

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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Thursday 29 May 2025

Waranga Rail Trail opening achieves long-term goal joining towns

The Waranga Rail Trail was officially opened on 17 May 2025 in Rushworth, marking the completion of a long-anticipated 19-kilometre trail connecting Rushworth and Murchison in northern Victoria. (See more photos pages 20 - 21).



Riders from numerous cycling groups attending the official opening of Waranga Rail Trail ready to put the trail to the test.

The project, a collaborative effort between the Campaspe Shire and Greater Shepparton City councils, has been in development for over a decade. The eastern section was completed in 2015, and the final Campaspe Shire segment was finished in late March 2025.

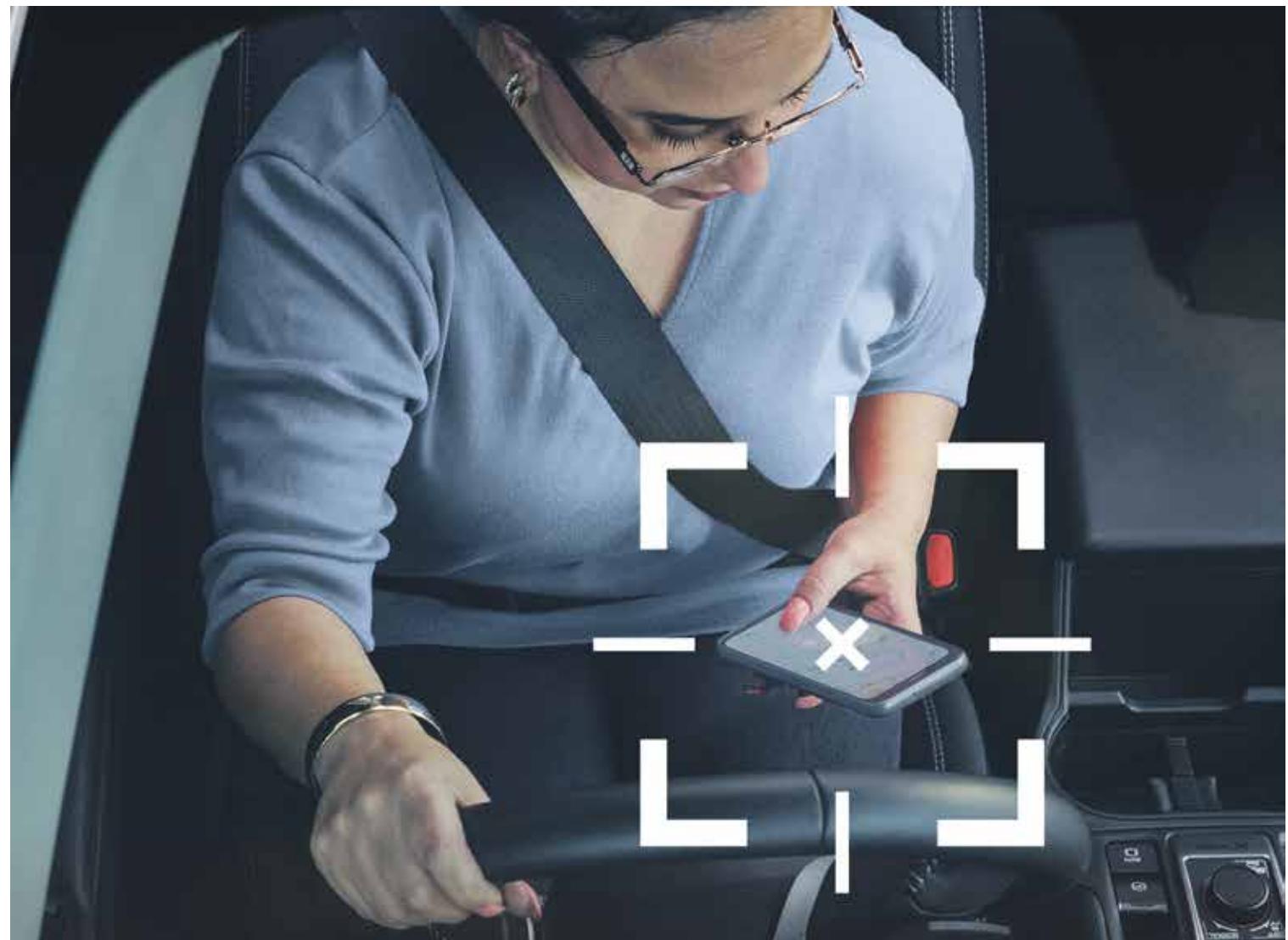
The trail follows the alignment of a decommissioned railway line and offers walkers and cyclists a scenic route through culturally and historically significant areas.

Notable features along the trail include the heritage-listed Rushworth railway goods shed, Waranga Basin, the Cattanach and Sturt Murray canals and Doctors Swamp Wildlife Reserve.

The official opening ceremony was attended by Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell, Member for Euroa Annabelle Cleeland, and representatives from various local organizations and councils. Mayor Mackrell highlighted the trail's potential

to promote eco-friendly tourism, healthier lifestyles, and increased exposure for local businesses.

The project received funding from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant Program. The trail is expected to serve as a significant attraction for both locals and visitors, enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities in the region.



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'Bringing Now to Next' – ceremony marks Reconciliation Week in Campaspe

A community Reconciliation Week Walk in Echuca on 27 May highlighted the ongoing goal of stepping forward together with First Nations people in the reconciliation journey.

The event started with a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country at Alton Reserve, followed by a walk along Hare Street to Aquatic Reserve.

Reconciliation Week occurs annually from 27 May – 3 June and aims to foster dialogue, strengthen bonds and encourage all Australians to embrace the rich cultural heritage of First Nations peoples while working towards a shared future.

This year's theme, "Bringing Now to Next", reflects the ongoing connection between past, present, and future.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Daniel Mackrell emphasised the importance of this year's theme and noted its particular significance for Council this year as it embarks on its first Reconciliation Action Plan.

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"We are deeply committed to advancing reconciliation within our community. By embarking on our Reconciliation Action Plan, we aim to foster stronger relationships, respect, and understanding between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians," Cr Mackrell said.

The dates of National Reconciliation Week commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey.

May 27, 1967: The date of the referendum in which Australians voted overwhelmingly to amend the constitution to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the census and allow the federal government to create laws for them.

June 3, 1992: The date of the High Court's Mabo decision, which recognised the land rights of the Meriam people and overturned the legal doctrine of *terra nullius*.

Welcome to Country and Acknowledgment of Country

Welcome to Country and an Acknowledgement of Country recognise the continuing connection First Nations people have to their land.

Welcome to Country is a tradition rooted in the practice of First Nations community seeking permission to enter another clan's ancestral land. The ceremony, sometimes involving a smoking ritual, varied from clan to clan.

An Acknowledgement of Country is a statement that shows awareness of and respect for Traditional Custodians of the land you're on and their long and continuing relationship with the land.





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Emergency Services Levy passed despite public backlash in the regions

Despite significant pushback from regional communities and organised protests by emergency services, the Victorian Government passed its Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) legislation on Friday, May 16.

The decision has sparked significant debate, the government arguing that the levy is essential to bolster emergency services funding amid increasing disasters, a position which regional councils, communities and emergency services refute.

The levy is set to replace the existing Fire Services Property Levy which funded the CFA and Fire Rescue Victoria. The expanded levy will now include funding for VICSES, Triple Zero Victoria, State Control Centre, Emergency Recovery Victoria and Emergency Management Victoria.

The bill was passed with amendments guaranteeing that 95 per cent of VICSES and CFA funding will come from ESVF and 90 per cent of FRV's annual funding will come from the levy, and that every dollar collected from the levy must be spent on emergency services.

"These changes will give emergency services the funding and equipment they need as they face natural disasters which are happening more often and becoming more destructive," treasurer and Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes said.

While all property owners in Victoria will pay more for the ESVF, farmers in particular are facing the most significant increases, leading to grievances that the change has a disproportionate impact on the farming sector. Adding to the backlash is that those most affected are often the volunteers of the emergency services to be funded. While volunteers are afforded an exemption from the levy in recognition of their contribution, many claim this is limited and can only be



A Rushworth tanker joined the large convoy of CFA vehicles at the city protest.

claimed for a primary place of residence.

The substantial rise has led to protests from across rural and regional communities and sparked concern from local councils which are tasked with collecting the levy along with property rates.

In a statement issued after the passing of the bill, Campaspe Mayor Daniel Mackerell said Council was deeply disheartened by the outcome of the vote.

"While we wholeheartedly support the necessity of funding for volunteers, Campaspe Shire Council, alongside numerous other Victorian councils, vehemently opposed the introduction of this fund.

"We firmly believe it imposes an unjust and disproportionate financial burden on rural and regional areas, with no assurance that the funds collected from our communities will be reinvested into our local emergency services."

Volunteer firefighters with the CFA have initiated a significant protest to the levy, with some brigades 'downing tools' and declaring indefinite offline status. A large protest outside Parliament, featuring emergency service volunteers and farmers, further highlighted the backlash from the bush as the bill was passed.

New life for Murchison SES!

The Murchison State Emergency Unit (SES) is officially operational and here to stay!

Following a call out to the community as the Unit faced closure due to lack of members, a new wave of volunteers has come forward and saved the day. There are now eleven active members, reinforcing the team's capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies in the region.

The influx of fresh recruits comes at a crucial time, ensuring the Murchison SES remains equipped to support the local community through such events as storm damage, floods, search and rescue operations and more. The new members will bring with them a range of skills and a shared dedication to community service.

As the Unit is building up with new enthusiasm, it is still welcoming new members. Training is provided, and no prior experience is necessary—just a willingness to help and be part of a supportive team.



New life: A revitalised Murchison SES team ready to serve their local community.

Emergency Services funding – a snapshot

As with most controversial subjects the debate about the new levy has attracted much misinformation in social media commentary. The following ‘explainer’ is an attempt to unpack in simple terms what the ESVFL means for you. But note - these are the basics and there are some variations to the ‘rule’, e.g. primary producers with multiple land parcels. It also does not include calculations for commercial or industrial properties or vacant land.

The current Fire Services Levy

The Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) is an annual levy paid by Victorian property owners to fund the services provided by Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and the Country Fire Authority (CFA). The FSPL is collected by councils through rates notices

The new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy

The new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy (ESVFL) replaces the FSPL from 1 July 2025. It has been increased to cover funding of the State Emergency Service (SES) as well as CFA and FRV. It will also go towards funding the state’s emergency and disaster response services.

Key changes under the ESVFL as compared to the FSPL include:

From 1 July 2025

- An increase of the variable charge (based on property classification and capital improved value)
- Abolition of vacant land as a separate land use classification and reallocation based on its intended use (e.g. vacant industrial land will be reclassified as industrial land); and
- Introduction of an exemption for eligible volunteers (to be applied for on receipt of council rate notice).

(The existing \$50 concession for pensioners and veterans, and the concession for single farm enterprises, will continue to apply.).

How the levy is calculated

The current Fire Services Levy and the new Emergency Services Levy are made up of:

- a fixed charge (non-residential properties subject to a higher rate than residential properties) and
- a variable charge, which is based on the property’s land use classification (e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, vacant, etc) and the Capital Improved Value (“CIV”) of the property.

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Land Classification	Current 2024-25 rates		Proposed 2025-26 rates		
	Variable charge (cents per \$1,000 CIV)	Fixed charge (\$)	Variable charge (cents per \$1,000 CIV)	Fixed charge (\$)	Percentage increase in variable charge
Residential	8.7	132	17.3	136	98.85%
Commercial	66.4	267	133	275	100.30%
Industrial	81.1	267	133	275	64.00%
Primary Production	28.7	267	71.8	275	150.17%

Examples (Levy = fixed charge + variable charge):

For a property classified as residential with a CIV of \$1 million, the levy payable is as follows:

- o Using the new ESVFL rates: \$136 (fixed) + \$173 (variable) = \$309
- o Using the old FSPL rates: \$132 (fixed) + \$87 (variable) = \$219
- o Percentage increase in the levy payable: 41.1%

For a property classified as primary production with a CIV of \$1 million, the levy payable is as follows:

- o Using the new ESVFL rates: \$275 (fixed) + \$718 (variable) = \$993
- o Using the old FSPL rates: \$267 (fixed) + \$287 (variable) = \$554.
- o Percentage increase in the levy payable: 79.24%

For a property classified as primary production with a CIV of \$3 million, the levy payable is as follows:

- o Using the new ESVFL rates: \$275 + \$2154 = \$2429
- o Using the old FSPL rates: \$267 + \$861 = \$1128
- o Percentage increase in the levy payable: 115.3%

(Note: In each case the percentage increase in the variable rate is greater than in the overall levy payable. This gap decreases as the CIV increases, eg. for an \$8 million farm the percentage increase in the levy payable will be 134.84%).

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Have your say!

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CFA volunteers have their say about levy

At the time of writing this we are one day after a historic moment for regional Victoria and CFA. Yesterday over 250 CFA Fire Trucks and thousands of CFA Volunteers and Victorian Farmers ascended on Parliament House in Spring St Melbourne to protest the controversial and damning new Tax that the Victorian Government has passed, guised as a change in the current Fire Service Levy into the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund.

This new tax is not just another tax for our communities to pay but is a slap in the face to farmers and rural and regional communities, many of whom volunteer with local CFA Brigades to protect their communities.

To be blunt and factual, this tax is going to cost everyone more and more every year with farmers worse hit with over a 150% rise in their levy as part of their rates. Now consider that most farmers have multiple properties over multiple titles, not just one title and set of rates. Regional Victorian households can expect over 35% rise in their levy however in metropolitan areas the rise is expected to be less than 30%. So, think about this, metropolitan areas where they are covered by a PAID fire service will pay less than their country counterparts who are served by hard working volunteers. Now also consider that only approx. 24% of the funds raised by this new Emergency Service and VOLUNTEER Fund will actually go to the volunteer-run CFA – does that make sense, does this pass the pub test? I don't think it does and neither do the members of Stanhope FB.

Yes, volunteers in both the SES and CFA will have ability to receive a 100% exemption off the levy for their primary place of residence which is welcome news for volunteers who finally get some sort of recognition for what they do for nothing. After all, would it be fair and equitable to charge someone for a service that they actually provided for free? Think of when that siren rings and our members respond, they aren't getting paid – they are volunteering – some over 15 – 20 hrs a week.

