

# WARANGA NEWS

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Thursday 4 September 2025

## Rushworth Revival at Ironbark Stadium

Rushworth's senior teams sang their song with pride after securing a hard-fought victory in the semi-finals on 31 August, earning a coveted place in the Preliminary Finals.

With this year's turn of fortune, after previously struggling to field a senior team, the excitement was electric, filling the room with energy and anticipation.

The same high spirits were evident on the court, where the A Grade netball team also triumphed in their semi-final match, adding to the day's celebrations.

Reaching a final has been a long-awaited milestone for the club—especially for the senior teams. Their journey has been marked by dedication, belief, and unity. With the unwavering support of the club and wider community, their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

They've proven they have what it takes, and now, the entire community stands proudly behind them, believing in their continued success.

Come along on Saturday 9 September and show support for all our successful teams - under 15s and under 17s as well as our senior teams.



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



# New Renewable Energy Zones defined

VicGrid’s 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) has reduced the number of proposed Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) from seven to six onshore, (Central Highlands, Central North, Gippsland, North-West, South-West, and Western/Grampians regions) as the optimal areas to host new wind farms, solar parks, and batteries. The draft plan initially proposed seven REZs, but VicGrid refined and merged some areas into six final zones after consultation.

VicGrid’s 2025 VTP aims to provide a strategic long-term plan to ensure Victoria’s grid can reliably absorb large volumes of new renewable generation as ageing coal plants are decommissioned.

VicGrid said the locations for the proposed REZs had been carefully considered to minimise negative environmental and community impacts.

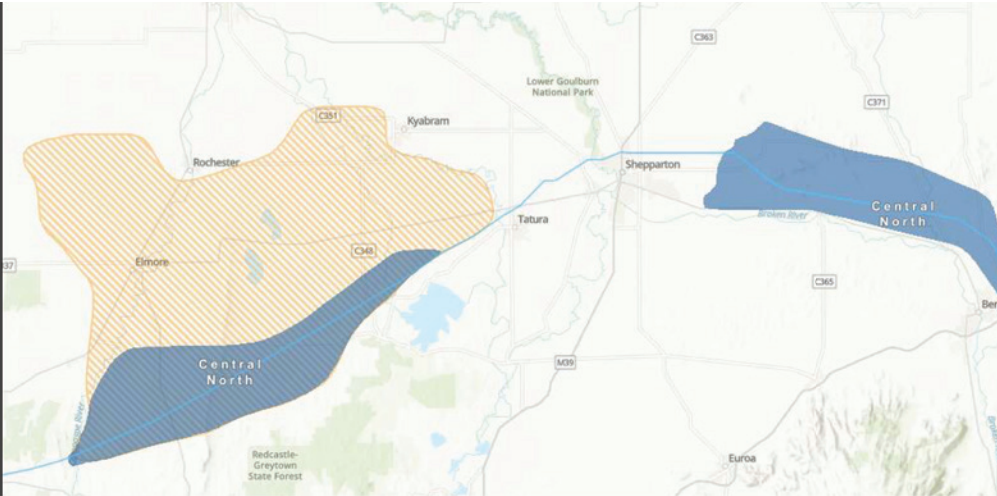
A new area of land between Shepparton East and Glenrowan in the Central North zone was not included in the previous draft of the plan, while a previously proposed Central North REZ, marking a larger area of land between Shepparton and Bendigo, has been reduced in the updated plan.

VicGrid said the Central North REZ was reshaped based on new information and feedback from communities, regional stakeholders and the energy industry during an 18-month statewide consultation period.

It has removed more irrigated farmland and broilga habitats from the original planned zone and included the new area to the east of Shepparton, saying it is more suited to renewable energy development and now more closely aligns with the transmission network, which VicGrid says will reduce the need for lengthy transmission connections from solar and wind farms.

While VicGrid says the plan reduces costs, and gives industry the certainty it needs to invest and deliver more renewables into the grid, City of Greater Shepparton councillors have expressed concern about the change, and what it may mean for the future of agricultural productivity in the region.

VicGrid said locals and stakeholders in the region would have further opportunity to provide feedback during the REZ declaration process which will include a six-week consultation period set to start in the next few weeks.



The yellow shaded area shows where the proposed Central North Renewable Energy Zone was on the Victorian Transmission Plan draft, while the blue shaded area shows the new zone proposed in the latest plan.

## Council endorses motions for MAV State Council meeting

Campaspe Shire Council has endorsed four key motions for submission to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Meeting on Friday 10 October 2025.

Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell said the motions reflect local priorities, focusing on transparency, sustainability and support for rural communities.

The first motion calls on the Victorian Government to reinstate independent assessment processes for renewable energy projects, ensuring transparency and community input. It opposes fast-tracked approvals that bypass local voices, citing the Cooba Solar Farm approval in Colbinabbin as a recent example of community concerns being overlooked.

The second motion seeks stronger support for councils impacted by water recovery under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, calling for early

engagement, structural adjustment funding, and formal recognition of councils in water reform processes.

A third motion advocates for joint Federal and State Government funding for flood mitigation infrastructure, aligned with Council-adopted Flood Risk Mitigation Plans.

The fourth urges increased investment in public and community housing in rural Victoria to reduce homelessness, support family violence recovery and stimulate local economies.

“These motions are about protecting our communities and ensuring their needs are heard and acted on,” said Cr Mackrell.

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# Rushworth airwaves come alive

With four months of on air testing complete, Rushworth's new community radio station 3RW officially commenced full time programming from 10 am on Monday this week.

3RW is bringing back the golden era of music, with timeless hits from the 1950s through to the 1970s, delivered by seasoned radio hosts who know and love the music. Broadcasting 24 hours a day, 3RW will also keep the Rushworth community connected with local news, weather updates, community stories, and even old-time radio serials.

What began as a vision twelve months ago in Bendigo has now become a reality for Brad Geier and Tony Jordon, as their dream of launching a dedicated radio station for Rushworth is fulfilled.

The idea took shape when longtime broadcaster Brad Geier activated his dream of settling in Rushworth. Not one to sit idle, Brad teamed up with fellow broadcaster and friend Tony Jordon to bring a fully operational local radio station to the town and surrounding areas.

The groundwork began in July 2024, starting with the challenging task of raising funds to purchase the necessary licences and equipment. By November, Brad and Tony had made several trips to Rushworth to gauge community support and find a suitable location for the studio, office, and transmission site.

Tony recalls one of those pivotal trips:

"We were searching everywhere for the right space when I saw the 'open' sign at the former council depot," he said. "As luck would have it, a meeting was underway inside. Brad and I walked in, shared our vision, and asked who we could speak to about possibly using the space."

That moment, in November last year, marked a turning point—cementing the station's future home with the support of the Rushworth Community House.

Next came the task of sourcing and testing all the technical equipment, much of it trialled at their home base in Bendigo.

"We lost count of how many trips we made between November and February," said Mr Geier. "Each visit was about more than just logistics—it was about building community support and sharing our vision of giving Rushworth its own voice."

With final equipment testing completed off-site and negotiations with the Rushworth Community House complete, suitable accommodation for the station was secured.

## From equipment transport to final testing

Multiple trips were made to transport all the equipment from Bendigo to the newly secured Rushworth base. Once on site, work began in earnest—sorting, testing, and preparing the gear. The installation phase was no small feat. It included fitting extensive soundproofing panels, running over 1,500 meters of cabling, and setting up the transmission equipment—all of which had to be thoroughly tested and fine-tuned.

Brad and Tony spent every available moment in Rushworth, working tirelessly to bring the station to life. By March, the studio was beginning to take shape, and by June, 3RW was officially switched on—broadcasting music and announcements as part of the testing phase leading up to the full-time launch on Monday.

Future programming will see hosting in the mornings by Brad, with Tony taking the controls in the afternoons until 6pm.



A milestone moment: Brad Geier takes to the air to launch 3RW's first program.

## Preparing for emergency

3RW can also play a critical role in times of emergency—when traditional methods of communication may not be available. Both Brad and Tony are accredited Emergency Broadcasters, with firsthand experience covering major events including the Black Saturday bushfires in Bendigo and the more recent flooding in Rochester, Loddon Mallee, and Echuca.

## A local model built on community support

From the outset, funding was a key consideration. Unlike traditional community radio stations that rely heavily on government grants and fundraising, 3RW is independently owned and locally operated. Its success will depend on the generous support of local business advertising and relevant government messaging.

To find out how your business can get involved, email [3rw@3rw.com.au](mailto:3rw@3rw.com.au) or call 0431 531 733.



3RW invites the Rushworth community to tune in to 87.6 on FM or on line via their website at [www.3rw.com.au](http://www.3rw.com.au) or the TuneIn app, where you can listen anywhere, anytime.



Sam

BIRRELL MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NICHOLLS

THE NATIONALS

for Regional Australia



\$60,000 for Local Volunteers

17 hardworking volunteer organisations will share in over \$60,000 in funding from the Federal Government’s Volunteer Grants Program.

This program supports the invaluable work of volunteers by offering upskilling opportunities, helping to recruit new members, and fostering stronger connections with the community.

Across our region, thousands of volunteers dedicate their time and energy to incredible causes. Our communities simply couldn’t thrive without their selfless efforts.

