Government’s Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant Program, the completed 19km trail follows the alignment of the decommissioned railway line from Rushworth to Murchison.

The Waranga Rail Trail passes through culturally and historically important areas and takes in many unique features and sites of interest, including the heritage-listed Rushworth railway goods shed, siding and turntable, Waranga Basin, the Cattanaach and Sturt Murray canals and Doctors Swamp Wildlife Reserve.

An official opening ceremony for the Waranga Rail Trail will be held at the start of the trail in High Street, Rushworth, on 17 May at 10 am to coincide with the monthly Rushworth market.



# Stanhope Community Market

6 APRIL



Fruit & Veg  
Arts & Crafts  
Books  
Jams & Preserves  
Garage Sale Items  
Jewellery, Plants & more

8am till 1pm  
BBQ  
Music

Birdwood Ave  
Stanhope  
1st Sunday of each month

ALL WELCOME

For More Information  
Ph: 03 58572844 or  
Stanhope Community Market Facebook page



# Pet registration reminder

Dog and cat owners across the shire are reminded that pet registration renewals are due to be paid by 10 April 2025.

All dogs and cats aged three months and older are required to be microchipped and registered with their local council.

Registration ensures that lost pets found wearing registration tags can easily be identified by council's animal management officers and returned to their owners.

It is also recommended that pets have separate ID tags on their collars with the animal's name and the owner's phone number and address so that community members can more readily return lost dogs to their rightful owners.

Renewal notices have been sent out for those currently registered in the shire, while new pet owners can find application forms on Council's website or from customer service centres. Relevant documents such as a desexing certificate and/or microchip certificate must be presented when registering the pet.

# ANZAC Day plans for Rushworth

Rushworth RSL will again this year be hosting the ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Rushworth at 6 am.

Uniformed mounted horsemen will join RSL members, adding a touch of pageantry to the ceremony. Historian John Gribben will speak and the Service will be followed by a gunfire breakfast prepared by the SES.

At 10 am the ANZAC Day march and Commemorative Service will take place at the War Memorial in High St.

The address will be given by Seamus Spark who will speak about the Dunera Boys.

An early lunch will be served at the former Senior Citizens rooms.

ANZAC badges will be on sale in the week before at Coghlan's IGA - for which any volunteer help would be much appreciated.



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Have your say!

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

What about us?

“What About Me” was a song – I think from the eighties. Somehow, this song is beginning to resound more loudly again when I read about many events going on initiated by the Shire of Campaspe.

I often google to find what’s on around the area in the off-chance something may appeal to me. Lately, I have noticed a bulk of shire activities seem to be reserved for two or three towns. It makes me wonder if the other towns in the shire have fallen off their radar.

Rushworth is one of the larger towns within the shire that seems to be missing out on events. The current program of autumn entertainment for example (Autumn Vibes) is a wonderful idea but again, while Rushworth has the facilities to host these events, such as Shire Hall or Village Green, just to name a couple of venues, our residents have to travel out of town if we wish to enjoy them.

I understand that only a certain amount of money is allocated for these events, but surely to goodness, share it around instead of concentrating on the same few towns. Other communities would also benefit by hosting these events.

Bernadette Howley  
Rushworth

Greater Shepparton  
to offer online  
workshops

Shepparton Council is offering two free online workshops for local community groups and not-for-profits, focusing on governance, leadership, and community advocacy.

The two workshops are Committees, Governance and Leadership, and Enabling and Supporting Community-Based Advocacy. They will be presented by the Institute of Community Directors and supported by Council.

The Committees, Governance and Leadership workshop (Thursday 15 May 2025) will cover roles, responsibilities, financial duties and effective governance practices. The Enabling and Supporting Community-Based Advocacy workshop (Wednesday 18 June 2025) will provide practical tips on running advocacy campaigns and engaging with government.

Bookings are essential – register via TryBooking using the links provided or contact Council’s Community Wellbeing team for assistance.

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with the WARANGA NEWS  
Online - \$30.00  
Subscribe at [wnews.org.au](http://wnews.org.au)

What do you think?

Contributed by Graeme Hanigan

I hope you’re enjoying this series inspired by Melanie Trecek-King, 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.

#3 The foundation of science is falsifiability, introduced by the philosopher of science Karl Popper.

#4 How good are you at detecting an illusion, and are you easily bamboozled?

Today we look at being intellectually vigilant.

“Nobody is going to pour truth into your brain. It’s something you have to find out for yourself.” (Noam Chomsky).

As we head into a Federal Election we can expect to be bombarded by falsehoods fabricated by politicians or their marketers, simply because our politicians are under no obligation of honesty, with the result that election campaigns slide into a free-fall of fake news.

Shouldn’t we Australians be entitled to the same standard of honesty in politics as legally required in trade and commerce – if not a higher standard?

To make it a little easier for you, here is a shortcut that you can apply to everyday life, to sort the wheat from the chaff!

This Latin quote of unknown authorship, demonstrates that there is nothing new about falsehoods; “*Quod gratis asseritur, gratis negate*” – which translates to ‘what is asserted without justification, may be rejected without justification’.

If a claim is made that is not supported by facts, then you are quite at liberty to reject that claim. The absence of supporting evidence is usually a good indication that the claim is made by someone who doesn’t actually have any real evidence.

I often have one-on-one conversations with people, especially on social media, where I’ve kept pressing them for sources to support a claim they have made, before they finally provided a link to a YouTube video or web site, which makes the same claim, but also provides no sources to support the claim.

Likewise, people often try to dodge a request for evidence with “do your own research”. This is a response that almost always signifies a claim which is lacking evidence.

We live in an era of unqualified social media ‘influencers’ who, as found in a University of Sydney study, promote “overwhelmingly” misleading information

about medical tests on Instagram and TikTok.

The study found most posts had no reference to scientific evidence, were promotional, had explicit financial interests and failed to mention potential harms.

Here is the reference;  
<https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2025/02/27/--influencers-promoting--overwhelmingly--misleading-information-.html>

These same influencers actively undermine science, claiming that as science can’t find the evidence to support their claim, it’s science that is at fault. The thought that they could be wrong never enters their mind, for obvious financial reasons.

So, if you find yourself presented with a claim that is not supported by evidence, ask yourself, “should I accept this?” Have you actually seen reputable evidence to back up the claim, or is it just something you saw/heard on the news, Facebook, YouTube, etc. that perhaps supports what you already choose to believe?

Have you verified that claim? Have you fact-checked it and traced it back to its original source, or is it just something that you accept because it sounded correct to you?

This is what I mean by being intellectually vigilant. You owe it to yourself to make sure there is actually a logical reason you hold the views that you hold, and if someone asks you for evidence, and you can’t produce it, question that seriously. Don’t be lazy and shrug it off. Be introspective about your views and get to the root of why you think a given thing is true or false. Does your view trace back to verifiable facts from legitimate sources? If not, why do you believe it?

This applies to far more than just politics, and an inability to provide references is usually a sign of intellectual laziness, where someone holds a view simply because it feels correct to them or it supports a particular ideology, rather than because they have carefully examined the evidence.

Internet algorithms constantly feed us misinformation from biased sources and rather than fact-checking and testing the validity of those claims, (who has the time), just use the shortcut ‘what is asserted without justification, may be rejected without justification’.

I hope you’re enjoying these articles on improving your 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)

# School days remembered 50 years on

“It can’t be 50 years, can it?” echoed around the room at the Colbinabbin Hotel as twelve of the nineteen students who undertook HSC at Rushworth High School in 1975 gathered to share memories.

The class of 1975 was one of the school’s largest and most successful Form 6 classes. Joining them were six of the teachers from those senior years.

Colbinabbin was the venue for the reunion, as a quarter of the students in that year came from Colbo and district. All those attending the gathering recalled what a great education and sense of community the school had provided, both from a student and teacher perspective.

Whether it was school activities on the sporting arena, academically, artistically, excursion-related or just fun outside of the classroom for students and teachers, there were few moments left untold.

“I had a great time hearing how the class of ’75 have made their way in the world so successfully,” was a comment from one of the teachers, and “just loved catching up with friends and staff from Rushy High,” from one of the Rushy Alumni.

Most of the class had gone on to tertiary education and successful careers, and whilst many are now retired they can enjoy sharing more up-to-date school memories with family and friends.

A fun day as glasses were raised to memories shared, lessons learned and friendships that have and will last a lifetime.



Students from HSC 1975 (l-r): Back Row – Rod Jones, Trevor Johnson, Graeme Wastell, Trevor Hawking, Kerryn Mackinder (Beck), Meredith Heilly, Gail Bourke (Ryan). Middle Row – Karyn Jubb (Oliveri), Lynda Wilson (Taylor), Kneeling – Geoffrey Burge, Ken Wilson, Brett Cheatley.

## Autumn Vibes: Celebrating the Season

Free events across the Shire from March 29 to April 17

As the seasons change and usher in cooler days and evenings, the shire is set to come alive with a series of free events designed to celebrate the charm of autumn.

From March 29 to April 17, Autumn Vibes will offer a variety of activities that cater to people of all ages, providing the opportunity to enjoy outdoor entertainment during this wonderful time of year in our region.

The program includes outdoor movie screenings at Rochester, Gigarre and Kyabram, where residents can relax under the stars with popular films that are ideal for all ages.

Music lovers will have the opportunity to enjoy a free performance featuring local

musicians, with established local acts Jessica Lorraine, The Wildings, and Kane Vincent headlining an evening at Echuca.

And for the younger or more active, the program offers two free bike skills clinics, complete with a live DJ to set the tone. These will be happening at Rochester Skate Park and Echuca East Recreation Reserve.

Full details, including dates and venues of these events can be found on Council’s website, [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au). Search for ‘Autumn Vibes’.



Teachers who taught HSC in 1975 - David Roberts (Geography), Michael Hurrell (Biology) – Dave and Mick shared a house when teaching at Rushworth High School. Other teachers to attend were Jo Watson, Ted Shanks, Kay Branson and Roger Barnes.



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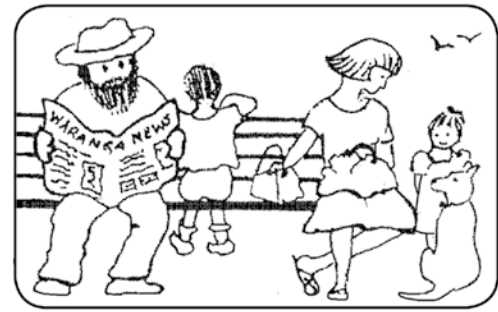
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**Around our towns   Around our towns   Around our towns   Around our towns   Around our towns**



**Around Rushworth**

**Garden Club learns about nest-boxes**

The Garden Club thank Graeme Wall and Rushworth Field and Game for hosting the club last meeting. The informative presentation was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting, on Thursday 17 April at 1.30 pm, will be back to the Rushworth Community Space (Senior Citizens) for a plant exchange, so bring along a plant to swap with another member. There will be the usual competitions and afternoon tea.



Possum and parrot nest boxes made by the Field and Game club.

**Keep Giving for Kids**

**Natrad Shepparton Batteries 4 cash 4 kids**

Natrad Shepparton Batteries 4 CASH 4 KIDS is still collecting used batteries to raise \$1,000,000 for the kids’ ward at GV Health. As of late March, the total was \$831,000 and growing.