This exemption does have a downside and that is for those CFA volunteers who have farms on multiple titles, still having to pay a levy on all other titles other than their house block, again for the service that they provided.

The Stanhope FB, per our Facebook messaging and posts has chosen to protest in the form of displaying the CFA flag upside down (a sign of distress) and hanging out PPC to show that we have been "hung out to dry". With our communities safety at front of mind we chose not to go to Parliament house to protest, just protest in other ways that doesn't put you in jeopardy.

We would really appreciate your help to support each other and all the farmers in this community. Please consider going to the Parliamentary petition that is currently petitioning against this dreadful tax which will likely have devastating consequences for our community.

Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund - Petitions - Parliament of Victoria

Please also keep up to date with the Brigade

and CFA by liking the Stanhope Fire Brigade Facebook page.

Chris Dent
Captain – Stanhope Fire Brigade



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What do you think?

Contributed by Graeme Hanigan

This is the second last in my series on 'what do you think?' hooray I hear you cry!

I appreciate the positive feedback from people who have been following along and I have enjoyed the process of sitting down to write about the topic.

Today is a little quiz to see if you have been paying attention; the answers will be in the next edition.

1. Which statement best describes Critical Thinking?

- a) Accepting information without question.
- b) Analysing, evaluating and assessing information.
- c) Ignoring evidence that contradicts your own confirmation bias.
- d) Avoiding curiosity and inquiry.

2. What refutes science?

- a) Your personal opinion.
- b) Better science.
- c) Your favourite politician.
- d) A YouTube Video from an unknown source.

3. Socrates is attributed with saying "the unexamined life is not worth living"

What do you think he meant by that?

- a) To ignore personal biases and assumptions.
- b) To avoid questioning one's beliefs.
- c) To self-reflect on your thinking processes and assumptions.
- d) To accept information without question.

4. How do we avoid Pareidolia, when our brains connect dots that make no sense:

- a) By avoiding any form of decision-making.

b) By accepting information without question.

c) By questioning assumptions and seeking evidence-based explanations.

d) By making decisions based on emotions alone.

5. The term 'intellectually vigilant' means:

- a) Seeking out evidence to support claims.
- b) Ignoring different perspectives.
- c) Being closed-minded and resistant to new ideas.
- d) Accepting information without questioning.

6. Things don't happen for a reason, we find reasons in things that happen

What does this mean?

- a) To embrace personal confirmation biases and emotions.
- b) To consider different perspectives and minimize personal biases.
- c) To ignore evidence that supports personal beliefs.
- d) To be rigid and inflexible in thinking.

7. How do we avoid being bamboozled by the Swiss cheese hole?

- a) To accept information without question.
- b) To be closed-minded and resistant to new ideas.
- c) To seek out multiple perspectives and ask probing questions.
- d) To avoid questioning one's beliefs.

8. What is falsifiability?

- a) If a claim is false, the evidence will disprove it.
- b) If a claim is true, the evidence will prove it.
- c) Falsifiable claims cannot be proven false with evidence.
- d) Falsifiable claims are immune to evidence.

9. Which of the following are falsifiable?

- a) Subjective claims.
- b) Objective claims.
- c) Ad hoc claims
- c) Supernatural claims.
- d) Vague claims.

10. Humans love to spread false information which;

- a) Produces an emotional reaction in the brain.
- b) Coincides with their personal beliefs.
- c) Bypasses the rational brain.
- d) Causes high arousal in the brain.
- e) All of the above.

11. Why is information literacy important in critical thinking?

- a) To avoid questioning one's beliefs.
- b) To minimize the influence of evidence and data.
- c) To locate, evaluate, and use information effectively from various sources.
- d) To embrace personal biases and emotions.

12. What is self-honesty?

- a) To avoid different perspectives.
- b) To be rigid and inflexible in thinking.
- c) To be overly confident in one's knowledge.
- d) To acknowledge the limits of one's knowledge and be open to learning from others.

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

Ron Hawking - another great contributor farewelled

Rushworth farewelled another fine contributor to the local community at a graveside service at the local cemetery on 15 May. Ron Hawking, a former Rushworth grocer who died in Shepparton, was a member of the third of six generations of Hawkings who have lived in the town. Two grandchildren, Sean Harrap and Bec Larson, shared eulogy stories with family and friends.

Ron and brothers Graham and Howard were the sons of grocers Roy and Bessie Hawking, Ron the last to pass at 96 years. Ron married Heather Swift in 1953, having daughters Rosalie, Leayne and Janet, known to all as Roe, Lea and Jan.

His days at Rushworth Higher Elementary School were followed by a short stint at the post office, including as a telephonist. He soon joined his parents in the store in Moora Street, later operating a self-service grocery where the bakery is now.

Ron was a volunteer ambulance driver for many years, a Justice of the Peace, a Freemason, an Olympic torch runner in 1956 (receiving the torch from Ian Borger, six minutes and a mile later handing to Graeme Collard), and many organisations benefitted from his sign-writing ability as he updated honour boards with skill and precision.

Ron was captain of the fire brigade for

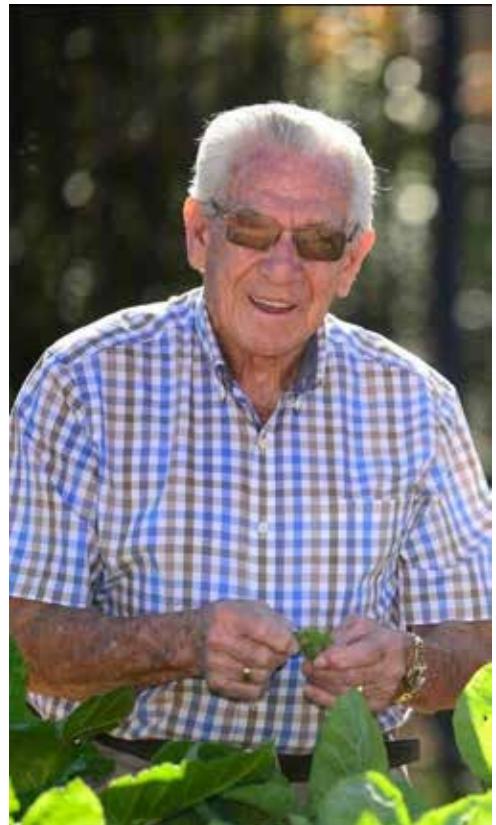
eighteen years within a much longer career. For this service, he was awarded a Queen's Medal. Adding contributions from his brothers and father Roy, the Hawking family service to local fire-preparedness and firefighting totalled a remarkable 156 years.

Other contributions included with the Rushworth Water Trust, on the school advisory council and on the Hospital board of management.

Ron was an enthusiastic player of football (briefly), cricket, tennis, table tennis, badminton and later in life lawn bowls; a self-declared participant rather than a winner. He was a sporting shooter. He was boundary umpire for Rushworth's senior team for many years in the Goulburn Valley Football League, awarded numerous finals by the GVFL.

Ron's eulogy referred to obtaining his driving licence without a test, and told of his collision with a horse when rushing the ambulance to a heart attack victim near Stanhope, overturning the vehicle and crawling out via the broken windscreen. These were just two stories within a large and entertaining set of family recollections.

His warmth of character, love of a good chat (usually long-winded), and his fondness for grandchildren and great-grandchildren also shone through as Sean and Bec, on



behalf of the family, thanked his doctor and his carers for their kind attention and care.

Well done and thank you Ron Hawking. Your rest is extremely well deserved.

Grants offer cash boost for local businesses

Applications close 9 June 2025

Campaspe Shire Council has announced the launch of the Business Boost Grants Program, designed to support local businesses to enhance their operations, marketing strategies and overall efficiency.

The initiative offers businesses the opportunity to access funding of up to \$1000 for developing business plans, undertaking targeted marketing activities, or purchasing new equipment to improve their processes.

The program aims to help businesses adapt to shifting economic conditions, increase brand awareness, and foster growth by streamlining operations through the acquisition of new technology.

The maximum grant amount available is \$1,000 per application. Only one application per business will be accepted, and there is a requirement for successful grant applicants to match dollar for dollar the amount they receive from the program. The total funds available for this round of the Business Boost Grants Program is \$30,000.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell said the grants program offered the chance for businesses to advance in a number of areas.

"The grants will help businesses fund strategic business planning, marketing activities, or the purchase of equipment to introduce technological efficiencies," Cr Mackrell said.

"By improving business operations, local businesses can better compete, grow, and contribute to the region's economic vitality – which is something that benefits us all."

To be eligible for a grant, businesses must be based in Campaspe Shire and have a current Australian Business Number (ABN). During the application process, businesses must also demonstrate how the use of grant money

would align with the program's objectives and provide tangible benefits to the business and to the local economy. Preference will be given to applicants who use local suppliers.

The program will not fund retrospective projects or purchases that have already been started or made, nor will it fund staffing costs or ongoing operational costs such as utility bills.

For further information or to apply, visit the Now Open sections on Council's website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

or contact the Economic Development team by phone on (03) 5481 2200

or email ecodev@campaspe.vic.gov.au

Applications must be submitted by 8pm on 9 June 2025; applicants will be notified of the outcome by 30 June 2025.

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Easter Festival comp results

The Easter Festival Committee is please to announce the winners of the annual colouring competition.

A huge thank you to Jas at the General Store Rushworth for her generous sponsorship of this competition for 2025. Thank you also to the schools who participated and help to deliver entry forms.

Aged 8-12: 1st Alia, 2nd Ebony, 3rd Brylee.

We had so many fabulous entries in this age group this year that we also awarded Highly Commended certificates to Indi, Lexxi and Sophie and a Special Mention certificate to Whyatt.

Aged up to 7: 1st Lylaa, 2nd Taylah, 3rd Ollie.

Cafe vouchers

Lucky winners of the local cafe vouchers were Sharny S (\$10 Motofinish Cafe Voucher) and Bill M (\$5 Motofinish Cafe Voucher).

All winners have now been notified and prizes have been delivered.

We would also like to those who filled out feedback forms on their Festival experience. All of the feedback was positive and there were some great ideas for us to consider for next year.

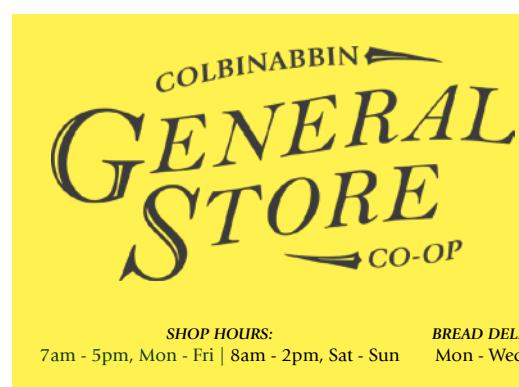
We are always looking for volunteers so, if you would like to have a say in how the festival is run in future, please consider joining us. Contact phone number is 0459 520 843 (Peter).

*Lyn Reade
Rushworth Easter Heritage
Festival Committee*

Harrop-Hawking Golden Wedding



You may have read in our Fifty Years Ago column about the wedding of Rosalie Hawking of Rushworth to Brian Harrap of Mooroopna in May 1975. We thought that this classy wedding party photo deserved some more space than we could fit on that page. With the bride and groom are their attendants Pat Mahoney, Allan Prater, Leayne Hawking, Janet Hawking and Gail Wootton.



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Marvellous open day at Day's Mill

As usual the annual open day on Mother's Day this year did not disappoint. Lovely weather brought out the crowds and there was much to see and enjoy.

It is a very special place; the best example of a 19th century flour mill and period home where it seems, time has stood still. So much remains from the thriving farm complex started in 1865 that you can't help feeling a strong connection to years gone by.

These two little girls, Scarlett and Lillith are junior members of the Murchison and District Historical Society, and dressed in period costume they added to the atmosphere of stepping back in time. It seems appropriate that they are looking through the window of the gatehouse, as a visit to this property is like looking down the years and having a view of life in another era.

The Society had a stall on the day to promote the wonderful history of the district and to have history books and souvenirs available for purchase. We met many interested people keen to know more about the local history and learn details about the intriguing story of Day's Mill.



Scarlett and Lillith looking back in time.

We're bursting at the seams!

Apologies to contributors who haven't seen their news in this edition. But never fear - it's in the Future Files so watch out for it in two weeks time.



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Tiny Towns funding for Murchison Community Garden

Murchison Neighbourhood House has received Tiny Towns funding of \$5,000 for improvements to their new community garden.



The official opening of the Community Garden was recently celebrated with a scrumptious morning tea!

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NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.

Hello all

By the time this goes to print you have only TWO days to take advantage of our big sale with summer clothing \$5 a bag. This is a great opportunity to buy some things ready for next summer, put them away for a few months and then, wow, it's like Christmas getting them all out again. After this Saturday prices will go back to normal and winter stock will be out on the shelves. I have to say there are some great winter clothes waiting to go on the racks – jackets, jumpers, boots, etc.

The other thing we have lots of for winter nights are games and puzzles. Let's face it, on TV lately it's mainly doom and gloom so take a family friendly mental health night, turn off the TV and have a good argumentative game of monopoly or scrabble. We have plenty of games suitable for younger children as well. If you live by yourself put on your favourite music (we have HEAPS of CDs to buy) and challenge yourself with a puzzle while sipping wine and eating chocolate!

We have had two new volunteers turn up this fortnight, which is great. I haven't managed to find out much about them yet (but I will!) but I did manage to get a photo of Kath and I think she said she had been in Rushworth for about five years. Lauren is the other volunteer, who sounds like she will fit right in, and I will try and get a photo of her for next time. So a warm welcome to you both.



Welcome to new volunteer Kath.

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

At the Foodbank things are running smoothly, thanks to Christine and our volunteers there. Their lovely garden has been planted with some winter veggies and they are very excited by the way the garlic is springing up.

The Green Shed is full to bursting with a great variety of things. There is a red leather suite of a two seater and a three seater couch with a matching foot stool. A number of other couches are there as well. A plastic playpen in bright primary colours and various strollers for children. Heaps of electrical appliances for the kitchen and home, lots of prints and paintings, some chairs and stools to assist older people and also a number of bikes so you can enjoy our new rail trail. It's very exciting the number of people it has brought into town.

