

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.

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staffed by volunteers

Thursday 1 May 2025

Rushworth shines again at Easter

The sun shone and so did Rushworth as the crowds arrived for another great day of festival fun on the Easter weekend. Visitors from far and wide joined residents for an action-packed program, starting on Saturday with the 9 am children's Easter egg hunt and then endless activities right through to the popular Grand Parade at 1 pm. And then, on Sunday, there was more at Moora!

Turn Page 2 for our pictorial coverage of the weekend with photos by Sharon Perry.

Thanks for a great community effort!

If I had to choose my favourite part of this year's Easter Festival, I would say it was our town! Rushworth put on its best show for this year's Easter Festival. The weather was perfect and it was fantastic to see so many people browsing the stalls and spending time and money in our local businesses. The children's attractions were busy all day and many enjoyed the Art Exhibition run by Rushworth Artistries and the high tea hosted by the Red Knights.

A huge number of people lined the streets at 1.00 pm and were treated to a fabulous display of draught horses, mules and donkeys followed by The Wizard and those wonderful steam machines from the Rushworth Steam Machinery Preservation Club. To top off the parade we saw over fifty privately owned classic cars and trucks rolling through High Street.

For those who are interested, the People's Choice award for the most popular vehicle went to Allan Taylor's International Truck. Second was Mark Cusack for his Rover 90 and third was John Meguyer's S-Type Jaguar which led the classic vehicles in the parade. Congratulations to all.

Winners of our colouring competition will be announced in the next edition of the Waranga News.

The Easter Festival committee would like to thank everyone who came along to take part in the day. Our thanks also go to our volunteers who worked tirelessly setting up and helping to ensure that the day ran smoothly.

Finally our sponsors this year were amazing! Our sincere thanks to each and every one of them for helping to make the Festival the success that it was.

If you would like to volunteer to be part of this fabulous event that showcases our town, please get in touch with us at rushworthmarket@gmail.com

Lyn Reade

Rushworth Easter Heritage
Festival Committee



3 May Election in Nicholls - see page 5

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

Easter Festival round-up

Slinky reptiles, fancy hats and pampered puppies were just some of the attractions on display at Rushworth’s Festival.



Freshly made scones were a hit at the popular Devonshire teas and High Tea courtesy of the hard-working Red Knights.



Photos by festival photographer Sharon Perry.



‘Shearing for Kids’ continues traditional Easter Wood Auction

It was very popular move when the dynamic Shearing for Kids with Cancer team revived the traditional charity wood auction which had been a part of the Rushworth Easter tradition for many decades. Organiser Katrina Ogden was thrilled with success of the event and is especially grateful to everyone who contributed in any way:

Thanks for supporting Kids with Cancer

What a fantastic day was enjoyed by everyone who attended the Rushworth Easter Festival.

It was a beautiful day with the sun shining all day. The organisers of the wood auction event, Katrina and Billy Ogden, would like to thank a lot of people for helping us cut the wood, stack into trailers, and deliver the wood.

We would also like to thank the people who donated trailer loads of wood as well. Without the help of these wonderful people, we wouldn’t have been able to have this event.

Special thanks go to Gavin and Fran O’Sullivan, Bill and Val Barlow, Field and Game committee, Rushworth General Store, Bruce Wootton, Mark and Brian Barlow, Ike and Whil Jones and their team, Harry Rathjen, Nick Harrop, Sam Perry, Mark Cusack, Matt Caton, Cleave and Cabe Roberts, Darcy Brown, Jack McArdle, Mal and Mick Connally, Lochie Cassidy, Kaylene and Peter Raglus, John Raglus, Rob Colliver, Matt Barlow, Garrick and Claire Campbell, Gunyah Farms, Joe Atherton, Rushworth Machinery Shed, Jamie Laurie, Brad Penfold, Dion Voisy and William, Heath and Thomas Ogden.

We also would like to thank our auctioneer for the day, Nigel Starick. He did a great job, and we very much appreciate it.

We had a total of 24 loads of wood as well as grain and little squares of clover hay. The top trailer of wood went for an incredible amount of \$1300. The lucky winner of the 6x4 trailer load of wood was won by Teresa Cusack. The total raised for the Shearing for Kids with Cancer was \$17,662.

We would again like to thank everyone who helped before, during, and after the auction. It was truly very much appreciated. Look forward to seeing everyone on the 25 July for our eleventh Shearing for Kids with Cancer Shearing Day. More details to come, so stay tuned.

Katrina Ogden

Shape the future of food in Campaspe

The Campaspe Food Network is inviting the community to share their views on the local food system through a new survey.

This survey seeks insights on issues and opportunities relating to how food is grown, distributed, and consumed.

The Campaspe Food network is made up of local health professionals, Council staff, local business owners, people who are passionate about food and local growers and producers.

The survey aims to shape the future of food production, distribution, consumption, and everything in between, reflecting the values and priorities of those who live and work in Campaspe Shire. Responses will help the network develop a list of actions to advocate for change, to strengthen and sustain the region’s food supply.

“The survey is easy to complete and open to all community members. Whether you’re a local farmer, a business owner, or simply someone who cares about where your food comes from, your opinion matters,” Mayor Cr Mackrell said.

The results will be used to guide potential strategies and initiatives aimed at enhancing the sustainability, accessibility and resilience of the Campaspe Shire’s food system.

To take part in the survey, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/FoodSystemsSurvey. The survey will be open until 16 May 2025, 5pm. It should only take a few minutes to complete.



Trailer loads of wood are popular commodities when winter is on the way.



William Ogden with a trailer or two of wood. Photo by Sharon Perry

Stanhope Community Market

4 MAY

8am till 1pm
BBQ
Music

Birdwood Ave
Stanhope
1st Sunday of each month
ALL WELCOME

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

For More Information
Ph: 03 58572866 or
Stanhope Community Market Facebook page

STANHOPE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

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?

#5 "Quod gratis asseritur, gratis negate" or 'what is asserted without justification, may be rejected without justification'.

#6 What is science?

Today: Beware of 'Tom Collins' and the 'Furphy'

Anzac Day, 25 April, is one of Australia's most important national occasions. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. In 1915 Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula in order to open the Dardanelles to the allied navies, and the ANZAC legend became integral part of Australian folk lore.

But my interest today is in some other folk lore, the term 'Furphy', which I had always understood was derived from the scuttle buck, or gossip that was spread by the attendant of the Furphy Water Cart as it distributed water to the troops on the battlefield in the First World War.

It appears that this explanation itself may in fact be a Furphy!

In his book 'Memories of a Signaller', Gallipoli Veteran Harold Hinckfuss wrote of the "furphies" or rumours of pending movements of troops, while awaiting transfer to the French lines from Egypt. His account claims that the association of "furphy" with the latrines is not due to any association with a drinking water cart, but because a "furphy" was a term for a

fact: "Every day in the tent someone would come up with a 'furphy' that he had heard whilst down at the latrines."

Author of 'Over the Top', Henry George Hartnett, cited as a source historian C.E.W. Beans 12 volume 'The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918' provides a more precise and detailed origin of the term, which;

- contradicts the much later "watercart" story,
- corresponds with Australian culture of the day
- corresponds with Hinckfuss's recollection of its alternate meaning

"It is doubtful if there ever was a more fruitful field for rumours than the army. No one knew where they emanated from. Scanty scraps of information, often reported to have been told initially in the strictest confidence, were distorted, magnified, losing nothing in the constant retelling; instead, they often branched out into new avenues as they were passed on. The term "Furphy" is said to have originated in the Broadmeadows Camp, Melbourne, in 1914. The garbage and refuse of the camp was collected in carts, somewhat resembling present day municipal council garbage trucks, each of which had the maker's name, "FURPHY", painted in large letters on both sides of the vehicle. Rumours in the camp were passed on direct from a "Furphy" and, in due course, "Furphy" was adopted as the "official" title for all rumours right throughout the AIF." Was the term Furphy taken from Broadmeadows to the battlefield?

The Furphy family history reveals an interesting mystery. While John's manufacturing prowess and inventiveness established the Furphy name in Australian history, his brother Joseph after which the Furphy Literary award is named, was significant in the field of literature.

What's interesting is that Joseph Furphy wrote under the pseudonym of 'Tom Collins'.

Now in the 1890's 'Tom Collins' was bush

slang for a peddler of false reports and here lies another story, but is it a Furphy?

In 1894 the Perth Inquirer and Commercial News printed the story "There is such comicality attached to the yarn that is told about this individual that it is worth repeating. A friend would on meeting another say, Hallo, old fellow, have you heard what 'Tom Collins' has been saying about you, and would repeat some diabolical imaginary accusation alleged to have been hurled at him by 'T. C.' By the great Jehoshaphat, who is 'Tom Collins, where is this darned skunk to be seen - let me get at him,' and I will soon settle his hash for him, would the accused party scowlingly utter; 'oh,' his friend would reply, 'you will find him at such a place,' mentioning some well-known hostelry, the occupants of which had been put up to the joke and would pass the aggrieved one still further on by saying, 'oh yes, 'Tom Collins' has just left five minutes ago' - and so the joke would go on. The mischief-making 'Tom Collins,' was after all only a myth."

It could be that there is an interesting link between the use of 'Tom Collins' as a pseudonym and the coining of 'Furphy' both in reference to false information?

The tendency for humans to spread false information has to do with human behaviour; humans are attracted to events and information that are surprising and new, and, as a result, cause high arousal in the brain. Individuals tend to favour evidence that coincides with their current beliefs and reject new information that contradicts them, which results in massive online communities formed around Furphies without any prior fact-checking or verification of the veracity of the information.

Beware of 'Tom Collins' and the 'Furphy', and question everything!

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

Police Beat

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

The following is a list of reported incidents. Any information in relation to these incidents can be reported to the Rushworth Police Station on 58561000, or by calling Crime Stoppers on 1800333000 if you wish to remain anonymous. Any information is greatly appreciated by both victims and police.

A burglary occurred to a shed at an Old Place Road Rushworth property between 08/03/25 and 18/03/25. After gaining entry offenders have stolen two motorcycles valued at approximately \$10000.

• A theft from motor vehicle occurred overnight on 23/03/25. The 2018 Toyota Landcruiser was left parked along the Bendigo-Murchison Road in Colbinabbin. An offender has smashed a window to the vehicle to gain entry. A wallet, air pods, and

cash valued at \$550 were stolen.

• A theft from motor vehicle occurred at a High Street Rushworth business between 29/03/25 and 31/03/25. Working lights were stolen from the roof to a work vehicle valued at \$500.

• On 17/03/25 police executed a Drugs Search Warrant at a Boulton Street Rushworth property. Police located two mature cannabis plants and a quantity of drying cannabis inside the residence. A 45-year-old male was charged with cultivating and possessing cannabis, and he was bailed to appear at the Echuca Magistrates Court at a later date.

• Police also attended 11 family violence incidents and 1 reportable fire during this period.

That is our list of reported incidents.

While the crime rate is low the large number of family violence incidents attended is very concerning. Local members issued 44 infringement notices during the two months. High speed continues to lead the way here. Members can now issue notices by text message or via email. The town has been very busy of late with the Easter festival and Anzac Day services. It has been great to see so many people in town with no major issues being reported.

Well that about wraps up another police report. Please stay safe and look after each other. Until we chat again.

Ldg. Sen. Cons Steve Thomson
Rushworth Police

Pre-polling opens to record early voting numbers

It's the final week of the Federal election campaign but already early voting has broken records, surpassing the previous high set in 2022.

On the first day of pre-polling, over 540,000 Australians cast their votes, more than doubling the 2022 record of 310,000. The surge indicates a significant shift in voter behaviour and suggests many have confirmed their vote with little reference to the list of promises rolled out over the course of the campaign.

In a far cry from the 2022 election, the lead up to Saturday's vote in the Nicholls electorate has been a lack-lustre affair. With limited media coverage, apart from the pledges of Nationals incumbent Sam Birrell, a notable lack of election advertising and a candidate forum attended by only four of the seven candidates, local voters might be forgiven for thinking our democracy is not serving us well.

While the running of a high profile Independent at the previous election challenged the 'safe seat' stability of the electorate, antagonising opponents from the three major parties (as Liberal and Nationals candidates competed 'against' each other), it offered choice to voters who are often faced with a field of candidates who either don't reflect their values or who have no real connection to the local region.

Add to this the notable absence of campaign focus and serious discussion on policy areas of concern to many, including structural inequality, the low rate of welfare payments such as JobSeeker and Youth

The candidates

Kim Travers of Flowerdale, Australian Labor Party

Paul Bachelor of Echuca, Family First Party

Glen Francis Floyd of Maldon, Trumpet of Patriots

Aarron Tyrrell of Invergordon, One Nation

Sam Birrell of Shepparton, The Nationals

Jeff Davy of Numurkah, Australian Citizens Party

Shelby Eade from the Melbourne suburb of Altona, Greens

Allowance, domestic violence and, of course climate action that was such a determining issue of the 2022 election.