Paul Archer, the owner of Natrad, has been unwell over the past few months but is feeling so much better now and is eager to fulfill his dream for the kids of the GV. According to Paul, there has been a problem with batteries being stolen from Natrad and false information regarding his collection of

batteries for charity. Despite these challenges, Paul wants to reassure the good folks of this community that he is still committed to what he started.

So keep those batteries coming in, and together we can all help Paul achieve that magical \$1,000,000 mark.

**Heritage Day at the Merrigum Museum**

**Like to see how things were done in the old days? Go along to Merrigum Museum’s 27th annual Heritage Day on Sunday 13 April 2025.**

This day will feature demonstrations of pioneering and early skills and crafts. Visitors can see:

- blacksmithing
- hay baling with a stationary baler
- milk-separating and butter-churning
- washing and ironing of clothes using a washboard and stove-heated flat irons
- re-barrelling of a Furphy tank
- sleeper-cutting
- wood-turners at work
- vintage engines in action
- cricket bat making by one of Australia’s few women cricket bat makers
- lace-making
- traditional book-making, hand type-setting, etc
- CFA display; vintage fire truck, uniforms and memorabilia
- wide range of exhibits and collectables, including vintage tape recorders and model paddle steamers
- Rushworth Brass Band
- fairground organ playing at intervals.

There will be free face-painting for kids, a raffle, homemade goodies for sale, BBQ lunch available, and a coffee, ice-cream and milkshakes van.

**Merrigum Museum, 111-113 Waverley Avenue, Merrigum**

**Sunday 13 April 2025, 10 am to 3 pm.**

**Special feature: Re-barreling of Furphy tank - 11.30am and 1.30pm.**

**Adults \$10; Children \$2**

**Stanhope community lunches receive a boost**

The volunteers providing Stanhope’s monthly community meals have received a boost with the purchase of a large freestanding cooker, which has been installed at the Senior Citizens.

A community equipment grant from the Shire of Campaspe enabled the purchase which will make cooking of the meals much easier. The cooks found the large oven was a very welcome addition when they used it recently for the March meal, and they thank the Shire of Campaspe for the grant.



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

Pauline Wilson strikes it lucky with third book

Author Pauline Wilson will be speaking about her third book *Family & Fortune* at the Tatura Library Friday 11 April 2.00pm and Nagambie Library Tuesday 15th April 2.00pm.

Pauline Wilson (not the Colbinabbin one!) is a local Goulburn Valley author, living in Yarrawonga. She is a writer and family historian who loves learning and research. She writes historical fiction inspired by true stories of her ancestors.

When she is not writing or researching, Pauline likes to read and take long walks. *Family & Fortune* is her third novel following her two previous novels *Conflict at Hanging Rock* and *Breaking Free*.

*Family & Fortune* is set in the mid-19th Century and is the story of a young woman facing major changes in her life. When fate upends her life, Mary Ann Turner must find the courage to start anew in a wild, untamed land.

Set against Australia’s harsh yet beautiful landscape, *Family & Fortune* is a sweeping historical saga of survival, family, and hope.

You can take the opportunity to meet Pauline and hear about her most recent book. If you plan to join Pauline at Tatura Library or Nagambie Library please register your interest on 1300 374 765 or email: nagambie@gvlibraries.com.au or tatura@gvlibarries.com.au to book a seat.

You can also book online via the library website [www.gvlibraries.com.au](http://www.gvlibraries.com.au) under the events tab. Copies of *Family & Fortune* will be available to purchase at the event and Pauline will be happy to sign them.

Congratulations Cate - a milestone birthday

Big birthday celebrations were the order of the day at Sandhills in Corop when the Furphy family got together to celebrate Cate’s 80th - a highlight of the day being a special performance by the Furphy family musical ensemble of instruments and singers - comprising mostly children and grand-children. That Cate and Clem have such talented offspring would be of no surprise to many of our readers. Cate has well-established musical credentials over many years in the local district and further afield, as an accomplished pianist for numerous shows and events, long-time church organist and as piano teacher to a couple of generations of local children. The genes have been further compounded with the contribution of Clem’s talent in musical theatre. Happy birthday Cate and congratulations on achieving octogenarian status!



School Holidays  
At Rushworth Library

  
Scan Me to Book in



Activity	Detail	Date & time	Age	Booking
Banjo Frog	Story and Banjo the Frog papercraft	Monday, 7 April 10.30am	All Ages	Please book
All Day LEGO® & Games	Choose a game to play or build an amazing LEGO® structure. Free play.	Tuesday, 8 April 10.30am - 4pm	All Ages	All Welcome
Movie Morning	Bring your nibbles and drinks and enjoy a family movie together. Family Fun	Thursday, 10 April 10.30am	All Ages	Please book
All Day LEGO® & Games	Choose a game to play or build an amazing LEGO® structure. Free play.	Monday, 14 April 10.30am - 4pm	All Ages	All Welcome
Paper Dolls	In this activity, children create a paper doll and design sets of paper clothes to make its own wardrobe. Learn about fashion, design, colour and patterns.	Tuesday, 15 April 10.30am	All Ages	Please book
Movie Morning	Bring your nibbles and drinks and enjoy a family movie together. Family Fun	Thursday, 17 April 10.30am	All Ages	Please book

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# NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.

Happy  
Birthday  
to us!

## Third birthday for the OP Shop and Foodbank

Time flies doesn't it? The Op Shop and Foodbank celebrated its third birthday last week and gave the volunteers a chance to get together for a new photo. Comparing this with three years ago gives us a chance for reflection  
Heather has been a bit unwell so I have picked up the pen (or keyboard) for this week to have a look back at three amazing years of the Op Shop and Foodbank.

The Op shop started in response to funding the Foodbank after the initial twelve months support from the Campaspe Shire ran out. Premises were the first issue, followed by support to pay the first year's insurance. Both of these issues solved themselves quickly. A local couple bought the premises at 9 High Street and offered to let it to the newly formed Rushworth Community Support committee as an op shop and foodbank. The Community Bank said they would pay the first year insurance – an amazing gesture!

Volunteers started to amass stock for the new op shop and we sourced secondhand shopfittings. Foodbank stocks were enough to last a couple of months and we had \$11 in our new bank account. Opening day was set as 12 March 2022!

If we had worried about local community support this was soon forgotten as our opening day proved a huge success and we were off and running. At the time the Foodbank operated from the back of the Op shop.

The first few weeks of trading were a bit of a blur, so busy but so exciting. Pretty quickly we realised that we would be overwhelmed by stock from the community and there was not going to be enough space for the Foodbank on the same site. Campaspe Shire council came to the rescue with an alternative offer. The town band was relocating to new premises and we moved the Foodbank into their band rooms.

One of the biggest incidents of our first year was the October 2022 flood. Whilst Rushworth was largely unaffected, our neighbours in Rochester and Murchison were hit badly and as an organisation we were able to support them with our resources of food and clothing. The shared goodwill over that difficult period drew the towns together.

Since then, the Foodbank has been moved out to the Shire Hall pending renovations and back into newly refurbished rooms at the Shire Office building, without missing a day of servicing the town with free food and has grown into a integral part of the town's wellbeing. Last year, the arrival of the little outside pantry has extended food availability for the community 24/7.

The Op Shop has grown and grown over the three years. 2024 saw the opening of the 'furniture department' or Little Green Shed as it is known, in the car park at the rear of the



The original 2022 team: Elizabeth, Lisa, Gail, Michele, Margaret, Tina, Deb and Graeme.



Some of Team 2025: Maurice, Sam, Cameron, Claire, Deb, Margaret (front), Frances, Janis, Mavis, Gail, Jenny, Christine, Tina, Graeme and Hugh.

shop. New volunteers with great enthusiasm have melded this into part of the original store.

Not one day of operation or bag of food could have been shared with our community without our volunteers! Many of them go above and beyond to ensure continuity of service and keep the organisation running smoothly. They are a fantastic group of dedicated and hard-working locals to whom I am so grateful.

The Op shop raises funds to pay for the operation of the Foodbank, but wait there's

more. Over \$42000 has gone back to the community thanks to Op shop support. We have sponsored Year 10 students at the P-12 College as they go into VCE for two years in a row and given funds to many local organisations to boost their coffers.

So next time you go into the Op Shop or Foodbank, pat yourselves on the back. Thanks to Rushworth folk we have a thriving support network of generous people and dedicated volunteers, long may it continue. Many heartfelt thanks to all involved.

Tina Hanigan



# Colbo Tit Bits

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## Ryans gather for a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and a granddaughter's Baptism



Shane Ryan, the birthday boy, was surrounded by the family to celebrate his seventy years.

### Guest speaker

Cornella Care will host Guest Speaker Annabelle Cleeland MP at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel on Wednesday 23 April at 2pm. Afternoon tea will be provided. There will be a trading table. All welcome.

### Colbo Autumn Fest

Don't forget that Friday 11 April is the date set for Colbo Autumn Fest, kicking off at 5pm at the MJ Morgan oval. For just a gold coin donation there'll be a jumping castle, barbecue and icecreams for the kids, live music, a dance floor and a 2-course spit roast (from 7pm), drinks at bar prices. It will be a good way to start the football and netball season.

### A big welcome

To Steven and Lily's little girl-in-a-hurry . . . Daisy George.



There was quite a gathering at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel of the Ryan clan for grandfather, Shane's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and for the wetting of the head of his and Robyn's newest granddaughter, Addison Rogers, who was baptised on Sunday at St Mary's church, Rushworth.

## Mitchell Street where old friends meet



It had been many a year since this group of friends had been together, but last week they managed to be all in Colbinabbin at the same time! There was chatter a-plenty over lunch at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel, where the friends caught up on the news of hatches, matches, despatches and everything in between. (L-R) Don and Glenda Tuohey, Geoff Weppner, Ann and Bert Stewart. Front: Yvonne Tuohey and Helen Gadsden.

## Calling all leprechauns - and they came

Colbo Pub was a sea of green for St Paddy's Night, with plenty of Irish tunes and Beef and Guinness Pies. A large contingency from Kyabram joined the throng, as the Colbo Pub Choir led the singing. The evening concluded with a dance or two, and all enjoyed Jimmy Stewart's original rendition of 'When Irish Eyes Are Smiling'. A fun night to be sure, to be sure!



CCH staff: Tracey Marshall and Jess Hind joined in the fun.



### 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

#### APRIL

Fri 11	Autumn Fest 5pm
Wed 23	Annabelle Cleeland 2pm @CCH
Fri 25	ANZAC service - 9am at the hall.

### FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

April 6	Graeme Reid, Bill West
April 13	Ramon Rathjen, Darryl Rathjen

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

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

### Cemetery Trust

**Mowing Roster** (lawn section only)  
April - Ray McEvoy



# 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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Australian  
Government services.**

## Successful Community Dance at Shire Hall

On Saturday 22 March Rushworth Shire Hall played host to the first community social dance for 2025 and about forty locals and visitors came along and had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Supported by Rushworth Community House, the social dance was an ideal occasion for people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy an evening of live music and great dancing.