Once again, this grant program was oversubscribed – a clear sign of the ongoing need for more regionally focused community grants that I continue to fight for.

Grant Recipients Included

- Rushworth Community House
- Rushworth Bowls Club
- Neighbourhood House Murchison
- Christmas For Those Alone Incorporated
- Colbinabbin Town Recreation Reserve
- Kyabram Plaza Committee
- Wunghnu Fire Brigade
- “The Cubby” – Shepparton Toy Library
- Tatura Cricket Club Inc.
- Tungamah Bowling Club
- Country Fire Authority
- Echuca South Cricket Club

Contact my office if you need support with Federal government matters.

 426 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630

 5821 5371

 sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au

 sambirrell.com.au

 SamBirrellMP

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

Firewood collection areas now open

Victorians are able to collect firewood for domestic use from designated collection areas which have reopened this week for the spring season. Firewood collection is permitted only during the official firewood season and must take place within approved areas in state forests.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action is encouraging people to begin collecting wood now in preparation for the winter of 2026. Firewood generally requires over a year to dry properly, depending on the type and condition of the wood when cut, so planning well in advance is advised.



Look out for these signs to show legal Domestic Firewood Collection Areas.

In the Ovens District, firewood collection sites will remain closed temporarily due to an ongoing Victoria Police operation and current VicEmergency Advice. These sites will reopen once conditions allow.

Maps showing designated collection areas are available, with an interactive map providing information on vehicle access. PDF maps include safety guidance and other practical details. More information is available at: [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region)

There are limits on how much firewood can be collected. Individuals are allowed up to two cubic metres per day and households can gather a maximum of 16 cubic metres per financial year. Those unable to collect firewood themselves may nominate someone to collect on their behalf.

Members of the public are reminded to follow all rules, take only fallen wood, and collect only what they need. It’s also important to monitor weather conditions, be cautious when operating equipment like chainsaws and stay aware of surroundings at all times.

The spring firewood collection season will close on Sunday, 30 November. Financial assistance is available for eligible low-income households purchasing firewood. Further details can be found at: [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support)

Community members can find out more about collecting firewood and report any suspected illegal firewood collection by calling 136 186.

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Stanhope Community Market Facebook page

STANHOPE & DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



# New information board for old burial ground

The goldrush days of the Rushworth district were revisited on Sunday when the Rushworth and District Historical Society added a public information board near the site of the town's first burial ground.

Past President of the Society Nic Buzza unveiled the board before about 30 people at a simple ceremony in the forest beside the small reserve containing up to 40 graves, all unmarked but for stones surrounding earthen mounds. The site was used for burials during the period 1853 until about 1861, but never gazetted as an official cemetery. It may have been used for the occasional burial after the official and now large cemetery was created at the northern edge of the town and where fees were payable.

Researchers over many years have searched in vain for burial records of the old graveyard but the Health Department has always advised that it has no information as there were no trustees appointed and no documents were ever received in Melbourne.

The graveyard is sited about 300 metres south of the Anglican church, about 200 metres off the east side of Whroo Road. The new board offers visitors an insight into about 30 deaths reported at and near Rushworth in the period 1853 to 1861. The board is careful to explain that there can be no certainty that the named people were buried there and uses words like "probably" and "possibly".

Nic Buzza explained that the two-sided board had been made possible thanks to support from the Rushworth and District Community Bank, and had involved the use of local timber and local talent for its construction and erection.

Stanhope carpenter Daniel West crafted the board's shelter. Karl Devlin, also of Stanhope, produced the board itself. Oil-coating the timbers involved former Rushworth resident Noel Lloyd, and the shelter erection was the work of local Robbie Colliver, Des Mason of Kirwan's Bridge, Graham Pettifer of Kyabram, and Historical Society officials Peter Reade and Alan McLean.

Alan explained to the gathering that the first burial would simply have been a matter of necessity after a death at Rushworth, and someone had chosen a spot on the edge of the settlement of canvas tents. Second and subsequent deaths will have logically seen graves dug near the first, and so an unofficial graveyard commenced.



**Local historian Alan McLean, Community Bank Rushworth Director Christine Borger, and Immediate Past President of the Historical Society, Nick Buzza.**

Alan mentioned that just eight kilometres away at Whroo, that district also had an informal burial ground in the same period, but in August of 1860 the government of the colony set aside six acres of Crown Land for an official cemetery at the same location.

It is not known why the first Rushworth graveyard was not chosen to become the town's official final resting place, though someone in authority may have decided that the new site would be slightly easier for the gravediggers.

Alan drew attention to a number of very small graves indicating infant deaths and referred to the near-certainty of a number of burials of Chinese gold-diggers who were

active in the early years of the local goldfield. On behalf of all present, he placed a small piece of golden wattle inside the reserve in tribute to the unknown occupants buried over 160 years ago.

Speaking on behalf of the community bank, Christine Borger was pleased to support the project and explained that an ancestor, Eliza Mousley, who died in 1860, is believed buried at the site.

Campaspe Shire Councillor Adrian Weston commended the new board as a valuable contribution to Rushworth's heritage, against the backdrop of the application to have the central goldfields listed as a UNESCO World Heritage area.





Have your say!

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

Drought proofing strategy?

Tragically we are aren't getting the rain we are used to . We have expectations, we get told rain is coming then it disappears. After the dust storm we had earlier this year,we had rain a tad dirty but good rain.

So we stop the coal mines and try to reduce anything that is regarded as culprit for global warming.

The weather patterns are not what the modelling is used to. They are inconsistent with what the previous last two hundred years established.

One suggestion in the last serious drought was to fire sand into the upper atmosphere in the the Indian Ocean. The sand would create a situation where ice crystals would form and increase a situation where rain may occur, it's sort of simple I know, but a simple solution is what we're looking for.

So previously our pollution was an input into our weather patterns. now we have reduced our particulate matter into the upper atmosphere, we are experiencing more periods of drought. The northern hemisphere with fires, fires and more fires is experiencing far drier and hotter periods than any modelling could predict.

I would predict that if we don't returns to levels of dust in the upper atmosphere we will become drier and drier. Maybe we need some volcanoes to erupt?

So what about firing sand into the upper atmosphere.

Damian Batten  
Rushworth



Geoffrey Lipshut

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A wet weekend in Colbinabbin

This morning, while lying in bed intently studying the back of my eyelids, I was roused by one of our four cats jumping on me. The smallest, lightest cat of the four, curled up behind my knees, a favourite spot of hers.

I had returned to my bed on this grey, cold and blustery day, in faint hopes of gathering some more ZZZZZZZs, but the noises emanating from the kitchen told me that my hopes were not to be realised. It was evident that the other member of the household, my daughter, was "up and doing": that the lambs had been fed, and that it was now bottle-washing time.

Sooo, I girded my loins, heaved a sigh or two, and determined that I should also be "up and at 'em." I left my bed, with bedclothes turned back to allow it to air, and I strolled out to the living area to see" what was what".

"What" was the fact that "her indoors" was up, dressed, and she wasted no time in letting me know that I should also be in the same state, without further ado!

Sooo, I returned, somewhat chastened, to my bedroom to search out suitable clothes for the day, which did not look likely to improve, weather-wise. Having chosen appropriate clothes, I proceeded to dress myself, while at the same time discovering that my daughter had ALSO retreated to her bed! It did not seem at all likely that we would be tackling the outside chores, as we had planned. I then retrieved my mobile phone, which had been confiscated the previous evening by said daughter in a misguided attempt to stop me doing online shopping or playing games late at night. Do I miss the device? YES!

Next question:- how to spend the day? Would I continue writing? Pursue my study

of Spanish, ( the course from which I had been "bounced off" by the University, for unknown reasons)?

Well, as it transpired, I did neither of the inside NOR outside tasks! The bad weather continued unabated, my bed, or chair in front of the TV, were both calling, so I succumbed to the temptation to have a snooze in front of the TV!

Second day of the weekend/first day of the week.

"Her Indoors" has gone to work, leaving written instructions to feed the lambs. Were they ready for a feed between 12 and 1pm? NO! Were they ready AFTER I had read the" Weekend Australian"? YES! In fact, they were YELLING for their (late)bottles! So, I repaired, three bottles in hand, to the yard where the (little) lambs lived, to find that they were FRANTIC for a feed, so much so that I sustained a bitten finger when one of the three latched onto my finger, in lieu of the teat! The injured finger put me in mind of the sore nipples I had when breast feeding many years ago, but that's another story!

Unfortunately, one lamb sucked so vigorously that it sucked the teat off the bottle, meaning that I "lost" some milk to the ground, which has been well watered by the recent rain. I Imagine the local farmers have been glad of the rain for their crops: it is lovely to see green grass about our little property-the contrast between the dust bowl of the past, and the green of the grass now, is wonderful to see. I imagine it won't be too long before one of us decides it's time to get the ride-on mower out!

As the weekend draws to a close, so too, do I draw to the end of this article, for the little local paper, The Waranga News.

Leonie Lewington  
Colbinabbin.

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# Honour a local legend – Campaspe Citizen of the Year nominations open!

Campaspe Shire Council is calling on residents to nominate the individuals and community groups whose contributions make our community thrive, with nominations now open for the 2026 Citizen of the Year Awards.