Senate voting

Even further below the radar than the lower house contenders, in Victoria six Senate seats are up for election. The Labor Party is defending two seats, the Liberal-National Coalition two, the Greens one and an Independent (formerly elected as Coalition) one.

Voters can choose to vote according to a party of their choice (above the line), or select at least twelve of their own chosen candidates (below the line).

Charities call out to address unequal access

In the lead-up to the 2025 federal election, numerous charities and advocacy groups are calling for an end to systemic inequalities, focusing on issues such as housing, poverty, healthcare and justice for minority groups including First Nations and refugees.

The Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) has urged all parties and candidates to deliver real solutions to address the hardship people are facing, rising inequality and climate change, and to resist stoking fear and division.

In an open letter to politicians Anglicare notes that Australia has never been more prosperous, yet we are also a nation facing growing inequality. Over three million Australians live in poverty, and wealth inequality is now the worst it has been in seventy-five-years as highlighted by Anglicare Australia's recent *Widening the Gap** report.

National President of St Vincent de Paul Society, Mark Gaetani, said the qualities of justice and compassion must underpin all policy decisions of the incoming government.

In the Society's document *Justice and Compassion** states that it's in the interests of the nation to address the injustices and lack of compassion evident in key policy areas affecting people struggling with living costs, the lack of affordable housing, First Nations and asylum seeker poverty, and attaining the rights and respect to which all people are entitled in a civil society.

This document has also been forwarded to all current Federal Members as well as candidates in a number of seats.

"It is vital for the nation's social harmony, as well as basic human rights, that no one should fall through the economic safety net and have to live in poverty," said Mr Gaetani.

Majority or minority government - does it matter?

While major party candidates agree on very little, one thing they appear to be united on is their condemnation of the Independents. They claim that without party backing members are powerless, can achieve nothing and contribute to an unstable government. The concerted push-back from opponents about the futility of electing Independents has led to a narrative that poses a minority government as something to be feared. But is it necessarily so? Before making up our minds it's worth thinking about the process.

Forming government

After the election, if a party (or group of parties) wins more than half of the seats in the House of Representatives it forms the government. At this election, 150 seats will be contested and 76 seats will be needed for an outright majority. To stay in power, the government must have the support of the majority in the House of Representatives (also termed the 'lower house').

Where a party (or coalition) lacks an outright majority of seats, it will need the support of other parties or independents (cross-benchers) to reach 76 seats in the lower house in order to form a minority government.

The minor parties and/or independents are then said to hold the balance of power in the lower House.

The lowest form of support that minor parties and independents can offer a government is confidence and supply. This guarantees they will support the government if a "no confidence" motion is introduced in parliament and will vote for appropriation bills that allow the government to spend money, also known as 'supply' (eg getting the budget approved.)

Note - while the government is formed in the House of Representatives, it also has members in the Senate (upper house). However, it may not always hold a majority of seats in the Senate.)

Majority/minority – does it matter?

In the lead-up to this election there has been a lot of media commentary about the possibility of a minority government (a 'hung' parliament). This is predicted because support for the two major parties appears to be declining and there is a high chance that neither party will achieve a majority as voters tend towards independents and minor party candidates.

Under a majority government, legislation is generally passed in the lower house and any negotiation happens in the Senate where it is approved. In a minority government lower house cross-bench MPs can block legislation they disagree with, so there must be also be talks there (and often changes) to secure support.

There are varying opinions about whether a hung parliament is good or bad for democracy.

Pros of a hung parliament

1. More negotiation and compromise
 - Forces parties to work together and negotiate policies
 - Can lead to more balanced and widely acceptable legislation.
2. Greater Representation
 - Minor parties and independents often hold the balance of power.
 - More diverse voices and interests are

represented in parliament.

3. Stronger accountability
 - Government must justify decisions more clearly to win support.
 - Less chance of one party pushing through controversial legislation unchecked.
4. Checks on power
 - Reduces dominance of a single party, promoting democratic checks and balances.

Cons of a hung parliament

1. Instability and uncertainty
 - Government may be less stable; higher risk of early elections or leadership spills.
 - Difficult to pass key legislation or budgets if support isn't secured.
2. Slower decision-making
 - More time spent negotiating deals and compromises.
 - Important reforms may be delayed or watered down.
3. Backroom deals
 - Deals with crossbenchers or minor parties can be seen as "buying support."
 - Can result in prioritising fringe interests over broader national concerns.
4. Less policy clarity
 - Coalition-style governance can result in mixed messaging or inconsistent policies.

District remembers on ANZAC day

Local communities together with communities across Australia gathered to mark the significance of Anzac Day in a number of symbolic and meaningful ways.

Catafalque Party at Stanhope service

Ideal weather, made better by recent dust settling rain, greeted the 100+ locals and visitors to Stanhope’s ANZAC Community Service.

The Catafalque Party was supplied by 419 Sqn RAAF Cadets from Shepparton and did a very professional presentation. The Last Post and Reveille was played by a Bugler from the Rushworth Citizens Band.

The Rushworth Band provided stirring music throughout the service. Kerryn from the Shine Church provided a moving prayer and commented on the effect that spiritualism has played on men and women during battle.

The Guest Speaker for the day was Matilda Sowter, a year 12 student from Kyabram. Last year Matilda walked the Kokoda Trail and relived that experience for the crowd.

Councillor Adrian Weston capably read the ANZAC Requiem, which is a required part of the Service.

Phil Chapman mentioned in his address, **if we don’t speak for the dead, who will.** He believed that it’s one thing to remember sacrifices made, but we also need to know why those sacrifices were necessary.

The sumptuous afternoon tea was a wonderful variety of country food and was appreciated by all.

(Right) The Catafalque Party approach the memorial.



ANZAC Day at Corop

About thirty-five people attended the Anzac commemoration service at Corop, including members of the Speers family who were enjoying their annual reunion.

Addresses were given by family members Terry Beed and Kate Speers with stories and letters from family members who served in both World Wars.

The Shire was represented by Cr Adrian Weston who read the Anzac Requiem and laid a wreath on the Stone of Remembrance on behalf of the Shire. Other wreaths were laid on behalf of the Corop Community, the Youth of Corop, Emergency Services, and the Speers family.

The Youth representative was Eden Beaumont, a student at Rochester Secondary College. Eden had just been advised that he had been awarded a scholarship to participate in a walk to Kokoda in July.

Following the usual cuppa and morning tea of Anzac biscuits, the Speers family members stayed on and enjoyed a catered lunch at the Corop Community Centre.



(Left) Speers family members at the Corop memorial. (Above) the poppy-lined pathway to Service.

Community gathers in Rushworth

Before the sun rose the Rushworth community gathered to remember the fallen at the town's Dawn Service on ANZAC Day.

The solemnity of the occasion was enhanced by the presence of the five 8th Indi Light Horse members, including Ewen Mclean who recited his own poem, 'The Hardest Shot'.

As the crowd stood in silence The Last Post and the Rouse were played by Mat Tatti form the Rushworth Band.

Shepparton historian John Gribben delivered the address, speaking about well-

known Murchison airman from WW2, Ross Gregory.

As the sun rose the early morning the service was completed with the haunting strains of the bagpipes played by Ramon Rathjen and the National Anthem led by Rhonda Risstrom.

Following the service Rushworth SES served a Gunfire Breakfast.

Thank you to many

I guess we will start with our service personnel because without their service and sacrifice over the last 110 years, I would not be sitting here writing today.

The price our men and women paid in the theatre of war could not be put in monetary value. Thank you, we will not forget.

Thank you to all for turning up at the Dawn service, a fantastic crowd. The service made special once again by five mounted members of the Australian Light Horse. The work put in so early in the morning to put together man and horse shows the dedication of the folks and their work in memory of our service personnel.

'Volunteers' like the SES who were on site very early with coffee, tea and bacon and egg sanger, a wonderful job. Also thank you to our local IGA for donation of the bacon and eggs. The SES group not only make a wonderful sanger, they are there for the not so nice things in life. Accidents, fires, your roof blown off, search parties - 24/7 they will be there. Our diggers of old would be proud of you all. Thank you.

Thank you Matilda Lockwood for the raising of the flag at both the dawn and 10am service, well done mate.

Thank you to our two guest speakers, John Cribben and Dr Saemas Spark at both services.

Thank you Ramon Rathjen for playing the bagpipes so beautifully and to Rhonda Risstrom for always obliging us at the service every year with the National Anthem.

Thank you to Mary Beck for the wonderful display of poppies around the memorial. And thank you to your family Paul (Buffy) and Kerry.

Thank you Wally Jones for the beautiful small white crosses.

Thank you to the Rushworth and District Band and the bugler and all the wonderful folk who laid wreaths, many of them, our local policeman Robert watching over things at the 10 am service also laying a wreath.

Thank you to the Red Knights for the wonderful cuppa and morning tea after the 10am service.

Thank you to the wonderful giving community of Rushworth and Colbo for supporting the RSL badge week and to Robbie Ryan, Garrick Cambell, Kelly and Sharon Perry and Ian Riley for helping out with the selling of the badges.

Thank you also Sharon Perry for taking such wonderful photos of the service.

Yes I have missed some but will catch up in the next Waranga News. Thank you everyone for making both services such a memorable occasion and thank you to our supreme commander for, as president Bill Barlow called time on the dawn service, down came the rain.

Rogie



The Light Horsemen leave following the Dawn Service ceremony.

10 am March and Service

Former soldiers, family and/or other representatives marched from the Post Office to the Memorial accompanied by the Rushworth and District Band.



Wreaths were laid, and following the Ode and the Last Post Dr Seamus Spark form Monash University presented an interesting talk on the Dunera Boys.

The topic is particularly relevant to the district as internment camps for people of mostly non-British heritage (including some of the Dunera boys) were located in Rushworth, Tatura and Murchison.

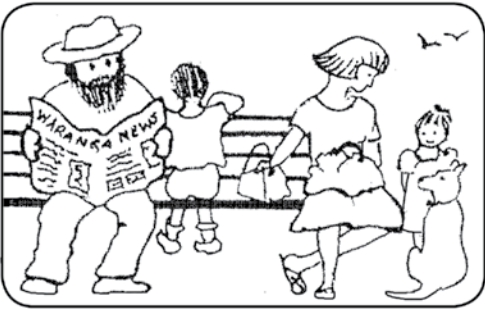
The service concluded with the National

Anthem and a march past the Aged Care Hostel with eyes right to the residents to acknowledge their service to the country over many years.

As the rain clouds delivered a very welcome shower, the morning's commemoration services were rounded off by a delicious morning lunch served up in the former Senior Citizens rooms by Col Consiglio and the Red Knights.

More ANZAC Day photos on page 32

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



Around Rushworth

Happy 90th Birthday
Graham Roberts

Graham Roberts of Rushworth recently celebrated his 90th birthday with all his family and their families being there. Family travelled from Perth, Queensland, Tasmania and the local district. Forty-five people sat down to an enjoyable midday meal held at a Tatura venue - a wonderful weekend enjoyed by all.

Rushworth Garden Lovers

Twenty two members enjoyed a plant swap at the April meeting. The next meeting will be at Judy Sellwood's at Girgarre on Thursday 15 May.

If going for lunch, BYO picnic. The meeting will be as usual at 1.30 pm.

It's a beautiful garden to wander around if weather permits, and the fires will be going if the weather is cold. Competitions and afternoon tea as usual.

Cuppa for Cancer

Friends of the Hostel are once again holding their Cuppa for Cancer on Monday 19 May at 10 am in the hostel dining-room. Everyone is invited to come along to enjoy the company and offer a donation to a worthy cause.

SES feeds Festival crowds

The Rushworth SES had a very successful day at the Easter Festival selling their always popular sausages as well as egg and bacon rolls. Also snapped up were the tickets for their Easter raffle. The lucky winners were:

- 1st Hamper - Colin Wingfield
- 2nd Hamper - Scott Elkington
- 3rd Hamper - Sharon Perry
- 4th Hamper - Lucas

Trailer load of wood - Russell Smith
All money raised will go to purchasing new equipment to support the unit.

... and then provides rest
for weary travellers



Egg and bacon rolls were especially popular brekkie fare for the early morning starters.

On Easter Monday Rushworth SES members were up and out on the job again, providing a free cuppa and biscuits for drivers and cordial and sweets for the children for their drive home. Driver Reviver has been in place for many years to encourage drivers to stop for a break every two hours to avoid fatigue.

(Left) The Smith family were on their way home to Belgrave in the Dandenong Ranges when they stopped for a cuppa. (l-r) Jenna, Cambell, Dad Grant and Grandma Allison are being served their cuppa by SES member Suzanne.

Get On Ya Bike with the aMazing Bike Clinic

Auspiced by Rushworth Events Inc. and sponsored by the Shire of Campaspe.

If you haven't ridden your bicycle for a little while and it's sitting in the shed with flat tyres, perhaps it's time to pump them up and rediscover pedalling for pleasure.