Back in the Op Shop I took a photo of a charming cuckoo clock. It does need a pendulum apparently but if there is anyone out there who likes to repair clocks this would be a great addition to your collection. Also we have two adult onesies. (is that how you spell them? onesie, onesy, 1sie – take your choice!) That lovely piece of clothing designed for cold nights and usually in an amusing form. But I do have a problem with them as you will see by my poem this fortnight. But the Eyore onesie really does need a loving home. The other onesie is a unicorn – there you are, could be a his and hers opportunity!

Anyway, enough waffling on from me. Stay safe and may you have a full belly and a happy smile until next time.

Heather Wellington



Versatile playpen.

The Onesie

There's a onesie in the Op Shop that I'd really like to wear,
It isn't like a rabbit and it isn't like a bear.

It's a sad looking donkey and Eyore is his name

He's in a story book of Christopher Robin fame.

His eyes they are so mournful, his ears droop down so sad,
But his body's warm and furry so he's really not so bad.

Now a onesie is a problem 'cos it hasn't got a flap

And getting in and out of the thing is really quite a knack.

Onesies are for cold, dark nights to make you warm and cosy

To make you feel all toasty from your head down to your toesies.

But Oh! The fuss you have to have when going to the loo

The arms come out, the top comes down, then more comes into view!!

Your back gets cold, your fingers freeze and other parts as well.

I'm not going to specify, that's not for me to tell.

And when you are a senior and you don't move so fast

The warmth you had originally isn't going to last.

So I'll leave this lovely onesie for someone much more nimble

And put on my old dressing gown, which really is more simple!

Heather



Cuckoo clock just needs pendulum.



Colbo Tit Bits

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

A Cornellia Care Cuppa for Cancer research fund-raiser

Cornella Care hosted a Cuppa for Cancer and raised \$745 for cancer research. Some of those who enjoyed morning tea: Back row (L-R) Marge West, Judy Phelan, Leonie Lewington, Maxine Ryan, Maree Stewart, Cate Fraser, Pauline Wilson and John Avard. Seated (L-R) Milly and Robert Perry, Clem Furphy, Mick Clayton, Glen Avard, Cate Furphy and Sandra Clayton.

Colbo Diary

Coffee and Cake - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 10.15am @CCH
 Colbo Community Shed - Thursdays BYO BBQ lunch
 Colbo Pub Choir - 5pm Tuesdays at CCH
 New Parents' Group - 1st & 3rd Thursdays 9am @CCH
MAY
 Sat 14 Ladies Day - Colbo Pub dinner
SEPTEMBER
 Sat 13 Grand final



Gathering to perform the Great Rain Dance at Colbo

'Twas a cold Friday night, but they came in their dozens to the Colbo Pub to join in the Great Rain Dance. Well, we had to try something! There was much laughter and banging of drums, words of wisdom from Brian and Cynthia, and best of all a real sense of community. Those who work the land are looking very worried these days, so this was a little light relief which hopefully works! The highlight was DA BOYZ DANCE CREW who just totally ran with it, onya fellas!



Gathering . . . ready!

Da Boyz Dance Crew really get into the swing of their rain dance.

Stand with our regional community - sign the petition

A petition has been launched calling on the Victorian Government to formally recognise drought conditions in North-East Victoria and to provide urgently needed support to local farmers.

The petition calls for:

- A formal drought declaration for North-East Victoria - including Mitchell, Strathbogie, Benalla, Campaspe, Greater Bendigo, Greater Shepparton, Alpine, Mansfield, and Wangaratta local government areas.

• Immediate inclusion in all relevant drought assistance programs.

Being eligible for drought support would also allow farmers to access desperately needed rebates of Labor's new Emergency Services Tax. The impact on CFA volunteers has been devastating - with hundreds of brigades going offline in protest.

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/drought-in-north-east-victoria>



Beat out that rhythm on the drums!

FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

June 1 Matt Ryan, Marty Borger
 June 8 Ray McEvoy, Pat Tuohey
 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.

31 MAY
Colbinabbin v White Hills
Mount Pleasant v Huntly
Heathcote v North Bendigo
LBU v Elmore
BYE - Leitch-Gun

7 JUNE	BIRTHDAY
Huntly v Colbinabbin	
White Hills v Heathcote	
North Bendigo v LBU	
Elmore v Leitch-Gun	
BYE - Mount Pleasant	

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



Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

Phone (03) 5856 1295

Email:

admin@rushcomhouse.org.au

Website:

www.rushcomhouse.org.au

Facebook:

Rushworth Community-House

Office Hours:

Mon, Tues Thurs : 9.00am to 3.00pm

Wed, Fri : 9.00am to 1.00pm

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Neighbourhood House Week events popular

Last week was Neighbourhood House Week across Australia, and Rushworth Community House hosted a morning tea and a Weaving Class to celebrate the event.

Popular personality Tony Ford conducted the weaving class, which showed participants key stages in the creation of woven articles.

The finished products included drink coasters, which class members can replicate at home to create their own unique sets.



Our new kitchen nearly finished

Rushworth plumber Red Weston recently visited the Community House to connect water and gas lines with their respective appliances in our new kitchen.

While he was there, Red (*photo right*) unofficially became the first person to use the House's new kitchen for food preparation purposes, grilling toasted sandwiches in a sandwich press on one of the new benchtops.

After a complete tear-down and total refit due to termite damage discovered late last year, the kitchen is finally nearing completion.

Local cabinet maker Peter Knobel (*below*) is putting the final touches on his latest masterpiece, and an official opening is expected during June. Keep an eye out for your invitation.



Fun board games each Tuesday morning

Board games have been popular for thousands of years - literally! The first known board game was "Senet", which was played in ancient Egypt as early as 3500BCE - five and a half thousand years ago.

Over the winter months, the Community House will be hosting board games each Tuesday morning starting at 10am.

So if you're feeling a bit bored, call in to the House and get on board!



Join us at Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is a national campaign that helps fund the Cancer Council's life-saving research, prevention, support programs and information.

This year, the Community House is holding a **Biggest Morning Tea** on Tuesday, 24 June starting at 10.00am. Please come along, bring a plate, bring a friend and make a donation to a very worthwhile cause.

Every dollar raised goes to the Cancer Council and supports its important work.

Help with housing and 'My Aged Care' advice

Members of the Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) are visiting Rushworth each fortnight to help people find local affordable accommodation and give them advice about the Australian Government's *My Aged Care* program.

If you need such assistance or advice, please call the Community House on 58561295 to book an appointment. The service is free and fully confidential.

Active Living Census drop-in session at RCH

On Tuesday, 17 June, Campaspe Shire is holding a free morning tea and information session about the *Active Living Census*.

The census is an important community survey that asks about participation in physical activity, fruit and vegetable consumption and barriers to being healthy and active.

The session starts at 10.00am and will run for about an hour.

This is a great opportunity to share your ideas and experiences about lifestyles and the way they can affect your health, now and into the future.



Arts & Tourism

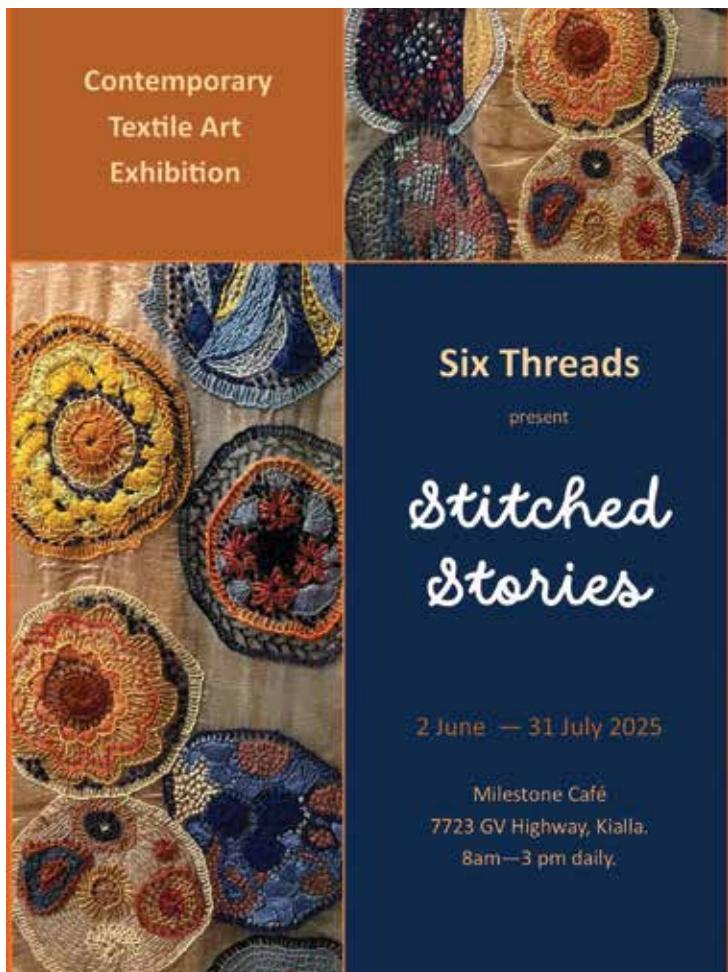
Places to stay, things to do and see in our district

Lighthouse Project exhibition concluding



Following the article in last edition Waranga News volunteer Gillian popped into the Milestone Cafe at Emerald Bank Shepparton this week to see the great work on display by the Lighthouse Project and was given a guided tour by project manager Sarah Pain.

This artwork was created using wool on canvas. The team created organic shapes to depict the scene of a busy little bee collecting some of her favourite things. This piece is part of Lighthouses Be Kind Project in memory of colleague and friend Isabella Ainsworth.



Stitched Stories by Six Threads

The next exhibition to be seen at the Milestone Cafe and Bistro at Emerald Bank in Shepparton will be a textile display by "Six Threads" a group of textile artists who meet weekly to pursue their love of creating art with fabric and thread.

The exhibition is a sample of their work. Each piece demonstrates the unique vision of the artist, inviting you to explore the interplay of materials woven together.

The group includes Val Callister, Wendy Cooke, Barb Gray, Dianne Hanna, Jan Laidlaw and Gillian Schoenborn.

They have exhibited over the years in the annual Shepparton Textile Artists' exhibition and have chosen some of their best work for this exhibition which will be on display for the months of June and July.



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.

This page is proudly sponsored by:



Cooks Corner

Not a recipe

I was born in Albury to a Eurasian mother and a mostly Chinese father, with a touch of Irish. According to Ancestry.com, I'm almost 60% southern Chinese.

For as long as my mother was the cook in our household, we ate quite 'Australian' meals (roasts, stews etc) but at some stage in my early teens, my father took over the cooking and we suddenly were eating more Asian-inspired food.

My Dad loved cooking and because he worked mostly with Chinese men (who all loved cooking), they must've spent a lot of time talking about what they, too, cooked at home. The result was Dad would come home from work with new recipes to try out.

My Dad's sister married a dinky-di Chinese man who did all the cooking at their house where the family liked to gather for meals, so I was exposed to some delicious cooking.

We would quite often gather as an extended family for a meal in one of Little Bourke Street's Chinese cafés where my uncle would have a long, loud discussion with the waiter and none of us would know what may be served up to us.

I do recall pestering Uncle as to what was in one of the dishes served one night but he was reluctant to tell me and urged me to try some . . . it was 'interesting' bits stewed together, he said. I could distinguish chicken feet and what looked like my Nan's pet galah's tongue and I could not bring myself to try some. I'm not a vegetarian, but I think I would become one if any of the meat I had to eat looked like any part of an animal I loved!

Anyway, the point of this story is to tell you that being immersed in such a Chinese-centric family, I was brought up being rather snobbish about what some people would serve up as being Chinese food. And one thing I remember was my family would tend to scoff at any Chinese restaurant or café that included carrots in their stir-fries. . . and I still can't quite bring myself to use carrots when I'm cooking an Asian-inspired dish. We would also look down our noses at

any genuine Chinese person using frozen or tinned vegetables in a stir fry.

But all this might be changing. I've discovered how easy, waste-free and delicious frozen veggies are. Don't thaw them - just stir fry them, straight from the freezer in a very hot wok with a tblspn of peanut oil (plus a hint of garlic and/or ginger).

Glen



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. In this issue it's mostly stains and kitchen/laundry issues. 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!

*** Kitchen woes with spilling liquid when pouring from one container to another?**

- Get yourself a long thin wooden bamboo stick with a pointy end, hold this on the top of the receiving container - pointing down into the jar (but do not submerge it - hold it just above any liquid in the receiving jar/bottle). Hold the open end of the pouring liquid and gently pour the liquid to transfer while holding the neck of the bottle against the bamboo stick. The pouring liquid will touch the bamboo stick and travel DOWN the bamboo stick into your receiving receptacle - and not everywhere around the neck of the bottle!

*** Rusty stains in the bath - an unsightly problem** - depending on how long the rust stains have been there - but you could try rubbing the stains with a cloth dipped in white vinegar! Rinse with clear running water and dry with a clean cloth.

*** Badly stained toilet bowls** - can be cleaned without too much problem - make a thin paste of bicarbonate of soda and white vinegar and scrub really well. Flush the toilet when finished.

*** General laundry snippet one-liners: treat stains as soon as physically possible**

- because the longer they are there - the harder they will be to remove; Only use the necessary amount of laundry powder/liquid, as too much 'bubbles' can hinder the cleaning process. Don't use overly hot water - it's just wasted, as cold or lukewarm water will clean your clothes just as well.

*** New tea towels need washing before using** - just soak them in cold water with a handful of Epson salts, and that will remove the manufacturing dressing, and then you will find they are nice, soft, and absorbent.

Garden Hints & Tips

Colours of autumn

As we say goodbye to autumn and welcome a (hopefully) wet winter I start to see my garden in a different way. The autumn colour has been a beautiful sight, but once the leaves have fallen, some plants have another layer of interest. In most cases we choose certain plants for the garden because of the colour they provide with their flowers. However, some plants still provide great interest, even after their flowers and/or leaves have gone. A popular tree seen in many gardens is the crepe myrtle, valued for its show of summer flowers and beautiful autumn foliage. But during winter it shows off its beautiful bark which improves as the tree matures.