These prestigious awards are among the highest honours Council can bestow, recognising individuals and community groups whose dedication, service, and achievements have made a lasting impact across the Shire.

Award categories include:

Campaspe Citizen of the Year

Campaspe Young Citizen of the Year

Community Group of the Year

Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell said the awards are a chance to shine a spotlight on those who go above and beyond for others.

“Every year, we’re inspired by the stories of people who give their time, energy and

passion to make Campaspe a better place.

“These awards are about celebrating those contributions and saying thank you to the individuals and groups who help build stronger, more connected communities,” Cr Mackrell said.

Campaspe Shire Council Director Communities, Jo Bradshaw, encouraged residents to take the time to nominate someone who deserves recognition.

“We know there are incredible people and groups doing amazing work in every corner of our Shire.

“Whether it’s in sport, the arts, health, culture, youth programs, disability services or environmental conservation, we want to

hear about them.

“Nominating someone is a powerful way to show appreciation and help share their story with the wider community,” Ms Bradshaw said.

Nominees must reside within Campaspe Shire. Online nominations are encouraged, but hard copy forms are also available at Council’s Customer Service Centres. For selection criteria and to submit a nomination, visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/nowopen](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/nowopen). Submissions close on Sunday, 2 November 2025.

For assistance with your nomination, contact Council’s Festival and Events Team on 1300 666 535.

## Field & Game news

by Graeme Wall

Rushworth Field and Game has held its last fox shoot for 2025 and, proving the club is family focused, there were three families with father, son and grandson – the Clarke family, Hawking family and new members being the Schubach family.

This year the Sunday fox shoots resulted in 66 foxes being taken and if adding in other foxes shot by members the total rises to almost 500.

Club members have been busy assisting with some seat painting and posts in the Recreation Reserve, painting and repairs at the Reserve toilets and constructing and painting a variety of nest boxes to be installed along the Greater Shepparton Shire section of the Rail Trail over the next few weeks.

The conversion and repair of a shed at the club rooms is almost complete with a door being made to fit the opening. The club members appreciate the contribution of the



Matt, Nate and Gary Schubach and Rambo the pup. Eddie, Mitch and Adam Clarke.

Rushworth P12 students who have been able to engage in meaningful hands-on learning working with our members on a Wednesday morning.

The next few months will be busy with hen-house repairs and installation on wetlands; spring is always exciting with so many species of birds breeding and taking up residence in our nest boxes.

With many species of native wildlife either nesting on the ground or in low bushes, the fox eradication is much needed at this time of year.



Geoff, Brendan, Declan and Josh Hawking

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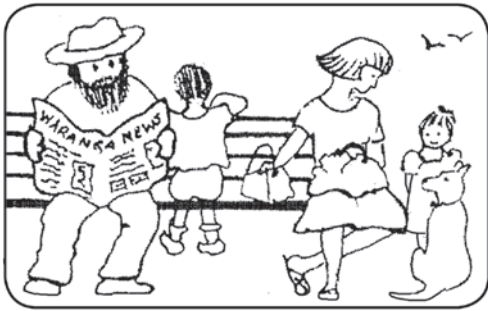
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Around Rushworth

Garden Club visit to Gargarro

Twenty three members of Rushworth Garden Lovers enjoyed lunch at the Gargarro cafe last meeting. Lunch was followed by a walk through the Botanic Garden, a good place to see what native plants grow in the area.

If you have your name down to go to the Regional Meeting in Kyabram on 13 October, payment needs to go to the Treasurer at the next meeting please.

The next meeting will be back to the refurbished rooms on Thursday, 18 September at 1:30pm. Competitions, trading table, and afternoon tea as per usual.

The club will also have a guest speaker this meeting. Visitors welcome.

Baby and child first aid and CPR - Friday 5 September

If you hurry you might still get a spot in this valuable workshop covering various aspects of first aid and CPR on babies and children. Bookings are essential as there are limited places. It's a two hour session from 10 am - 12pm, at the Rushworth Shire Hall.

Register through [www.thesisterhoodproject.com.au](http://www.thesisterhoodproject.com.au)

Springing into action!



1960's view of Mechanics Institute that was located next to the Infant Welfare Centre that is the remodelled present-day Heritage Centre.

After having a break over winter, Murchison Heritage Centre will be up and running from Saturday 19 September for its regular Saturday morning open times, 10am to 12pm. With spring in sight hopefully there will be some warmer weather to bring people out and about.

Groups are always welcome at any time by arrangement outside the Saturday morning sessions. If you are involved with a club, think about having an outing to Murchison Heritage Centre as you can be sure of an enjoyable experience. Email contact is best: [murch.hs@outlook.com](mailto:murch.hs@outlook.com) or telephone 0475 018 743 – leave a message or text.

Members have been active over the winter recess, still cataloguing the collection and library. Revision of one of the best accounts of Murchison local history, *The Doctor, The Captain, The Poet and Others*, that has been out of print for some time, has been another task undertaken over winter. This will be launched with much fanfare at the end of October to mark the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the Murchison and District Historical Society. More details nearer the time, so watch this space!

Kay Ball  
Murchison and District  
Historical Society.

Community Dance at Rushworth Shire Hall

If you feel like kicking up your heels on Saturday night, go along to the Shire Hall this Saturday night (6 September) at 7pm to enjoy the Community House Country Social Dance. Live music supplied by True Country will feature Country, 50s and 60s and rock'n'roll.

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

# Strokesafe event at the Stanhope Men’s Shed

Waranga Community Health recently held a strokesafe event at the Stanhope Men’s Shed on Friday 22/8/25.

It was a very informative session hearing from our guest speaker Andrew and his personal experience of having a stroke and his recovery.

Stacey from Ambulance Victoria was also on hand to discuss the emergency response to stroke with the 22 attendees.

Thank you to the Stanhope Men’s Shed for providing a delicious BBQ lunch.

The Stroke Foundation recommends the F.A.S.T. test as an easy way to remember the most common signs of stroke.

Using the F.A.S.T. test involves asking these simple questions:

- Face Check their face. Has their mouth drooped?
- Arms Can they lift both arms?
- Speech Is their speech slurred? Do they understand you?
- Time Is critical. If you see any of these signs call 000 straight away.

A stroke is always a medical emergency.

If any local community groups would like a strokesafe speaker organized please contact Michele on 58518026.

Learn the F.A.S.T. signs of STROKE



**FACE**  
drooped?



**ARMS**  
can't be raised?



**SPEECH**  
slurred or confused?



**TIME**  
is critical! Call 000.

If you see any of these signs  
Act FAST call 000 (triple zero)

Stroke Foundation



(Above) Stacey, Andrew and Michele. .  
(Below) The audience had some input at the Q&A session.



Tom and Neville at the event.



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NEWS FROM THE  
OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.

# Spring Sale – starts Friday

As from Friday 5 September a Spring Sale will commence for TWO WEEKS. Here are the specials:

50% off clothing (unless marked specially). Time to get a lovely jacket, coat or jumper for now and to store for next winter.

Winter boots - \$3 a pair  
Bag of children’s clothes - \$5

Vinyl records - \$3 each (there are some great choices)

CDs and DVDs – TWO for \$1’s We have so many clothes in men’s, women’s and children’s clothing. Some really good men’s jackets and also suits and dress shirts, as well as the more common, casual and work clothes. There are some stunning clothes for women. Why spend a fortune when you can get a whole wardrobe of new clothes for the cost of one decent dress in a normal shop!

Vinyl records are making a come back. I know we, personally, have a good collection and they always have a more mellow sound than the CDs.

Father’s Day is this Sunday and Sam has put together a few special things that Dad might like. She has taken a photo so I will include that in this article.

One exciting development is that we are going to be included in an Op Shop Trail Campaspe Shire leaflet. People can pick up

the leaflet from shops or the service centres and plan a day going to different op shops. It includes location and opening times and is a great resource for visitors and residents alike. We had four Shepparton ladies arrive last week who had never visited the shop before. They were absolutely thrilled with what they bought and sailed out the doors carrying full bags and promising to return soon with more friends.

Some really good furniture has come into the Little Green Shed. Buffet, hatches, tables etc. all of very good quality. So come and have a look. If the shed is not open enquire at the shop and we will help you.

Congratulations must go to our volunteer, Mavis, who won the Best Dressed at the Pink Day at the Bowling Club. She said she was entirely dressed in pink from the Op Shop. She didn’t give me a photo but she would have been BRIGHT!

Finally, a big thanks to Liz Buzza who has written the poem for this issue. I love it, based on the rhythm of Banjo Paterson. It’s brilliant. So I am trying to persuade her to write some more. Any other poets in the area are welcome to have a go at a poem – or a limerick (but keep it clean!)

We are in the start of spring now so the days will be getting noticeably longer, as will the grass and the weeds! Enjoy the blossoms and daffodils. The rain we have been getting is most welcome. So until next time may you have full bellies and a happy smile.

Heather

## THE GUMBOOT SAGA (With apologies to Banjo Paterson)

There was panic here in Rushworth as my gumboots now were much worse  
Than the day when I had bought them down in Melbourne long ago.  
Through the front my toes were peeking and the left hand boot was leaking  
So I decided sadly that they really had to go.

A pair of size eleven would be absolutely heaven  
But I’d looked in Coles and Woolies and nothing could be found  
Then I thought about the Op Shop as I knew it was a top spot  
So I thought that I would wander in and have a look around.