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

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, all in a safe,

supportive, encouraging environment.

The next aMazing Bike Clinic will run for three weeks

Starting 10 am each Saturday 10, 24 and 31 May at the Rushworth Football oval and it's absolutely free!

Just turn up and make sure your bike is ready to ride.

Contact Marie on mobile 0431 700 228 for more information.

Scan this QR code to meet local riders on the On Ya Bike WhatsApp:



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



Member for
Annabelle CLEELAND MP

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

Grandpa George Risstrom's one cylinder, eight horse power Fowler traction engine

Contributed by Drusilla Troon (George's grand-daughter)

Aunty Peggy, a daughter of George Risstrom, enjoyed watching her father's traction steam engine driven up the street at a great pace by Brendan Hawking, along with two other traction engines, in the Easter Festival Parade. She was there with George's granddaughter Drusilla and her son Richard, George's great grandson. Drusilla has sent us some early photos from the family album and a snapshot of the family lore surrounding 'The Wizard'.

The engine, built in Leeds, England, was bought in the 1900s.

There is an apocryphal family story that when George went down to Melbourne to an Agricultural Show, Grandma Ethel said "Now don't buy anything!" However he came back with a traction engine! I wonder what sort of reception that got? Well it was a jolly good buy though!

(Good story - apparently it was actually bought in Murchison though!)

George did a wide variety of jobs with his traction engine ranging from pulling a dray full of children to a Sunday School picnic, to working for the State Electricity Commission and the Water Commission, clearing lines.

He also used it along with other traction engines in the 1920's drought to help pump water into the main Waranga Mallee Channel which was used for irrigation when the Basin's water level was too low to flow naturally.

At the Risstrom mine, north of Rushworth, George used the traction engine to winch the miners in a bucket down and up the shaft,

It has to be said that he was responsible for some broken local bridges, built originally for horse drawn vehicles, but unable to carry the enormous weight of a traction engine . . . leading to him being banned from using some!

His sons Ronnie, Jack and Roy all worked with him in the Ironbark Mill. Ronnie ran the Rushworth Mill at 13 Murchison Road later on, with George's grandsons Wes and Ashley taking over after him, until Wes became sole owner until 2000, when it was closed down.

Sadly there is now no sign of the Mill. Perhaps the neighbours are glad not to hear the drone of the saws at work any more!

There is more information about the mill and the engines in the Rushworth Historical Society Museum.



George Risstrom descendants: Daughter Peggy (centre), Grand-daughter Drusilla (right) and great-grandson Richard (left).



Olliv George RISSTROM



Ashley Risstrom



Roy Ronnie & Jack sons of George Risstrom



Valé Mal McLeod

– brilliant sportsman and contributor

Early on Good Friday word quickly spread that Malcolm McLeod had not responded when local hospital staff checked on him. That day would have marked the 90th anniversary of his birth on 18 April, 1935. Known to all as Mal or “Mally”, he had fought challenging health issues over the last few years, but remained at his home on Murchison Road until very close to the end. Few people, if any, heard the full extent of his health battles.

In 2021 Mal clocked up an extraordinary 61 years as curator at Rushworth Recreation Reserve, now called “Ironbark Stadium”. For his outstanding contribution to sport locally and beyond, the Rushworth Australia Day committee of 2022 decided to present him with a special award and citation. He declined to attend the presentation ceremony. The award was delivered to his home the following week.

In 1960, Mal led a small group who travelled to Mia Mia beyond Heathcote to obtain a truck-load of black soil, positioned to become turf cricket pitches at Rushworth oval, replacing the concrete model topped with malthoid. From that time onwards Mal seeded, watered, mowed, rolled and marked the wicket, watered and cut the grass, and presented the oval for quite literally thousands of cricketers, locals and visitors.

While preparing the pitch, he covered hundreds of kilometres walking behind the roller, taking the equivalent of months, perhaps years, of his personal time. He loved the job.

Mal also prepared the oval for football, involving tractor and mower, taking care of most of the equipment repairs, attending also to fuel and lubricants.

Mal McLeod’s contribution to cricket in the Goulburn Valley was without equal. At Rushworth he was club captain, winner of multiple bowling and batting averages, century maker, Kyabram Association Country Week representative (Melbourne and Bendigo), and Victorian Country XI representative versus New Zealand at Kyabram in 1967.

Rushworth won the Kyabram Cricket Association premiership in six successive summers from 1959-60. Mal played in all six, taking over 40 wickets in those six finals, and many more in semi-finals. In the first of those summers, he took 60 wickets and won the club batting average with 39.4 runs. In the 1960-61 final, five wickets for 28 runs and five for 20 versus Tongala; 1961-62 Final, five for 34 against Girgarre; 1962-63 Final eight for 28 versus Stanhope; 1963-64 Final, seven for 39 and six for 20 against Girgarre.



His classical fast bowling action was admired by all.

In season 1961-62, at age 26 and in his prime, he took an extraordinary 74 wickets at an average of 7.4 runs. He was a Cricket Club Life Member.

Mal certainly had a mind of his own, and stuck to his guns. Believing that selection for a semi-final team had been influenced by someone not an official selector, he withdrew from the team, driving to Stanhope to watch the match from the highway reserve just north of the Stanhope ground. That was just Mal.

For five seasons from 1966-67, he played for Toolleen in the Rochester Association, making centuries and taking many wickets. None of us understood why he continued to prepare a fine turf wicket here, marked the creases, then drove to Toolleen and far beyond, usually playing on inferior malthoid pitches at that time.

Mal returned to Rushworth cricket in 1971-72. In 1972-73 he was pretty handy. He won the batting average with 52.2 runs, batting down the order. He took 34 wickets at an average of 11.3.

At age 37 in January 1973, having slowed his pace but with clever in-swing and out-swing, he was selected to represent Kyabram Association at Bendigo Country Week. Playing at Goornong against the Alexandra District Cricket Association, he took 9 wickets for 34. John Raglus and I, both aged 17, were also in the Kyabram team. What a huge thrill to again watch the master at work. In the same week, playing against his former Rochester Association Mal took five more wickets.

When an Under-15 competition was established for boys in 1965, Mal was

Rushworth’s manager-coach for the first three seasons, introducing many lads to competitive cricket, including me aged eleven in 1966. Under Graeme Johansen’s guidance we won the Under-15 pennant in 1969-70. Mal arranged and paid for twelve commemorative caps.

He played football with great success at Shepparton (1957, City United) and Tongala (1958 and 1959) based on his employment placements. Invitations to train with both Fitzroy Football Club and Fitzroy Cricket Club were declined.

At Rushworth, he played over 200 senior games. He was a Goulburn Valley League representative in 1961. He was a Heathcote League premiership player in 1965 and 1969. In the week prior to the Tigers’ drought-breaking 1965 flag, captain-coach Bill Cruz spent a lot of time convincing Mal to play. An unknown issue had unsettled him.

He was club Best and Fairest in senior and reserves teams, club captain-coach in 1967, and reserves captain-coach in 1971 when he won Heathcote League reserves Best and Fairest award, at age 36. He also served as Club secretary. He should have been a Football Club Life Member, but the difficulty in getting him to accept such an honour meant that office-bearers had to put the idea aside, many times.

Other involvements were as a very accomplished A-grade player at the golf club, and at the swimming pool where he was secretary-treasurer of the committee.

It was a great privilege to watch Mal play sport. It was an even greater honour to play sport with him. There could be no more fitting tribute than for Trust members of the recreation reserve to agree to the name Mal McLeod Memorial Oval.

Alan McLean



Colbo Tit Bits

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Performance

The Suburban Footballer

CFNC is hosting Tom Siegert, The Suburban Footballer, tonight, Thursday 1 May - with thanks to the Campaspe Shire Council.

It's another free event with kids entertainment and barbecue from 5.15pm at the netball pavilion.

For the adults there will be the Kyabram kebab truck and gelato ice cream van, drinks available at bar prices. The Suburban Footballer show will start at 7.30pm.

Cemetery Trust
Mowing Roster (lawn section only)
May - Emily McFadzean

Colbo Diary	
Coffee and Cake - 1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays 10.15am @CCH	
Colbo Community Shed - Thursdays BYO BBQ lunch	
Colbo Pub Choir - 5pm Tuesdays at CCH	
New Parents' Group - 9am 1 st & 3 rd Thursdays @ CCH	
MAY	
Thurs 1	The Suburban Footballer
Sat 3	LBU Men's Mental Health Night
Sat 17	CFNC Family Night
Sat 24	CFNC Annual Ball

FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER	
May 4	Paul Tait, Oliver Rathjen
April 11	Leo McEvoy, Tim Hill
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.	

ANZAC Day service in Colbinabbin



The Colbinabbin ANZAC service had to do a last minute shift to the bowls pavilion with the renovations not yet completed at the hall. Rob Ryan led the service with guest speakers, Steve and Geraldine Ryan, giving a very interesting talk about their great uncle, James Hogan's service in World War I. James was killed at the Battle of Passchendaele. Maisie Masterson and Ethan Johnson

(Below) Ramon Rathjen. Some of the Members of Colbo Pub Choir.



from Colbo PS recited *In Flanders Fields* by John McCrae. The Pub Choir sang during the service and Ramon Rathjen piped 'Colin's Cattle', a retreat played as a slow air.

The tin shakers for RCH



The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal was again well supported by the Weppner and Ryan families shaking those collection tins outside the Colbinabbin Store. The cake stall was well-stocked and was all sold out by late morning. The total raised was \$3045. Thanks to all who contributed.

Bowls winners at Easter



The winners in the Ryan Family Annual Easter Bowls Tournament (L-R) John Weppner, Ollie and Josh Tuohey and Peter Weppner.



Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

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Rushworth Community-House

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

 **Your local access
point for Medicare,
Centrelink and other
Australian
Government services.**

Community Transport Service in Rushworth

Some readers may still be unfamiliar with the Community Transport Service (RCTS) that is available in Rushworth? Here is a brief guide to what the Service offers and who can avail themselves of its convenience.

RCTS offers low-cost transportation within Rushworth and the surrounding areas to recipients of:

- the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP),
- the Home and Community Care Program for Younger People with Disabilities (HACC-PYP),
- Home Care Packages (HCP).

The Community Transport Service is also perfect for community members who:

- need assistance getting to and from medical appointments
- are looking for help with shopping or trips to specialty stores
- would like to join others for outings.

The Community House’s dedicated transport service staff and volunteers can arrange transportation to meet your specific needs, and our friendly volunteer drivers are ready to support you on your journey.

Please call Rushworth Community House on 58561295 to discuss your transport needs.



2025 Easter Egg Hunt a success

Easter Saturday mornings in the local Community Garden are a special occasion for youngsters who attend the House’s popular annual Easter Egg Hunt.

This year, hundreds of chocolate eggs were purchased by the Community House for the occasion and hidden among bushes, in garden beds and under rocks and stones.

By 9 am, the path between the Garden and High Street was filled with people, and when the gate was finally thrown open, youngsters began searching every nook and cranny for the chocolate treats. Judging by the expressions on their faces, no one left disappointed!



2025 Neighbourhood House Week

Neighbourhood House Week is held each year to celebrate the activities of more than a thousand Neighbourhood and Community Houses across Australia.

This year’s theme - Ripples of Change - reflects the idea that every action can create a ripple effect, spreading kindness, sparking ideas, and strengthening communities.

The event will be held between 12 and 18 May, and Rushworth Community House will be an active participant, providing opportunities for people to become involved, have a chat, lend a hand, try a new class or simply join in!

The week starts off with a free 10am morning tea with Anita and Prue at the House on Monday, 12 May, and continues with activities throughout the week.

Back by popular demand to end the week is a basket weaving class to be conducted by master weaver, Tony Ford. Starting at 10am on Friday, 16 May, this free session will include morning tea.

Contact the House for more details.



Arts & Tourism

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

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Art exhibition and Devonshire tea combined for Easter Festival

The Red Knights and Rushworth Artistries hosted a popular event during the Rushworth Easter Festival at the Community Space (previously Senior Citiizens Rooms).

The tea and scones (along with other delicious goodies) were much appreciated by folk who also came along to view the art exhibition.

There were 36 formal entries from thirteen local people - the district scope for the exhibition was local people from Rushworth, Colbinabbin, Murchison, Stanhope and Girgarre only.

There were another 25 items on view for the day (to fill in the stand's spacing available), some of these were for display only, others were for sale.

There were five artworks sold on the day. The successful artists were Lyn Reade, Deidre Spencer, Lyn Rumble and Heather Wellington.



Elpi Winnell, visiting from the Sunshine Coast, enjoying her tea and cakes.

(Above) Art and refreshments complement each other at Rushworth Community Space.

(Below) Gillian Schoenborn and Roseanne Mayer welcomed visitors to the venue.

(Right and below right) Two of the artworks purchased on the day, by artists Lyn Rumble and Diedre Spencer.



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

Jac's Pork n Black Beans

IS yummy and it IS easy.