Entertainer extraordinaire June Newman hosted the evening and quickly had people up on their feet dancing to music from multiple eras. There was literally a dance style for everyone present!

The Community House is planning to host another community social dance towards the end of 2025. We'll let you know when.



(Above) Community dance host June Newman prepares dance-goers for one of the more unusual shindigs on the night.

# 2025 Aged Care Services Expo: an event that everyone should attend

Thursday, 10 April is an important date in Rushworth. On that day, Rushworth Community House - in partnership with Campaspe Shire and Goulburn Valley Health will present the first Aged Care Services Expo to be held in Rushworth.

Starting at 10.30am the event will run through until 2.30pm, and admission is free to everyone.

The Expo's presentations and information will affect each and every one of us either directly, or through family and friends who may be in their senior years.

### Concerns addressed

The Expo will help individuals and families navigate available planning options and ensure that they have excellent care at home or in residential aged care.

Among the questions that the Expo will seek to address are:

- Navigating "My Aged Care"
- Residential aged care costs
- Secure housing options
- Avoiding rip-offs and scams
- What to do in an emergency
- How to handle dementia
- How technology may help
- Advanced Care Planning

For more information about the Expo, please call the Community House on (03) 5856 1295.

Are you trying to navigate My Aged Care?

Are you concerned about becoming a victim to Scams?

Have you questions about costs for residential care?

Do you have parents looking for support?

Do you have secure housing?

## RUSHWORTH & DISTRICT AGED CARE SERVICES EXPO

Enhancing wellness and connectivity. Discover local aged care services in your community

**Thursday 10 April 2025**

**10.30am to 2.30pm**

**Rushworth Shire Hall, 71 High Street, Rushworth**

Proudly supported by

**GVHealth**

**Campaspe**

**Rushworth**

Make sure you catch Crime Stoppers presentation at 12pm! Looking into online safety, navigating scams, reporting and safety tips

**Please note that Rushworth Community House will be closed all day on Thursday 10 April, the day of the Expo**

## Community House 2025 AGM outcomes

Rushworth Community House held its 2025 Annual General Meeting in mid-March, with key reports summarising the House's progress during 2024, followed by the election of a new Committee of Management to run the organisation for the ensuing twelve months.

After a preliminary welcome and acknowledgement of country by the president, the meeting agreed the minutes of the 2024 AGM, then settled down to the main part of the evening's business.

Cass Alexander presented the president's report in which he discussed the challenges the House was currently experiencing due to major termite damage and costly associated repairs. Cass noted that wherever possible, local tradespeople and businesses had been engaged to carry out the required repairs.

He also mentioned the expanded liaison which the Community House has undertaken with both of Rushworth's schools and the town's kindergarten, especially in the Community Garden.

### Good governance

Cass reminded the meeting about the importance which the House places on good governance practices, including appropriate training of all community house committee members, staff and volunteers in Child Safety and Occupational Health and Safety.

He also acknowledged the success of the Container Deposit Scheme run by RCH at the Horne Street Community Hub.

### Other reports

House Manager Anita Pirie then presented a comprehensive summary of activities undertaken by the House in her Manager's Report. Anita also mentioned the increased interaction between the House and other community organisations, including GV Health, Rushworth P-12 College and LaTrobe University, and highlighted a status change in the way that courses are delivered at the House under an arrangement with Kyabram Community Learning Centre.

Anita additionally discussed matters raised in other House sectional reports.

### Election of new Committee

Cr. Adrian Weston then conducted the election of committee members to run the Community House during 2025. The results of the executive elections are as follows:

- President: Cass Alexander
- Vice President: Christine Coleman
- Treasurer: (Vacant)
- Secretary: (Vacant)

The following people were elected RCH Committee Members for 2025:

- Nick Buzza, Mitchell Petersen, Lyn Reade, Wendy Robinson and Lyn Rumble.

# Arts & Tourism

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## New exhibitions at Ky Town Hall



*Happy Hour* by Glenda Cornell can be seen at her new exhibition *Decades of a Wet Palette* at the Ky Town Hall Gallery along with *Artist's Journey* by Liz Jaworski.

## Rochester Mural Festival

Rochester Mural Festival is an annual volunteer run, community art festival. It's a free event designed to entertain and delight everyone. Eight artists paint to a set theme over six days throughout festival week under the watchful eyes of visitors and spectators. The 2025 theme is "Life, Love and Music". Locals also enter their art and win prizes in a community art prize named "The Rochybalds". Canvases are available for \$5 from schools and from Dingwalls Rochester Newsagency. All age groups up to and including adult & all mediums are accepted. Initially established to boost spirits of people from Rochester and surrounds after devastating 2011 floods, the festival has run yearly except 2023, when Rochester was recovering from 2022 flooding. Substantial prize pools have attracted fine quality artworks. The Murals Park is on the Northern Highway at the south end of Rochester in Moore Street, near the Opperman statue, opposite the railway station, between the police station and the hospital. Festival launch and Meet the Artists dinner,

Saturday . People can meet the artists and watch them unveil their mini murals on Saturday evening, 29 March, 2025 at Rochester Recreation Reserve. Limited tickets are available from Dingwalls Rochester Newsagency for \$35. The massive "paint-off" will run over six days from 8am - 5pm, 30 March to 4th April. Judging and presentations from 11am on the final day Saturday 5 April - a family, carnival atmosphere with announcements, festival winners, Rochybald and raffle prize presentations, coffee vans, Lions club sausage sizzle. Come along and watch! Vote for the People's' Choice award. Buy a raffle ticket. Bring a friend and spend some time around Rochester. There's plenty to see and do. Interested observers always find it a pleasant community experience. The artists: The eight selected artists coming from near and far are Marco Pennacchia, Christina Rankin, Chris Duffy, Kerry Nicholson, Isabelle Kawai Vincent, Kristina Greenwood, Steve Monk and Gren Freeman.

## Art Exhibition in Rushworth Easter Saturday

Rushworth Artistries in conjunction with Rushworth ART Depot (RAD) and The Red Knights Group are proud to present a one day only Art Exhibition and Sales Event on Saturday 19 April 9.30am to 3.30pm in the Rushworth Community Space, 34 Esmonde Street. Refreshments will be available.

### Wanted - artists and craftspeople

Entry forms can be obtained from Heather Wellington 0429686375 or Lyn Rumble 0419207988.

Entries close Sunday 13 April. Artworks to be delivered Wednesday 16 April 10am-2pm or by private arrangement.

## SAM Art Market Saturday 5 April

Support the local creative scene at this small but mighty craft market, with artist-run stalls showcasing the diverse wares and practices of regional makers. From ceramics to handcrafted jewellery and textiles, find your next thoughtful gift at the SAM Art Market. Saturday 5 April 10am-2pm, lakeside of SAM building, 530 Wyndham St Shepparton. **Artists**

Megan Walker, Meander Designs, Baljil Arts, made by anna louise, Auntie Addie's, mikimac stitches, Judith Roberts and Greg Beckenham.

### Kyabram Town Hall Gallery Exhibitions

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- LIZ JAWORSKI - Artist's Journey  
Opening 5 April
- GLENDA CORNELL - Decades of a Wet Palette - Opening 12 April
- VOICE OF THE PEOPLE-Historic Exhibition
- EXTREMITIES- Splinter Contemporary artists.

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

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.

## Cooks Corner

### Chicken and spinach lasagne roll ups

**Higher food and grocery costs are affecting our weekly budget. I found this recipe and I did get a few meals from one barbecue chook!**

#### Ingredients

1 tbsp olive oil  
200gm sliced mushrooms  
1cup shredded hot roast chicken  
1/2 cup stuffing from chicken  
120gm pkt baby spinach  
185gm ricotta cheese  
400gm can diced tomatoes with Italian flavour  
1 cup 3-cheese shredded cheese  
375 gm pkt fresh lasagna sheets, halved  
Handful fresh thyme.

#### Method

Pre-heat oven 200° C.

Heat oil in frypan over medium heat. Add mushrooms, cook 2-3 minutes. Add spinach and cook a couple of minutes until wilted. Remove from heat. Cool slightly.

Place spinach mixture into a medium bowl, add chicken, stuffing, ricotta and half the cheese. Season with pepper.

Whisk half the tomatoes and 2tbs water in a jug, pour over base of lasagne size dish.

For each roll. Place half a lasagne sheet on a clean work surface. Place 1/4 cup mixture at one end and roll to form a log. Place seam side down into dish. Repeat with remaining chicken and lasagne.

Top with remaining tomatoes and cheese. Spray with olive oil, bake for 15 minutes or until golden. Sprinkle with the fresh thyme.

I didn't make up the full amount. But I used up the chicken mix with an egg and more cheese and made 'muffins' out of the mix.

So my chook fed the two of us chicken sandwiches, six generous sized 'muffins' which I froze, the lasagne rolls, plus the scrappy bits for our fur baby (no bones). Left over lasagne sheets, became a pasta dish by tearing the sheets roughly with a veggie sauce.

This recipe would be simple to vary the filling to suit dietary preferences. Perfect for ricotta and fresh herbs. Good value for the \$12.00 chook.

*Bon appetit, Pauline*



## Handy Hints

- from Lyn Rumble

*Hi there,*

**Repurposing or re-using everyday items or quick and easy solutions to general household issues that maybe you hadn't thought of is what I like to do. This issue its mostly cleaning time – I know – no-one really likes to do that – but it does make you feel better when something is nice and squeaky clean! Hope these hints come in handy for you in your cleaning chores!**

**\* Cleaning out the fridge** – no one loves doing this – so I've found the easiest way is to treat each shelf one by one, and put the contents of shelf one in a box and place on the counter, then get some silicone cloths and rinse in warm water and lay over shelf. Close the fridge door and go sort out the contents of the box, separating what's staying or going in bin. Discard old stuff, then wipe the shelf with the cloths and replace the keeping items. Repeat for each shelf and before no time you've done the whole fridge. With disposing items, you could compost or use as feed for animals with anything suitable or put in garbage for anything remaining.

**\* Washing machine stinks?** – Not the most favourite of tasks so how long has it been since you tackled it? – it's best to clean out any filters, drains and seals half yearly at least – but best before winter sets in. Check your owner's manual for any tips on tackling the job if it's necessary. Modern day machines are more user friendly but a regular wipe around the door seal if you have front loader, or under the rotator if top loader would be good. Diluted disinfectant or eucy oil cleaner should get rid of any smells if present.

**\* Heating for the chilly weather** – that is not far away! Daylight saving ends Sunday April 6, so now's the time for cleaning filters and checking all are working properly for your heating unit (electrical or wood/fuel). Filters should be easy to detach and clean in the laundry sink with hot water and detergent. If you are on wood heating, then checking flues and storing wood for the winter is necessary. Dirty glass windows of your wood heater are easy to clean with powdered ash and a damp rag (ash from bottom of fire grate) plus a bit of elbow grease!.

**\* Smoke detectors** need a check before winter especially if on wood heating, so please check batteries are OK and they are working properly. Hint: put a small piece of masking tape on the underside of the unit with date last new battery installed, then you know at a glance when it needs replacing.

## Garden Hints & Tips

### Autumn is my favourite time of year

**... and I have a few reasons for this.**

Firstly I always look forward to the stunning display of colour that our deciduous trees provide and also the cooler days and nights, although this theory is being put to the test this year.