Well, the shop was a sensation and their stock a revelation  
They had shoes for every purpose from a picnic to a ball.  
I thought all boots were taken but it seems I was mistaken  
For tucked into a corner was a pair against the wall.

So I bought my boots with pleasure from a shop that is a treasure  
And a very fancy cookbook that I may not ever use.  
But now I will remember that when Spring comes in September  
That the famous Rushworth Op Shop is the perfect place for shoes.

Liz Buzza



A few Fathers day gifts

The 1920s clock for \$100



A Cosy Coat or two



An old projector for \$40





Colbo Tit Bits

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Menfolk Mondays

Why should the girls have all the fun with their coffee ‘n’ cake mornings?

The Colbinabbin Country Hotel thinks the fellas of Colbo and surrounds deserve a coffee break as well! Every Monday, from 10am, the pub will be welcoming blokes for a cuppa, with snacks also available. Many of our local men live alone and work alone, with family sometimes quite a distance away. Let’s keep connected! Start the ball rolling on Monday 8 September - 10am.

Cornella Care meeting

A Cornella Care General meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 September at 1pm at the home of Ann and Bert Stewart. There will be a trading table. Please bring a plate of afternoon tea to share. All welcome.

Hi from Singapore



David and Hannah Price who are living and working in Singapore were invited to a friend’s home to help them celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi, a Hindu Festival. They are marked with their bindis for the occasion!

Cemetery Trust

Mowing Roster (lawn section only)

September - Will Hayes

Colbo Diary

Menfolk Mondays - Mondays 10am at CCH

Coffee and Cake - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 10.15am @CCH

Scrabble & Soup - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 10.30am

Colbo Pub Choir - 5pm Tuesdays at CCH

Colbo Community Shed - Thursdays BYO BBQ lunch

New Parents’ Group - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 9am @ CCH

SEPTEMBER

Sat 6 Preliminary final @ Elmore

Mon 8 Menfolk Mondays start 10am

Wed 19 CornellaCare 1pm at Ann Stewart’s

Sat 13 Grand Final @ Huntly

Sun 14 Presentation Day

Taking a break with coffee and cake



(L–R) Lily Wareham with Charlie, Clare Morgan with Lennie, Bev Weeks, Glen Avar, Robyn Ryan, Maxine Ryan, Pauline Wilson and mine host, Julie Price taking a very short break.  
The Coffee and Cakers meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month.  
From 8 September, the men can meet on Mondays at 10am at CCH.

A spring service in the paddock!




A celebration of creation, renewal and God’s gift of life will take place among the canola crop at Shiraz Republic, Cornella. On Sunday 21 September the canola will be in full bloom, so all are welcome, locals, visitors and the wider church family. Mark the date on your calendar: Sunday 21 September at 9.30am. Bring a chair, a hat and perhaps a friend to join in celebrating spring.

LIBRARY

Wed 10 Sept Pauline Wilson

Wed 17 Sept Janice Tait



FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

Sept 7 Peter Morgan, Trevor Brown

Sept 14 Robert Brown, Sam Brown

If unable to attend for duty, call Chris or 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.

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# Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

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

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

Facebook:  
**Rushworth Community-House**

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

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point for Medicare,  
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Government services.**

## Morning tea to help train P-12 baristas

The Community House is hosting an encore public morning tea Tuesday 16 September starting at 10am. This event is definitely one for your diary and the morning tea will help train students from Rushworth P-12 College in the fine art of coffee preparation and service.

The students will be preparing coffee using a new barista coffee machine purchased by the House as part of a community grant from Campaspe Shire.



The Campaspe Shire grant also enabled the Community House to purchase a replacement refrigerator and a new dishwasher to ensure that the House’s kitchen is able to maintain its commercial kitchen accreditation for food preparation and training purposes.

## Container deposits reaping rewards

Rushworth’s Container Deposit Scheme has reached another milestone with more than thirty thousand dollars being paid out to community members since the program began in April 2024. Community House volunteers who manage the CDS activities at Rushworth Community Hub in Horne Street have so far processed over three hundred thousand eligible containers and the number is growing weekly.



The Rushworth container recycling initiative is part of a \$515 million investment by the Victorian Government to transform the state’s waste and recycling sector.

Funded by contributions from the beverage industry, the scheme contributes to Victoria’s target of diverting 80% of all material away from landfill by 2030 and represents a significant milestone in our journey towards a circular economy.



The early days of the scheme in Rushworth began with some posters in shop windows around the town indicating that the scheme was soon to start.

In the meantime, Community House Manager Anita Pirie was hard at work planning how the scheme was going to work locally - its location and physical access, opening times, volunteer amenities and where the large storage bins were to be placed to maintain security.

“It was like playing a complex game of chess,” Anita quipped, “with so many things to be sorted out before Day One of operation.”

Fortunately, some rearrangement of building use at the Community Hub allowed the scheme to go ahead, with easy client access and container drop-off as well as safe pickup by the large trucks that collect the filled container boxes.

The Community House is very grateful to the team of volunteers who run the Container Deposit Scheme. Without their diligence and dedication in all sorts of weather conditions, the scheme could not operate successfully.

That said, the House would welcome any additional volunteers to help with the scheme. Contact Anita on 58561295 to join the team.



### Please clean and sort

Before taking their containers to the Hub for recycling, people are asked to rinse them out with water, and sort them into cartons, bottles, steel cans and aluminium cans for easier (and safer) handling at the recycling centre.

This is especially so for single-serve liquid paperboard milk and fruit juice cartons - if not rinsed out, they quickly become smelly and unpleasant to process.



## The new Community Hub sign says it all

Things are on the go at Rushworth Community Hub and this new sign will help people identify the site and its many activities.

Thanks to local jack-of-all-trades Dave Francis for working out how to mount the sign safely on the fence then carrying out the work to his usual very high standard.

Consider hiring part of the hub for your next community event.





# Arts & Tourism

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## Basket weaving is always a popular workshop



There is always a waiting list of people keen to join Tony Ford in his basket weaving workshops when he comes to town. Some interesting baskets were in the making last weekend, featuring fresh Dianella and raffia. (Here the group takes time out for a delicious bowl of soup.)



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- PIECES OF HOPE- PAULINE STEWART Opens 16 August
- CONNECTED BY A THREAD- ALBURY/ WODONGA TEXTILE GROUP Opens 16 August
- SAME SHAPE SAME SIZE- Splinter Contemporary artists. Opens 12 August Open 10-4 daily except Sunday

5852 1546 or 0490 371 641 [www.kyabramtownhall.com.au](http://www.kyabramtownhall.com.au)

(Above) One of the artworks in the Pieces of Hope exhibition by Pauline Stewart which can be seen at the Kyabram Town Hall Gallery during the month of September. Pop in to see all of the exhibitions listed here.

Father's Day at Shiraz Republic

Celebrate Dad this Sunday with a day among the vines. Wander the golden Cornella Canola Walk, enjoy pizza with a glass of shiraz or craft beer, and relax to live music in the afternoon.

Open 10am. Walk-ins welcome.

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Kennedy Shiraz 2019, Kennedy Cambria (Reserve) 2014, Kennedy Pink Hills Rosé 2021, Henrietta Shiraz 2020  
Henrietta Rose 2022 available online and being served at Colbinabbin Country Hotel.



# Cooks Corner

**Breakfast, brunch or a light dinner - Here's a quick 'n' easy recipe with the option of being gluten-free:**

## Cabbage and sweet potato fritters

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups shredded cabbage
- 1 cup grated sweet potato
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup flour (or chickpea flour for gluten-free)
- 1 tspn salt
- 1/2 tspn black pepper
- 1/2 tspn paprika (optional)
- Olive oil for frying

### METHOD

In a large bowl, combine shredded cabbage, grated sweet potato, onion, eggs, flour, salt, pepper and paprika. Mix until well combined.

Heat olive oil in a skillet over medium heat.

Scoop 2-3 tablespoons of the mixture per fritter and flatten slightly in the skillet.

Fry for 3-4 minutes per side until golden and crispy.

Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate to remove excess oil.

*Seasonal Kitchen*



## Handy Hints

- from Lyn Rumble

*Repurposing or re-using everyday items - or quick and easy solutions to general household issues that maybe had not even occurred to you - is what I like to do. Of course saving a bit on the grocery bill always helps too!*

*Quick fixes to age-old problems, like never having fly/mozzie spray handy when you have a BBQ on the go, or a constant sticky drawer can be annoying, so hope these few hints help some of you.*

**\* Removing almond nut skins** – soak in water for about an hour, and the skins should come off easily.

**\* Removing shells from hard-boiled eggs** – Boil the eggs as usual and let cool. Wrap shells in clear packing tape around the outside. Tap shells on the counter top to break the shell gently. Peel off the tape, and the shell bits should come off with it!

**\* Mozzie Repellent Spray** – Here is one to keep for summer! Take 20 (approx.) cloves and put in a jug with 100mls of white vinegar. Add to that 100mls of warm water and soak this mix for three hours. Decant into a clean and dry spray bottle, and use as necessary.

**\* Book page turning can be difficult if you have arthritis!** Get a 'Post-It note' sheet, stick it to the page you need turning, and it will be easy to flip the page over. Just remove the 'post-it note' when done and place on the new page to be turned and so on!