The same can be said for the *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica' (red stemmed dogwood), a show of green with red stems in winter providing wonderful colour especially when planted en masse. Other such plants are hydrangeas and *Sedum Autumn Joy* which also provide great interest with their dry flower heads, long after the main flowering time.

Also many of the old-fashioned roses will provide a great interest after flowering with a

display of bright coloured hips. My favourite though would be a *Betula nigra* (river birch) a very handsome tree (and more dry tolerant than silver birch). As it matures the bark starts



to peel showing layers of the salmon pink, brown and white which becomes more apparent when the tree is bare. I have only touched on a few plants that provide winter interest. I'm sure if you have a wander around your garden as well as others in the neighbourhood you will discover the beauty of winter in the garden.

RY



Health and Wellbeing

Let's have A Real Conversation

By Warren Davies — The Unbreakable Farmer

Not too TUF to speak up

June is Men's Health Month, a great reminder to check in on our physical wellbeing. But you know, good mental health doesn't follow a calendar. It affects us every day, and for many blokes, especially in rural Australia, the hardest part is speaking up. Mental health doesn't take a break. It doesn't care how tough you are, how old you are, or where you live. And right now, men across the country especially in rural and regional Australia are struggling in silence. It's a battle I know well because I've been one of them.

When I lost the farm, I lost more than land. I lost my identity. I lost direction. I felt broken and alone, a failure — like I was letting everyone down. I stayed silent because I thought I had to be tough. I thought it meant pushing through, keeping busy, and never letting anyone see the cracks. I didn't know how to talk about it. I didn't even know if I could talk about it. That silence nearly broke me.

The truth is real strength lies in reaching out. It takes guts to admit you're not okay. The real strength is not staying silent. Real strength is speaking up, even when your voice shakes. It's reaching out to a mate when you're not coping. It's asking the hard questions. It's admitting that you're not okay and giving yourself permission to get help.

Because here's the truth: on average, men are dying six years younger than women. And many of those deaths are preventable. We're talking heart disease, suicide, addiction, and mental illness that's gone untreated for far too long. And it doesn't have to be that way. We can change this if we stop suffering in silence.

And that's why I'm here, asking you to join me this Men's Health Month to help smash the stigma. We can change the story. But it starts with connection.

You don't have to do it alone

If you're struggling, build a support network. Surround yourself with people who will listen and stand by you. Not just drinking

buddies or footy mates but real people you trust. The kind who checks in, who notice when something's not quite right, who'll sit with you when the wheels fall off. That might be family, friends, colleagues, neighbours or professionals. What matters most is that someone's got your back and that you know you're worth being looked out for.

Back each other in

It takes courage to ask a mate how they're really going. Just as much as it does to ask for help yourself. This month and every month, let's drop the mask, have the real chat and back each other in. Worried about a mate? Speak up: "I haven't seen you around much — what's been going on?" Or: "There's been a lot happening — how are you really coping?" Or: "You've seemed a bit off lately — are you doing okay?"

You don't need to have all the answers — just a bit of courage and a listening ear. You don't need to fix it — just be there. Sometimes that one conversation can change everything.

Why do we need these networks? Because they remind us we matter. Because they keep us grounded. Because they stop us from going it alone. Because they help carry the load when it gets too heavy. Because none of us should be doing life solo. You're not too tough to speak up. None of us is. Let's look out for each other because the world needs us here.

June is Men's Health Month — Help spread the message, start the conversation.

Post a photo of yourself on Facebook doing something you love: fishing, farming, footy, whatever it is and use the hashtag #not2TUF2speakup. Let's flood our social media with reminders that no bloke has to do it alone. That it's okay to feel, to talk, to ask for help. Let's send the message loud and clear. There's nothing weak about looking after your mental health.

For more information contact: Warren Davies. www.theunbreakablefarmer.com.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheUnbreakableFarmer> #not2TUF2speakup, #gotyourbackmate

If you need help the following support services are available.

Support services:

- TIACS: <https://www.tacs.org> The Home of Blue Collar Counselling, the service that you tell your mates about. Call or text on 0488 846 988
- Lifeline: <https://www.lifeline.org.au> . Ph: 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au> Ph: 1300 22 46 36
- Rural Financial Services. <https://rfsnetwork.com.au> Ph: 1300 771 741
- Post Suicide <https://standbysupport.com.au> StandBy is Australia's leading suicide postvention program dedicated to assisting people and communities bereaved or impacted by suicide.
- Your local GP



Warren Davies The Unbreakable Farmer

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Rushworth students join Food and Fibre Careers Day celebration of 10th year milestone in Dookie

The Food and Fibre Careers Day is marking a major milestone in 2025 - celebrating its 10th year as a flagship event inspiring young people to pursue careers in agriculture, horticulture, AgTech and agribusiness.

This year's event, on Friday 30 May at 9.30 am, is set to be the biggest yet, with 450 students registered from across regional Victoria - from Wangaratta to Echuca and everywhere in between.

Hosted at the University of Melbourne's Historic Dookie Campus, nestled in the picturesque Dookie Hills, the event taps into more than a century of agricultural education and innovation. First established in 1886, the campus has been a cornerstone of agricultural learning in Australia.

Students from Rushworth P-12 College will join their peers from Cohuna Secondary College, Echuca College, St Joseph's College Echuca, Rochester Secondary College, and St Augustine's College Kyabram to attend this year's event, which is free for students and schools and targeted towards students who have an early interest in the agriculture, food and fibre industries.

This year's event has been reimagined introducing themed learning 'Hubs' that provide hands-on activities and workshops in small groups. These dynamic spaces offer students a chance to explore real world careers through immersive experiences. Hubs include:

- LegenDAIRY – Dive into the diverse world of dairy farming, from animal care to science and machinery.
- Plant VIBES – Explore plant sciences, hydroponics, fruit growing, and vineyard innovation.
- Farm2Lab – Discover how genetics and lab science are shaping the future of food and animal care.
- FutureFarm HQ – Engage with drones, satellite tech, and powerful AgTech machinery.
- #Livestockhustle – Get up close with sheep and cattle and learn about animal sciences.
- Hidden Careers – Explore niche roles like farriery, egg production, and other specialist careers.
- Farming 2040 – Step into the future with innovations in climate-resilient agriculture and space farming.

The event is supported by Gold Sponsor GOTAFE, linking further education and training available locally, and Rabobank, facilitating



The Wool Industry workshop is always very popular.

Event Date: Friday 30th May 2025
Time: 9:30am - 2:00pm
Location: Dookie Campus, University of Melbourne.

the popular careers panel where young people working in the sector share their experiences and career pathways with students.

Sally Bull, Rabobank State Manager, for Victoria and Tasmania, said:

'The local Rabobank team, with the Rabo Client Council, proudly supports the Food and Fibres Careers Day. This initiative is jointly sponsored by the Rabo Client Councils, a group of innovative clients dedicated to making a difference in their communities. And the bank is pleased to have clients and staff joining the panel discussion - sharing expertise on finance and agriculture. The Careers Day aligns with the Rabo Client Council's commitment to long-term industry capacity and education in



Students gain some practical experience during the viticulture workshop.

agriculture. Rabobank aims to ensure the long-term success of family farms, strengthening rural communities and enhancing local agricultural economies'.

The event is a collaborative initiative by NE Tracks LLEN (Local Learning and Employment Network), Goulburn Murray LLEN and Campaspe Cohuna LLEN, working together with Melbourne University and other partners to deliver record-breaking participation in 2025.

Proud Supporters:

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ON THE BRINK *by Neil Laurie*

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

Thylacines and de-extinction

Most readers will be familiar with the extinction of the thylacine, or Tasmanian tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*). Its range once extended over Papua and New Guinea, mainland Australia and Tasmania where it was an apex predator. It became extinct in PNG and mainland Australia around 3,500 years ago; probably due to the introduction of the dingo at about the same time. The thylacine continued on in Tasmania with a population of about 5,000 at the time of European settlement. It was soon held responsible for numerous attacks on sheep and the Tasmanian government placed a one pound bounty per head on thylacines (about half of the weekly average wage in 1900). Hunting, competition with wild dogs (introduced), disease and limited diversity all contributed to its decline and extinction. The last wild thylacine was shot in 1930 and the last captive thylacine died at the Hobart Zoo in 1936 from exposure after being locked out of its housing during freezing cold weather. There had been some contentious unsuccessful attempts to protect the thylacine. Too late, it finally gained full protection in 1936.

With well preserved specimens existing in museums the prospect of genetically engineering the thylacine back from extinction was seen to be possible, once gene manipulation techniques were developed. Recently a major step towards the resurrection of the thylacine was announced: a collaboration between Melbourne University and Colossal Biosciences (the same bio-tech firm that engineered the direwolves of two editions ago) has successfully mapped the complete DNA of the thylacine. The goal is to alter the DNA of the dunnart, a marsupial mouse that is the closest living relative of the thylacine, with key segments of thylacine DNA. If Colossal's version of the direwolf is any guide, these new thylacines will be something similar but not the same as the original thylacines. It is anticipated that living 'thylacines' will be produced in as little as eight years.

As it is hoped to introduce these new 'thylacines' into the wild, an in-depth feasibility is being carried out. It must be remembered that the wilderness of Tasmania is not what it was 150 years ago. Apex predators need large territories. A thylacine needs around 500 square kilometers. Taking habitat loss into account, the suitable remnant wilderness simply will not support many thylacines and some of those wilderness areas are crossed by roads and other infrastructure. Wild dogs and disease are also still present. Getting thylacines back into the wild will not be easy. Presumably the legislation of 1936 protecting the thylacine is still in place and the one pound bounty is no longer offered!



Birds of a Feather

During the winter months the Rushworth cemetery can be a sea of flowers. Most of these flowers are from a small ground hugging species of oxalis with white flowers although there are patches of pink flowers of various shades. At this time of year the plants are about to bloom and will make a spectacular showing if we get some rain. This species of oxalis has bulbs just below the surface which are small round balls about 1cm in diameter. The oxalis has spread over much of the cemetery grounds but as well as attracting human admirers it has also attracted sulphur-crested cockatoos.

The sulphur-crested cockatoo is well known for its destructive activities, attacking soft wood on buildings, feeding on the seed of crops, and breaking off small branches of trees. The cockies feed in large flocks, particularly on roots of grasses where they always have a guard in a nearby tree to warn the rest of the mob of impending danger. Now a mob of about forty birds has decided that the oxalis bulbs in the Rushworth cemetery are an excellent source of food with these drought conditions. In the past few weeks they have been probing the ground with their beaks, finding the bulbs, and, as is usual for cockies, feeding on the bulbs while holding them in their left foot.

While we may admire these cockatoos, or perhaps be put off by their raucous screech, we now have serious destruction of the oxalis bulbs in our cemetery. There are large areas where the birds have dug up all the bulbs as well as small patches throughout the grounds. When it rains in the next little while, the flowers will come out and we will get a graphic view of the scale of the destruction.

Many methods have been tried to scare off cockatoos, most of which are ineffective or take a lot of labour so there is no easy answer. However if people visit the cemetery and see a flock of cockatoos please try to scare them away and allow the plants a little respite.

The Rushy Birder



Cockies eating their way through the bulbs at the cemetery



Fifty years ago in our district....

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



Trouble brewing at Waranga Memorial Hospital

New doctor Dr Tai, Matron Cole and members of the committee were in disagreement as to which patients could be admitted to Waranga Memorial Hospital. At issue were public patients not covered by a medical benefits' scheme and whether an honorary medical practitioner was available to treat them. It was developing into a very heated dispute, the doctor calling on the committee to sack the matron. Watch this space.

The push for Stanhope to have its Health Centre stepped up via a second public meeting, as a steering committee chaired by Phil Trist had advanced the project. \$80,000 was the estimate, with plans on display at the State Savings Bank branch.

Shire of Waranga

Council submitted a bid for a State Government grant to complete repairs to headstones in the Whroo cemetery, which was then a Shire responsibility. A letter of complaint had been submitted by visitor Mrs M Stone of Canada.

Crime

Six months in gaol faced a Rushworth man following conviction for assault of his 75-year-old stepmother. The man's long list of priors had included nine for assault, so six months was terribly soft by Magistrate Duggan.

Community

Not content with an Apex Club serving Rushworth and Colbinabbin since 1969, a Rushworth Lions Club was formed. (Stanhope already had both Apex and Lions.) Foundation Lions President Geoff Durston was in the grainy photo taken at a dinner in the Shire Hall, with Herb Barlow (snr.), Ray Hilder, Craig Robbins, Doug Poulson, Ron Risstrom, Stewart Nurse, Mario Fortuna, Ray Cheatley, Alan R Jackson, Brian Wallace, Graeme Bolden, Charlie Caygill and Tom Harrop.

District Guides Commissioner Mrs H Bertram was busy attending Guide meetings at Murchison and Rushworth. At the former, office-bearers were Mrs B Brisbane, Mrs A Musso, Mrs E Thomson and Mrs A Brown, while Mesdames Florence Perry, Joyce Robbins, Chris Wootton, Heather Hawking and Mrs K Bates were elected at Rushworth.

Stanhope Catholic Ladies Club President Mrs Finnigan commended members Flo Ryan and Joyce Dodd for presenting wreaths back on Anzac Day.

A football social club barbecue and dance was set for the barn of Bill Raglus at Moora, tickets \$5 a double.

Schools

Excitement was building in Rushworth Preps and Grade 1. An incubator was on loan and six eggs had been included, with children marking days on a chart until chicken hatching day. Teacher Mr Bianco was preparing to 'marry Robyn on Saturday'. (I note Rushworth had the bye in the football!)

Grade 3 and 4 composite had the excitement of changing desk partners for the new term. Welcomed to the class was Wendy Jones from Benalla (now Wendy Pearce of Deniliquin, I suspect).

Grades 5 and 6 were watching the ABC education program 'Behind the News' and were keen to try to make kites after viewing one episode.

Business

Painter and wallpaper man, Aub Geisler, encouraged people not to delay their decorating until Christmas. Building and painting services were offered at Colbinabbin by Barry Duke.