Autumn is also the time of year that the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show takes place. Set within the beautiful Carlton Gardens with the Royal Exhibition Building as a backdrop the show provides a wonderful opportunity for the people of Victoria to enjoy a truly fantastic event.

Showcasing the best of the best in floral design and creative themes to outstanding landscape gardens presented and constructed as though they have always been there.

You will also find a wonderful range of horticultural companies showcasing the latest

in gardening products and innovations.

It truly is an inspirational event and whether you have half acre or a handkerchief sized garden, the show provides many wonderful ideas for garden of all levels. *RY*



# Health and Wellbeing

## Rushworth Library to host Headspace Aged Care Services Expo coming to Rushworth

Headspace clinicians Skye and Lauren will be coming to Rushworth Library to conduct two workshops for young people.

Headspace is a mental health organization that provides valuable support to young people, focusing on improving their overall well-being. Their services are designed to support individuals aged 12-25, offering resources that address a wide range of health concerns, including anxiety, depression, stress, and relationship issues.

### Workshop 1 - for young people (12 - 25 years)

Understanding and managing moods and anxiety; problem solving skills and understanding and acting myself.

### Workshop 2 - for families with young people

Understanding and managing moods and anxiety; understanding my anger & communicating with confidence.

Where: Rushworth Library  
When: Thursday, 24 April  
Workshop for Young people 4 - 5pm  
Workshop for Families 6 - 7pm  
Just come along- free event.

Discover what's on offer for Rushworth district's seniors at the Aged Care Services Expo

### coming up on 10 April at the Rushworth Shire Hall.

This important event will connect seniors and families with health professionals and service providers, offering the chance to explore aged care solutions, home support options and available support designed to improve the quality of life for seniors.

Many common questions will be answered, such as:

- Are you trying to navigate My Aged Care?
- Have you questions about costs for residential care?

- Are you concerned about becoming a victim to Scams?
- Do you have secure housing?
- Do you have parents looking for support?
- In an emergency event do you know what to do?

If you come along to the expo you will find out the answers to these questions and many more from over 25 stall holders.

**Date: Thursday, 10 April 2025**  
**Time: 10:30am - 2:30pm**  
**Location: Rushworth Shire Hall, 71 High Street, Rushworth**

## More about Headspace

Headspace provides a combination of face-to-face and online support options, such as free online mental health resources, one-on-one counseling, and access to group support sessions. They also offer specialized services like career advice and help with finding work, which are particularly beneficial for young people navigating school, career, and life transitions.

The platform also promotes mental health awareness, helping to reduce the stigma around seeking help. With age-appropriate resources and easy access to support,

Headspace creates an inclusive and safe space for young people to discuss their mental health. By providing accessible services, Headspace empowers young individuals to take control of their mental well-being and seek the support they need to thrive.

Additionally, Headspace offers a range of apps and online tools to help young people practice mindfulness, meditation, and relaxation techniques. This holistic approach to mental health ensures that young people are supported both emotionally and practically.

## Flu cases highest yet recorded

Influenza vaccines have been released in preparation for Australia's 2025 influenza flu season. To date, there have been over 46,300 lab-confirmed influenza cases this year in Australia, more than 50% higher than the previous record of flu cases in Australia during the first quarter (January – March 2024), according a report from National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System.

The WHO Influenza Update reports that

the Northern Hemisphere has just experienced a significant influenza season with some UK hospitals overwhelmed by the winter peak and the US recording the largest influenza season since the 2009 Swine Flu Pandemic.

Influenza vaccines have been released in preparation for Australia's 2025 influenza flu season, including from CSL Seqirus' Melbourne manufacturing facility.

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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.*

## Time to preserve nature while we can

I recently had the privilege of travelling to New Zealand for an eleven day break.

Being out of Australia was a first time for me. It was also a real eye opener of the environmental state of one of our closest neighbouring countries. I guess I had expectations of native wildlife amidst beautiful natural scenery but when I arrived, I was disappointed and a bit shocked by a scene very similar to Australia as I passed through cleared countryside which was basically devoid of wildlife.

Introduced species, both flora and fauna, took precedence. As we travelled through the South Island and I discovered more natural and remote places, the situation vastly improved and I was lucky enough to see some really cool native creatures in their natural habitat so I got my wildlife fix.

By the end of the trip I was longing for our sprawling eucalypts and missing seeing some form of wildlife at least every hundred metres along the roadsides like we do at home. I pondered on how lucky I am to live where I do and be surrounded by what we have left.

One thing New Zealand has on Australia is the cleanliness

of the country. People just don't litter like people do here. Very little roadside rubbish, almost none! Farms are not littered with piles of hay twine, silage wrap or old fencing wire. There seems to be a real pride in keeping things clean. We certainly need to do a lot better on that front.

The contrast was immediately evident and even more so once back in Australia. The amount of littering in our cities, towns and countryside is embarrassingly appalling.

Australia has lost at least a hundred native species since European settlement. That's a staggering amount, particularly over the short time frame of settlement. Just as Maori arrival in New Zealand also drove species to extinction over there, the arrival of Indigenous people here in Australia also impacted native flora and fauna and saw the loss of species here as well. Humans everywhere, in all races and forms, have altered their environments to suit their needs, driven local extinction rates like no other animal before them. That's a fact.

New Zealand has lost at least 80 known species since humans arrived. I think the species decline in New Zealand may be more evident as it is a much



**Fur seal pup, New Zealand**

smaller place than Australia. It may be that we have so much land here that even though we have cleared an alarming amount of native vegetation our percentage of what is left is a little better than New Zealand. We have lost more than 40 percent of our native forests here with less than 50 percent of our wilderness areas remaining. New Zealand has lost 75 percent of its native vegetation. In a country so small, it is staggeringly noticeable.

There are petitions Australia wide at the moment being signed by those who oppose designating more land to be under the protection of National Parks. The catch cry being to stop our existing state forests being slated as National Parks so people cannot enjoy them as they do now. The way many of these people who oppose National Parks enjoy state forests now is by taking 4WD vehicles in and destroying bush tracks and precious off road habitat, allowing dogs to roam free to disturb or chase native animals, to camp in places that may disturb or destroy habitat and to see our natural places as somewhere they have the right to do as they please.

For those of us who treat state forests and natural places

with the environmental respect they deserve, more land under National Parks is not such a big deal. It's a shame that we are at the stage where we need to protect habitat from those who do the wrong thing, but the alternative is that we continue to see amazing wild natural places get destroyed by those who believe they have the right. Once things are destroyed and gone, it's an uphill battle to restore and it can never be the same.

We are so very lucky in Australia to have what we have. If we all do better and think about the consequences of our actions more, forget about our ingrained 'rights' to do as we please to a countryside that is pleading for a lighter tread, maybe . . . just maybe, we can turn the tables and not only retain what wild places we have left but enhance and put back a little of what we have taken.

Most of us have been in an Australian National Park. I have one at my back door. It does not mean no access. It certainly does not ensure total protection either, but it does mean an attempt to save some of our precious places which are still being degraded and which remain to be disappearing at an alarming rate.

### Rare and endangered Yellow eyed penguin, New Zealand



## ON THE BRINK *by Neil Laurie*

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

### When will they ever learn?

When will people ever learn that wild animals are exactly that -wild animals? They are not pets. They are not on this earth for our amusement and should be left to go about their business in the wild doing the things that wild animals do. Yet people continue to interfere with them.

I have already written about Molly, a young magpie 'adopted' by a family. In reality the little magpie was almost certainly waiting about while the parents were searching for food to satisfy its voracious appetite. It should have been left alone and allowed to continue its wild life. Habituating magpies or any other wild creature to humans by feeding them diminishes the birds' 'wildness'. Also, the food fed to them is usually not healthy for them (minced meat or bread is bad for magpies).

The late Steve Irwin, while undeniably passionate about wildlife, persisted in disturbing creatures for the sake of his television show, usually using the educational value of showing wildlife to the public as a justification. It was so unnecessary. Sir David Attenborough has demonstrated how a hands-off approach with good wildlife cinematography and intelligent commentary is far more educational (admittedly some footage of small animals and insects was gained through using tanks and enclosures).

It is disappointing to see Steve Irwin's son, Bob, using an echidna on a kitchen bench in an advertisement. Like his father, he is passionate about wildlife and Australia Zoo is involved in the conservation of many species, but to use the echidna in this way gives a clear message that it is OK to treat wildlife like pets.

Tourists also need to stop and think. Enticing wildlife with food to get a photograph, or in more recent times a selfie habituates the wildlife to humans. Not only can they lose their fear of humans but they also associate humans with food. If food is not forth-coming animals can become quite aggressive. In some places kookaburras and emus have needed to be euthanised or relocated (which is often a death sentence anyway) because they became too aggressive. This feeding of wildlife by tourists has become an issue on K'gari (Fraser Island) where there have been at least 25 dingo attacks in recent years, one resulting in the death of a nine-year-old boy. Tourists still persist in enticing the dingos with food for the sake of a photograph, in spite of signage warning against this. Interestingly, there was quite a public outcry recently when Sam Jones, an American influencer, picked up a baby wombat for

the sake of an Instagram post. A second video clip shows her holding an echidna. Perhaps other tourists need to be called out for interacting with wildlife. It is illegal to interfere with wildlife in every state.

Handling wildlife can result in injuries. Wild animals are not used to being handled by humans and will panic, biting and scratching in an effort to escape. At the very least the animal will be severely stressed. Kangaroos, especially testosterone laden lone males, will attack humans if approached too closely (even if you are feeding them). While animals may not be venomous, the bacteria in their mouths can lead to infections of their bites. Fortunately, we do not have rabies in Australia. Wombats are prone to having mange. Also called scabies, it is highly infectious.

It is difficult to understand why people shoot our wildlife. Shooting ducks is not necessary. It disturbs wetland wildlife and non-target species somehow end up being shot. It is understandable that kangaroos on farmland can become a problem. It is tempting to simply cull them but they always return. A better long-term solution is to use kangaroo-proof fencing. While it is a significant outlay it provides a permanent solution. It keeps the kangaroos in the bush where the natural forces keep their populations under control. They are a boom or bust species, meaning that their population will fluctuate dramatically. Landowners are required to exhaust all practical non-lethal control options before applying for a permit to eradicate wildlife.

If people want to hunt wildlife for the thrill of the hunt and to practise their hunting skills, they could do our wildlife a favour and hunt introduced, feral species. Stalking sambar deer or hunting foxes on foot in daylight are excellent hunting challenges.

Hopefully the furore surrounding Sam Jones' Instagram post will make people think twice before they interact with wild animals and is evidence of a shift in our attitudes towards the amazing wildlife we are fortunate to have in Australia.



## A hot topic for Australia

Australia consistently ranks among the hottest countries globally and experiences frequent and severe heatwaves. Recently it was rated as one of the world's hotspots for heatwave risk.

Heatwaves are defined as periods when both maximum and minimum temperatures are unusually high for at least three days and are linked to increased rates of death and illness or injury.

Regional communities are particularly impacted by heatwaves because of their higher proportion of vulnerable residents.