Ingredients

- Pork spare ribs or belly or shoulder pork
- 2 tbspn peanut oil
- 3 big tbslspn salted Chinese black beans*
- 2 cloves garlic
- big knob of green ginger
- big shake of sweet chilli sauce
- 2 tbspn sesame oil
- 3 tbspn soya sauce
- 3 tbspn cream sherry
- (potato if you like - it makes is go further)
- Chopped shallots to serve
- * Not Mexican black beans. Chinese black beans, dried, salted.

Garden Hints & Tips

Spiders in the garden

Readers may recall the column about ants. This time it is about spiders. Like ants, spiders can be a mixed blessing and we are guaranteed to have spiders in our gardens.

Spiders do a wonderful job at keeping insects in check. Most spiders spin webs to ensnare insects, some spiders hunt their prey, others wait in ambush. Once caught insects are quickly wrapped in silk and injected with venom to paralyse them. Some spider's venom is powerful enough to kill a person, some result in a painful bite while others are barely felt at all. Many people are frightened of spiders. Personally, I am pretty laid back. I live in a mudbrick house and spiders love a mudbrick house. Either in the house or in the garden I follow a live and let live policy.

My favourite garden spiders are the golden orb spider. They spin a large orb web and providing it is not over a path I leave it alone. It gives me something else to observe while having a cuppa. They live for months, dying once the frosts come. The other orb spider around Rushworth is the little five-pointed spider (it has many common names). It is quite colourful and has five points on its abdomen. They usually insist on spinning their webs across paths. Walking into a web is not most people's idea of fun. I like these spiders and often carry a small stick to clear the paths of their webs.

I know there are huntsmen spiders in my garden because they stray inside. I rarely see them outside. If inside I generally leave them alone unless they become a nuisance. I use a jar and sheet of paper to catch them. I let them go well away from the house so they do not simply turn around and come back inside.

Mouse spiders and trapdoor spiders are related. Both live in vertical holes in the ground. The mouse spider we get in Rushworth has an open hole. Trapdoor spiders have a small round trapdoor covering their hole. The venoms of both are quite toxic but they are reluctant to bite.

Redbacks are common around our sheds and gardens and their bites can be lethal. Never put your hands into nooks and crannies without first checking. They love old flowerpots and containers as well as sheltered places amongst

Method

Cut pork up into ribs or 11/2cm cubes. Soak black beans in hot water 20 minutes then mash with a fork. Heat peanut oil till smoking then brown the pork with chopped up garlic and ginger. Add all the other ingredients and cook slowly until the pork is tender. She tends to do this bit in her slow cooker. You will need to add a bit of water - just enough to keep it simmering. Most times she will add potato cubes about half way through the cooking. To thicken the cooking juices, just make up a paste with cornflour and water and add it, stirring for another few minutes.

Serve with finely chopped shallots. And it's so easy to transport from her house to ours - just carry in the slow cooker and plug it in when she gets here.

Whatever cut of pork you use, be sure to cook it with the bones as it really does make it more delicious.



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 saving sometime in the kitchen - or getting a better result! Hope these hints come in handy for you in your everyday quest to save money, repurpose things or perhaps just think outside the box a bit!*

* **Flower power** – to make your cut flowers keep a bit longer do this trick. When putting your new bouquet in a vase with water, only fill with enough water to cover the bottom of the stems plus about 5 or 6cm of water. Don't fill up the vase higher than that, as all it does is hasten the decay process.

* **Keeping vegetables longer in the fridge** – buying veggies for one is hard – I always get some that go 'off' before I've used them up. Make yourself a cloth bag from an old tea towel and wrap your veggies in it for storing in the fridge. As the cloth bag can 'breathe' the vegetables will stay nice and dry and last a lot longer.

* **Easily slicing mushrooms** – If your one of those cooks that like to cut up their own mushrooms, cutting them into even slices is not easy as they can be quite small. Use an egg slicer to slice your whole mushrooms – you'll have lovely even slices then, just arrange them on the base plate to slice them to the best advantage. Button or small mushrooms are perfect for this method.

* **Getting the most from your cosmetics** – A friend of mine wears lipstick, and she had got down to the end base so she went to throw it away and use her newly bought one. When I looked at the old one – there was heaps of lipstick left in the bottom – she only had to use an ear-bud and dip it into the base, and she could have got several uses out of the remainder. She was rather pleased when realised she could get just about a week's use out of the remainder of her favourite old 'lippy'!

* **Bee or wasp stings** – if you've been unfortunate enough to get stung – you know they can be very painful! Rub the sting site with a cut onion. The pain should go away almost immediately. You could try this on other insect bites too!

landscaping. They are not aggressive but may bite when disturbed Look for their 'trip line' webs and spay with insecticide. I also like to use an insect barrier spray to postpone their return. I try not to leave pots etc around but there are always a few thrown aside and forgotten.



Their days are numbered!

For some years gardeners were complaining about a spider bite that was very painful, itchy and sometimes resulted in ulcers. The culprit was eventually identified as being the white-tail spider. It is a hunting spider that shelters under loose bark, in crevices and in loose mulch. Like other spiders it does not bite unless disturbed, which happens when gardeners are weeding or cutting back shrubs. Wear gloves. White-tails often come inside. A good hit of insect spray soon fixes them. Don't use a 'floordrobe' they love sheltering in clothes dumped on the floor.

These are some amazing spider webs in my garden. They are in a corner where I rarely need to go so I have left them in peace. However, they are slowly spreading. I thought it ends up like the spider scene in the Forbidden Forest (Harry Potter) I would deal with them, but it now appears that they are slowly killing the shrub so their days are numbered.

Scorpions are not spiders. I get two species in my garden. They are both small and live under rocks. They have painful stings but are not lethal. They are nocturnal and usually go unnoticed until you start moving rocks around. They are not a problem and are best left alone.

If you have children, why not introduce them to the 'safer' spiders in your garden? Children find golden orbs fascinating. They will learn that spiders are not all bad and will learn to respect them as part of the natural world.

Zen Gardner

NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.

Well, last fortnight was big what with Easter and Anzac Day. The Op Shop traded really well over the Easter weekend and we doubled the amount that we took last Easter which is really good news for the Food Bank as that is what we are here to support. We also had lots of very positive comments about the town and also the Op Shop with many people vowing to return and purchase more in the future. We even had one Rushworthite in Warrnambool over the holidays who met someone who was raving about how good our Op Shop is. Our fame is spreading!

We have started changing over clothing to warmer clothes. If you are lucky enough to go on a tropical holiday we do have swimsuits still available but they will be out the back in a special tub so you will have to ask for them. Meanwhile some jackets and jumpers have been hung on the racks. Sam modelled a beautiful blue cape/coat for the photograph. It is beautiful quality and looks great. Most jackets are \$7 each unless they have a special price on them.

Sale time

Half price sale on all summer clothing, women's and men's wear and all shoes – unless items are individually marked. We have heaps of dresses and men's shirts. This sale will continue until 11 May. Also you can get a bag of children's clothes for \$5, adult books \$1 each, children's books 5 for \$1 (such a great opportunity to encourage the kids to read) coffee cups are 2 for \$1 and

finally, out the front of the shop we have our \$1 rack of clothing which is constantly being updated.

If you go to the back of the shop we have loads of CDs and DVDs at \$1 a disc which would give you hours of entertainment. Remember Mothers Day is coming up very soon. Maybe there is something that the children would like to buy for Mum with their pocket money.

I don't know if any of you plan on skiing over winter but I spotted a pair of skiing boots in the shop, not sure what size they are but they are \$10 which is a real bargain. I can't ski. I did try it once but could only stop by throwing myself into some bushes to stop the momentum!

Also in the shop we have a Singer sewing machine. It might not be the all singing all dancing ones you can get nowadays with flashing lights and ringing bells, but Singer is a sturdy workhorse for straight sewing. And we have plenty of material up the back that you can practice with.

If, like me, you find you have had pesky moths eating away in your wardrobe, remember we have some great winter clothes on offer that won't break the bank and will support our Rushworth Community Food Bank.

Until next time, wishing you all a full belly and a happy smile

Heather Wellington

MOTHS

The cooler weather's coming, time to look of winter clothes

To check if they still fit me or into the bin they go.

But what is this – oh no – I have been hosting moths

That lovely tweedy jacket is something I must toss.

The tweed has turned from wool to lace

It's really something I can't face.

My favourite fair isle jumper that cost a lot of money

Is suitable for wearing only when it's sunny.

A pair of smart blue trousers that I used to wear to work

Is obviously where the moth family particularly liked to lurk.

Now, I did plan on buying mothballs, I thought it more than once

But didn't actually DO it and now I feel a dunce.

So the moral of this story is: buy mothballs – you might pong

But your clothes will stay in one piece and you won't feel such a nong!

Heather



Opening times

Rushworth Food Bank:

Mon, Wed and Fri
10am-12pm

#9 Op-Shop:

Mon, Wed and Fri - 9am - 2pm
Sat 9am to 12pm

Little Green Shed:

Mon and Fri
9.30am - 2pm
Sat 9.30am to 12pm



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.

As the seasons change...

Gosh! Where did spring/summer season go? It feels like the busy season has been a bit of a blur. The weather is shifting, leaning towards much cooler nights, shorter days and longer nights.

The flow of baby birds has ceased but the gathering of plover pairs on nature strips and in urban parks suggest that there will be spur-winged plover chicks this winter. Does this mean we are in store for a mild winter? The Currawongs are here, their distinct calls throughout the bushland here heralds the approach of winter. They leave their spring and summer breeding grounds to reside here in lower lands to escape the harsher climate the cold brings to the mountain ranges. They have appeared early this year. Does this mean there will be snow on the mountains earlier? Our migratory birds such as our sacred kingfishers, should be well on the way to warmer lands up north to escape Victoria's winter.

More winter visitors will arrive so keep an eye out for the brilliant flashes of red who busy themselves picking insects from the forest floor. Our flame, scarlet and red-capped robins are always a welcome winter sight and can brighten the gloomiest of days. A week or so ago, I saw a brancher white-plumed honeyeater chick. Fresh out of the nest, being chauffeured by his family group, perched vulnerably on fallen timber on the bushland floor. Another sign of a mild winter perhaps, as to have fledging young as late as April for a small songbird species is a bit of a gamble.

We can tell a lot from the activities of the wildlife in both our own backyards and our local bushland. Animals are usually so much better at weather and climate forecasts than we are, despite all our nifty gadgets and computer modelling programs.

As the season's change, so do the types of patients who find themselves at the shelter. March and onwards through the colder months we always consider raptor time as any birds who are struggling to make enough successful hunts find it even tougher as prey animals drop off in numbers and activity. Many young birds are also finding their own way in a world that is harsh. Honing their hunting skills and surviving their first winter is the first challenge they will have to face alone. More owls are hit on our roads from now through to spring. I think this is due

to the nights being longer. Darkness falls much earlier, therefore people are travelling to and from work and are on the roads for the first couple of hours of darkness, which is also prime hunting time for our nocturnal hunters. The owls have not begun to pour into the shelter yet but the tawny frogmouths certainly have.

Here are some tips to make driving a little safer for both our wildlife and ourselves. On moonlit nights our wildlife are more active. They can see better and calls out for nocturnal collisions with vehicles and wildlife increase dramatically on well lit nights. Be extra vigilant on moonlit nights as it is almost a given you will see a possum, an owl, a roo or wallaby crossing or feeding on a roadside. Twilight is a precarious time for wildlife on roads as well. Just before dawn and again, just before dark. These times are when diurnal animals are getting to their safe spots for the night and the nightshift critters are clocking on. If you are driving at night and spot an animal, dim your lights to low beam. Staying on high beam increases the confusion of the animal as they cannot actually see. If you have any doubts about this fact, stand on a lonely country road in the dark and get a



When you stop for wildlife which has been hit on our roads, you save lives like this Eastern Kangaroo Joey who was raised and rehabilitated at Bohollow so she could return to her wild home. Every life matters.

mate to suddenly charge towards you with their high beam lights pointing directly at you. You will find the light is so blinding, you will struggle to know where your feet are hitting the ground, let alone be able to see or distinguish which direction you are heading. Dimming lights can help avoid collisions and save both a roo and your car from damage. In known wildlife hotspots, slow down. Take notice of those yellow and black signs warning us of wildlife in the area. They are put there as a warning. Use your horn! So many people do not use their horn! If you see something on the road, you're breaking to slow down..and use your horn! The sound of a horn has much more effect on making wildlife hurry off the road than it does as a road rage tool.

Lastly, please stop if you hit something. So many drivers hit wildlife and do not stop. You can save a life if you stop. You can save an animal great pain and suffering if you stop. Countless critters are left with horrific wounds each day and night on our roads. They can often live for days with fractures and wounds which cause horrendous pain and starvation. Animals who may have a chance with successful treatment and rehabilitation never get that chance unless you stop. It's often those who didn't hit the animal who stop and call for help. Sometimes it can be days or weeks later before creatures are discovered or noticed by someone who cares enough to call. Please stop to check wildlife which has been hit. This includes checking pouches, even when an animal is deceased.