Personal

Celebrations for Rhonda Sullivan's 21st birthday were held in Brisbane, as her mother and brothers, John and Brian, drove from Rushworth for the party. Robert Wall of Rushworth flew to Brisbane to join in.

Well-known Wanalta grazier Oren Brown, 73, was found dead at his home. He had attended football at Colbinabbin on Saturday, had not answered his phone on the Sunday, and was found by cousin Frank Brown on the Monday evening. He was buried at Rushworth, and left a sister, Mrs Tom Spears of Bendigo.

Eric Hitchcock, father of Gordon, Ray, Cliff, Cobb, Harry and Jean, died at Mooroopna.

Football

Rushworth sneaked home by four points, 14-12 to 14-8 over Heathcote after being 1-0 to 5-3 down at quarter time. Tall full-back John McGillivray, with a novel kicking style, had returned for Heathcote after missing several seasons. Tiger coach Mick O'Sullivan starred with six majors, Kevin Mitchell six for the Saints. Lambden, Mackinder, W Barlow, R Williams, Horne and the other Alan McLean were named as best. Rushworth was in top place on the ladder.

Rushworth Seconds copped a spray. 'Several players appeared to have no desire to get the ball.' Heathcote 8-6, Rushworth 5-8, in the Tigers' first loss for the season. Bill Cooper was named best player. Rushworth

Under-16s beat Heathcote by one point.

Murchison footballers broke six years of losses to Tallygaroopna by winning 11-11 to 7-14 as John Orr booted four goals, Eddie Lee given as best. The following Saturday Murch went five goals down to Nagambie by quarter time, never recovering to finish 6-11 to the Lakers 10-16. K Delahey, B Sloper, R Normington, G Bell, G Wall, R Hammond and L Pinner got their names in the paper.

Other sport

The Homing Pigeon Club had an awards night in the fire station, with life membership presented to Mr and Mrs Tom Simpson for long and outstanding contributions. Tom also received a prize for his pigeon's win in a sprint race from Tabilk. Craig Beck's birds had won races from Craigieburn and Werribee.

Advancing to the second round of the Cosgrove Cup at Rushworth golf course were Ray Cheatley and Norm Geisler, John Borger - Max Richards, Les Muir - Alan Curnick, Peter Home - Rob Draper, Reg McIntosh - Graham Spence, Doug Poulson - Ron Risstrom, John Williams - Gordon Raglus, and Bill Cruz - Les Hoyling.

Terry Cogan won an A-grade event on handicap, while Graham Spence completed his eighteen holes with 72 off the stick.

Not to be outdone, Maree Cogan did well in Associates golf, as did Amy McIntosh, Doris Barlow and Lucy Barlow.

Most discussion time at Rushworth Bowls Club AGM was about the appointment of the selection committee for both pennant teams, with the possibility of a third team for season 1975-1976. The thankless task went to Jack Pettifer, Geoff Beck, Jim Service, Dick Duke and John Aitken.

"We pride ourselves on good old fashioned service"



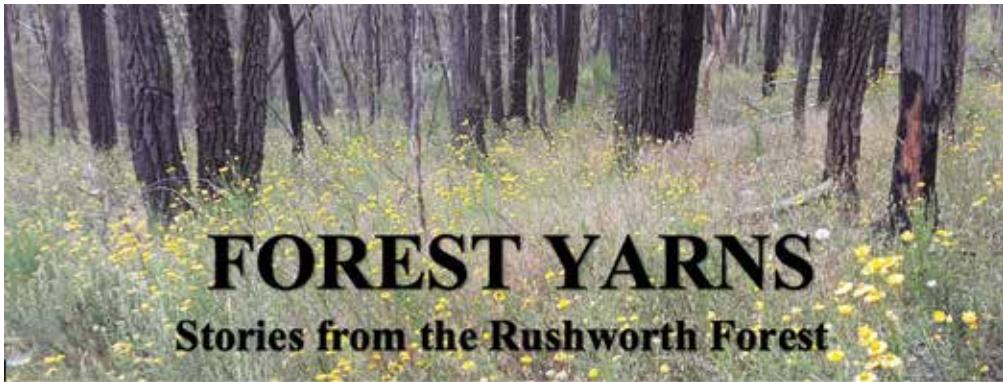
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FOREST YARNS

Stories from the Rushworth Forest

William Skate's wood mill

The Skate family had a long connection with Rushworth, dating back to the gold rush years. Perhaps the best-known members of the family were John Skate and his wife Anne (née Clayton) who set up and ran the Excelsior Coffee Palace. The building, now a private residence, is still standing in Murchison Road. Back in the day it provided meals and accommodation (but no alcohol) for travellers to Rushworth.

The Skates had nine children, the second of whom was William John Clayton Skate, who was born at Carlsruhe, near Kyneton. When the family moved north to Runnymede then Colbinabbin, they were engaged in farming before settling in Rushworth to pursue other business interests. William was the builder of the coffee palace. One of the other family businesses was a wood mill at the station.¹

Site at the railway station

The mill was sited at the Rushworth Railway Station, run by John and William Skate. William was the nominal ratepayer for the site from 1897 until at least 1904.² In those days, it was the occupier who paid the council rates, rather than the owner of the property.

The enterprise employed forty people¹, which would have included those at the mill itself as well as men out in the forest, cutting and transporting timber to the mill.

Marriage and children

In 1888, William married Harriet Melgaard. They were to have terrible luck, in that their first child died as an infant. Their second survived, but Harriet died from complications when she delivered her third child in late 1892. That child subsequently died a few months later.

William was probably bereft as he threw himself into the construction of the coffee palace in 1893. Soon afterwards, he would gain some solace from his second marriage in 1895, this time to Georgina Muller. The pair produced ten children over the next twelve years, nearly all born in Rushworth. During this period, William was busy developing and running his firewood milling business at the station.

Accident

To complicate matters for the family, William had a serious accident in 1901. He was driving a traction engine down near Kyneton and had almost reached that town when he stopped to make some adjustments to his machine. He must not have engaged the brake while he did so, and the traction engine moved unexpectedly and ran over his leg, crushing the lower right leg and foot. He survived, but the leg had to be amputated near the knee.

Clearly, the injury did not mean that he was unable to continue fathering children or working in the business. In December 1902, he was called as a witness in a civil court case between Dhurringile Estate Co Pty Ltd and Thomas Harriman. William was engaged as the carter of timber to the Rushworth mill and was using his traction engine to do so.³

Move to Barham

After their ninth child was born in Rushworth in 1906, William and Georgina packed up their large family and moved to a farm 25km north of Barham. Soon after they moved there, their tenth child was born at Moulamein in February 1907. Tragically, William's life ended a few months later when he committed suicide, 'while in a state of temporary insanity'.⁴

Georgina married again, in 1908, and



Southern Autumn Greenhood (*Pterostylis ampliata*)

perhaps unsurprisingly, had three more children with her second husband, George Mapleback. It is hard to get your head around, but George already had four children from his first marriage. His first wife and fifth child had died in 1906. So, George and Georgina were responsible for a huge tribe of children and stepchildren.

The eldest son from George's first marriage, also George, was later killed in the first world war. In 1917, trees were planted along the fence line between the Rushworth school and the cemetery in commemoration of men who had already died or been killed while on service. One of them was planted for George Jr. His father also enlisted and served overseas. This was perhaps a surprising decision considering the size of the family that he was leaving behind. He was away for over two years while Georgina somehow managed the family. As well as her stepson George Jr, her brother John was also killed on the Western Front.

References: 1 Bons, Tracy, *Rushworth Businesses & Their Owners*, Vol 11 (Tracey Bons, 2021) pp 27-9; 2 Cerchi, Samantha, *summary from Waranga Shire rate books 1891-1904*; 3 *Shepparton Advertiser* 9.12.1902; 4 Coronial Inquest at Deniliquin 2.7.1907

Forest nature note

We usually think of orchids in the forest in springtime, but the Southern Autumn Greenhood (*Pterostylis ampliata*) flowers at this time of year. Given that it has been such a dry year so far, you would expect that they would be hard to find at the moment. The flowers are predominantly green and white striped, with a brownish tinge.

A Name from the Past Youngster John "Jackie" Ryan buried at Colbinabbin

Over a century ago, small children were at risk of fatal outcomes from a range of illnesses which are routinely treated, or vaccinated against today. Such was the case for John Ryan, who died of croup at Wanalta, as reported in the Rushworth Chronicle of 4 August, 1911.

"The death occurred on Sunday morning last, 30th ult., [July], of 'Jackie' Ryan, three years of age, and youngest son of Mr and Mrs Phil Ryan, of Wanalta."

The little fellow was apparently in good

health, but at midnight developed symptoms of a very severe form of croup, and in spite of all that his parents could do to relieve his sufferings, collapsed during one of the spasms in his mother's arms at about half-past three.

The post mortem examination made by Dr Christie revealed that death was due to membranous laryngitis.

Much sympathy is expressed throughout the district for Mr and Mrs Ryan in their sad and sudden bereavement.

The remains were interred in the Colbinabbin cemetery, Mr M Ryan officiating, and the funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr Anderson of Rushworth."

Perhaps the local priest was not available to conduct the funeral, and it is also not known whether the Mr M Ryan speaking at the burial was a relative of the little boy.

Alan McLean

Waranga Rail Trail officially opens

A traditional Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony commenced proceedings on a sunny Saturday morning in Rushworth when the long-awaited Waranga Trail was officially declared open.

During the official part of the proceedings Campaspe Mayor Daniel Mackrell welcomed the large crowd including Member for Euroa Annabelle Cleland, Campaspe Shire Councillor Adrian Weston who presented a short history of the project, Crs Luke Sharrock and John Zobec, Council staff, Greater Shepparton City Councillors Kieron Eddy and Fern Summer, current Waranga Rail Trail project manager Paul Arthurson, and past Campaspe Shire Council employee Shane Stacey who as the original project manager, was instrumental in getting the Waranga Rail Trail project off the ground.



Mutual congratulations: Campaspe Shire Council's current Waranga Rail Trail project manager Paul Arthurson with former Council employee and original project manager Shane Stacey.



Also present to help celebrate the trail's opening was a large contingent of cyclists from Friends of the Bendigo-Kilmore Rail and Castlemaine - Maryborough Rail Trail.



Participants walk through the cleansing smoke as they are welcomed to country.



Waiting and ready for the long-anticipated ride from Rushworth to Murchison.

A significant milestone for tourism and outdoor recreation in the region

Campaspe Mayor Daniel Mackrell said the official opening of the completed Waranga Rail Trail was a special day for the shire and for those who had lobbied over many years in support of the project. He said with the linking of two towns, the Waranga Rail Trail created a seamless path for outdoor enthusiasts to explore while also generating wider exposure for local businesses.

"This trail not only fosters healthier lifestyles and promotes eco-friendly tourism, drawing visitors from near and far to explore the region – it also offers a boost to local businesses through increased foot traffic," Cr Mackrell said.



Ready to roll: Cyclists wait to lead the way before taking off on the much anticipated Rail Trail.



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

St Mary's joins in National reading event

This week students at St Mary's celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime 2025, an event held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA).

Each year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in schools, libraries, bookshops and many other settings around the country.

This year the students read 'The Truck Cat' a story about the meaning of home. Grades 3/4 participated in an activity after reading the book focused on 'what is home to me?'

There were some great pieces including footy ovals, bedrooms, swimming pools, loungerooms and fishing. The most important meaning of home was discussed, with the

conclusion "home is where our family and friends are".

National Simultaneous Storytime is a fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy, using an Australian children's book that explores age-appropriate themes, and addresses key learning areas of the National Curriculum for Foundation to Year 6.

Creative art activities around the school



In Art the school has been looking at print making. The grade 3/4 students have created some banksia flowers by carving into a bit of styrofoam and printing it onto paper.



Noah (above) and Ollie (below) hard at work on their creations.

The F/1/2 class have been making art pieces using everyday objects such as milk bottle caps, fruit and veg to print onto their pieces.



Everyone is very excited to see progress on the basketball court upgrade! Preparations are complete and all is ready for the big pour (scheduled for last weekend).

Amara, Jaida and Indi in making mode.

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

Cluster Annual Winter Sports at Colbinabbin School

The Cluster Annual Winter Sports was held at Colbo recreation reserve for grades 3 up. It included children from Elmore Primary, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Elmore, Goornong, Naneella Estate, Raywood and Colbo.

The children choose which sport they want to participate in - either football, netball or soccer.

They do some skills training and basics before playing a match.

A team of netballers and footballers were chosen from this day to go on to represent the cluster against other schools.

Last week these students represented the School in the District Cross Country held at Moama.

(They had all finished in the top three in the Cluster Cross Country).

Vinnie, Chloe, Isabelle, Pippa, Holly and Ivy came in the top twelve and will go on to Divisional Cross Country which is held in St Arnaud Arnold on Tuesday. We wish them luck!!

(Top right) Fraser Weppner, Angus McEvoy, Lorelai Wilkinson, Ethan Johnson, Vinnie Ryan, Corban Safstrom, Ivy Borger, Pippa Knight, Isabelle Hill and Holly Walsh in front Lola Borger and Chloe Safstrom.

(Right) The soccer team



Conservationists in the making at Rushworth Kinder

On Thursday 15 May the children from the Rushworth Kinder went on an excursion to the Rushworth Field and Game Club to learn about conservation.

On recent outings out and about in our community the children had noticed and asked a lot of questions about the boxes that they were seeing in the trees. After explaining to the children what the boxes were, educators set about planning a trip to the Field and Game Club to learn more about the boxes and find out how the children can help in conservation efforts.

The Field and Game set the children to work painting some nesting boxes for future use. The children took to the task with great enthusiasm. They had a great time painting the nesting boxes and are eager to get back and paint some more soon.

Following the children's experiences painting the nesting boxes the children were shown around the clubrooms and learned how the boxes work and how the animals get in there. The children also got to view the photos and videos that the club shared which they really loved. The children all think the sugar gliders are just the best.



Shiloh Long and Finn Storen getting ready to paint.

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

Careers Day Out helps planning for the future

Last week students headed to Shepparton for the day to investigate different career and job opportunities available for life after school. We checked out a variety of careers, advice, information and experiences in different pathways towards the future.

Exhibitors such as GOTAFE, Australian Defence Force, KFC, electricians, building and construction, nursing and universities and more all offered valuable advice and avenues in job aspects. We collected plenty of paperwork and gifts to help us explore any interests in the future.