### An escalating risk

Heatwaves have intensified across Australia in recent decades and they are more frequent, intense and longer, due in part to a warming climate.

Global studies indicate that our exposure to heatwaves will only further increase in the future.

Communities and government agencies are ill-prepared to deal with heatwaves because of the rapid escalation of the risk.

Extreme heat disproportionately affects the most vulnerable, particularly individuals with existing cardiovascular and respiratory issues.

Regional communities are at particular risk because they have a higher proportion of vulnerable community members. That vulnerability reflects challenges that include limited access to healthcare, social isolation and economic disadvantage.

Understanding these important geographic differences is critical to prioritising properly targeted mitigation strategies and enhancing resilience.

### A way forward

University of Newcastle researchers, working together as part of a new Heatwave Hub, have found communities are not ready to deal with that risk. They're working to address the escalating threat of heatwaves in regional New South Wales by building resilience and preparedness in vulnerable communities — and the lessons they're learning could be applied across Australia. The Heatwave Hub project aims to develop tailored heatwave action plans and capacity-building initiatives across regional NSW.

The research team includes climate scientists, healthcare professionals and building design experts.

Importantly, while the project is focused on heatwaves, this approach could be applied to other natural hazards including bushfires, floods and storm events.

The project will collaborate with local governments and communities and use risk mapping analysis, stakeholder engagement and focus on capacity-building initiatives.

A Heatwave Hub website will provide ongoing support and resources, while a toolkit will offer practical advice, including tips on staying cool, recognising the signs of heat-related illnesses and creating heatwave action plans.

Through developing the community education toolkit and Heatwave Hub website the researchers hope to provide communities and local governments with the information they need to be prepared and respond to future heatwave events.

The Hub website will also include regionally specific information on heatwaves trends so residents can be better informed, especially when moving into a new area.

*Adapted from an article by Associate Professor Danielle Verdon-Kidd originally published under Creative Commons by 360info™.*

*Associate Professor Danielle Verdon-Kidd is an associate professor in climate science at the University of Newcastle.*

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

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



### House fire at Moora in late March of 1975

A kitchen fire in a rental house owned by Alec Jackson at Moora, drew action from local brigades after the tenants had used an electric stove before leaving the house, and nearby papers ignited. The kitchen was badly damaged and the house was soiled with smoke.

Another road fatality was recorded, this one at North Murchison, when local youth David Eltrington, 18, was thrown from his motorcycle while travelling to work in Shepparton. The terrible road trauma of 1974 continued.

A red car was left parked outside Rushworth Post Office for several days. Owner had lost the keys, and was red-faced to read about it on the front page of the Chronicle! He was not named.

Mr Gordon Brown, born at Rushworth in 1915 and living here until 1930, was appointed at 60 years of age to a newly-created role of Director of Planning Services within the Victorian Education Department. He had previously been a Fulbright Scholar in Vermont, U.S.A., so was a high achiever whose roots had been in Rushworth.

### Schools

Another high achiever from this district was Mr Adrian Sexton, District consultant for the Catholic Education office in the Bendigo area. He visited to address a meeting of St Mary's School Mothers' Club, but only a small number of mothers attended. Adrian was born and raised at Rushworth, later teaching at the local State primary school, and playing full-back in the local football team. He had the nickname of "Crowbar"! More than one of his sons played AFL footy, including Michael at Carlton.

St Mary's School swimming sports winners were Woods House, Captains Peter Tuohey and Marilyn Barrette accepting the cup from Father Collins, while McKillop House Captains Brendan Barlow and Lynn Merryfull watched on. An award for most improved boy went to Peter Barrette, the most improved girl Noreen Tuohey. A special prize for most consistent swimmer was awarded to Kathy Tuohey.

Champion boy was Stephen Geisler, with a tie between Lynn Merryfull and Marilyn Barrette for Champion girl.

Grades 3 and 4 at Rushworth Primary reported that Mr Ross had bought them three new basketballs. (*Very generous Graham.*)

One of the rocks Jamie Poulson took to school had a fossil in it. Grades 5 and 6 composite class was becoming like a zoo. "Darren brought a big tadpole that had almost turned into a frog and Stephen brought some mosquito wrigglers."

Grades 1 and 2 cooked scones with flour produced from a wheat-crushing activity done by the boys. (*Sounds like a good learning experience.*)

### Community

140 boats entered Easter regatta at the Basin. Around 2000 people were expected in tents and caravans. Add visitors for the tennis tournament and the place was full to overflowing.

On fire plugs duty for Rushworth brigade were Ron McLeod, Ray Hilder and Les Perry. Fatigue duty was down to Ian Borger, Graham Roberts and Allan Perry.

Mrs Heather Hawking was retiring from Guides after 12 active years as a leader.

### Personal

Former Rushworth sportsman and Waranga Boat Club handicapper, Roy La Peyre, died in the local hospital. His siblings included Jack (decd.), Joyce (Mrs S. Colliver), Ellie, Mary (Mrs I. Silva) and Reta (Mrs S. Sulch).

Russell and Kathy Jones (nee Thompson) welcomed Sheree Nicole at Numurkah. The couple had met while students at Rushworth High School.

Dennese Moylan had a kitchen tea at the Fire Brigade Hall, receiving gifts in the popular autumn tonings.

### Tennis

Start times were published for players in the Easter tennis tournament, with a good mix of locals and visitors, but with overall numbers down on previous Easters. Euroa player Warren Mintern won the Under-19 singles, A-grade singles, and the Open Singles championships, so he may have been pretty tired by Easter Monday.

The women's Championship was won by former Rushworth player Jenny Gordon (nee Meagher) of Canberra, after she beat her daughter Mandy in the final. Mandy is a cousin of Claire Campbell of Rushworth.

Norman Cahill and Denis Lenke won the veteran doubles event. Men's doubles trophies went to Herb Barlow and Peter Flanagan after their opponents forfeited the final. The ladies B-grade doubles winners were Nola and Valma Pepperell, over Betty Buzza and Margaret Hoelter, 8 games to 2.

### Bowls

Murchison Bowls Club held a charity day with the winning rink Bill Winnell and Nancy Harrison, both locals, joined by Clarrie Brasher and Floss Collard, both of Rushworth. Jim Hammond won the Easter egg.

Goulburn Valley Bowls Championships were at the pointy end, with Rushworth pairs champs Cec Bradley and Jack Pettifer taking out the title, a great result for a smaller club. Club's best rink of Geoff Beck (s), Jack Borger, Jim Service and George Kolenaty scrambled through to the semi-finals.

Just prior to semi-finals In the B-grade Championships, Ron McLeod and Noel Merryfull were eliminated by Murchison's pair, and Mooroopna Golf out-bowled Rushworth's rink of Dick Duke (s), Don Perry, Frank Richards and Cliff Johnson.

Ladies, or Associates as they were termed, held an event for 33 of their members. (*Not so many females on the green these days.*)

### Football

In the ongoing squabbles in the Heathcote Football League about player eligibility, the league rescinded all earlier decisions, allowing all clubs to get players from anywhere, so long as the senior team had six local players.

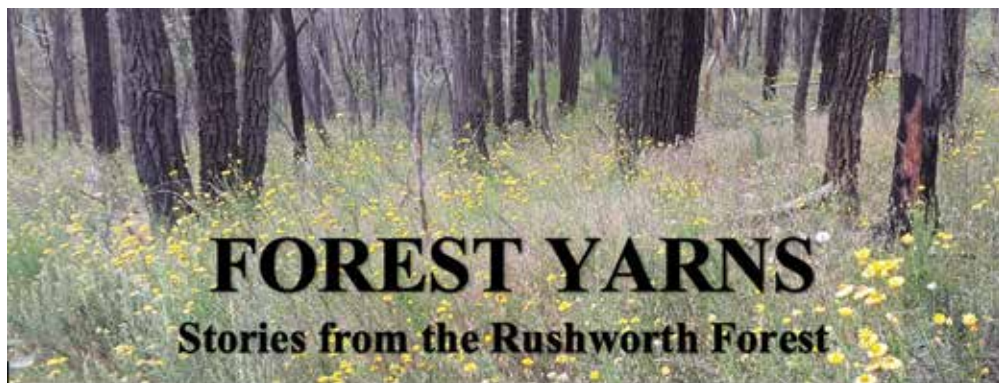
Mount Pleasant looked set to lose former coach John Mullane, who had been recruited by Stanhope. Rushworth's John Lambden had been approached by Stanhope and Tatura, and Herb Barlow had played on a match permit with Stanhope, which was still in the Goulburn Valley League. Noel Lloyd had played with Tongala. That G.V.L. club had spoken with other Tiger players.

Rushworth had victories in two practice matches against Kyabram League club Gigarre in wet conditions, with goal-kickers Alec Horne, Mick O'Sullivan and Glen Heily. Craig Beck, Geoff Hawking and John Phillips found the big sticks in the Seconds.

Stanhope had not started well In Goulburn Valley footy, with all three teams having big losses against Euroa. A long season of struggle lay ahead.

### Correction

There was a gremlin on this page in the previous edition. Reference to the passing of Mrs Helen Weaver, known as Nell, in 1975, should have shown Barry and Judy Weaver as being her grandchildren. Tuddy still warmly remembers her daily habit of baking scones.



## Sleeper hewing offcuts

Following are some snippets of information taken from newspapers in the period between about 1880 and 1940. Most mention a person or people who worked in the sleeper hewing industry in the Rushworth forest.

At the Centennial International Exhibition held in Melbourne, Angus Cameron of Whroo won a prize for his railway sleepers. (*The Australasian* 9/2/1889)

Two local saw millers each won a contract to supply 10,000 sleepers to the Railways Dept in April 1892 – Taylor Bros at 2/63/4 per sleeper (25c) and W J Mason and Wooley (sic – probably Dooley) at 2/5. (*The Argus* 2/4/1892)

Messrs Mason and Dooley, and the Taylor Bros of Rushworth submitted letters in support of a meeting of sleeper hewers at Heathcote. They advised that they were willing to aid the movement “by every means in their power”. (*McIvor Times* 26/4/1895)

William McNamara, the forest officer in charge at Rushworth, set up a sleeper hewers’ Bushmen’s Corps Fund for soldiers at the South African war. McNamara was the father of Frank McNamara, the Rushworth man who later won a VC in World War 1. The idea was that each sleeper hewer would donate one sleeper at the next passing (inspection) of sleepers day, valued at 3/3 each. It was estimated that at the time there were about 200 sleeper hewers in the Goulburn Valley. (*Shepparton Advertiser* 6/3/1900)

Sleeper hewing contest in Echuca. Fastest time was eight minutes achieved by R Flower. You would assume that the timber had already been cut roughly to size before the event. (*Numerkah Leader* 26/11/1903)

Inspector of Forests at Heathcote, Mr Code, was advocating that the Moormbool Forest be closed to sleeper hewers for fifteen years. Needless to say, that was an unpopular statement. (*McIvor Times* 11/2/1904)

Death of Alexander Spence, 54, former secretary of the branch of Sleeper Hewers and Sawmillers Employees Association in Rushworth. He had lived in Rushworth for over 50 years, having arrived as a two-year-old. He left a widow and a large family of seven girls and one boy. (*McIvor Times* 8/8/1909 and *Murchison Advertiser* 2/7/1909)