We get copious calls asking us to travel miles away to check a pouch. Usually these calls are from people who have not stopped and cannot even tell us if the animal was indeed female. If you have enough time to call to ask us to pouch check an animal, you have a couple of minutes to stop to check. We are voluntary. We don't receive government funding or payment for what we do. We are usually operating on the smell of an oily rag. Our time and resources are always at their limits. We cannot afford to spend a three hour round trip to check a pouch of a deceased roadside roo who, nine times out of ten, turns out to be male.

The death toll of wildlife on our roads is staggering. If we adhere to the simple actions mentioned, we can all help save lives.

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

ON THE BRINK *by Neil Laurie*

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

Dire wolves, de-extinct?

Dire wolves were not a fictional species of wolf created for Game of Thrones. Dire wolves (*Aencyon dirus*) actually existed in the Americas and went extinct as recently as 10,000 years ago. Their remains show they were bigger and lighter in colour than the modern-day grey wolf (*Canis lupis*). Its extinction was probably due to a number of factors, most notably the extinction of mega-fauna species during the Quarternary extinction event. Recently an American biotech company, Colossal Biosciences, claimed to have brought it back; but did they really?

Dire wolves and grey wolves share about 99.5% of their DNA. (To put this in perspective humans and chimpanzees share 98.8% of their DNA). While half of a percent does not seem much it consists of thousands of genetic differences which represent the evolutionary paths taken since the wolves' ancestral lines diverged more than five million years ago.

Colossal extracted DNA from two dire wolf fossils. They were able to identify fifteen key genes that highlighted the different traits of the dire wolf when compared with the grey wolf. Using CRSPR gene splicing technology they removed these genes, made twenty edits, and inserted them into grey wolf DNA. There was quite a high failure rate but eventually three pups were born.

This feat was met with a great deal of publicity and controversy. It was remarkable that an extinct species was apparently brought back into existence. While the mainstream media lauded the accomplishment, the scientific community was less impressed. The consensus was that the wolves were just modified grey wolves that looked like dire wolves and were genetically closer to the grey wolf than the dire wolf. Beth Shapiro, Colossal's chief science officer summed it up: "[If] it looks like a dire wolf and acts like a dire wolf, I'm going to call it a dire wolf. And my colleagues who are taxonomists will disagree with me."

Another issue raised was the resurrection of a species when the habitat it once lived in no longer exists. The Colossal 'dire wolves' are now in a 2,000-acre (800ha) enclosure at an undisclosed location in the US. It is not known how well they are surviving or if they are able to breed.

With Colossal aiming to bring back other extinct species, most notably the woolly mammoth, much more gene editing and splicing will need to be done to satisfy the scientific community that they have in fact resurrected a species. What is clear is that Colossal has taken a step towards achieving this goal. It would be nice to say that Colossal resurrected the dire wolf but in reality all they did was modify a grey wolf to look, and in some ways to behave, like a dire wolf.



Birds of a Feather

The Australian king-parrot (*Aliterus scapularis*) is a bird of eastern Australia which is found in rainforest and wet sclerophyll forests. We would not normally expect to see these parrots around the Rushworth district in the box-ironbark country as it is drier than their normal habitat but in the past few years they have been an occasional visitor and several have been seen around Rushworth township. However in the last year there have been at least six and perhaps up to ten around town and it seems that they are not just visitors but are now residents.

The king-parrot is much larger than lorikeets and at about 45cm, is similar in length to a magpie but has a longer tail. Unlike many parrots the species is sexually dimorphic – in other words the male and female look different. The male is quite spectacular with a red head and breast while the female is mostly green. The local birds are nearly all green, not because they are all female but because all young birds look like females. The young males may take two years before they can show off their bright red heads.

King-parrots eat fruit and seeds and will visit bird feeders and may be seen eating from fruit trees. The local birds are quite confiding and not easily scared if approached quietly in your garden. Their high pitched call, or perhaps it should be called a short screech, lets you know they are visiting.

Other nearby towns have also noticed an increase in king-parrot numbers, so why is this? About twenty years ago they arrived in Shepparton and are now part of the local fauna. There is a trend for a number of bird species to spread to new areas and a good example is the crested pigeon which is now much more widespread than in the past.

We may not know why king-parrots have decided to make Rushworth their home but their bright plumage is very welcome. Let's hope that our new residents decide to continue to live here and raise families as well.



Male king parrot



Female king parrot

Fifty years ago in our district....

Looking through the pages of past 'Rushworth Chronicles'

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



Late April start for footy in 1975

Front page news in April was all about local football upheavals, as the Heathcote League commenced without Tooborac, which had been on-again, off-again, right up to the first bounce. The withdrawal left just Elmore, Heathcote, Colbinabbin, Rushworth, and Mt Pleasant which was given a bye in the opening round.

Photographed at the opening match were a group of youngsters including Nicole Fullarton and the Cheatley sisters. The footy ladies at Rushworth were pleased to use the tea rooms within the new pavilion, which has since been replaced by the current larger building. Win Hageman, Joyce Robbins, Shirley Raglus and May Risstrom were photographed in action.

Ibis Milk Products at Stanhope welcomed new manager Brian Sadler from Longwarry in Gippsland, along with wife Pauline and children Fiona, Mandy and Bernard. *(Brian was well qualified. There are quite a few dairy cows in Gippsland.)*

Shire of Waranga

Shire secretary Terry Larkins announced that the Pound for wandering stock was to be relocated, still within the town boundaries of Rushworth. Graham Roberts will know about the move, as he advised that 94 Shorthorn-cross cattle --- six bulls, 29 cows and 59 steers --- had been impounded. The owner needed to claim them and pay the feeding expenses, or they would be auctioned on 17 May. *(Who owned them? Did the owners not notice that they were missing? Who arranged their impounding? Were they claimed, or sold? One of the district's great mysteries!)*

Crime

Fined for taking fish out of Wanalta Creek by means other than a rod, and for shooting and possessing wild ducks were two Rushworth men. The drum-net charge only netted a \$50 fine, against the maximum available to magistrate Curtain of \$500. Jim Crosier was the prosecuting Fisheries Officer. His vehicle around town usually prompted the (temporary) retrieval of drum nets from district waterways, hidden in farm barns *(so I am told)*.

Schools

Grades 5 and 6 of Rushworth Primary were welcomed by railway station-master Mr Kolenaty who explained freight weighed in kilograms and tonnes. On the station scales the girls weighed 629 kilograms *(that was altogether)* and the boys just 292 kilos. "Our grade weighs nearly 1 tonne."

Grade 5 received a visit from Mrs O'Sullivan, who had taught them in preps

when she was Fran Barlow.

Graeme Morgan, on behalf of grades 3 and 4, reported that his class had the trampoline at the school fete. New playground equipment was now in active use.

Community

Country Fire Authority's Assistant Chief Officer visited to inspect the Rushworth Brigade. Members were to be in uniform, which of course were not the outfits worn to fight fires.

Lone Persons' Units were nearing completion in what the Chronicle said was Esmonde Street, but I still think it was Phillips Street.

The Apex Club was to hold a debate with Broadford Apex. Debaters Slim Perry, Ralph Barlow and Peter Davidson were to argue the negative case to the proposition "that marriage is out of date". *(Interesting topic 50 years ago.)*

Rushworth Caravan Park (now Miner's Pick) was exhibiting a new mobile home, purchased in Kyabram by Mr and Mrs Stan Kinder. This was a new variation from caravanning, and had luxury fittings.

Rushworth Homing Pigeon Club euchre night offered \$20 for first prize. Five joint winners had to take home \$4 each.

Rushworth Historical Museum reported that 340 people had signed the visitors' book in 1974, not counting Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Nixon.

Colbo Football Club promoted its dinner dance, to feature Leon Kinder's Band, with doors not opening until 7.30 p.m.

Personal

Dennese Moylan of Rushworth, daughter of Tom and Lorna, married Norman Lee of Benalla in the Rushworth Methodist church, now the Uniting.

Rosalie Hawking of Rushworth married Brian Harrap of Mooropna, and their wedding party included Leayne Hawking, Janet Hawking, Gail Wootton, Pat Mahoney, Allan Prater and flower-girl Amanda Rosan.

Jeweller Carl Williams was congratulated on 54 years in business in Rushworth, operating from what is now the Ice Cream Shoppe.



Bill and Marilyn Porter (nee Cruz) welcomed Lorien, the first grandchild for Nancy and Tony Cruz. Bill and Rosemary Salter (nee Owens) of Stanhope South announced the arrival of Nicholas William.

Stanhope's Greg Emmett was engaged to Rosemary Pattinson of Bendigo.

For lease by auction held at the Colbinabbin Hotel were farm lots near Colbinabbin (on account of Lewis Burge) and at Burrumbeet East (Allan Curnick).

Sport

Wild celebrations in Colbinabbin after the C-grade tennis team were premiers, winning 4 sets 44 games over St John's Rochester, 5 sets 42 games. Led by Colin McTaggart, serving it up were David Ivey, Mark Kelly, Bernadette McArdle, Margaret Morgan and Carol Tuohey. It seems most of Colbo played in this team across the season. Toni and Terri Ryan, Kathleen Jackson, Julie Morgan, Julie Francis, Joe Kelly, Mark Tuohey, Jimmy Morgan, Phillip McEvoy, Bill Wright and Ian McTaggart all had a swing. *(How did they pick the team for the final?)*

Rushworth's John Williams, Peter Meagher and Terry Cogan were burning up the golf course, with B-graders Ross Coyle, Ron Risstrom and Rob Borger smouldering along also. Associate golfers doing well were Dot Aitken, Norma Bolden, Jan Ross, Nan Jessup and Ann Pearce.

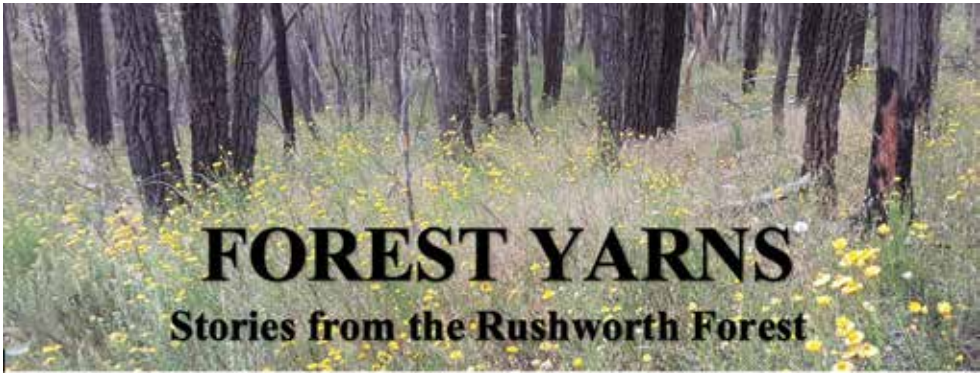
Winners of an early round of the Perpetual Cup were Bill Barlow and Slim Perry, shown as defeating Mal McLeod and J. Moylan, though the latter may have been Tom. *(Bill and Slim are still golfers, and might nearly be getting the hang of it by now.)*

Football

Colbo was licking its wounds after its opening score of 13-15 was no match for Rushworth's 22-9. O'Sullivan booted seven for the Tigers, Pinniger getting six for Colbo. A dog ran onto the field but was passed to a spectator by new player Alan McLean (not me, the other one, from and still at Warracknabeal, and who worked in the Colbo bank but was more attracted to Rushworth!). Primary teacher John Bianco was named best for Rushworth, McCormack for Colbo.

The Tiger Seconds kicked 5-8 to beat the Grasshoppers 3-5. Alec Jones was best player named for the winners, Terry Morgan with the honours for Colbo. W. Cooper kicked a goal for Rushy, but was it Wally or Billy?

Murchison 11-12 beat Merrigum 7-13 in "a low standard game". Bertram kicked four goals, John Begg the best player. Murchison Seconds 7-7 to Merrigum 3-4, as best player Peter Halbert took a "specky". The Thirds were narrowly beaten, S. Bell named as best.



Logistics

There was plenty of demand for firewood from Melbourne, with the bulk of the transport needs being met by the railways up until World War 2. Looking back to the pre-war years, The Argus newspaper estimated that Melbourne needed 500-600,000 tons of firewood each year, as well as 100,000 tons of coal and a similar amount of coke.¹ Trains carried much of the firewood to Melbourne from all over Victoria.

It was essential for the efficient operation of this huge logistical exercise that there were sufficient rail trucks available to cart the wood to the big smoke. This was not always the case. In times when there were not enough trucks, the wood had to be stockpiled at Rushworth station. There was only so much room available, so when that was filled, it meant that some of the workers had to be put off, causing financial hardship in the town and district.