*Michael and Phillip Fung
Year 12 VCE VM students*



(Left) Ella practised her tiling skills.
(Above) Millie tried her hand as a locksmith.

La Trobe University regional pathways program

Claire, Vanessa and a special appearance by Literacy Support Coordinator, Kenya showed students how to come up with an eight minute plan for preparing for English essays in this week's Regional Pathways meeting.

Students were excited to see what could be achieved in a mere eight minutes!

In this program La Trobe will visit with students once a fortnight for the whole year. They will workshop all sorts of study skills and ways to look after themselves while studying for VCE, as well as having access to supports like Kenya who is more than happy to give advice to students on their practice essays before they hand them to Year 12 English teacher Mr Cloake.

(Right) Year 11/12 students in the Regional Pathways Program with the Literacy Tutor, Kenya on the big screen.



Senior Winter Sports success for P-12 students

Rushworth P-12 students from Years 9-12 competed at the Intermediate/Senior Winter Sports day in Shepparton on 6 May.

Year 9/10 girls netball team played fantastically all day and came away with third place while our clay target shooting team had a brilliant day with Rachelle Rodwell, Haylee Marshall, Conor Finnigan and Will Patrick all coming away with medals.

A huge congratulations to the students for demonstrating our school values and representing the college proudly!

*Amanda Kelly
Sports Coordinator*



(Pictured right) The Year 9/10 girls had a successful day, coming third overall.

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

Youth Take Over Project – a VCE Vocational Major

Year 12 VCE VM students have been working with the Forest Fire Management (FFM) every Tuesday on a Youth Take Over event.

The project hopes to spread awareness about the FFM in the community, and the steps to manage forest fires.

The students have been taking part and learning about hazard and fuel reduction in state forests, keeping safe and being prepared for fires and prevention.

We have also been learning about vehicle safety and the kind of equipment used.

The project with FFM continues for another four weeks with on-site activities.

A finale will be held on 12 June to celebrate the collaboration, to which the community will be invited. More details to come...

Michael and Phillip Fung
Year 12 VCE VM students

(Right) Michael and Phillip Fung get to take a look in the tractor cabin whilst out in the forest.



(Above left) Liam S and Jack P check they have set up the road signs correctly.

(Above) Liam S looking over the instructions for the day's exercise.

(Left) the Take over team prepare to set up for some road grading in the Rushworth Forest.

National Careers Week photos in next edition of the Waranga News!

Christine ordained at St Peter's Anglican Church, Elmore

Christine McWilliams was ordained to the order of priest at St Peter's Anglican Church, in Elmore on Saturday 24 May 2025.

The service was led by The Right Reverend Dr Matt Brain, Bishop of Bendigo. Attending the service were many clergy from the Diocese of Bendigo, family and friends, members of the Parish of Elmore, and community members whom Christine has encountered since she first answered her call in the Parish.

The service had an impromptu acapella moment (a song sung without musical accompaniment) due to a technical glitch at the third verse! But wonderfully, the congregation raised their voices and sang on.

The Bishop Brain and the priests laid hands on Christine praying that the Holy Spirit confer upon her the authority to serve in the capacity of priest. She was then presented with the Bible of the church and was vested as priest.

After the Holy Communion, Christine led the final blessing of the morning with a sense of joy and exaltation.

Refreshments were then shared and enjoyed as many stayed on to gather in the Parish Centre following the service.

It is Christine's longing that others will find the love, forgiveness, joy, peace and hope that comes with faith in our Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May this come to fruition, not only in the Parish of Elmore, but right around the world.

Photo top right: Christine McWilliams, vested as priest, having been ordained by Reverend Dr Matt Brain, the Bishop of Bendigo.

Photo at right: The Bendigo diocesan clergy and visiting clergy were well represented and took part in the ordination ceremony - adding wonderfully to the singing.



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.

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



GRACE BEFORE MEALS

God is great and God is good; Let us thank him for our food; By His blessings, we are fed, Give us Lord, our daily bread. AMEN.

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living the GOOD LIFE

The listening heart

There's a line in the 1992 film, 'White Men Can't Jump', a buddy movie about basketball, identity and trust, that's stayed with me for years.

Wesley Snipes and Woody Harrelson play two streetball hustlers, navigating their cultural differences, on and off the court. At one point, they're arguing about music, specifically, Jimi Hendrix, and Snipes' character says: "You can listen to Jimi, but you can't hear him."

It's not really about Hendrix. He's not even just talking about music. He's talking about the ability to listen for the depth beneath the sound; the anger, the protest, the cultural experience hidden in the rhythm, the tone, the delivery. We can all hear the words and the guitar riffs but miss the meaning if we're not listening with empathy, if we haven't lived through, or made space for, the story behind the sound.

It's not surprising that the line stayed with me. It's a throwaway line in a movie about basketball. But it's also a lesson in listening, the kind of listening our world sorely needs.

Empathetic listening

How often do we hear sounds without really receiving the message? About how listening, true, empathetic listening isn't just about our ears. It's about the posture of the heart, about a willingness to be changed by what we hear.

In our noisy world that kind of deep and empathetic listening is rare. We live in a culture of proclamations, full of political slogans, media soundbites, advocacy campaigns and social media opinions fired off at lightning speed. Everyone has something to say, but few are truly listening.

Even in our daily lives - workplaces, homes, churches - we can fall into the habit

of listening just enough to be able to form a reply, but not well enough to understand what was said.

So, what does 'deep and empathetic listening', sometimes called 'active listening' look like? Active listening is a practice and a discipline. It begins with giving someone your full attention: not multitasking, not preparing your response as you 'listen', but being fully present to the other.



It involves empathy, trying to understand the feeling beneath the spoken words. It often means asking gentle, curious questions, instead of offering quick solutions. And it can involve sitting with silence, which many of us find far more uncomfortable than we like to admit.

Listening in this way can be transformative. It creates space for healing. It honours the dignity of the speaker. It opens up the possibility of connection, even across differences.

There's a story in the Bible that portrays this beautifully. It's about Paul, the Apostle, who had a dream, that was more like a vision. He heard a man from Macedonia pleading for help. Paul set off towards Macedonia, assuming he knew what the mission would entail, but when he arrived, he didn't meet a man. Instead, he met Lydia, a woman, a wealthy merchant, a Gentile. Lydia was praying quietly by the river.

Lydia listened to Paul. And more than that, she responded to him. With hospitality. With courage. And because of this, her home

became the birthplace of the first Christian community in Europe. That's how the church began on that continent, not through a strategic plan, but through two faithful peoples' quiet "yes" and listening hearts.

Throughout my own working life, in both community development and ministry, I've learnt, sometimes via the hard way, that listening often matters more than speaking.

There were times we responded to needs that didn't quite fit the funding contract. We knew the people. We listened to what wasn't being said. Sometimes we got into trouble for it, but, more often, we made a difference, and the funders appreciated it. When our decisions worked, when real human needs were met, the funding criteria had a way of catching up.

The Spirit moves like that, too. Not always by the book, but always towards love, healing, and welcome.

Jesus once said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples; if you have love for one another."

Sometimes, the first act of love is not what we say, but how we listen.

So, here's to living the good life,

not by turning up the volume,

but by turning down the noise,

and making space

for the voices we haven't yet heard.

By paying attention to the voices

we might otherwise overlook.

By hearing not just the words,

but the story, the soul, behind them.

Because, as the prophet Elijah, in his vision of God acting in his time, discovered,

God was not in the mighty wind,
or the earthquake, or the fire;
but in the still small voice,
the whisper that only the listening heart
can hear.

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

*Brian Spencer, Minister
Waranga Uniting Churches*

Young Christian Workers - 100 years on worth celebrating!

YCW by Pope Pius XI.

Times for young workers were quite different then, we would say today 'child slave labour' would be a better term for the young people, particularly in Belgium.

Pius XI exclaimed to Cardijn 'at last someone wishes to talk about the workers, the masses.' Cardijn met with Pius XI nearly every year accompanied by the young workers until the pope died.

Sandhurst Diocese shared in this

movement from the early 1950s until the mid-1970s.

A small team of former members is planning a gathering which will begin with Mass led by Bishop Shane MacKinley in the Sacred Heart Cathedral at 11.00am Sunday, 13 July. A luncheon gathering is planned to follow the Mass.

Organising Team: Mons Frank Marriott, Tricia Blanks, Margaret Watson.



YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS
Members of the world-wide Young Christian Workers movement, associate movements like YCS and affiliated Cardijn-inspired adult movements are celebrating the Centenary of the Papal endorsement in March 1925 of the

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WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

DEATH

GIBBS, Maurice

Passed away at GV Health on 16 May, aged 79.

Loved husband of Marj.

Loved father of Narelle and Ross, and Belinda and Paul.

Caring Poppa of Holly, Gemma, Annabelle, Olive and Abbie.

Maurice was buried at Rushworth Cemetery on 23 May, in a private family service.

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MCLEAN (Perry), Lynette

Passed away 23/5/25. Aged 72.

Dearly loved sister of Robert (dec) and Ronda.

Loved Aunty of Grant (dec), Gaylene, Mathew and Dani and their families.

Thank you for being my friend.

Love always.

MCLEAN (Perry), Lynette Eileen

Passed away 23 May, 2025.

Aged 72.

Surrounded by her loving family. Loving sister of Slim, Pauline and family.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Rushworth Christmas Decorations

To discuss the future of the Rushworth Christmas decorations

a PUBLIC MEETING will be held
Sunday 1 JUNE 11am

at Rushworth Community House.
All welcome.

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Kids Trivia answers

1. Pacific Ocean, 2. Italy, 3. George Washington,
4. Mount Everest, 5. Sahara Desert, 6. The Egyptians, 7. Greece, 8. Olaf, 9. Carbon dioxide
10. Spanish

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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

JUNE

Sun 1	Stanhope Town Garage Sale from 9am
Thu 5	Coffee with a cop - Rushworth Library 10.30am
Sat 21	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
Sat 21	RAD workshop for Landcare Rushworth Community Space
21 -22	Nissan 'Nightmoves' Car Rally - Redcastle/Rushworth
Mon 23	Immunisation Session Stanhope 11.30am - 12 noon

JULY

Sat 5	Opera in the Country - Shire Hall 5pm -9pm
Sun 6	Stanhope Town Garage Sale from 9am
Sat 12	RFNC Annual Ball 6pm Shire Hall
Sat 19	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm

Meetings & Activities - around the district

- Rushworth SES training: Wednesday evenings at 7pm
- Rushworth CFA: Tuesday nights
- Rushworth Food bank: Mon 10am -12pm, Wed 10am-12pm, Fri 10am-12pm
- #9 Op-Shop: Mon, Wed and Fri - 9am - 2pm Saturday 9am to 12pm
- Rushworth Community Garden every Wednesday
- Rushworth Community House - Genealogy, every Friday from 9.30 to 12.30pm
- Colbinabbin Library: Wednesdays
- Colbinabbin Community Shed: most Thursdays (old Shire Depot), 10am
- Rushworth Band practice: 7.30pm every Monday night
- Stanhope Walking Group: Tuesdays at 9.30am at McEwen Place
- Stanhope Community Garden: Wednesdays 8.30 to 9.30am
- Rushworth Market: 3rd Saturday of month - 8.30am to 1pm
- Rushworth ART Depot (RAD) - every Market day - Sat 10am -1pm
- Murchison CFA: Meeting 1st Monday 8pm - training on 3rd Monday 6.30pm
- Murchison Community Garden: Wednesdays 9am - 11am
- Rushworth Museum: every Saturday 10am-12 noon, 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 1 - 2pm
- Colbinabbin: Chris's exercises at Colbinabbin Hall Mondays 3.30 - 4.30pm

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

LOCAL SERVICE PHONE NUMBERS

POLICE or FIRE.....Emergency.....000	Non-emergency 13 1444
AMBULANCE.....Emergency.....000	Non-emergency...13 3009
SES: (storm & flood).....13 2500	
DOCTORS:	
Murchison Medical Centre.....5826 2575	
Rushworth Medical Centre..... 5856 1329	
Stanhope Telecare Medical Centre.....4800 5291	
Waranga Medical Centre..... 5851 8400	
HEALTH:	
Stanhope Health.....5857 0451	
Waranga Health	5851 8000
Nurse on call.....1300 606 024	
HELP:	
Lifeline.....13 1114	
Kids Helpline.....1800 551 800	
POLICE:	
Rushworth.....5856 1000	
Murchison.....5826 2222	
Colbinabbin.....5856 1000	
SUPPORT SERVICE:	
St Vincent de Paul.....0417 597 468	
WARANGA NEWS OFFICE5856 1120	

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

FOR NEXT EDITION - 12 JUNE

Display Ads: Friday, 6 June

Classified: Monday, 9 June

wnews@iinet.net.au

Waranga News



A Voluntary Community Newspaper

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Your Council News

Coming Up

Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 17 June 2025 | Echuca Civic Centre
Meetings can be streamed live: www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming

f [@CampaspeShireCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/CampaspeShireCouncil)
o [#campaspeshire](https://www.instagram.com/campaspeshire)
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www.campaspe.vic.gov.au



Waranga Rail Trail open!

The Waranga Rail Trail is officially open!

Grab your friends and family members, your bike or your walking shoes and enjoy a cycle or a stroll along this scenic route that stretches 19km between Rushworth and Murchison.



Band room refurbishment

Refurbishment works have commenced at the Rushworth Band Hall at 35 High Street, and will continue until the end of June. The works will include new mechanical units, floor coverings, paint, light fittings, electrical switches, repaired eave linings, handrails, bathroom fittings, toilet partitions, and roller blinds.



Now Open

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

2025-26 Budget Fees and Charges

The community is invited to provide feedback on the proposed fees and charges for the 2025-26 Council budget. Complete a submission online, or for a hard copy of the submission form visit our Service Centres or call our Customer Service Team on 1300 666 535.

Rating & Revenue Plan 2025-2029

The community is invited to provide feedback on the draft Rating & Revenue Plan 2025-2029. Complete a submission online, or for a hard copy of the submission form visit our Service Centres or call our Customer Service Team on 1300 666 535.