**\* Stiff windows and drawers can be difficult to open!** With this cold / humid weather, older doors, windows and drawers can be difficult to open. Before calling a tradesman in to fix it, try lubricating the running channel or offending panel with things like a candle, or bar of soap. Try vaseline or even talcum powder first and see if that helps.

# Garden Hints & Tips

## It takes time

We have come to expect things to happen instantly, even things that should normally take time. Gardens are no different. We can now create instant gardens. We see them being made on various TV shows and then want to make them ourselves. It just takes a little time - and a lot of money! Lawns are instant turf (\$9-\$13 per square metre), trees are advanced (\$1,000-\$3,000+) and may require an excavator (\$420 plus driver) to plant them. The rest is filled-in with advanced potted plants (\$13-\$40)....lots of them. It all adds up. I suppose if you can afford it is not a bad way to create a garden, but for the rest of us it is not financially possible. We have to take the long road with our gardens, trying to strike a balance between what we can afford and having a garden that looks good. So here are some ways to achieve a good 'not-so-instant' garden.

Divide and conquer. Some plants grow in clumps and can be divided. If you can get them from another part of the garden or from a friend's garden, they are a good way to get reasonably well-established plants for nothing. But beware, some plants such as acanthus look good, grow quickly but are impossible to get rid of. Others are actually classed as weed species. Make sure you know what you are getting. Other plants, particularly succulents, are easily grown from cuttings simply shoved in the ground. Again, do a little research on what you are planting.

Trees. You may like to plant one or two 2m or so high trees as features. Dig a big hole. At this height trees usually will grow quickly and in just a few years will be as big as those expensive established TV trees. Alternatively, you can buy a quick-growing tree. Again, you need to know what you are

planting; you don't want to plant a tree that will grow to be 20m tall. Most acacias grow quickly without getting too tall, but the down-side is that they will only last for 10-15 years.

Lawns.Regular readers will know I'm not a fan of lawns. They require a lot of watering, mowing and other maintenance. If I had a choice between spending Sunday mornings pushing a mower around in ever decreasing circles or sitting in the garden with a good book and a pot of tea, I would choose the latter any day. If you want an open area in your garden, why not just plant it out with ground covers or even native grasses? There are ground-hugging succulents that easily grow from cuttings that are very effective.

A good strategy is to put in cheap, quick growing plants and then gradually replace them with more permanent things. It means that you get a garden of sorts in a year or so and then over the next few years it evolves into something more permanent. It means you will buy your plants over a longer period, making the cost manageable and keeps you involved in your garden, something you rarely get in instant gardens which are usually 'set and forget'.

While none of these options will give you an instant garden, they will give you a garden in just a few years that you can enjoy at a fraction of the cost. Just be patient. Remember: gardens are not made, they are grown.

*The Zen Gardener*





# Health and Wellbeing

## ‘Say yes to you’ Campaspe libraries celebrate Women’s Health Week

## Share the Dignity It’s In The Bag Christmas Campaign 2025

Campaspe Libraries are proud to support Jean Hailes Women’s Health Week, Australia’s largest national health campaign dedicated to the health and wellbeing of all women, girls and gender-diverse people.

This year’s theme, ‘Say yes to you’, encourages everyone to speak up, check in, and prioritise their health and wellbeing.

Campaspe Libraries will host a series of free events to mark the occasion:

### Wednesday 3 September

Bianca Fleming, Sexual Health Nurse Consultant from Echuca Regional Health will talk about taking the lead in your own health and tips and tools to improve and maintain your mind and body health.

10.30am at Rochester Library, 43-45 Mackay Street, Rochester

1.30pm at Echuca Library, 310 Hare Street, Echuca

### Thursday 4 September

Meet Jen, Women’s Health Nurse from Kyabram District Health Service. and learn what services are available to you.

10.30am at Kyabram Library, 19 Lake Road, Kyabram VIC 3620

Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Daniel Mackrell encourages people of all ages to come along and connect with local health professionals, access trusted health information, and take positive steps toward better health.

“It’s a great opportunity to take a breath and prioritise wellbeing by coming along and hearing from professionals in our community,” he said.

Events are free and bookings are encouraged. Visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/library](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/library) or call 03 5481 2400 to book.

For more information about Jean Hailes Women’s Health Week, visit <https://www.jeanhailes.org.au>.

Each November Share the Dignity have donated thousands of bags to those in need across the country filled with essentials and special gifts to make Christmas one to remember.

It’s In the bag is one of Australia’s most loved Christmas appeals, where we encourage everyday Australians to put together bags filled with essential items, and maybe some everyday luxuries, to donate to someone in need for Christmas.

The 2025 It’s In The Bag campaign will run from the 14th of November until 30th November.

### How can you participate?

Choose a handbag in good condition that you no longer use (or buy one - new or from an opp shop).

Inside the bag, we require period products, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, body wash, roll-on deodorant. In addition to this, you can add any products or gifts you think someone doing it tough may appreciate.

Fill it with any items that would make a woman feel special or would find useful. Because nobody should go without life’s little essentials!

You can also add a thoughtful note or Christmas card to show her someone cares.

Keep in mind when you’re packing your bag, “what items would I like to receive during a difficult time in my life?” Additional items that would make someone feel special such as make up, accessories, moisturiser, facemasks, hand cream, handmade items, purses are an extra but lovely touch.

The following items are not accepted in the bag for safety reasons:

- Loose tampons and pads
- Pharmaceutical items (including condoms, throat lozenges, paracetamol and ibuprofen)



- Food and drinks
- Sharp objects (including razors and scissors)

### Who receives a bag?

The donations of It’s In The Bag go directly to those in need: women’s refuges, domestic violence shelters, indigenous communities, homelessness charities, drought-stricken farmers and to young people in foster care.

For more details or to join in this wonderful project please contact Michele Hanson on 58518026.

Bags need to be dropped off to Waranga Health or the Stanhope Business Centre by Monday 24 November.



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## All about wildlife

*Kirsty Ramadan from BoHollow Wildlife is a wildlife rescue expert. Here she shares some of her knowledge about our very familiar wildlife neighbours.*

### Spring time is nesting time

Many of our native birds are nesting now and we've had a few babes at the shelter already but we are waiting for the influx that we know may suddenly happen at any time.

There are a few things you can do during the season to give our natives a better chance of successfully getting their young through to fledging.

Firstly, be very aware if pruning or cutting trees on your property there is a high chance someone is nesting in the foliage, branches or hollows. Many nests are brought down through human activity during spring and summer. Check branches and foliage for nesting activity before pruning. If you do disturb a nest, please call for help and advice immediately as baby birds are fed frequently by parents and time is of the essence for any orphaned chicks.

Some chicks, such as ducklings and plover chicks, are what we call precocial chicks. These babes are hatched with fluffy down, eyes open and can be mobile within hours of hatching. They follow their parents while learning to forage. These chicks still require warmth and protection from parent birds or they will not survive on their own. We have already had instances this season of plover chicks falling down stormwater drains in streets and if they are not rescued from the cold, often damp or wet environment of a pipe or stormwater pit promptly, they perish quickly. Falling down stormwater grates, openings and pits are common rescues for us each season.

Other chicks are what we call altricial chicks. These chicks are the ones who hatch out akin to miniature dinosaurs, naked or with sparse down, eyes closed and quite helpless until they begin to develop more whilst in the nest. Songbirds, parrots, magpies and kookaburras all hatch out as altricial chicks. These chicks cannot survive out of the nest until they are more developed and ready to fledge.

Many of our birds such as magpies, ravens and our honeyeater species, including wattlebirds, naturally leave the nest just before they are able to fly properly. We call these chicks branchers. These youngsters can grip branches well, climb, run, hop and flutter, enough to get up into low branches and branch hop to safety higher up in a tree or shrub. It is natural for these babes to be clumsily following parent birds, begging for food as they tag along while mum or dad forages. These branchers may also park themselves in low branches while they await a parent to return with tucker. Branchers, just as all young chicks, can be naive to the danger of humans and appear friendly. This isn't an invitation to be picked up. If uninjured and parent birds are about, there is no need for rescuing. If in doubt, call for advice and help. If a brancher is not able to grip a branch, walk, run, hop and flutter/half fly, there is something wrong.

Many chicks require assistance each season and each case needs to be assessed separately on whether things are ok or whether a chick's survival means coming into care.

If you do come across a chick or chicks who need help, warmth is paramount for their survival until they can get to an appropriate shelter.

DO NOT give water or food unless advised by an experienced wildlife carer. We can advise on what to do until the bird can get to us. Each season chicks come to us where their fate is death caused



by well intentioned people syringing water or inappropriate food items down their throat. Even a drop for a tiny chick can be a death sentence if taken down their windpipe. I'm not sure why the first instinct for people is to believe they'll make a bird or critter better by instantly giving it water or food. I'm sure if this method worked, our paramedics would carry snacks and attempt to force liquid down our throats. Always call for help.

Each year we get calls for birds which people have tried to raise on their own without a rehabilitation permit. Just because Google says it's perfectly alright to feed a bird dog or cat food, does not mean it is so. Call for help.