Per secretary Mr James Bailey: “The Bailieston Branch of the Federated Timber Workers held their half yearly meeting here on Saturday...President Mr Smith being in

the chair. It was one of the largest meetings held here, the room being crowded. Members were present from Whroo, Nagambie and Graytown. The sleeper hewers are very much hurt at the drastic measures taken by the Forest Department in regard to their working in the forest.” (*McIvor Times* 25/7/1912)

The sleeper hewers of Bailieston wrote to the Shire Council (per Mr F J Le Deux) requesting its support for an approach to the Conservator (of Forests). They wanted permission to cut out trees that were “faulty” or undersized. Crs Gunn and Brisbane were appointed to be part of the deputation to Melbourne. (*Murchison Advertiser* 7/5/1915)

A meeting of sleeper hewers was to be held at Le Deux’s wine cafe, Bailieston, on Saturday, 22nd inst., when important business was to be discussed. (*Murchison Advertiser* 14/6/1918)

The local member, Mr Coyle MLA requested that that the Forests Minister issue some more licences so that the unemployed might be able to find work hewing sleepers in the Rushworth forest. (*Sun News Pictorial* 29/3/1930)

It was claimed that in most cases the men hewing sleepers in the Rushworth forest had to travel ten to sixteen miles just to get to their work sites. For most, this meant walking or riding a bike, then camping out during the week. (*The Argus* 28/5/1930)

Two sleeper hewers from Rushworth, J Thompson and W Francis, were returning home from work and found a kerosene tin by the road with “Help” scratched on it. They then found and rescued a bloke called Fitzgibbon, who had got lost in the bush walking to Heathcote. (*The Age* 29/11/1933)

Rushworth:Friday. Hiram McNicol, sleeper hewer, cut the back of his hand severely, severing the sinews, while barking a log. With the assistance of a friend, he tied up the wound and then cycled ten miles to Rushworth, where he arrived in a condition of collapse. Several stitches had to be inserted in the wound and the sinews tied. (*The Argus* 18/8/1934)

The Moormbool Forest, covering an area of 23 square miles, gives employment to a large number of sleeper hewers and posts and rails cut from ironbark and box trees in this area are sent all over the State. (*The Age* 19/7/1939) (Ed. this is an inaccurate statement with regard to sleeper hewers at the time. Only a handful were left by this time.)

## A Name from the Past

### Franklin Enders, Shropshire sheep breeder

The name of Enders is well-known across the district, especially in the Stanhope area. Nearby at Carag Carag, almost 97 years ago, it was time to farewell one of the first Enders to come here, being Franklin Enders.

Frank’s death, and a little of his life, were reported in the Rushworth Chronicle of 5 October, 1928.

“The many friends of Mr F. P. Enders of Carag Carag, will regret to learn of his death which took place at his residence, “Rosemont”, Carag Carag, yesterday (Thursday) morning.

The late Mr Enders had not been in good health for some time past, and his death was not altogether unexpected, an attack of influenza having hastened his end.

The deceased was born at Trentham in 1856, and was thus 72 years of age. He resided with his parents at Trentham until he was 20 years of age, when he selected land at Carag Carag, where he has resided ever since.

He was a successful farmer and a successful breeder of Shropshire sheep, obtaining many prizes at Melbourne and district shows.

Mr Enders was twice married, his first wife predeceasing him about fourteen years ago. He was a brother of Alexander (deceased), Mr W.H. Enders (Carag Carag), Benjamin (U.S.A.). Mrs Watson (deceased), Mrs Ferguson (Sydney) and Annie and Sarah (Trentham).

He leaves his widow and nine children: Arthur (Carag Carag), Benjamin (N.S.W.), Malcolm (Carag Carag), Mrs Leslie Brown (Wanalta), Mrs Tom Brown (Elsternwick), Mrs J. Wilson (Moonee Ponds), Mrs A. Harding (Flemington), Mrs A. Skirving (N. S. W.) and Jean (Carag Carag). The eldest son (Harold) died about 10 years ago.

The late Mr Enders was highly esteemed and his death will be regretted by a large circle of friends. The funeral took place today (Friday) the remains being interred in the Rushworth Cemetery, the funeral service being conducted by Rev. F. E. Haynes.”

Subsequent members of the Enders family were successful district sportspeople, particularly with tennis and football, Bill and Barney Enders being known to people of my age and older.

Alan McLean

# The aMazing Bike Clinic!

By Marie Wycisk

This all started out as an idea back in January 2024, when, using my skills as an Occupational Therapist, I suggested running a program to encourage seniors back on their bikes. We held a few initial training sessions at the Ironbark Stadium which were well attended and demonstrated that there was a need, however the sessions ceased when I booked an extended holiday riding around Europe. On Ya Bike - Twelve months on, and an idea becomes a reality.

Last year, while I was away cycling Europe, and thanks to Graeme Hanigan's energy and keen eyes, we applied for the Active Seniors Grant offered by the Shire of Campaspe.

The aim of the grant was to "foster support across a range of pursuits and interest areas, including health and welfare, community support, arts and culture, sports and recreation, youth, ageing, environment, access and equity".

We were very grateful to receive this grant which enabled us to purchase a variety of useful aids to setup The aMazing Bike Clinic for all abilities riders to practice their bike handling skills. Two wheels or three, we welcome everyone.

The aMazing Bike Clinic offers people the opportunity to practice tight turns, ride on uneven surfaces, judge distances, practice balance skills and increase confidence.

The training sessions are

held on the grassy surface of the Ironbark Stadium oval, where participants are required to navigate various courses, such as slalom, riding in a narrow lane, and braking.

Since inception, we have held bike balance and control clinics, rides along the forest tracks and rides along the Gargarre Rail Trail with a cuppa and cake at Gargarre Café.

We offer backup support on these rides and advice or assistance with changing a tyre, getting your seat height right or just having a friendly chat and we are very excited to be planning rides on the brand new Waranga Rail Trail.

A friendly WhatsApp enables the riders to keep in touch, find riding buddies and suggest rides or ideas.

It's not just pedalling for pleasure, it's a social event where there is ample opportunity to make new friends usually ending with a cuppa and cake at one of



The future of biking for active seniors looks bright... so just get "On Ya Bike".

the local cafes.

The next The aMazing Bike Clinic will run for three weeks starting 10 am on Saturday 10, 17 and 24 May at the Rushworth Football oval - and it's absolutely free!

Contact Marie on mobile 0431700228 for information about The aMazing Bike Clinic  
Scan this QR code to meet

local riders on the OnYaBike WhatsApp.



## School Holidays

At Rushworth Library



Scan Me to Book in.



Activity	Detail	Date & time	Age	Booking
Banjo Frog	Story and Banjo the Frog papercraft	Monday, 7 April 10.30am	All Ages	Please book
All Day LEGO® & Games	Choose a game to play or build an amazing LEGO® structure. Free play.	Tuesday, 8 April 10.30am - 4pm	All Ages	All Welcome
Movie Morning	Bring your nibbles and drinks and enjoy a family movie together. Family Fun	Thursday, 10 April 10.30am	All Ages	Please book
All Day LEGO® & Games	Choose a game to play or build an amazing LEGO® structure. Free play.	Monday, 14 April 10.30am - 4pm	All Ages	All Welcome
Paper Dolls	In this activity, children create a paper doll and design sets of paper clothes to make its own wardrobe. Learn about fashion, design, colour and patterns.	Tuesday, 15 April 10.30am	All Ages	Please book
Movie Morning	Bring your nibbles and drinks and enjoy a family movie together. Family Fun	Thursday, 17 April 10.30am	All Ages	Please book

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

# St Mary's students shine at Shepparton Athletics

St. Mary's students excelled at the inter-school athletics in Shepparton on Monday 24 March.

Their outstanding performances across various disciplines showcased their talent and enthusiasm. Numerous podium finishes highlighted the day and staff could not be prouder of how each and every child represented the school.

Some of the students will now represent St Mary's in the divisional athletics later in the year. Congratulations to all the students who participated, the award winners and the wonderful parent helpers.

## Students race to victory in the school cross country

On Monday 31st, St Mary's hosted our own own cross-country at the school. The students all participated with enthusiasm and spirit. There was even an opportunity for the teachers and parents to participate in some light-hearted challenges. The school cross-country sets the stage for the inter-school event next term.

## Year 5/6 students showcase entrepreneurial skills at market stalls

This term, St Mary's Year 5/6 students have been immersed in learning opportunities and experiences to expand their understanding of economics. This year, the Year 5 and 6 students have hands on experience of developing a business plan to launch a market stall in the last week of term. They have had to research profit/loss, understand customer service and source sustainable and affordable resources for their stalls. Their goal is simple... to make a profit to help fund a cause of their choice.

## STEAM at St Mary's

Over the past term, students at St Mary's have been learning about and exploring video editing and stop-motion during STEAM. It has been wonderful to witness their imagination as they author a narrative and bring it to life using Lego figurines in a stop-motion video. Next term, they will expand their video-editing skillset with the use of our brand-new green screen.



Winners are grinners: Archie, Thomas and Hunter.



Thumbs up from Liam.



Winner ribbon display: Isaiah, Ollie and Jensen.



A flying leap for Ebony.

## Sacramental Program

Planning has commenced between St Mary's School and our parish for our 2025 sacramental program. If any families within the wider community would like their children to participate, please contact the school for more information.

## Project Compassion raises awareness and needed funds

Throughout the season of Lent, students at St Mary's have been raising money and building awareness for Caritas Project Compassion. Each class has planned and facilitated a Project Compassion fundraiser with all proceeds being donated to Caritas Australia to challenge poverty.

(Right) P day: P is for Project Compassion.



## Magnify Sandhurst Professional Development for staff

As part of our commitment to learning, all St Mary's staff will participate in three days of professional learning with over 3000 other staff within Sandhurst.

The professional learning will be facilitated by Dr Jared Cooney Horvath who is internationally renowned for his expertise in the science of learning and how this can be translated into exemplary classroom practice. With his unique background as both an experienced educator and an Educational Neuroscientist, Jared differentiates the

'critical to know' from the 'nice to know', to the 'don't worry about' when applying brain science. There is no doubt that the learning taken from the day will hugely benefit our students and community.

Vin Ryan  
Principal

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

# New Principal appointed to Rushworth P-12

After an intensive selection process Rushworth P-12 College is pleased to announce that the new Principal for Rushworth P-12 College is Mr Jamie Daff. Mr Daff will commence in his new position Term 2.

Mr Daff is currently the Principal of Charlton College, a P-12 school of similar size to Rushworth P-12 College.

Charlton has a trade-training centre that provides VET programs for seven schools in the North Central Cluster. The school also has a pre-driver education facility and a Flexible Learning Option to re-engage students back to education.

Mr Daff is well known to Rushworth P-12 College, having worked at the school from 2013 to 2020 during which time he was a Leading Teacher. He has also worked at P-12 schools in Kyabram and Murrayville.

Welcome back Mr Daff!

(Pictured right) Acting Principal Peter Bovell, Tamikah and incoming Principal Jamie Daff during a recent visit by Jamie to the College. Tamikah was only in Year 4 when Mr Daff was here before and is very happy to see him back.