Active Living Census

The Active Living Census is a region-wide survey conducted by Healthy Loddon Campaspe that asks residents in our region about their health, wellbeing and daily activities. This information helps schools, sporting clubs, community groups, government, and local leaders make better decisions about health programs, new recreation spaces, and services. It also helps the community get funding to make the region a healthier place for everyone. Take the survey today!

Business Boost Grants Program

Designed to support local businesses to enhance their operations, grants up to \$1000 are available for developing business plans, undertaking targeted marketing activities, or purchasing new equipment to improve processes. Visit our website for more information about the grants, the conditions, and to apply. Applications close 9 June.

Youth GO! Grants

This program is open to schools, community groups, and organisations to host youth-focused events or activities that promote social connection, positive well-being, and youth empowerment for residents aged 12- 25 years. Grants up to \$1500 are on offer. Applications close 29 June.

Skilled Migration Information Session

Council is hosting an information session for businesses on Skilled Migration in partnership with Department of Home Affairs, Victoria Government and VETASSESS from 3-4.30pm on Wednesday, 11 June at the Campaspe Shire Council Function Room, 2 Heygarth Street, Echuca. Book your place now.



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.

Tuesday, 3 June

• 5.30 – 6:30pm | Rochester Service Centre

Thursday, 5 June

• 9.00 – 10:30am | Echuca Library

Wednesday, 18 June

• 9.00 – 10:30am | Kyabram Senior Citizens' Centre

Thursday, 19 June

• 5.30 – 6:30pm | Echuca Library

Monday, 23 June

• 9.00 – 10:30am | Tongala Shire Hall
• 11.30am – 12 noon | Stanhope Community Health Centre

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

Flu vaccinations

Council is running flu vaccination sessions. To book an appointment, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations

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:

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

Readers' Corner

- interesting things to know and do!

BOOK IT IN

Read something 'different' . . .

For those readers who are a little jaded with reading typical novels, 'foreign' novels may pique their reading appetites. Today there are many Japanese novels translated into English that allow readers to experience the world from a different cultural viewpoint.

'What you are looking for is in the library' is a good stepping-off point for those wishing to read such a book. It is essentially a series of short stories. In each chapter a person who is dissatisfied with their life discovers the library attached to a community house where they consult the librarian, the oracle-like Ms Komachi.

Ms Komachi's reading recommendations always contain one recommendation that is very left-of-field yet it proves to be the most useful. It is a feel-good read and a gentle introduction to Japanese novels.

If you want a book that is much more edgy, try 'Kafka on the Shore' (Haruki Murakami). The protagonist, Kafka Tamura, runs away from home at age fifteen. He finds refuge in an obscure library.

While it shares elements of Oedipus Rex and Catcher in the Rye, Kafka's journey is more complex. The second protagonist is an aging man, Satoru Nakata. A bizarre childhood incident left him with an intellectual disability and the remarkable ability to talk with cats.

Their story lines take up alternating chapters; a device frequently used by Murakami. The attention to detail is typically Japanese in its precision. Readers don't just follow the characters they are immersed in them in a way that is rare in western literature. Conversely, many of the stranger things are barely, if at all, explained.

It must be remembered that in the Shinto religion (one of the official religions of Japan), inanimate natural things such as trees, mountains and rocks are believed to be inhabited by spirits, so a rock with mysterious powers or the ability to talk with cats is not so strange for the Japanese.

It is a long and addictive read that allows readers to get into the psyches of its characters.

'What you are looking for is in the library', Michiko Aoyama, Poplar Publishing, ISBN 97818094994139. Also on Kindle and Audible

'Kafka on the Shore', Haruki Murakami, Random House, ISBN 0-099-54832-2. Also on Kindle and Audible.

KIDS' QUIZ

1. What is the largest ocean on Earth?
2. Which country is shaped like a boot?
3. Who was the first President of the United States?
4. What is the tallest mountain in the world?
5. What is the name of the desert in northern Africa?
6. What ancient civilization built the pyramids?
7. In which country did the Olympic Games begin?
8. What's the name of the snowman in Frozen?
9. What gas do plants take in from the air?
10. What is the main language spoken in Mexico?

Did you know? . . .

A giraffe is thirty times more likely to be hit by lightning than a person!

Sudoku and Crossword puzzle

Lovatts
www.lovattspuzzles.com

HOW TO PLAY

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in:

Each of the nine vertical columns

Each of the nine horizontal rows

Each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes

Remember no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.

Across

1. Cuban dance
7. Supplied capital
8. Sectors
10. Put into other words
12. Scoured
14. Rotating skewer
16. Tired sigh
17. Violate (law)
20. Coffin carrier
23. Flora & ...
24. Correcting (text)
25. Malice

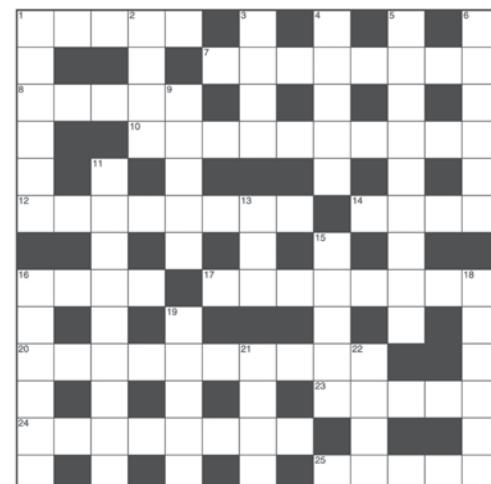
Down

1. Shaving blades
2. Horn sound
3. Republic, Costa ...
4. Arithmetic
5. Discarding
6. Promo
9. Impertinent
11. Crossed road recklessly
13. Number of eras
15. Thoroughly inform
16. Barked
18. Participate (in)
19. One's home
21. Spinster relative, maiden ...
22. Grate

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

Crossword No: 52



Solutions will appear in the next edition.



I is for icecream

Well, it would HAVE to be for icecream, wouldn't it? Everybody loves icecream and it doesn't have to be eaten only in summer.

And here's something to think about: you can make icecream at home, even if you don't have an icecream churn. It won't be the same as the icecream you can buy at Rushworth's delicious icecream shop, but I bet you'll love eating it anyway.

You'll need a tin of condensed milk, 600ml thickened cream and a vanilla bean. Put the condensed milk and cream into a large bowl, scrape the vanilla beans in and beat it with an electric mixer for 3-4 minutes until it forms soft peaks. Turn it into a chilled metal cake tin, cover it with plastic wrap and freeze overnight. Next day: serve and eat! Have you eaten it all yet?



Icecream cone.

Now how about thinking up a story using as many 'I' words as you can think of.

Here's MY story: *Isabelle was doing her ironing in her icy igloo on an island when an iguana hurried past looking for insects. Immediately, she decided to stay indoors.*

My story has nine 'i' words in it. See if you beat that!



Iguana.

Winter bowls a delight in the sun



8 May

A beautiful sunny day greeted the forty-two bowlers for this years first winter bowls day.

It was lovely to see all the usual faces and a few new ones as well. Judging by the comments and laughter, the players enjoyed the day.

At the end of play there were six two-game winners and only one three-game winner.

The runners up were Graeme Wheelhouse's team from Hill Top.

Winners for the first week were Kevin McTaggart, Wayne Goodear and Rob Ryan from Colbo. Well done.

There were five contributors to the fines tin for wrong bias bowls. It was interesting to note that all bar one were bowlers from Stanhope - just saying!

These fines go towards the end of year charity day.

15 May

A couple of beautiful sunny Thursdays have provided great conditions for the winter bowlers. I guess if we can't have the desperately needed rain we can at least enjoy the sunshine.

The greens have been full each week which is pleasing for the club.

The winners were a team from Hill Top - Paul Kerrins, Paddy Cummins and Graeme Wheelhouse with three good wins, over the Stanhope team skipped by Ken Hoppner, also with three wins but not quite enough points.

22 May

Winners on 22 May were Austin Maxwell's team from Stanhope, who were the best of three teams to win their three games.

Runners up again was Ken Hoppner's team. Perhaps next week Ken.

Jean Sprague



Winners 8 May - Kevin McTaggart, Wayne Goodear and Rob Ryan



Winners 15 May - Hill Top - Paul Kerrins, Paddy Cummins and Graeme Wheelhouse



Winners 22 May - Austin Maxwell's team.

The Rushworth Golf Club

- A little more about the history of our golf club

Around one hundred years ago most country towns formed their sporting clubs as sport was a very important part of their culture and community.

Grounds, ovals, reserves, tracks, greens and golf courses were constructed mostly by keen volunteers and generous locals.

Rushworth, like many small towns set in a dry area, adopted the popular low maintenance sand green model that relies on seasonal rain for its golf course.

A typical season generally starts in May and finishes in September which presents lush fairways and ideal playing conditions for a large part of the season. Of course we live in Australia and have seen the impact of unpredictable annual weather events; all present a different challenge.

A lot of these golf courses were built on ground that was not suitable for farming, areas that were low and wet or high and stoney.

Rushworth course is formed around iron stone hills and set amongst iron bark trees

which showcases both beauty and toughness; probably not the ideal place for a golf course but somehow it works.

One can only imagine clearing the area with axe, pick, shovels and horses.

There were stories of carting battery sand, a by product of the gold mines, to top dress the fairways, this must have been a daunting task.

A large old dam with a long earthen bank was built in the middle of the course, the main purpose of this dam was to supply water to the train station and its steam driven saw mills.

The concrete header tank is still there today and remnants of a square wooden drain pipe, from the dam to the station used to be visible.

With constant improvements over the years the course is now regarded as unique and challenging. a must play seasonal gem.

Even if you are not a golfer do take a walk around the course, preferably in late winter or spring when the wild flowers are abundant, it is part of Rushworth and available for all to enjoy.

Jeff Perry



'Say no to violence' week at RFNC



Round six saw Rushworth hosting Murchison/Toolamba at home. This was the KDFL 'Say no to violence' round. This is to raise awareness of and to send the message that family violence is not acceptable in any shape or form. The motto is 'You can't shake a hand with a closed fist'. After the reading by Katrina Ogden, all members of both senior football and netball teams, coaches and umpires came together to shake hands before their game.



Saturday - 17 May

Netball

11/U

Rushworth 7 def Murch/Toolamba 6

1st incentive: Hunter Thompson for his amazing efforts all down the court

2nd incentive: Sophia Porter for her outstanding defence

3rd incentive: Jaida Rose for always giving it her best.

13/U

Rushworth 20 def Murch/Toolamba 11

The Under 13s had another solid win. New positions were tried and the defensive effort across the court was amazing.

1st incentive: Amelia

2nd incentive: Taya

3rd incentive: Ruby

15/U

Rushworth 47 def Murch/Toolamba 20

1st incentive: Kade Starling

2nd incentive: Willie Bertram

3rd incentive: Byron Chapman

The girls started slowly and improved as the game went on. It was a very positive performance.

17/U

Rushworth 38 Def Murch/Toolamba 32

The girls worked hard coming away with a well deserved six goal win.

1st incentive: Makayla Lockwood



2nd incentive: Millie Newton

3rd incentive: Matilda Lockwood

The lolly award: Chloe

C Reserve

Rushworth 21 lt Murch/Toolamba. 49

Incentives: Bec Griffin, Jess McLean and Eliza McDonald (*pictured below left*)

C Grade

Rushworth 19 lt Murch/Toolamba 65

C Grade had a tough challenge. The girls improvement every week definitely makes them a team to watch. The girls have a lot to work on but they are improving every week.

1st Incentives: Ella Johnstone

2nd incentive: Keileigh Balmer

3rd incentive: Emily McLean



B Grade

Rushworth 38 def Murch/Toolamba 27

B Grade put in a solid four quarter high intensity effort and came away with the win. The entire team gelled and worked together with a tight defence which caused many turnovers with their pressure.

1st incentive: Grace Barlow (*pictured above*)

2nd incentive: Crystal Pateman (*pictured above right*)

3rd incentive: Beth Parker



A Grade

Rushworth 49 def Murch/Toolamba 27

1st incentive: Sheree Starling

2nd incentive: Lilly Waasdorp

3rd incentive: Janelle Doolan

It was another consistent four quarters but the girls still have to lift.



Emma Woodward

Saturday - 17 May**Football****18/U****Rushworth 12 lt Murch/Toolamba 146**

After the disappointment of forfeiting last week, the team hosted Murchison. Murchison played the far better football, winning comfortably.

Best players: Flynn Clarke, Tighe Clarke, Riley Knight, Shannon Scorse, Angus Maher and Cooper Gleeson.

Reserves**Rushworth 24 lt Murch/Toolamba 176**

The lads were up against it with a lack of numbers with a few veterans out. Great fight.

Best players: W. Robertshaw, X. Parker, L. Weatherhead

Seniors**Rushworth 85 lt Murch/Toolamba 94**

The seniors hosted the reigning premiers, Murchison, with the boys keen not only to test themselves, but match it with the leagues benchmark team. Unfortunately the class of Murch rose to the top and Rushy lost by 9 points.

In an absolute team performance, the best players were Paul Vavlitis, Troy Damon, Andrew Clarke, Liam Francis, Ethan Arnold and Jac Barrett.

Auskick on display

During the half time break of the seniors match against Murchison/Toolamba the Auskickers were on show. They have been training hard during the weeks and enjoying every minute of it.



Rushworth footballers have great win



Saturday - 24 May

Netball

11/U - No Game

13/U

Rushworth 18 def Merrigum 7

The Under 13s continued their winning streak beating Merrigum. It was a team effort with lots of excellent defence to give extra opportunities to the goalers.

1st incentive: Ruby for an amazing game in goal defence.

2nd incentive: Sofia for another consistent game (even trying a new position).

3rd incentive: Charlii for her movement around the ring and her excellent shooting.

15/U

Rushworth 60 def Merrigum 8

The girls are starting to see the work they have put in at training with what they should be doing but are still falling short at times with delivery and effort.

Kade put in 100% and Kaley played clean netball. Emily played a great game against a physical opponent and Willow shot well.

1st incentive: Emily Walker

2nd incentive: Kaley Knight

3rd incentive: Willow Bertram

17/U

Rushworth 43 def Merrigum 38

1st incentive: Millie who gave it her all and came out blazing.