These youngsters need specialist care which includes raising correctly or they will not be fit for release. Birds who are kept eventually find their way to us when they either become a burden or begin to fail and have a long, hard slog ahead of them to get back on track and able to go on through to release. The entire process is thought out carefully for each species we care for, each step is setting them up for the next stage and when this is not done correctly, it usually ends in disaster. These cases also take a lot more of our time and resources when they have not had the appropriate care to begin with.

#### Always call for help

Times are tough out there for our native critters. Not only do they face all the natural dangers in their world, they now have to survive the added perils of human infrastructure and activities. They deserve a little help when they run into strife and every chick we get back out there is one more chick that may go on to have young themselves in seasons to come.

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



# ON THE BRINK *by Neil Laurie*

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

## Buzzy bees

Some time ago ‘On the Brink’ looked at the various native bee species. In this edition it is the European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) and its impact upon the environment that is being looked at. The European honey bee was introduced into Australia in 1822. While it was brought to Australia for honey production, bees quickly established feral hives across Australia.

We tend to think of bees as a ‘good’ species. They pollinate our crops and provide us with honey. While this is true, it must be remembered that our native flora have evolved without the European honey bee. Native plants have different pollinators: native bees, wasps, birds, bats, and even possums. The flower structures of many native plants mean that bees cannot feed from them. Some plant species have very specific pollinators. For example, some orchids rely on particular wasp species for pollination. Nothing except that wasp can successfully pollinate that orchid. Bees literally do not get a look in.

Some of our native plants need to be vibrated to release their pollen. Some native bees have evolved to vibrate the flowers in a process called buzz pollination. European bees do not buzz pollinate and cannot pollinate these plants.

Bees can feed off eucalypts and some other tree species. In these cases, the bees are in direct competition with the trees’ natural pollinators. The European honey bee is larger and more aggressive than the native species (although the blue striped bee is a similar size). If nectar or pollen is in short supply the European bees can out-compete native bees, fighting their way onto the flowers.

The European honey bee also out-breeds native species. Their hives will contain many thousands of bees with the queen laying up to 2,000 eggs each day, whereas native bees are either solitary or live in small colonies and lay far fewer eggs.

A major ecological problem of feral bees

is that they will leave their hive to take up residence elsewhere, usually in a tree hollow. There are two causes of this. If bees in a domestic hive find it unsuitable, they will simply up and leave (abscond). Causes of absconding can be lack of food, the hive getting too hot (or cold) or being attacked by ants or other insects. Should a hive become crowded, the worker bees will raise new queens. The old queen will leave the hive with a swarm of workers to colonise a new hive. It can be seen as the way bees reproduce. Again, tree hollows are a favoured site for their new hives. The problem is that by using tree hollows the bees are depriving native species of their nesting hollows. Bees will even settle in nesting boxes (many native species will not use a hollow or nesting box once it has had bees in it). While most feral bees have swarmed from hives of other feral bees, the bees’ ancestries will eventually lead back to domestic hives.

In recent times there has been a rise in amateur bee-keeping with people getting a hive or two for their gardens. Unfortunately, this has led to a rise in absconding or swarming bees due to hives not being monitored or well cared for. Some people saw their hives as a ‘set and forget’ thing and others felt intimidated by the idea of opening their hives to check on their bees. My advice is to have a docile queen. This makes the whole process much easier. With really good queen it may even be possible to open and work on the hive without a suit, veil or gloves.

While The European honey bee is essential for the pollination of many of our introduced plants and food crops, the native flora can exist quite well (and in some case better) without it.

## European honey bee



# Birds of a Feather

## Ravens

Are there crows living in Victoria? This was an old trick question as the smart answer was no, we don’t have any crows as all those big black birds found are ravens. We have five species of corvids which is the family which includes crows, ravens and some other species not found in Australia. Locally we have only two corvids, the Australian raven and the little raven. The three other species are the forrest raven found in Tasmania and in the southern mainland, the little crow found in the outback and the Torresian crow which is mostly in Northern Australia. However, contrary to popular belief there are crows in Victoria as the little crow can be found in the extreme northwest of our state.

Our two local raven species are common and difficult to tell apart. The Australian raven is only slightly bigger than the little raven so the two cannot be separated by looking at their size. Their beaks are a little different but the main physical difference is that the Australian raven has prominent hackles which are the feathers it may display below its chin. It is easier to separate the two species by their calls as the Australian raven often uses a dying call at the end of it’s typical ark ark ark call. Although the two species overlap in territory the Australian raven is usually solitary or in small numbers in our forest or towns whereas the little raven is often in large groups in a field. In common parlance we call them both species “crows” so it may seem a little pedantic to call them ravens but I think it’s of interest to know that not all “crows” are the same.

Ravens have often had a bad press as they have been accused of killing young lambs and this has led to them being shot by farmers. Considerable research was done on this question in the last century and concluded that finding that ‘crows’ killing lambs was very rare but they would eat stillborn lambs and the afterbirth. Interestingly they will also eat the faeces of new born lambs as this is highly nutritious. We mostly think of ‘crows’ as carrion feeders but they have a wide diet, feeding on insects, centipedes and other invertebrates and also small birds and mammals. Perhaps we should also thank ‘crows’ for the job that they do cleaning up dead animals.

Ravens are highly intelligent and studies on their relatives such as the New Caledonian crow and other corvids have shown them to be some of the smartest birds. They are also quite peaceful so will normally only get aggressive when their territory is invaded. Perhaps instead of saying “stone the crows” we should appreciate them more.

*The Rushy Birder*

Little raven



Australian raven





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

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



### **Colbinabbin 1975 footy flag its first for 25 years**

Amid high excitement among supporters and former players, Colbinabbin defeated Rushworth at Toolleen to win the club's first premiership since 1950, the cup accepted by captain-coach Jeff McCubbery and club president Mick Morgan. The score showed a comfortable win 17-15 to 10-13, after leading by 41 points at the final change. Wayne Egan with six goals for Colbo, Horne with five for the Tigers were familiar figures throughout the season.

Colbo had good players in McCubbery, Ken Wilson, Len Rodda, Paul Tuohey, Bill Johnson, Egan, John McEvoy and Brendan Tuohey. For Rushworth, Horne, Neville Clarke, Glen Heily, Maurice Clarke, John Bianco, Mark Mackinder, Bill Barlow and David Perry did best. Colbo defeated Rushworth three times during the season, the Tigers having a big win in the opening round.

Prior to the game, John Lambden received the Cheatley Medal for HDFL's best and fairest player.

Colbo missed the Seconds premiership by kicking 1-6 in the final quarter, down 8-12 to Elmore's 11-8. Glen Rathjen, Trevor Cheatley, John Brown, Gerard Stewart, G. Maddern and Bob McLean were mentioned.

### **Court**

Magistrate Curtain sided with Wildlife Officer Crosier, who had found wild ducks in a local man's freezer. The surprise prosecution was outside duck season, despite the ducks having been shot in season. The fine was \$15, a dollar for each duck! Another man was fined for use of a gill net in a channel.

### **Shire of Waranga**

The vacancy representing North East Riding was filled by Alex McGonnel of Stanhope, a former Scot and a herd tester.

A group of ratepayers were planning to meet outside the chamber during a Council meeting to show their concern at rising Shire rates.

Park management at Rushworth had lapsed, so Councillor Jacobson chaired a meeting which elected a new Board of E. Gleeson, M. Hitchcock, A. Raglus, W. Barlow, A. Geisler, J. O'Donnell, Miss J. Lambden and Miss P. Wootton. A new constitution was in preparation.

The Shire was the sponsor of a Stop Smoking Course in Stanhope, within Anti-Cancer Week.

### **Schools**

Rushworth Primary school sports were a cause for high excitement, twelve students from grades 1 and 2 winning races. Sports champs were Wendy Hawking, Sue Robbins and Darren Clarke. Goulburn House won out from Murray and Campaspe.

Some Grade 5 and 6 pupils were to attend Woodburn camp, near Yea.

With holidays looming all classes had a clean-up, so that cleaners could polish the floors.

### **Community**

Announced as a Queen's Guide at Stanhope was Debra Lavery. New Guides were Marlene Harrison, Wendy Lucas and Sharon Ramadge. Badges were awarded to Sherrie Gemmill, Helen Linford and Shirley Brisbane. Brownies obtaining badges were Fiona Malins, Joan Young, Michelle Norman, Wendy Sutton, Kaye Linford, Susan Lucas, Judy Hepburn, Caroline Legge, Tracey Lloyd, Susan Marks and Darlene Grinter.

Rushworth Guide and Scout hall at the park received assistance from the Lions Club.

### **People**

Ian Borger opened a farm supplies store in High Street building previously owned by Younghusband Ltd. The shop was shared with shoe retailer, Dick O'Donnell.

Marie Barlow of Phillips Street crossed the road to the Catholic church to marry Harry Dobson of Charlton, ahead of a reception in the Shire Hall.

The death of Stella Patterson was reported from Stanhope. From Murchison there was the passing of Laurence Moroney.

### **Football**

Murchison closed the fixtured season beating Ardmona 14-15 to 13-14, then lost the semi-final in a surprise to Girgarre.