## Alexandra Adventure Camp

A large majority of the Year 7-12 cohort headed to Alexandra for an adventure camp. Despite the hot conditions that week, students applied themselves to all the challenging activities that were on the program.

Highlights of the week included students challenging themselves on the Leap of Faith, entertaining the crowd with a Talent Show and seeing their teachers in a different environment.



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Fri order by 3pm Thu

*Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our*  
**HOPE students making a mark in the community at P-12**



**HOPE (Hands On practical Education) students have been visiting the Rushworth Machinery Preservation Club each Tuesday morning and assisting the members with various projects. Who knows, some of them might be on display for the Rushworth Easter Festival?**

**This week the HOPE students met with members of the Rushworth Field & Game group to begin collaborating on the very popular nesting box program the Field & Game team are building.**

## Clay Target – Summer Sports experience.



**17 Students headed to Shepparton last Friday to participate in the GMDSSV Senior Summer Sports - our students chose to participate in the Clay Target event, and whilst not winners on the day were to be commended for their attitude and behaviour on the day.**

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# Slavery-free Easter eggs this year

Every Easter Australians spend millions of dollars buying hundreds of kilograms of chocolate to eat and give away.

In 2022, Australians spent an average of AU\$196.96 per capita on chocolate products. But some of this chocolate is tainted by slavery and comes at the cost of a child's health, education and sometimes his or her freedom.

Much of our chocolate is made using cocoa beans harvested by children, often in the West African region. Many of these children are forced into labour. We can help change this.

Much of the chocolate sold in Australia is made using cocoa beans picked by children forced to work in exploitative conditions. The International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF) estimates that there are more than 1.5 million children working in the cocoa sector in West Africa, where about 70% of the world's cocoa is produced.

ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) is an Australian registered charity that works to eliminate human trafficking and modern slavery. Look out for ACRATH and the Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance certifications on chocolate packaging when buying your Easter eggs this year.



# Mary and Francis at the Great Stupa

On 14 March Bishop Shane Mackinlay unveiled and blessed statues of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and St Francis of Assisi at the interfaith Peace Park in the grounds of the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Maiden Gully.



The Great Stupa at the Peace Park is dedicated to interfaith harmony and the statues of these two Saints stand side-by-side represent the shared values of Catholicism and Tibetan Buddhism.

Ian Green, Chairman and Director of the Great Stupa, said, "The installation of these two great figures in the Peace Park is a powerful symbol of faith and unity. It is our hope that this installation not only reflects the rich Catholic heritage of Australia but also fosters a spirit of interfaith dialogue and peace." It honours many world faiths with representations of Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism, Bahá'í, Islam, and Indigenous cultures, and of course the Catholic Church represented by St Francis of Assisi and St Mary MacKillop of the Cross.



# One of the flock



Addison May Rogers, daughter of Filly Ryan and Nathan Rogers was baptised last Sunday at St Mary's Church, Rushworth.

The Mass was also an opportunity to thank the Fijian choir for their input to the parish Sunday liturgies while they have been staying at the Rushworth Convent. Sadly, for the parish, many of them are returning home. Their presence will be missed.

## District Church Times and Contacts

### Anglican

- St Paul's, Rushworth: 0419 512 632
  - 9.30am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month - Communion
  - 9.30am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month - Lay led service
- Christ Church, Murchison: Rev Richard Pennington: 0405879554
  - 11am service every Sunday
- St Matthews, Stanhope: 0419 855 964 (Church Warden)
- St John's, Colbinabbin: 0428 329 344 (Mick Clayton)

### Shine Church, Stanhope

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

### 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.

### 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)

### Generations Church, Tatura

5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

### Salvation Army: 5852 3875

### Uniting Church

Waranga Uniting Churches – Rushworth, Colbinabbin, Murchison and Tatura. Service Times: Weekly at 9.30am (with the 'room' open for a chat at 9am) Every congregation is open for services which will be streamed each week into all four of our church buildings. Each week one congregation will host the service with people in other congregations participating in leading the readings, sharing news and fellowship via the magic of Zoom. You are welcome to join us in person or from your lounge room via Zoom. The link for the Zoom service can be found on our website warangaunitingchurches.net.au or can be emailed to you each week.

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



GRACE BEFORE MEALS  
For the food and those who prepare it,  
For health and friends to share it,  
We thank you, Lord  
AMEN.

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There is something timeless about wells. They are places of sustenance, of gathering, of unexpected encounters. In ancient times a well was a meeting place, a source of life, a

We see this play out in so many areas of life. People join a club, a team, or a church thinking they are going there to be nourished, to be strengthened for whatever comes next. But over time they come to see that the gathering itself, the shared conversations, the rituals and traditions, are what matter most.

*Brian Spencer, Minister,  
Waranga Uniting Churches*



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# WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

## THANK YOU

I would like to sincerely thank Terry, a lovely man who works at Stanhope Op Shop, Vicki Collins and the Stanhope Cafe for contacting me about having mislaid my purse on Wednesday 26th March. You have all saved me a lot of worry and not to mention the effort in cancelling cards etc. Thank you all so much.

*Vicki Fuller, Rushworth.*

## WANTED TO RENT

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

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**Ph: (03) 5824 2317**

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Rushworth RSL Sub-Branch General Meeting

The next Meeting of the RSL is to be held on

**Friday 11 April commencing at 10am**  
at the "Cottage" 1 Murchison Road.

With Easter on the following weekend (18-21 April and ANZAC day to follow the main topic for discussion is what we do for the Appeal and the ANZAC day services.

Apologies to Secretary on either:  
58567231 (Home)  
0408 664 607 (Mobile).



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

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*Phone: (03) 5826 2001*

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**Phone: 5856 1120**  
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## Solutions from last edition

T	H	R	I	L	L	E	A	R	A	B
I			R		A	W	A	R	E	B
S	O	F	A		T		R		R	O
S			Q		H	E	L	L	O	N
U	P	S	I	D	E		I	S	O	D
E				I			E		O	
S	A	V	A	G	E		R	E	L	E
	D		D		N		A			A
A	V	I	D		H		T	U	R	N
	A			R	E	A	C	H	O	
O	N	C	E		N		E		O	R
	C		S	A	C	K	S		F	
B	E	G	S		E		E	N	S	U

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

## Kids' Trivia answers

1. Leonardo da Vinci
2. Paris
3. Elon Musk
4. 32
5. Omnivores
6. Pacific Ocean
7. 100°C or 212°F
8. Antarctica
9. Purple
10. 0

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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

APRIL

On now - Sat 5 Apr	Rochester Mural Festival
Sat 5	Autumn Vibe Girgarre Soundshell - Movie 6-8pm Wicked
Sun 6	Stanhope Garage sale from 9am
Thur 10	Aged Care Expo. Shire Hall. All service providers
Sun 13	Heritage Day at Merrigum Museum
Sat 19	Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival High Street 8.30am
Sun 20	Working Draught Horse Muster. Moora
Fri 25	Anzac Day

MAY

Sun 6	Stanhope Town Garage Sale from 9am
Sat 17	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm

Meetings & Activities - around the district

- Rushworth SES training: Wednesday evenings at 7pm
- Rushworth CFA: Tuesday nights
- Rushworth Food bank: 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**

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

FOR NEXT EDITION - 17 APRIL  
Display Ads: Friday, 11 April  
Classified: Monday, 14 April  
wnews@iinet.net.au

Waranga News



A Voluntary Community Newspaper

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 E: [shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au)  
[www.campaspe.vic.gov.au](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au)

**Coming Up** Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 15 April 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, 16 April

• 9.30 – 9:50am | Kyabram Senior Citizens' Centre

### Monday, 28 April

• 9.00 – 19:30am | Tongala Shire Hall  
• 11.30am – 12 noon | Stanhope Community Health Centre

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

## Employment

### #campaspecareers

- Community Development Officer
- Early Childhood Educators
- Group Fitness Instructor
- Learn to Swim Teacher

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

## Rushworth & District Aged Care Services Expo

Council is hosting the Rushworth & District Aged Care Services Expo in conjunction with Rushworth Community House and Goulburn Valley Health.

Discover Aged Care Services and listen to

the Crime Stoppers presentation at 12 noon, providing online safety tips to protect yourself from scams.

Thursday, 10 April from 10.30am-2.30pm at Rushworth Shire Hall.

## Now Open

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

### Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and Immunisation services surveys

Consultation and engagement regarding Council's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and Immunisation services is now underway. Council is seeking to understand service users' opinions and what matters most to them in relation to the delivery of these services, through two surveys. You can have your say by completing one or both of these surveys. Surveys close midnight, Monday 21 April.

### Draft Echuca Flood Risk Management Plan report

The draft Echuca Flood Risk Management Plan is now open for exhibition and to

seek submissions from the community before Council considers its adoption about mid-2025. Visit Council's website or any customer service centre or library to view and provide feedback. Comments close midnight, Sunday, 20 April.

### Community Grants Round One

Round One of the 2025-26 Community Grants program is now open. The program offers up to \$4,000 of financial support for community groups, organisations and associations with a broad range of projects to encourage participation in communities. Applications close 5pm, Thursday, 24 April.

## Works Notices

### Footpath works – Heygarth Street, Echuca

Preventative footpath maintenance will be taking place on Heygarth St on Thursday, 3 April from 7am to 4pm outside Echuca Civic Centre/Echuca Law Courts. Traffic control measures will be in place throughout the day. Please note that off-street parking will be limited, and some noise disturbances may occur. Depending on weather conditions, works should be completed the same day.

### Roadworks – Hume Street, Echuca

Works will be taking place from Monday, 31 March in Hume Street, Echuca between Darling and Pakenham Streets. As a result, the Hume/Pakenham Street bus stop located along the west side of Hume Street will be closed for the duration of the works. Works are expected to be completed by 16 May.

Passengers of Route 2 Circular Echuca are advised to use the alternative bus stops at:

- Annesley Street/Pakenham Street - Dan Murphys (to Echuca)
- Sturt Street/Pakenham Street (to Echuca)
- Hovell Street/Pakenham Street (to Echuca)
- McKinlay Street/Hume Street (to Echuca)

## Business workshop opportunities to assist small business owners:

Are you looking to enhance your business skills and network with other local entrepreneurs?

Campaspe Shire Council offers a variety of business workshops designed to support and grow your business. Our workshops cover a range of topics, including marketing, social media and digital content. Upcoming workshops include:

### Canva for Business

Canva can be a valuable tool for creating marketing and branding assets for small business owners.

Join Briana from Mingle Media for a workshop that will introduce you to Canva and how to use it to help your business achieve results. When: Thursday, 8 May from 12:30-2pm  
Where: Echuca Library. Cost: \$20 per business.

### Social Media for Business

Join Briana from Mingle Media for an advanced workshop during which you will gain insights and skills to elevate your social media game. Learn to conquer algorithms and stand out in your customers' news

feeds.

When: Thursday, 5 June from 6:30-8pm.

Where: Kyabram Club. Cost: \$20 per business.

### Creating Live Video for Business

Join Briana from Mingle Media and learn the techniques, camera angles, equipment, and themes to engage your audience.

When: Tuesday, 17 June from 12:30-2pm.