2nd incentive: Mikayla who was strong in goals and worked the ring well.

3rd incentive: Emily who was strong in the defence end.

The chocolate incentive: Emma who held herself up strongly against her opponent.

C Reserve

Rushworth 32 It Merrigum 64

The girls started competitively. It was very pleasing to see many amazing passages of play. A massive shout-out to our juniors coming in to fill our gaps. Their drive and determination is a credit to them.

Incentives: Mikayla, Matilda and Sharon.

C Grade

Rushworth 33 It Merrigum 47

Despite a tough match resulting in a loss there were some real highlights on the court. While the scoreboard didn't reflect the outcome wanted, the individual efforts and teamwork displayed were commendable and provided a solid foundation to build on for the next game.

1st incentives: Shannon Bell consistently finding opportunities to score even under pressure

2nd incentive: Laura Martin was a powerhouse in attacking both feeding and shooting

3rd incentive: Bella Odwyer's energy in the mid-court was infectious. Her tireless efforts to transition the ball kept the girls in the game.

B Grade

Rushworth 21 It Merrigum 48

B Grade had a strong game despite missing a

couple of key players. It was a good opportunity for some of the junior players to step up and play some great netball.

1st incentive: Christie Thomas who had a stellar game in centre and led well through the middle, providing some great options on the ring.

2nd incentive: Emma Francis who had a great game slotting into the mid-court seamlessly and played with such an impressive level of intensity.

3rd incentive: Zahley who did absolutely everything asked of her and had some great defensive turnovers.

A Grade

Rushworth 47 def Merrigum 28

It was a tight contest and a physical game. Poor Kasey lost a contact and needed to come off the court. Ash was fantastic pulling off many intercepts. Ruby stepped up in Kasey's absence and played a great game and Mikaela led the last quarter domination with hard work and drives.

1st incentive: Ashlyn Materne

2nd incentive: Ruby Oliver

3rd incentive: Mikaela Hanson

Football

U18

Rushworth 55 def Shepp East 45

U18s travelled to Stanhope and took on Shepp East. The first quarter saw the boys play a game of football they have been working on linking up well to lead by 19 points at quarter time.

However, after the break, that score went out the window and the boys let Shepp East back into the game, trailing by 7 pts at half time.

After a talking by the coach at half time they responded kicking 3 goals to take a 14 point lead into 3/4 time. Rushy knew Shepp East would throw everything at them in the last quarter but the boys really stood up and held on to win by 10 points.

Best players: Gerry McCarthy, Jaxon Neely, Tighe Clarke, Griffin Irvine, Angus Maher, Flynn Clarke.

Reserves

Rushworth 87 def Merrigum 53

The Reserves lads went all in, full of optimism. Targets for the day were investment and enjoyment and they did that. After a slow start the lads kicked into gear to come away winners for the day.

Best Players: N Jonker, I Griffin, J Newton

Seniors

Rushworth 179 def Merrigum 15

Merrigum was a game the team couldn't take lightly. The boys took a little time to find their rhythm. When Luke Oakley's laces out pass hit Drew Clarke on the chest and more importantly, kicked the goal from the pocket, that got the game rolling.

Three-hundred game legend, Daniel Kelsey, also bobbed up in the first quarter finding Riley Edwards who converted the first of his 5 goals and his second coming after the siren to give Rushworth a 40 point lead at quarter time.

In the second quarter the Rushy boys brought the heat and their pressure started to provide more scoring opportunities. An example of this was Paul Vavlitis forward line pressure, winning the contest and hitting Mitch Griffin on the chest resulting in a

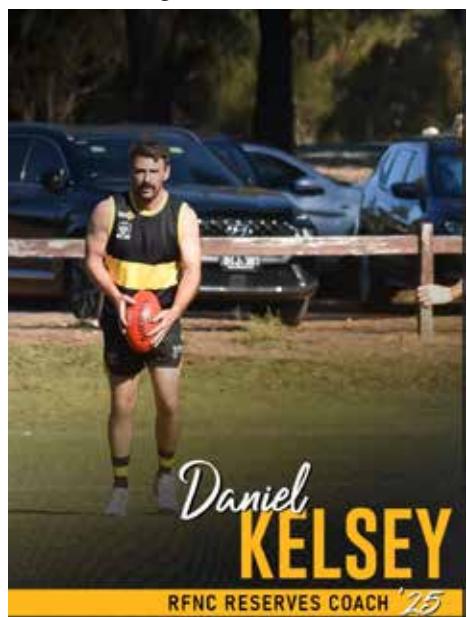
Daniel Kelsey 300 games

Congratulations to Daniel Kelsey.

He ran out in his 300th club game.

His contribution to country football is unreal and we thank him for all the hard work he does for the club, not only on the field, but also off it.

This man is a quality human being,
Congratulations Kelso!



goal from thirty metres out directly in front.

The centre clearance work was on display with Liam Francis bursting from the middle, taking a bounce and finding Jac Barrett, who was pretty happy with himself kicking the goal and giving the team a 92 point lead at half time.

What also wasn't going unnoticed was the work of the backline, with Ryan Raglus, Nico McKinley, Jack McRae co-working hard as a unit to restrict the home side's scoring chances.

The third quarter could have seen the boys start to go through the motions and into self-preservation mode, but they continued with Liam Adlington proving to be a handful for the opposition, not only in the ruck, but also down forward, where he proved left footers can kick straight. Rushy took a commanding lead into the last quarter. The home side came hard again in the last quarter, sticking to the task. It was a four quarter performance with the boys running out comfortable winners.

Best players: Luke Oakley, Riley Edwards, Liam Adlington, Ethan Arnold, Mitch Griffin, Liam Francis.

The Rushy attention turns to next Sunday's blockbuster, where the club hosts Lancaster on home turf, which will be a massive test against one of the leagues benchmark teams. But this is why the boys play footy, to test themselves against the best sides.

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Colbo Sports Report

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Colbo teams re-fuel after training



Every now and then there's an influx of thirty-five or so very fit looking young men and women through the doors of the Colbo Pub. Yep, it's dinner after training night, with a hearty meal and a few words of encouragement from coach Linno. GO HOPPERS!

CFNC Valued Volunteer Award



Ned gives a congratulatory hug to his Mum, Kate Stewart, on her CFNC Valued Volunteer Award.

Colbinabbin Country Hotel is sponsoring a new CFNC Valued Volunteer Award each home game for 2025.

This round it went to Kate Stewart who needs no explanation as to why she received

it, the woman should probably get it each week. She keeps that canteen running as smooth as can be, chips are always delish and working in the canteen is a breeze for our volunteers. Thanks for all you do Kate!

Solutions from last edition



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

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Colbo Sports Report

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CFNC - The winning streak continues

'On the road again' is definitely what it's been like as we round out a rare stretch of away games to start the season off. Leitchville clearly had some nice rain, green grass, clear skies, temperatures in the low-20s, and an abundance of flies giving everyone an absolute hammering all day.

Round 4 - Football vs Leith/Gum

Seniors

Colbo 10.10.70 def Leitch/Gunbower 3.2. 20

The boys ran out considerable winners.

Goal kickers: Alex Carr 5, Nick Knight 3, Brandyn Grenfell 1, Isaac Carracher

Best on ground: Daniel Hill, Nathan Basile, Jack Lear, Matthew Riordan, Alex Carr, Connor Aldous

Reserves

Colbo 7.4. 46 lt Leitch/Gunbower 14.7. 91

The Leitchy boys showed how fit they were.

Goal kickers: Ned Morgan 3, Evan McAuley 1, Dom Monteleone, Bodey Abbott, Charlie McLean

Best on ground: Joseph Fiske-Kealy, Will Brown, Dominic Monteleone, Ned Morgan, Christopher Guinane, Jude Mussared

Under 18s

Colbo 8.4. 52 lt Leitch/Gunbower 9.8. 62

A seesawing game crept away from the young lads. It was a massive effort from the little hoppers just falling ten points short.

Goal kickers: Tom McFadzean 3, Alfred Rolfe 3, Zac Morgan 1, Charlie McLean

Best on ground: Charlie McLean, Jackson Morgan, Henry O'Callaghan, Alfred Rolfe, Logan West, Tom McFadzean

Netball - A Grade

Colbinabbin 96 def Leitchville-Gunbower 36

Another fantastic effort by the girls.

Best on court: Kasey Conder

A Reserve

Colbinabbin 49 def Leitchville-Gunbower 30

A Res scored a win.

Best on court: Aggie Minne

B Grade

Colbinabbin 34 lt Leitchville-Gunbower 35

A strong start saw the girls leading but lost by one goal in the dying seconds of the last quarter.

Best on court: Emma Milne

B Reserve

Colbinabbin 46 def Leitchville-Gunbower 22

A great win from the B Res girls.

Best on court: Sarah McIntyre

Under 17s

Colbinabbin 18 lt Leitchville-Gunbower 56

It was a hard-fought match against. Great effort.

Best on court: Abbey Ryan

Under 15s

Colbinabbin 27 def Leitchville-Gunbower 25

Great resilience and positivity from everyone on court saw the girls get over the line by two goals.

Best on court: Evie Coghill

Under 13s

Colbinabbin 26 def Leitchville-Gunbower 10

The Under 13's had a convincing win.

Best on court: George McFadzean

Under 11s

Another great game played by our U11 team.

Best on court: Lil Kennedy

Round 5: Football v Elmore

Seniors

Colbinabbin 22.12. 144 def Elmore 3.5. 23

The Senior boys completed the three-peat.

Goal kickers: Brandyn Grenfell 10, Dean Smith 4, Nick Knight 2, Clint Shields 1, Alex Carr, Sam Ryan, Jai Carn, Angus Martin, Isaac Carracher

Best on ground: Brandyn Grenfell, Charlie Ryan, Dean Smith, Nathan Basile, Dan Hill, Jai Carn

Reserves

Back on track, is probably one way to describe it.

Colbinabbin 12.17. 89 def Elmore 1.4. 10

Goal kickers: Evan McCauley 2, Ned Morgan 2, Hadleigh Sirett 1, Dom Monteleone, Elijah Wallace, Hughie McMurtrie, Sam Coughlin, The Frenchman, Jasper McArdle, Ray Pearson

Best on ground: Hughie McMurtrie, Sam Coughlin, Dom Monteleone, Harry Lewis, Nic Palmer, 'The Frenchman'

Under 18s

Colbinabbin 10.4. 64 def Elmore 5.9. 39

The boys got it done by 25 points. Well done.

Goal kickers: Kobi MacDonald 3, Thomas Davie 2, Charlie McLean 1, Logan Edwards, Harvey White, Charles Kealy, Zac Morgan

Best on ground: Thomas Davie, Jackson Morgan, Kobi MacDonald, Charlie McLean, Logan Edwards, Charlie Duke

Netball - A Grade

Colbinabbin 76 def Elmore 20

A grand final rematch! Go Colbo!

Best on court: Grace McIntyre and Matilda McIntyre

A Reserve

Colbinabbin 71 def Elmore 29

The A reserve proved too much for Elmore.

Best on court: Emily Percy

B Grade

Colbinabbin 44 def Elmore 31

Colbo came out extra hungry for the win.

Best on court: Hannah Fuller

B Reserve

Colbinabbin 45 lt Elmore 48

Elmore had excellent ball work that gave them the upper hand in the final minutes of the game.

Best on court: Lucy Tibbs

Under 17s

Colbinabbin 48 def Elmore 35

The team held steady to secure the win

Best on court: Lynette Mountjoy

Under 15s

Colbinabbin 22 lt Elmore 45

The score didn't reflect the closely fought battle.

Best on court: Evie Riordan

Under 13s

Colbinabbin 32 def Elmore 19

Its amazing watching the girls grow.

Best on court: Maisy Masterson and Holly Walsh

Under 11s

Our U11s played another fantastic game over the weekend!

Best on ground: Freddie – an absolute superstar!

Round 6: Football vs Nth Bendigo

Seniors

Colbinabbin 11.14. 80 lt Nth Bendigo 15.12. 102

North Bendigo side, undefeated, a tough day on the scoreboard,

Goal kickers: Brandyn Grenfell 2, Alex Carr 2, Issac Carracher 2, Jude Ryan 2, Alex van Ruiswyk 1, Clint Shields 1, Sam Ryan 1

Best on ground: Toby Howlett, Clint Shields, Nath Basile, Jude Ryan, Julian Bull, Dan Hill

Reserves

Colbinabbin 3.5. 23 lt North Bendigo 16.14. 110

A great effort, but too much to handle.

Goal kickers: Jimmy Duke 1, Ned Morgan 1, Charlie McLean 1

Best on court: Ray Pearson, Seamus Bromley, Harry Crilly, Will Brown, Jasper McArdle, Dom Monteleone

Under 18s

Colbinabbin 0.1. 1 lt Nth Bendigo 25.24. 174

The older, bigger and stronger North side had all the answers for our challenged Hopper army.

Best on ground: Jackson Morgan, Zac Morgan, Charlie McLean, Will Patrick, William Ogden, Brock Edwards

Netball - A Grade

Colbinabbin 65 def North Bendigo 32

Best on court: Tanzin Myers

A Reserve

Colbinabbin 47 def North Bendigo 39

A solid win.

Best on court: Mikayla Palmer

B Grade

Colbinabbin 36 lt North Bendigo 43

A solid team performance with plenty to build on moving forward.

Best on court: Mikayla Cornish

B Reserve

Colbinabbin 19 lt North Bendigo 52

B Res didn't come away with the win but we still had fun!

Best on court: Stella Martin

Under 17s

Colbinabbin 45 def North Bendigo 44

What an incredible game from the Under 17 girls! Well done, girls!

Best on court: Chelsea Purdy

Under 15s

Colbinabbin 46 def North Bendigo 15

Awesome game by the girls, started strong and kept the intensity up the whole time.

Best on court: Ella Patrick

Under 13s

Colbinabbin 31 def North Bendigo 8

Another win for the under 13's, making it three in a row with a 23-point win.

Best on court: Isla Knight and Madison West

Under 11s

U11s played another fantastic game over the weekend!

Best on ground: Freddie – an absolute superstar! He played multiple positions with a smile, shot some great goals and shared the ball around like a true team player.

Well done to our U11 Colbo legends!

GO HOPPERS



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