Preliminary final day had mixed fortunes for the Tigers. The long list of injured players extended when Chris Hageman suffered a badly cut head, and Thirds player Chris Geisler broke his collarbone. This news took the edge off the Tiger Seniors win over Mount Pleasant at Elmore. Injuries prompted the inclusion of retired veteran Mal McLeod as 19th man, and he took the ground in the last quarter in the thrilling 3-point win, 10-18 to 10-15. Mark Mackinder played his first match for several weeks after a foot injury. Alec Horne kicked three goals for Rushworth, Nick Nihill with three for Mounts.

Colbo Seconds had no trouble in their preliminary final against Rushworth, who finished with 16 players. 15-24 to Colbo with Trevor Johnson best, 4-5 to Rushworth with Denis Ogden kept busy and named best at full-back.

Rushworth counted club best and fairest votes before the finals, which made no sense to me. Best and fairest was Mark Mackinder, with John Lambden runner-up. Trevor Hawking was named Most Improved, Bill Barlow Most Consistent, Ian Williams Best Utility, and leading goal-kicker Mick O'Sullivan. Being paid to play, Alec Horne and Mick were ineligible for best and fairest votes, which was equally strange.

Barry Thompson finished ahead of Geoff Hawking to win the Seconds best and fairest. Wayne Hageman was Most Consistent, Rob Raglus was awarded for most umpires' votes, Malcolm McLean was Most Improved and Rob Hageman Best First-Year player. Geoff Hawking was leading goal-kicker.

In the Thirds, Mal Cruz took the Best and Fairest ahead of Chris Geisler, Greg Cruz got most votes from umpires, and Craig Beck was named Most Consistent. Other trophies went to Anthony Fullarton (Best Utility), Darryl Roberts (Most Improved), Peter Schade (Most Courageous and leading goal-kicker), Tim Barlow (Best Team Man), Wayne Raglus (Most Vigorous) and Allan Hawking (Most Attentive at Training). (*Biggest smile went to the trophy supplier!*)

There were 50 people at a meeting of Stanhope Football Club to debate a suggestion to apply to join the Heathcote League. The meeting was adjourned without a decision.

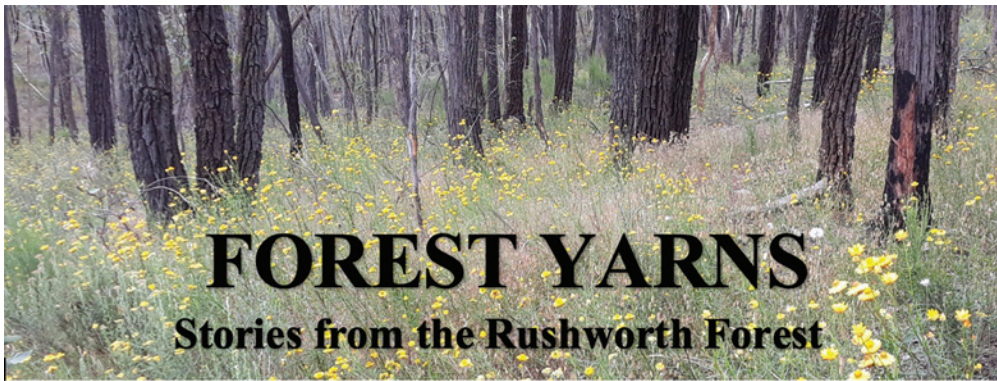
### **Other sports**

Mount Pleasant took the A-grade netball flag by just one goal from Rushworth. Doing well were Joanne Hawking and Maureen O'Sullivan, who had finished runner-up in the League best and fairest award. Mounts beat Colbo to win B-grade, and also won C-grade.

Reaching championship finals at Rushworth golf were Graham Spence, Graham Muir, David Heily and Peter Meagher (A-Grade), Aub Geisler, Norm Geisler, Ray Cheatley and Ross Coyle (B-Grade), Ralph Barlow, Max Richards and Gordon Raglus (C-grade) and Rob Borger, Bill Barlow and Noel Perry (D-grade).

Scoring a remarkable round of 79 was 79-year-old Sam Jessup of Rushworth.





### Supplying the hospital

From the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s, Murray Hitchcock had a contract to deliver firewood to Mooroopna Hospital. At the time, Mooroopna was the main regional hospital for the Goulburn Valley. Rushworth community had a very strong relationship with the hospital in earlier years, with local folk often engaging in fundraising projects for this important institution.

The hospital contract specified that 2 x 10 ton loads a day were to be delivered to power the boilers. Hitchcocks supplied 5 foot billets of timber. There were about 40 billets to a ton, so 400 billets would be carted per load; 800 billets per day.

Darryl Hitchcock would work in the forest cutting the timber and preparing it for loading. Forest Commission employees identified the trees that were able to be cut down. After the introduction of the new-fangled chainsaws by his father, Darryl could cut 10 tons of firewood per day. Other forest workers supplied the business with billets as well, ensuring a regular supply to the essential service. Wally Cooper and his son Russell were supplied with a chainsaw to work in this capacity and Dick Breen also supplied billets.

From Monday to Thursday, Murray Hitchcock would take two loads per day to the hospital. He often loaded and unloaded the truck by himself so in a week this would amount to 3200 billets if he did not get any help. This was an enormous physical effort but did not preclude Murray from footy training and playing football for the Rushworth Tigers each Saturday. The contract ended when the Mooroopna hospital switched to other sources of power.

### Hitchcock history

Murray’s great-great-grandfather Daniel, an Englishman born in Sussex in England, arrived in Sydney in 1854 after a four-month

voyage from Liverpool, but died just three years later at Back Creek. His son, also Daniel and also born in England, married Isabella Sharp, a Scottish woman. He worked as a blacksmith. Big families were the order of the day. Murray’s grandfather George was the second of nine children of Daniel Jnr and Isabella. The family grew up in the Bendigo area before moving to the Goulburn Valley in the early 1890s.

### Maurice’s business

Darryl and Murray were the sons of M A Hitchcock – Maurice Albert – affectionately known by all and sundry as “Mooky”. As sometimes happens in Rushworth families, a nickname could be passed on to the next generation, as it was from Maurice to Murray.



The origin of the nickname is obscure but one non-family member reckons it dated back to when Maurice was a toddler, asking his Mother for milk – “Mook! Mook!”. The same person remembered that Darryl was known as “Seldom”. Seldom seen perhaps, as he was always out working in the forest alone?

Mooky Snr was born in Rushworth in 1917 but was living in Stanhope when he started his own business. The accompanying advertisement first appeared in the Kyabram Free Press in 1937. The following year, he married Dulcie Pearce from Rushworth and they began a family. Later, the business name became M A Hitchcock and Sons, as Darryl and Murray went into the business, the latter when he was only 14 and working for 10



**M A Hitchcock & Sons – painted by Murray Ross of Tongala on an old saw blade**

pounds (\$20) a week and keep.

As noted in the original advertisement, a number of different products were supplied. As well as the hardy ironbark for fencing materials, mallee was used by Goulburn Valley fruit growers to prop up the branches as the fruit increased in size and weight through the spring and early summer. Maurice did all sorts of other odd jobs, like carting sleepers for the few remaining hewers like Bill Miller, who would still produce about 50 hand hewn sleepers a month.

### Down at the station

As has been explained in earlier stories, the Rushworth Railway Station was a hub for firewood and timber mills. During the 1950s, the Hitchcocks had one of five mills there, along with Eddie Duke and Charlie Warden (managing a mill for Melbourne wood merchant Mr Armstead), Charlie Curtis, Mick Wall, the Perry Bros (George, Alf and Ron) and Doug Poulson. Most, if not all, of these men were descended from people who worked in the timber industry.

With firewood destined for the Melbourne market, the wood would be cut into 7 foot billets in the forest four days a week, then transported into the mill at the station. On Fridays at the mill, it would be cut into one-foot blocks and loaded into railway carriages. Any offcuts would be used to power the steam engines. The Hitchcocks supplied truckloads of firewood to Ernie Torr, a wood and produce merchant operating out of Yarraville in Melbourne.

SOURCES: Interview with Murray Hitchcock; sundry websites esp Ancestry

### A Name from the Past

#### Four local men honoured

#### Miss Honorah Flood

Four young men of Wanalta and Colbinabbin districts were coffin-bearers at the funeral of Miss Honorah Flood in 1940. Honorah was born at Wanalta but had left there 30 years before she died in Bendigo.

Derm Stewart, Tom Dwyer, Tom Phelan and Joe Darrigan assisted, as Miss Flood’s closest relative seems to have been her nephew Edmund, according to the report in Rushworth Chronicle dated 20 September,

1940.

“A wide circle of friends of Miss Honorah Flood, of Vine Street, Bendigo, learned with regret of her death on Tuesday morning last week.

The deceased lady was a daughter of the late Mr. Edmund and Mrs. Anastasia Flood, who were well known residents of Wanalta.

Thirty years ago she left Wanalta and went to Melbourne, after ten years she went to Bendigo, and had resided there for 20 years. She had an illness of five days.

Sympathy is expressed to her nephew, Mr. Edmund Flood, and other relatives.

Requiem Mass was celebrated in St. Killian’s Church by the Very Rev. Dean Kelly, and the funeral to Colbinabbin cemetery was attended by many friends and relatives.

The polished casket was carried by Messrs. D. Stewart, T. Dwyer, T. Phelan and J. Darrigan. The Rev. Father John Wood read the prayer in the church and also officiated at the grave.”