Where: Echuca Library. Cost: \$20 per business.

**Bookings:** [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/businessworkshops](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/businessworkshops)

Readers' Corner

- interesting things to know and do!

BOOK IT IN

Death comes to Pemberley

by P D James (published 2011)

The year is 1803 and Elizabeth and Darcy, whose blossoming romance we followed with great interest in Jane Austen’s famous novel ‘Pride and Prejudice’ and the delightful BBC dramatization of the book, have been married for six years and are living happily at Pemberley, Darcy’s magnificent home in Derbyshire, with their two young sons. Elizabeth’s gentle sister Jane is married to Bingley and lives nearby and the foolish Lydia is still attached to the dreadful Wickham who is stationed in the county with his regiment. To everyone’s surprise, Susan has found herself a clergyman to marry, thus allowing Kitty to rise to the ranks of ‘favourite daughter’ to the flighty Mrs Bennett. It is the night before the annual autumn ball and the household are about to retire for the night when Lydia arrives at the door screaming that Wickham has been murdered and this peaceful world is thrown into disarray. Old misunderstandings are rekindled and it is left to Elizabeth and Darcy to solve the mystery.

P D James, a member of the famous ‘Queens of Crime’ whose members include Agatha Christie, Dorothy L Sayers and Ngaio Marsh, has had a lifelong passion for Jane Austen. In this novel, she fuses this with her talent for writing detective fiction and the result is an absolute delight with a powerful plot and the rich characterization of Jane Austen’s much loved stories of life and love among the upper middle classes and minor aristocracy of Regency England. Those who love Jane Austen’s books have always been saddened that she died of Addison’s Disease at the young age of forty-one and so deprived us of more of her delightful novels but this addition to the lives of the Bennett family by P D James does Jane proud! The style is indistinguishable from that of Jane herself so if you hanker after more news of Elizabeth and her sisters combined with a rollicking good detective story, then this is just the book for a peaceful afternoon with tea and cucumber sandwiches in the garden.

Liz Buzza

KIDS' QUIZ

1. Who painted the Mona Lisa?
2. Where is Pont Neuf located?
3. Which tech billionaire owns SpaceX?
4. How many teeth does an adult human have?
5. What are animals that eat both meat and plants called?
6. What is the world's largest ocean?
7. What temperature does water boil?
8. What is the largest desert in the world?
9. What color is a giraffe's tongue?
10. How many bones does a shark have?

(Answers page 26)

Did you know? . . . Comets smell like rotten eggs!

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.

Rating: ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

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

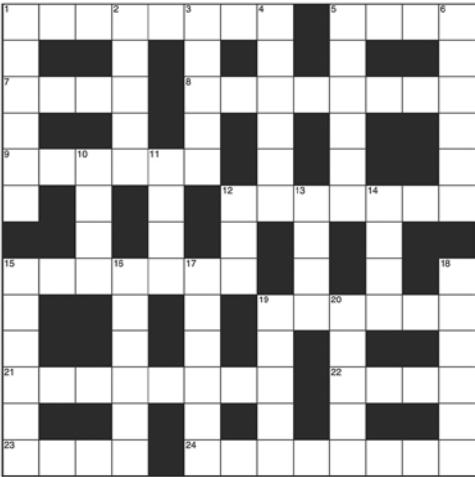
ACROSS

1. Dependably
5. Real, ... fide
7. Nip
8. Fragile
9. Snuggle closely
12. Shrink
15. Unwisely
19. Nursery poems
21. Gallivant (3,5)
22. Allergen producer, dust
- .....
23. Japanese wine
24. Paint atomiser (5,3)

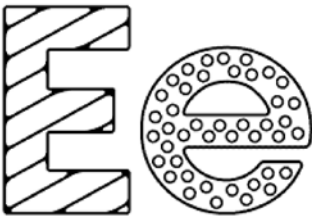
DOWN

1. Red-breasted birds
2. Clumsy
3. Message brooch
4. Discolour through age
5. Gesture hither
6. Nautical yes (3,3)
10. Long tale
11. Be fond of
12. Light hours
13. Irritate
14. Dire fate
15. Mental pictures
16. Invalidate
17. Dud cars
18. To the rear
19. Rotating arm
20. Delightful to eat

Crossword No: 48



Solutions will appear in the next edition.



E is for Easter which means there’s going to be a whole lot of Easter eggs around in a couple of weeks time (Easter Sunday is 20<sup>th</sup> April this year).

But not all eggs are chocolate! You can have fun making some ‘marbled’ eggs using food dyes or even

making marbled eggs - Asian style!

For Asian-style, you hard-boil eggs, drop them into iced water to cool them down, then crack them all over with the back of a spoon. Put the eggs in a pot of water with 1/2 cup of dark soya sauce, 4 tea bags, 3 star anise (stick of cinnamon, salt, sugar if you like) and bring to the boil and simmer for an hour. Leave the eggs to sit in the water. When they’ve cooled down, gently remove the shells and you’ll have marbled tea eggs which look good and taste just fine, too.

If you’re buying chocolate Easter eggs you can choose to buy ‘ethical eggs’ from a brand that doesn’t use child



Marbled eggs

labour in their cocoa plantations.

Easter also happens to be the most important feast day that is celebrated in the Christian Churches.



# Rushworth players from 100 years ago

by Tony Ford

**In the mid-1920s, Rushworth Football Club was struggling to be competitive in the Goulburn Valley Football League. There were some very good players, but it seems the club lacked the depth to compete in this major league against the more populous areas.**

One of the good things that happened around this time was that the Tigers were blooding some excellent young talent that would stand them in good stead for later years. Between 1929 and 1940, Rushworth played in 10 GVFL grand finals, winning five.

## Captaincy

Somewhat surprisingly, the captain in 1925 was a bloke who had only come to the town just after World War 1. He worked as a labourer out at Waranga Basin when the height of the wall was being raised. His name was Edward Christian Roderick and he was born in Castlemaine. After spending much of the 1920s in the Rushworth area, he moved back to work and live in the central goldfields. George "Tim" Hawking, who was the vice-captain that year, later went on to coach the team during the glory years of the 1930s. He was 23 when he was appointed to the vice-captaincy, his leadership ability already very evident.

## Player positions

The Rushworth Chronicle in 1925 often listed the players from whom following week's team was selected, but rarely in their selected positions. However, on a couple of occasions, it did so, giving us an insight into where people usually played. Back then, a player would usually stick to their position all day, often with the same opponent. There was the first "ruck", including the top ruckman, a utility player and a dedicated rover. They swapped now and again with the "second ruck", usually in the back or forward pockets. There were no reserves. Of course, these days positions are pretty much irrelevant, as are the names of the "positions".

"Bill" Colliver was the gun centreman of the day. Sadly, from the Rushworth point of view, he left the area to go farming in the Wimmera in the late 1920s, missing the glory years with the Tigers. His younger brother Keith, later to be a legendary full-forward and high mark, played his first senior game in 1925 against Tongala aged 17.

The key positions, with the exception of the centre, were filled by the big blokes. Vice-captain "Tim" Hawking held down centre-half-back, with Vin Stockdale the centre-half-forward. Vin's older brother Greg played 106 games for Essendon in the 1920s, and his younger brother Ern later played in a premiership with the Tigers in 1932. Dick Chandler was the mercurial full forward who went on to kick over 1000 goals in the Victorian Amateurs competition from 1929-40 after he left Rushworth.

Bill Corner and Ed Roderick (the captain) were the key ruckman. Their first rover was invariably Les Abikhair, the second of seven Abikhair boys. Roy and Bert Hawking held down the wing positions, not unlike their descendant Trevor in the 1970s. Otto "Harry" Hilder played on the half-forward flank. W Carey (first name unknown) was a regular on the half-back flank. Three Geislars Frank, Harold and Ernest, were versatile players who were able to play in both the forward and back lines and occasionally on the ball.

## Rushworth Rovers

As well as the senior team playing in the GVFL on Wednesday afternoons (a half-day holiday), Rushworth had a "junior" (i.e. not underage – like a minor league team) team known as the Rushworth Rovers which played on Saturdays. From the newspaper

reports, it is clear that the games this team played were social, rather than part of an organised league. No finals were played, although return matches were often played against nearby teams. There was a big pool of at least 40 players used, some of whom also played in the GVFL e.g. Bert Hawking, Bill Colliver and Bill Corner.

The Rovers played games against a variety of teams, some of whom were in other formal competitions e.g. Colbinabbin, who played in the Campaspe Valley Football Association against the likes of Elmore juniors, Toolleen, Mount Pleasant and Goornong. Colbo's best players in the match against the Rovers that year were Tuohey, Priestly, Reynolds (x2), Boundy, Neilson, Borger and Baker.

Other opponents of the Rovers in 1925 included Cooma, Girgarre, Nagambie juniors and Waranga Basin. When the Rovers played the Basin, Ed Roderick (captain of the Rushworth GVFL side) played for the opposition because he lived and worked out at the Basin. Otto "Harry" Hilder, who also played in the GVFL side, was often the umpire for the Rovers games. According to the scribe in the Rushworth Chronicle, he made "a proficient umpire."

Some family names that appear more than once in the Rovers playing list include Merryfull (3), King (3), Colliver (2), Dixon (2), Chandler (2) and Geisler (2). The eldest of the seven Abikhair brothers, Jimmy, also played in this team.

*References: Rushworth Chronicle 1925, per favour of Rushworth Historical Society.*



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# Dick O'Donnell Memorial held in Rushworth

The weather was perfect for all competitors and supporters when Rushworth Bowls Club hosted the Dick O'Donnell Open Memorial Fours on Sunday 23 March 2025.

Eighty-eight players from across the region attended the event along with club supporters. Big thanks for the support from the following clubs: Eildon, Euroa, Hilltop, Stanhope, Broadford, Colbinabbin, Mooroopna Golf, Heathcote, Tongala, White Hills, Boort, Echuca, Tatura, Murchison, Kyabram and Rushworth.

Play started early at 10am with both greens providing some challenges for the teams. It was a relaxing and highly competitive day with plenty of banter happening amongst the players.

A great job done by the volunteers to bring the day together.

## Congratulations to the winners

Euroa Club took out the honours on the day, the winning team being Tracy McConnell, Mark Jervies, Sam Barkley and Tony Kingma. Runners up were Gayle George, Paul Smitherau, Ray Holt and Craig Parker from the Eildon Club.

Looking forward to seeing you all again next year!



A bright and sunny day on the Rushworth greens was a perfect setting for the annual competition.



Euroa – the winning team on the day.



Second place went to the Eildon team.

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# Another great family fun day at the Colbo Primary School Market Day

The spinning wheel and auction are the most popular and lucrative attractions of many school fetes - and Colbinabbin's Market Day is no exception.



Ben McEvoy and Will Lowe kept the bids rolling in for a great auction of goods.



Sophie, Matilda and Lulu, fresh from the face-painting stall.



Carlie and Trish display some of the many bottles of local wine donated for the spinning wheel and auction.

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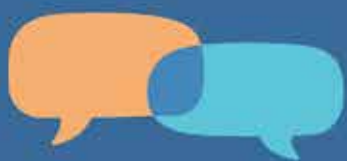
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