Shortage of rail trucks

At times, there were problems getting enough rail trucks to cart all the wood away from Rushworth, a source of much discontent amongst the local mill owners and workers. This issue prompted mill owners to write to newspapers in Melbourne on a regular basis. One such letter from 1900 noted that there were five mills in Rushworth, and on the previous Saturday only one empty truck had arrived. The five owners tossed for it, while “the (traction) engine whistles shrieked an indignation chorus.”²

This was at a time when one of the owners, Henry Campbell, was filling 70 rail trucks a month. The standard size of rail truck could accommodate an average of 12.5 tons of firewood.³ Other millers had larger businesses than Campbell, so there was a requirement for hundreds of rail trucks each month. The problems were compounded in the harvest season, when a lot of grain was transported by the railways and used some of the available rolling stock.

The situation was marginally better in 1903, when it was reported that a full train load of firewood was leaving the Rushworth station daily, while a special extra train carted 40 trucks away.⁴ There were at least three other stations on the line where firewood was picked up, so it was expected that another special train would have to run

in the near future. The same article reported that the Rushworth railway station handled about 80,000 bags of wheat a year, but in the previous year this primary industry had also suffered delays because of lack of rolling stock. 15,000 bags of wheat had been stockpiled at the station to be transported later.

Ongoing problems

Shortage of rail trucks remained a problem over the next decade. In November 1908, P W J Hardy, sawmiller of Rushworth, wrote a letter to the editor of Melbourne paper The Argus about the issue. Hardy lamented that “it is very seldom that I get the number ordered. If four or five are ordered, the chances are that I get two or three, and very often less. Other millers are treated the same way. With a shortage now, before the grain season opens, what sort of time will the millers have later on? It seems to be mismanagement on the part of those responsible for this state of affairs.”⁵

In 1911, millers Collier & Anderson noted that there was an acute shortage of trucks, when they needed 6-7 trucks per day just for their own business.⁶ This indicates that they were able to supply in the order of 75-88 tons of wood per day, with a weekly average of over 400 tons for a five and a half day working week. At the same time, miller H T Ferris was also doing 6-7 trucks a day, when he could get them.

By 1946, the situation was not much better. It was claimed that in winter, Melbourne needed 1000 railways trucks of firewood per week. There was plenty of firewood (4000 tons) stacked at Rushworth, but no way to get it to Melbourne unless more rail trucks could be supplied.⁷

However, by this time, demand for firewood in Melbourne was starting to decline as consumers switched to other fuels to heat their homes. This led to a demise in local industry and the number of people who were employed in the wood mills at the station, and those who cut and transported the timber from the forest. Consequently, the number of rail trucks needed at the Rushworth station started to decline after the war.

References: 1 *The Argus* 8.7.1949; 2 *The Argus* 24.09.1900; 3 Spiby, Tracey notes on the local timber industry; 4 *The Age* 15.8.1903; 5 *The Argus* 16.11.1908; 6 *The Argus* 22.2.1911; 7 *The Herald* 6.11.1946

A Name from the Past

Charles Brideson - baker turned farmer

Brideson was a prominent name for decades in Rushworth, primarily in the hotel and blacksmithing games. Charles Brideson was a man of the land, with Brideson descendants named Lloyd and Merryfull still living in this district. His story was reported in the Rushworth Chronicle of 23 July, 1937.

“We regret to record the passing on 17 July of an old Rushworth native in the person of Mr. Charles Arthur Brideson, who died at Mooroopna Hospital on Saturday last. He had been ailing for some time, bearing a painful illness with great fortitude, and his death was not unexpected.

The late Mr. Brideson was born in Rushworth in the year 1870, and with the exception of short spells, resided here continuously until his death. He was the second son of Mrs. Mary Brideson and the late Mr. Robert Brideson, who came from England to this country, and reared a family of five sons and five daughters. His mother is still living, and resides with her daughter in Toorak.

In his younger days Mr. Brideson was a baker and later turned to farming and other pursuits. He was held in high esteem by a very wide circle of friends.

He leaves a sorrowing widow Elizabeth and grown-up family, viz., Mary (Mrs Merryfull), Florence (Mrs Wade, Griffiths, N.S.W.), Leonard, William (deceased) and Annie. Brothers and sisters are Eliza (Mrs Leighton), Robert, Mary (Mrs Ford), William, Alfred, Lilian, Annie (Mrs Douglas), and James. One sister, Emily, predeceased him.

The remains were interred in Rushworth cemetery on Sunday. The representative attendance at the graveside was a tribute to the regard in which the deceased gentleman was held.

Brethren of the Foresters’ Lodge of which he was a member, attended at the graveside, where the lodge service was read by Bro. C. Brown. Rev. W. A. Williams was the officiating clergyman.

The pall-bearers were: Messrs. W. Francis, H. Schumann, R. Branson, H. Nurse, W. McLeod, J. Connolly, W. Miller, C. Toohey, jnr., the coffin-bearers Messrs. G. Wall, A. Wall, F. Wall, and R. Brideson (nephew), and the flower bearers, Messrs. J. Wall and A. Jones.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Graham Diggle.”

The pall-bearers and coffin-bearers include many other well-recognised names of families living in the district today.

Alan McLean

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

Floral tributes created at Colbinabbin PS

Last Thursday, Mrs Joy Ellis came to school with a box of flowers from her beautiful garden and helped the grades 3, 4, and 5/6 make wreaths for ANZAC Day.

The children were all keen to have input into the making of the wreaths and learning about the tradition of laying them at the war memorial on ANZAC Day.

Maisie Masterson and Ethan Johnson, Colbinabbin PS captains were to represent the school at the ANZAC service with recitation of *In Flanders Fields* and the laying of the Colbinabbin school's wreaths.

Many thanks to Mrs Joy Ellis for supplying the flowers and sharing her time to show the children how to make the wreaths.

Photos by Robyn Ryan



A beautifully crafted wreath by grades 5/6.



Grade 3 students with the floral wreath they made.



Grade 4 students with the floral wreath they made.

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

ANZAC Spirit at Rushworth Kinder and Childcare

In the lead-up to ANZAC day children from the Rushworth Kindergarten and Childcare spent the week participating in a number of arts and craft activities, including making poppies and helping to prepare the wreaths.

The children also made ANZAC cookies and engaged in a variety of activities and stories to commence their learning about the importance of the day, who the ANZACs were and what they did for our country.

The learning journey continued into Friday when the children joined with the community and schools to participate in the 10 am ANZAC day service. The children did an amazing job throughout the service and laid the wreaths that they had helped to prepare.

Thank you to the children, families and educators who volunteered their time to be a part of this symbolic day with the children.



Children show off their creations: (above) Clara Storen and Stella Boers, (right above) Madeline Cleary and Payton Thompson, (right below) Finn Storen and Ryleigh Bradshaw.

Introducing ANZAC Day to children

Learning about ANZAC Day helps young children to understand the life and times of Australia and its people. By building young children’s understandings about the traditions, facts and folklore of ANZAC Day, the many real life stories of sacrifices and heroism of everyday Australians will not be lost, but be handed down to future generations

Research in education tells us that children learn best when they are highly interested, active and help make decisions about their learning. Young children have a fascination with all things to do with the past. By learning through hands-on, sensory and real-life experiences about ANZAC Day, young children will have an opportunity to understand the importance of this national day, and its role in building peace in communities today.

Children look closely at, feel and talk about a range of artefacts about ANZAC Day, eg medals, photographs, parts of uniforms, copies of soldiers/families’ letters and ration items. Children talk with family/community members about what life was like during times of war. They compare how life is different during times of peace and war and how war affects people.

From *An Introduction to ANZAC Day for Early Childhood.*
ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee
<https://anzacday.org.au/an-introduction-to-anzac-day-for-early-childhood>



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

St Mary's starts off Term 2 with staff learning

Neuroscience at the core of staff professional learning

Term 2 at St Mary's looked somewhat different to previous years. As part of the dedication toward providing families and students with the very best education that the school can offer, the whole staff took part in three intense days of professional learning that was facilitated by renowned neuroscientist and educator, Jared Cooney Horvath.

Jared is author of several books, peer-reviewed journals, is the director of both the Science of Learning Group and NeuroEducation and has lectured at many world-class universities.

All staff from St Mary's joined staff from Holy Rosary in Heathcote, as well as 51 other schools within Catholic Education Sandhurst learning about the 'Why' of learning, unpacking the latest in brain research into human learning, memory and brain stimulation.

Staff then came together back in Rushworth to plan the applications of this learning to our own context.



St Mary's teachers embarked on a very exciting and engaging three days that looks to enhance learning for all students at St Mary's School Rushworth.

Catholic Education Week Open Days

Catholic Education Week is on May 5-9 this year. It is a week the schools celebrate and showcase the offerings when available. New and old friends are invited in to witness the school in action during many occasions throughout the week including open morning, school tours and information opportunities.

Though these opportunities are available by appointment anytime for prospective families throughout the year, Catholic Education Week is a time that celebrates and opens the school doors to the community.

Tours will witness contemporary evidence-based teaching and learning practices, engaged learners and reciprocal student-teacher relationships and interactions which really symbolise the motto of 'Caring for the whole child'.

Watch the school's social media for more information or contact the school for information about enrolments which are now open.

St Mary's students shine at the ANZAC day service



It was pleasing to see the reverence and solidarity from many of the students, and their families, at the local ANZAC day service in Rushworth.

It was an honour for two of the Year 6 leaders to present a wreath on behalf of the school community and for the St Mary's students who marched in the parade to remember the sacrifices that so many have made in serving for our freedom.

St Mary's commends the local RSL representatives and businesses who take part and organise this important event every year.



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Coming up at Rushworth Library

Law Week – 19-25 May

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You'll learn firsthand about wills and succession planning, allowing you to ensure your family and wealth are safeguarded and your desires are respected.

Rushworth Library

Thursday, 22 May


10.30am

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Email: libraries@campaspe.vic.gov.au

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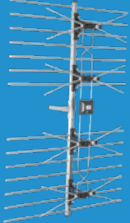


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Pope for peace Coming home for Easter at Cornella



Pope Francis (Jorge Mario Bergoglio), the first Jesuit priest and first Argentinian to be elected Pope of the Catholic Church died on 21 April 2025.

This humble man, who was very much of the people, chose ‘Francis’ as his name because he was especially concerned for the well-being of the poor. His concern for the environment was made clear with his encyclical ‘On Care for Our Common Home’ Laudato Si in 2015.

The Church was blessed to have been served by him for twelve years - living what he preached in simplicity.

He was much respected by others and has earned his rest. May he rest in peace.



It’s great to have families returning home for Easter at Cornella - to have visitors join the congregation for the celebration of the most important feast day of the Church. The weather was fine after Mass to share a cup of tea or coffee with some hot cross buns and giving everyone the opportunity to catch up with old familiar faces and to be pleasantly surprised how the young familiar faces have grown so much since last seen! Photo lower left: Cecilia, Ann Stewart, Maree Stewart and Judy Phelan. Photo lower right: Bill Barlow, Gerard Stewart, Fr Jinjo Solis, Frank Stewart and Rob Ryan.

District Church Times and Contacts

Anglican

- St Paul’s, Rushworth: 0419 512 632
 - 9.30am 2nd Sunday of month - Communion
 - 9.30am 4th 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. 1st and 3rd Sundays: Cornella 9am; Stanhope 10.30am. 2nd and 4th Sundays: Rushworth 9am; Murchison 10.30am. 5th Sunday: One Parish Mass - Rushworth. Contact a team member on the parish mobile phone: 0459 898 925. Sunday Mass continues online from St Kilian’s Sundays 10am.

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.

PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS



May we respect creation and its laws, remembering always that it is you, O God, who by your wisdom founded the earth.
Amen.

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living the GOOD LIFE

When the body speaks - reflections on pain, pride and the long road to healing

For most of my life, I've lived under the comfortable illusion that I'm bulletproof. Strong, resilient, untouched by the frailties that seem to visit others.

It was a seductive belief, one that snuck in quietly during the years when my body answered every demand without complaint. I worked hard, lived life to the full, and trusted in my own stamina as if it was a permanent gift.

But bodies, like seasons, change. The first hints were easy enough to dismiss: a twinge here, a cramp there, a vague feeling of unease after a rich meal.

I brushed it off with the same stubbornness that had served me well on long days while running my consulting business, and more latterly, juggling the responsibilities of part-time ministry and managing a vineyard, saying to myself, 'It's nothing.' or 'I'm just tired.' or 'I've had too much coffee.' or 'I've had too much red wine.'

Misplaced faith

Denial, it turns out, is a form of misplaced faith, faith in our own invincibility, rather than in the truth.

It wasn't until the early hours of ANZAC Day, a day already soaked in memories of sacrifice, that my pain became savage, sharp, breath-stealing, undeniable. My second disturbed night in a row, I knew then that this was not going to pass.

That realisation landed me in the bright, sterile world of 'Emergency', where the pace at which I was moved through Triage and into a cubicle told me something I didn't want to hear: this was serious.

(There's a strange comfort, oddly enough, in being allocated to the non-urgent queue, that long purgatory of waiting room, plastic chairs, and vending machine coffee. You assume that if they're making you wait, your ailment can't be that serious).

When the treatment doors open quickly for you, when blood is drawn before you've warned the cubicle seat, when machines are summoned, and doctors frown, that is when a different kind of fear begins to make itself known to you.

The hours that followed were a blur of tests and morphine. Sophisticated tests, like ultrasounds and CT scans, revealing hints,

but not the full truth of my situation.

Blood tests raised concerns, but still the picture was incomplete. Even with all our modern brilliance, diagnosis can be more an art than a science, educated guesses, pieced together from the doctor's prod and my ranking of my pain on a scale from 1 to 10.

No scan could fully show the mucky, necrotic mess quietly raging inside of me. No number on a scale could reveal just how close I had come to the precipice.



It was only when they opened me up that the hidden danger to me made itself known: an angry, dying gallbladder, leaking poison into places it was never meant to touch.

Not just pain

In the end, it wasn't just painful. It was deadly serious. Had I continued to ignore my pain and discomfort, not choosing to seek medical help and had my symptoms gone untreated by the medicos for any longer, my story could have ended very differently.

Bile, that small word for the body's bitter fluid, had become, quite literally, a toxin. And not just physically.

Metaphorically, the word 'bile' for a long time has represented anger, resentment, the inner sourness we often fail to notice until it festers. We imagine that we are above it, above weakness, above the need for healing, until one day it breaks us open.

The surgery itself was swift by modern standards. A team of skilled hands and blinking machines took away what could not be salvaged. It was done through keyhole surgery, using an array of delicate instruments. They made several small incisions, just a centimetre or two each, and inserted ports called 'trocars' to guide their tools. A slender laparoscope, which is a tiny camera, gave them a live view inside my abdomen. Through other ports, they worked with graspers, scissors, and electrocautery devices, carefully freeing the inflamed gall bladder from its attachments. Observing from the outside, it would seem almost bloodless, almost effortless, yet inside, it was a delicate, deliberate rescue from the edge of disaster.

But recovery, I quickly learnt, is another thing altogether. Healing is not just a return to how things were. It is a re-formation. It requires patience, attention, and humility. And if I'm honest, these qualities are still beyond me, more aspirational than achievable at this stage.

Reclaiming control

It seems there is agreement about the steps toward reclaiming control of my life: gentle movement, careful nourishment, respectful rest. These are not the grand, heroic gestures I once favoured, they are small, daily choices. They are the work of someone who needs to learn to honour my body's wisdom, instead of constantly trying to command it, to be the one in charge and in control.

As I sit with my experience these last few days, I find myself thinking of the woman in the Gospels who suffered haemorrhages for twelve years. Her affliction made her isolated and unclean because of the standards of her community, yet she dared to reach out, believing that even just touching the hem of Christ's robe could make her well. And she was healed, not only physically, but communally. She was re-recognised, named, restored to community life.

I have been spared the desperation the haemorrhaging woman endured. Thanks to the gifts of Australian public healthcare in Australia: the skill of doctors, the blessing of access to medical care, I was not left to fend for myself. For that, I am profoundly grateful.

Healing

Yet the essence of the haemorrhaging woman's story is still relevant to my story and to life today. Healing is not about brute strength. It is not about pretending to be invulnerable. It is about knowing when to reach out. It is about recognising that life, and wholeness, are gifts, ones we receive most clearly when we let go of our pride and hold out our hands in need and in hope. It is not a weakness to admit need. It is not a sign of failure to seek help. It is, rather, the beginning of a deeper strength: one that listens, that softens us, that trusts not only in the body's ability to mend, but in life's invitation to be made whole again.

So now, still in hospital as I write this, with tubes draining the last of the bile from my body, with more tests to come, and possibly more surgery, I have been stitched together with unseen hands, and held in prayer and love by many unseen hearts.

It is a humbling thing to realise how often healing comes, not just through scans and surgeons, but through kindness, hope, and the quiet strength of others. I am not bulletproof, but I am not alone either. And perhaps that is the better gift.

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

*Brian Spencer, Minister
Waranga Uniting Churches*

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Around the Town on ANZAC Day



(Above) Ian Rogerson and Les Snelling.
(Right) Rob and Carol Lamaro, with Granddaughter Aria.
Carol is the Daughter of Pat and Thelma Turner, Criterion Hotel Publicans many years ago.

Photos by Sharon Perry



Les Snelling, David Harcoan, Allan (Kel) Perry.

Photo by Sharon Perry

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Health and Wellbeing

Protect against the flu in 2025

Campaspe Shire Council is now encouraging community members to book in for their flu vaccination through their local doctor, pharmacy, or at one of Council’s immunisation sessions.

Council’s Director Communities, Jo Bradshaw said getting vaccinated against the flu is a vital method of protection this winter.

“Annual vaccination protects you, your

family, and the community and helps reduce the risk of severe illnesses and flu related complications,” Ms Bradshaw said.

Flu vaccinations are free children 6 months to 5 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (6 months and older), pregnant women, people aged 65+ and those with medical conditions that put them at increased risk of the flu.

The cost for all other community members not eligible for the free vaccine is \$30, which can be paid for on the day via EFTPOS.

To register and book an appointment online visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations or scan the QR code.

For assistance with an appointment contact Immunisation team on 1300 666 535 or email immunise@campaspe.vic.gov.au

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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

MAY

Sun 4	Stanhope Town Garage Sale from 9am
Sat 10	aMazing Bike Clinic 10am Rushy Football oval (3 weeks, free)
Sun 11	Open Day at Day's Mill, 5 Day Road Murchison, free entry 10am-4pm
Sun 11	Girgarre Mothers Day Classic Fundraising walk
Sat 17	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
Thu 22	Law Week - Rushworth Library 10.30am

JUNE

Sun 1	Stanhope Town Garage Sale from 9am
Sat 21	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
Sat 21	RAD workshop for Landcare Rushworth Community Space

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 8.30am to 9.30am
- Stanhope: 1st Sunday of month from 8.30am
- 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, 1st and 4th Sunday 11am - 1pm
- Rushworth & District Community Bank Board: meets 1st Tuesday monthly, at 6pm
- Rushworth Events Inc: meets bi-monthly, third Wednesday at 7pm
- 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 1pm - 2pm
- Colbinabbin: Chris's exercises at Colbinabbin Hall Mondays 3.30pm - 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

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AMBULANCE.....Emergency.....000
Non-emergency...13 3009
SES: (storm & flood).....13 2500
DOCTORS:
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Rushworth Medical Centre..... 5856 1329
Stanhope Telecare Medical Centre
4800 5291
Waranga Medical Centre..... 5851 8400
HEALTH:
Stanhope Health.....5857 0451
Waranga Health5851 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

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Coming Up Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 20 May 2025 | Echuca Civic Centre
Meetings can be streamed live: www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming

Immunisation sessions

By appointment only. Register at campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations

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

Thursday, 1 May

- 9.00 – 10:00am | Echuca Library
- 11:30am – 12 noon | Rochester Service Centre

Tuesday, 6 May

- 5.30 – 6:30pm | Kyabram Senior Citizens Centre

Wednesday, 14 May

- 9.00 – 10:00am | Kyabram Senior Citizens Centre

Thursday, 15 May

- 10.00 – 10.30am | Gunbower
- 11:30 – 12 noon | Lockington Bush Nursing Centre
- 5.30 – 6.30pm | Echuca Library

Monday, 26 May

- 9.00 – 10.00am | Tongala Service Centre
- 11.30 – 12 noon | Rushworth Service Centre

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



Works notices

Roadworks – Johnson St, Colbinabbin

Roadworks will be undertaken on Johnson Street, Colbinabbin, between Mitchell Street and Meade Lane, from Tuesday 29 April. These works include a new road surface, drainage, kerbing and some footpath works.



There will also be drainage upgrades and re-grading of the existing open drain to the north of Meade Lane, between Johnson and Collin Streets. There will be road closures during construction, however, access will be maintained for residents and emergency services.

Road users are advised to follow detours or plan alternative routes during the works, which are expected to be completed in early June.

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



2026 Kindergarten Registrations

Registrations for three-year-old and four-year-old kindergarten for 2026 will open on 1 May. Submit your registration together with the required documentation before 30 June to ensure your application is considered for first-round offers. Offers will be emailed to families mid-July and will be made subject to Department of Education and local priority of access criteria. For more information and to register your child for kinder in 2026, visit Council's website or call the Kindergarten Central Registration team on 1300 666 535.



you see for the food system in Campaspe Shire. The aim of this survey is to capture community need and inform any future actions. This survey closes Friday, 16 May 2025 at 5pm.

Ripple Fest:

22-25 May 2025

Campaspe Shire Council and Ripple Fest are thrilled to announce the launch of its new website which offers a comprehensive guide to the upcoming festival's diverse events and artist line-up. This vibrant multi-arts festival, supported by Victorian Government funding, aims to reconnect and inspire communities following the 2022 flood event in Campaspe Shire. Visit ripplefest.com.au for information on all the events.



Flu vaccination sessions

An annual flu vaccination is the most important measure to prevent flu and its complications. It is recommended for all people 6 months of age



and older. The flu vaccination is free for people aged 65 years and older, people who are pregnant, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 6 months and over, and people with medical conditions that put them at increased risk of flu or complications arising from it.

Council is running flu vaccination sessions from 30 April. To book an appointment online, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations or scan the QR code. For assistance with an appointment, phone Council's immunisation team on 1300 666 535 or email the team at immunise@campaspe.vic.gov.au

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

Seafood night for Good Friday Appeal

On Good Friday, the Stanhope community came together for a night filled with delicious food, and great company. The Wallenjoe Hotel hosted its first seafood night with an abundance of fresh and delicious seafood, while also raising funds for a cause that touches countless lives - Good Friday Appeal.

The evening was a vibrant celebration with an impressive spread that included lobster, prawns, oysters, fresh fish, scallops, calamari, and more.

A portion of the evening's proceeds was proudly donated to the Good Friday Appeal, supporting the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. This long-standing appeal has been making a difference in the lives of children and their families for over 90 years, and we were honoured to play even a small part in that ongoing mission. Tameka and Aden Cheong shared their own personal experience and generosity received from the Good Friday Appeal and their own fundraising mission - the Mason Mission. The hotel also had a raffle donating all proceeds to the Good Friday Appeal with incredible prizes donated by some amazing local businesses, Lux Brows & Beauty, Elk Collective, Fitzgerald's Meats, Bodystrong Co and of course the Wallenjoe.

The Wallenjoe extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the night possible, and look forward to making next year's event even bigger and better.



(Above) The delicious seafood banquet served on Good Friday.



(Above and right) The hardworking staff of the Wallenjoe Hotel with Tameka and Aden Cheong and their children.



WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

DEATH

McLEOD, Malcolm
18/04/1935 – 18/04/2025

Passed away peacefully at Waranga Hospital Rushworth.

Aged 90 Years.

Loved Son of the late Bill & Florrie McLeod.

Loved Brother of Bill, Jean, Floss, Jack, Lal, Eleanor, Bruce, Heather, Alan, and Ron (All Dec) and their families.

*Loved and Admired,
and Sadly Missed.*

Graveside Service at Rushworth Lawn Cemetery

TODAY THURSDAY (May 1st, 2025) commencing at 1.00pm

Bendigo Funerals
www.smfd.com.au

McLEOD, Mal

Rushworth Cricket Club past and present Committee, Players and Supporters extend their deepest sympathies on the passing of Life Member, Champion Player and Curator to his family. He will be greatly missed around the oval.



BEREAVEMENT THANKS

PARSONS(MILLER), Tracey:

Tracey's family would like to thank those who sent flowers, cards, food and phone calls. Special thanks to Sally, Ebony, Elli and Mikayla for the support on the day. Please accept this as our personal thank you. Andrew, Val and family.

IN MEMORIAM

McTAGGART, Ronald Malcolm:
05/10/1931 - 23/04/2021

To our dearest Dad.

The years have passed so quickly.

You are never forgotten and your memory lives with us forever.

Always in our hearts and thoughts.

Love forever,

Glenn and Loretta McTaggart

Kids' Quiz answers

1. Echidna 2. Uluru 3. Opal 4. The Great Barrier Reef
5. Mammal 6. Black 7. Pacific Ocean 8. Kookaburra
9. Simpson Desert 10. Bread, butter, hundreds & thousands (sprinkles).

PUBLIC NOTICES



Temporary Road Closure of Meade Lane and Johnson Street, Colbinabbin

Prendergast Earthmoving has been engaged by Campaspe Shire Council to deliver a road infrastructure improvement project in Colbinabbin. The scheduled work will include the Reconstruction of Johnson Street and regrading of 140 Lm of open drain along Meade lane.

The project is set to commence on the 29th of April, weather permitting, and is expected to be completed on the 30th of May. During this period, Meade and Johnson Roads will be closed to through traffic, and a Detour will be in place.

If you have any further inquiries regarding the project, please feel free to contact us at 03 5422 2430 or via email at info@prendergast.com.au.

Alternatively, you can contact Campaspe Shire Council on 1300 666 535.

Solutions from last edition

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E			R		R	O	C	K
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7	8	5	9	1	4	6	2	3
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Colbo Sports Report

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Welcome to the 2025 season

It feels like only yesterday we all played our last game, but here we are, back bigger and stronger once again as a club. What better way to kick off proceedings with a wet, muggy, late cool change sort of April day down in Heefcut!

But how good was that rain! All the local farmers have welcomed that with arms spread wide open, and a beer can in each hand as the winter cropping programs ramp up.

Off to Lockington next weekend, we support them with their big day raising awareness for men's health, get there and support the lads and hopefully bring home more wins.

The Suburban Footballer is also going to be a major draw card on Thursday night after training.

FOOTBALL

Seniors

The seniors kicked off their season in a proper scrappy style, as the soggy heavy ground was just about to dry up. Heefcut managed to match the new and improved Colbo outfit early on with fumbles and turnovers being a major feature. New coach Linno Jacobs and his coaching army had some things to tinker and get the game going their way. The handful of new recruits were showing what we got them for, Brandyn Grenfell being a major target up forward, often being outnumbered, proves he only needs half a meter to get his arms out to mark the footy. Kicking around corners from 50m probably isn't the go-to in the first game but we love him anyway. Other new players like Issac Carracher brought his own footy to the game, being that midfield bull that we needed. Our new ruckman from the Riverina, Dougal McKindlay was the big body in the middle that we had lacked the past couple of years, using his size to get the upper hand.

Some returning favourite sons, depending on who you speak to, Dango Hill and Sam Ryan, slipped in like they'd never left. Dan just floating across half back taking marks for fun, while Sammy gave us the extra dynamics up forward while the Heefcut defence was looking after the twin towers. Other new players like Jack Lear were awesome at full back on a Tony Lockett lookalike Nick Knight also played his 467th Senior game on Saturday, we're not quite sure if that's accurate or not but we're rolling with it.

In no way was it a pretty game to watch, but nonetheless the job was done, Colbo kicked away from Heefcut and outscored them in every quarter, finding themselves eventual 28 point winners to start the season.

Goal kickers: Nick Knight 2, Alex Carr 2, Aidan Basile 1, Angus Martin 1, Brandon Grenfell 1, Jude Ryan 1, Sam Ryan 1, Charlie Ryan 1, Toby Howlett 1

Best on: Dan Hill, Issac Carracher, Dougal McKindlay, Sam Ryan, Jack Lear, Jude Ryan
Colbinabbin 11.14. 80 def Heathcote 7.10. 52

Reserves

Never has there been such a dramatic twist in the saga that is the Colby twos. Reappointed coach Dan Morgan, has somehow flipped what was a pretty dodgy script and turned it into a less dodgy script, just with more characters. He was even able to read out the team on Thursday night, something that wasn't an option last year.

In what was a highly anticipated clash to start the season, the excitement must've been too much for the new brigade of blokes who started the game looking like an U10's team compared to the cool, calm and collected Heefcut who butchered a few chances early which kept Colbo in the game. It was late in the second quarter that the boys hit their strides and started playing like a team, and eventually grabbed a 1 point lead at half time. Unfortunately there was a delay after 30 seconds into the third quarter after a quick Colbo goal. Jasper McArdle managed to impound in pointy knee straight into the ribs and pretty much through the chest of the Heefcut ruckman at the centre ball up. An ambulance was called and the game sat still for over a quarter, until the field was cleared leaving a reduced fourth quarter to play out. It could've gone either way from here, but a bit of grit and determination saw the Colbo lads kick away and take the win in a truly bizarre game. A win is a win.

New bloke Joe Fiske-Kealy showed what he had to offer, which was massive muscles, some creative tats, and good footy skills, particularly in the wet. Jimmy McMurtrie proved that he should be playing in the seniors with his pace and foot skills, new recruit Ray Pearson showed us that size is not an issue for him going up against some bigger bodies all across the ground. Other better players were Jack Colbert the Creative Man, new recruit Dom Monteleone and the returning Jasper McArdle. We wish the young Heathcote fella all the best in his recovery. 1-0 for the first time in whoever knows how long, well done Colby twos.

Goal kickers: Jimmy McMurtrie 2, Jasper McArdle 1, Julian Bull 1, Evan McAuley 1, Jack Colbert

Best on: Joe Fiske-Kealy, Jimmy McMurtrie, Ray Pearson, Jack Colbert, Dom Monteleone, Jasper McArdle
Colbinabbin 6.10. 46 def Heathcote 3.7. 25

Under 18s

Goal kickers: Tom McFadzean
Best on: Charlie McLean, Elliot Ryan, Mitch Munro, William Ogden, Henry McFadzean, Jackson Morgan

Colbinabbin 1.0. 6 lost to Heathcote 19.13. 127

NETBALL

A Grade

The girls dusted the cobwebs off their runners and wrung the tears out of their dresses after their last game of 2024. Vibes were high before the match started. Heathcote came out

firing, yet the Colbo girls were steady and composed to start the game. Matilda played as if Jen had threatened to make her walk home to Melbourne. Ella mirrored Matilda's determination. Kasey cut shapes like her life depended on it, feeding into the ring like she belonged in the SSN. Liv Mac was her usual menacing self, you'd think she was in every position with her court coverage. Heathcote attackers will have nightmares about Grace's arms with the number of deflections she racked up. The dynamic defensive duo of Tanzin and Elle continued to wreak havoc. Chelsea's debut was stellar, giving Georgie a run for her money. Heathcote kept fighting until the final whistle, yet Colbo remained steadfast in their approach.

Best on: Whole Team

Colbinabbin 90 def Heathcote 22

A Reserve

Great first game back for the year with the A-res girls winning by 30 points. Great to see Dom back in the ring with newbie Nicole who is a great addition to the team encouraging everyone and moving fast around the ring to get us goals. The fast and agile mid-court helped drive the ball into the shooting circle by, zipping between players with sharp passes and relentless energy. The defenders were relentless, reading the play with precision, intercepting passes, and applying constant pressure to shut down the opposition's attack. Great first game girls.

Best on: Dominique Palmer, Nicole McEvoy, Emily Percy

Colbinabbin 55 def Heathcote 24

B Grade

The B Grade team hit the court for their first game together of the 2025 season, and there was plenty to be proud of. With a fresh lineup, the focus was on building connections and learning each other's strengths for the season ahead.

Each quarter showed clear improvement, with passes becoming sharper and movement more confident. The midcourt worked hard to keep the ball flowing, while our defenders made it tough for the opposition with some strong pressure and intercepts. In the shooting circle, our goalers kept fighting to create space and scoring opportunities.

Although the scoreboard didn't swing our way, the effort and teamwork were very promising. Our best on this week was Sadie for her positive attitude, adaptability, excellent teamwork and strong effort in every quarter.

Best on: Sadie Martin

Colbinabbin 23 lost to Heathcote 45

B Reserve

First game of the year the girls played really well, had some very good passages of play down the court. Everyone played very well together, unfortunately we did not come away with a win.

Best on: Letisha Mountjoy

Colbinabbin 34 lost to Heathcote 43

Rushworth Football Netball Club

Netball

Under 11

Rushworth 12 Def by Nagambie 20

Everyone played an amazing game, Best on went to Aliesha, 2nd Zeli, 3rd to Sienna

Under 13

Rushworth 4 Def by Nagambie 26

The Under 13s had a tough game against a strong opponent but didn't drop their heads the entire game. With so many wonderful passages of play, the girls should be extremely proud of their efforts. 1st Incentive to Gypsy, 2nd to Stella. 3rd to Amelia.

Under 15

Rushworth 36 Def Nagambie 9

A consistent four quarter performance but still with plenty of room for improvement, best went to Byron Chapman, 2nd Kaley Knight, 3rd Kade Starling

Under 17

Rushworth 46 Def Nagambie 38

The girls all played hard today, coming away with a solid 9-goal win over Nagambie, 1st incentive - Emma Francis 2nd incentive - Chloe Johnstone 3rd incentive - Emily McLean, Lolly award - Millie Newton

C Reserve

Rushworth 19 Def By Nagambie 54

Another tough and warm game on the court for C Res. Despite the end result all players put in a great effort. Thanks to the two U/17 players, they both proved themselves to be great little netballers. Incentives went to Eliza McDonald, Tyra Roberts (first C res game) and Chloe Johnstone (also first C res game). Well done.

C Grade

Rushworth 39 Def By Nagambie 49

C grade hit the ground running this week, showing great improvement and teamwork. The first incentive went to Shannon Sinclair for her consistent performance in shooting and setting up in the ring. The second incentive went to Laura Martin for dominating WA and setting up great plays down the attacking end. The third incentive went to Madalen Knight for her excellent court awareness in both attack and defence. C grade's improvement each week definitely makes them a team to watch.



The Under 10's kicked off their season on Sunday against the Shepparton Swans and it's fantastic to see more of the future generations running out in the Black and Gold.

B Grade

Rushworth 26 Def By Nagambie 65

B grade had a bit of a slow start but once they got going they were a force to be reckoned with. Incentives went to Taylor (GG) Griffin for her composure and accuracy under the ring, second went to Beth Hanson for playing out the game with such a high level of intensity. Third to Grace Barlow who continues to grow in her confidence down the attacking end.

A Grade

Rushworth 34 Def by Nagambie 44

Best Lilly Waasdorp, 2nd Kasey Barlow, 3rd Janelle Doolan.

A disappointing day as they started solid but struggled with Nagambie's strong attack. They were in the game in the first half only being down by 2 at half time but couldn't find a way together to hang in.

Football

Under 10

Sunday was the first under 10s game for the club. The whole team did an awesome job and had heaps of fun. Big thanks to Calvin, Sarah, Regan and Shannon for getting the team up and running.

Under 18

Rushworth 9 Def By Nagambie 145

Reserves

Rushworth 43 Def By Nagambie 103

pushed through and found a nice rhythm. The highlight of the game was the defence, the defenders worked continuously at any ball that came near them and applied pressure all down the court. Overall, really good first game by the girls.

Best on: Logan Sparkes

Colbinabbin 41 def Heathcote 7

Under 13s

It was nice to start the season for the under 13's with a convincing win. The team were able to gel together beautifully and it was positive to see all applying what they have practiced from training to the game.

Plenty of pressure down the court from Isla Knight and some impressive intercepts from George McFadzean saw this enthusiastic

Seniors

Rushworth 58 Def By Nagambie 69

The boys were keen to get away to a good start, and matched it with the Lakers, but were unable to put scoreboard pressure on the home team due to inaccuracy, and trailed by 21pts at half time. Third quarter the boys lifted their intensity and thirst for the contest, and started to see reward for effort kicking four goals to one to trail the home team by just 2pts at 3/4 time. The last quarter, the boys kept the pressure levels up, but unfortunately were not being able to capitalise on the scoreboard, the home team won by 11pts. A lot of positives to take out of this game, and carry them into this weeks game against Undera. Best players Ethan Arnold, Jacko McRae, Ryan Beale, Shaun Young, Luke Oakley, and Nico McKinley. Special mention to Mitch Griffin, who played his first senior game.

Rushworth Social Calendar

Add these dates to your diary so you don't miss a Tigers Social event in 2025

- 3 May Rnd 4 – Ladies' Day and Mr Rushworth
- 17 May Rnd 6 – Bucking Bull Western Night
- 24 May Rnd 7 - Junior Ball

Colbo Round 2 continued . . .

Under 17s

The Under 17s team, although newly formed and playing together for the first time, showed incredible teamwork and spirit on the court. All the players adapted quickly, supporting each other both in attack and defence. Their willingness to listen, take on advice, and immediately apply it during the game was outstanding. Every player showed determination, skill, and a real hunger to improve, creating a strong foundation for future success. Best on: Taya Munro

Colbinabbin 40 lost to Heathcote 49

Under 15s

The wet courts and wet ball proved to be a challenge at the beginning, but the girls

young team hold the lead all the way to the end.

Looking forward to seeing what 2025 holds for the under 13's. Best on: Frankie Ryan

Colbinabbin 39 def Heathcote 15

Under 11s

The Under 11s had a strong first game for the season! With lots of rotations, every player adapted beautifully and brought their hard work from training onto the court.

Elsie and Lola were our younger ones stepping up this week and absolutely nailed their movement and positioning on court.

Best on went to Pip Knight, who didn't let a height mismatch in goals hold her back – she worked hard all game and made a real impact. Awesome job everyone! Best on: Pippa Knight



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Mobile phone and seatbelt detection cameras are out there to keep our roads safe.
If you use your phone illegally while driving, you will face a minimum fine of \$593
and 4 demerit points. Chances are you will be caught.
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