Today, as back then, it is impressive when local people step up to assist after the death of a person with few living relatives.

Alan McLean



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

# Book Week fun at Stanhope Primary

Stanhope Primary School students and staff were joined by friends from the Stanhope Kindergarten to celebrate Book Week.



The highlight was dressing up as characters from favourite books and taking part in a parade at the school. Students and their kinder buddies also enjoyed fun activities during the morning. (Pictured above) students were keen to display their costumes before school.

## Book Week 2025: “Book and Adventure”

Book Week 2025 is a nationwide celebration of literature, creativity, and the joy of reading. It encourages readers of all ages to explore new worlds, ideas, and possibilities through books.

Schools, libraries, and communities across the country host activities such as author visits, book fairs, dress-up days, and storytelling sessions to promote a love of reading.

Book Week also highlights the importance of Australian children’s literature, with the Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) announcing its annual Book of the Year Awards.

Students are encouraged to engage with nominated books, discuss their themes, and express themselves through creative projects.

Book Week 2025 is always a perfect time to celebrate the power of stories and the impact they can have on imagination, learning, and personal growth.



Stanhope students and staff got into the spirit of Book Week.



School students and their kinder buddies on parade.



The teachers co-ordinated their costumes with the theme ‘Where’s Wally?’



### Catherine Fraser Civil Celebrant

Celebrating Marriages and Funerals

293 Hill Road  
Stanhope VIC, 3623  
catherinemarycelebrations@gmail.com  
0427 572 549



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

# Winter lunchtime fun at St Mary’s School

Bianca Brook (Classroom Teacher)

St Mary’s has been trialling some lunchtime activities this fortnight. These have been really well received by students. Some of the activities we have had out are painting, drawing, Lego and scavenger hunts. These have been successful in strengthening and rekindling bonds between friendships.



F/1/2 students enjoy playing with Lego and drawing at lunch time.

## ‘The Iron Man’, by Grades 3/4

This fortnight the Grade 3/4 students finalised their book ‘The Iron Man’. With this they have created some information reports about iron. Everyone did an excellent job with the structure and contents of their writing piece. Below is Isaac Perry’s contribution:

### Beautiful Iron

Did you know iron used to be eight times more expensive than gold? Iron can be mined in Australia. This report will explain when iron touches oxygen and water it rusts. How iron is made and how it was used to make weapons.

### Chemical reactions

Iron can have many different chemical reactions. If you leave iron outside it will rust from oxygen and water. If you mix iron and carbon it will make a strong metal called steel. Alloys like stainless steel rust much slower than pure iron. These are just some of the chemical reactions of iron.

### Weapons

Weapons can be made from iron. Weapons are made by melting steel and then moulding it to make a weapon. Some of the weapons are axes, knives and spears. The iron age was 4000 years ago. This is when they used a lot of iron to make weapons. Iron was important for making weapons.

### How steel is made

Iron goes in a process to make steel. They make a big hole with trucks and blow the hole and then they dig it out. They put it in a furnace and remove the impurities. They make big blocks of steel and thin it out to make thin plates of steel. This is the process of iron turning to steel.

This report discussed the chemical reaction of iron, how weapons are made with iron and how steel is made. Iron is important because it makes weapons. Without iron we wouldn’t have steel.

By Isaac.

## Updates to student learning spaces

It has been wonderful to see how our learning spaces have developed as the year has progressed. One exciting change has been the addition of new tables in each of the classrooms. These have not only provided flexible learning opportunities for students but have also created more space across the school for different learning areas.



## Enrolments now open for 2026

St Mary’s is now taking enrolments for 2026. Families are encouraged to return enrolment forms as soon as possible so that planning can be commenced for the coming year.

- Enrolment packs are available from the office, please see Pete or Georgia if you need one.
- Families new to St Mary’s are warmly welcomed. The school offers high-quality education, strong values, genuine care and a supportive, inclusive community.

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**An amazing array of outfits for Book Week 2025. From top: Prep and Grade 1, Grade 2 and 3 then Grade 4. Grade 5 and 6 page 23.**





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

# MP encourages future leaders at Rushworth P-12 College

Member for Euroa, Annabelle Cleeland, has praised the next generation of leaders following a recent visit to Rushworth P-12 College, where she recently joined students for a civics and leadership class.

During the visit, Ms Cleeland spoke with students about the importance of civic engagement, the responsibilities of Members of Parliament, and how leadership begins in the classroom and community.

“Getting to join school classes around the electorate is always a highlight for me,” Ms Cleeland said.

“It’s energising to see the enthusiasm and curiosity students bring to conversations about leadership and politics.”

The session explored how young people can use their voices to advocate for themselves, their peers, and their communities.

“These leadership classes are teaching students something incredibly valuable: that their voice matters,” Ms Cleeland said.

“It’s not just about politics - it’s about confidence, communication, and having the courage to speak up for what you believe in.”

Ms Cleeland said the visit was also a chance to offer insight into the day-to-day life of a regional MP and the role elected representatives play in shaping legislation and advocating for their communities.

“We spoke about what being an MP involves, what our responsibilities are, and the kind of change we’re trying to deliver for our region,” Ms Cleeland said.

“It’s also an opportunity to flip the script, to ask students what matters to them, how they define leadership, and what changes they want to see in their schools and communities.

“These conversations are always meaningful and fun.”

Ms Cleeland commended the staff at Rushworth P-12 College for fostering a space where students are encouraged to think critically, lead with empathy, and develop a strong sense of civic pride.

“These students are thoughtful, articulate, and full of potential,” Ms Cleeland said.

“It’s clear that programs like these are helping to build a generation of engaged, informed, and confident young leaders.”



Inspiring future leaders: Annabelle Cleeland MP spoke to students about engaging in community and developing civic pride.

## Book Week at Colbo School (continued)

Grades 5 and 6





# Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025

Introducing the team of four Sandhurst priests will accompany 200 young pilgrims to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne.



Fr Nathan Verallo, (Christ the King Parish, Wangaratta).



The Pastoral Leader will be Fr Junray Rayna, (Administrator of St Kilian's, Bendigo).



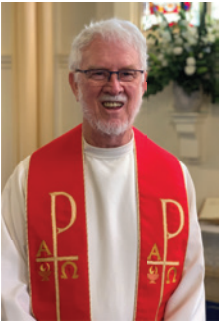
Fr Jackson Saunders (Cathedral Cluster of Parishes, Bendigo).



Fr Adi Indra (St Brendan's, Shepparton and Notre Dame College Chaplain).

## Fr Joe retiring

Parish priest of St Brendan's Shepparton, Fr Joe Taylor, who last year celebrated fifty years in the priesthood, will be retiring from parish ministry in September. On Sunday, 28 September, Fr Joe will celebrate his final Mass as parish priest of St Brendan's.



Registrations for the Sandhurst Pilgrimage to ACYF 2025 are now open and can be completed via the Harvest Journeys Booking Portal. Students under 18 not attending with a school group must be accompanied by a parent.

## People of faith call for peace in the Holy Land

The World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel is an annual World Council of Churches event held during the third week of September. This year it is from Saturday 20 to Friday 26 September. The week aims to encourage people of faith to pray for and work towards, an end to Israeli oppression and allow both Palestinians and Israelis to live in peace.

For the past two years the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN) have produced a

video showing Christians holding signs calling for an end to the injustice in the Holy Land.

This year they are once again calling all clergy and churches to take part in this simple action on Sunday 21 September, during the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel (20-26 September).

To read more about this action go to <https://www.oikoumene.org/events/world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel-0>

## Seasons of Creation

This season is an opportunity to pause, reflect, and listen deeply in the midst of the climate crisis. It's a time to marvel at creation's beauty, lament what is broken, and participate in God's vision of restoration and justice for all people and the planet. ([commongrace.org.au](http://commongrace.org.au))

## District Church Times and Contacts

### Anglican

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

### Presbyterian

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

### Catholic

- St Mary's Parish. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays: Cornella 9am; Stanhope 10.30am. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays: Rushworth 9am; Murchison 10.30am.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: One Parish Mass - Rushworth 10.30am followed by a cuppa in the parish house. Contact a team member on the parish mobile phone: 0459 898 925. .
- Shine Church, Stanhope**  
Sunday services at 10am at the Stanhope Community Hall. All COVID restrictions abided by. Kids church running as well during service. More info call Wal Sinapius 0408 393 398.

### Living Waters Rushworth:

Sunday 3.30pm coffee: 4pm service 0428 323 631 (Pastor Peter Guerra)

### Generations Church, Tatura

5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

### Salvation Army: 5852 3875

### Uniting Church

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

## AN EVENING PRAYER FOR CHILDREN



Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. May God guard me through the night and wake me with the morning light. AMEN

## CLIVE COVENTRY FUNERALS

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

Servicing Colbinabbin, Murchison, Rushworth, Stanhope, Tatura & district

*Reasonably priced funerals to suit all budgets*

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113 Corio St, Shepparton



living the

# GOOD LIFE

## Are we there yet?

What road trips teach us about waiting for answers that never come quickly.

## The shorter road we think we know

I've been on the lookout for an old piano to put out in the canola fields this year. It makes a great photo stop - quirky, a little surprising, and a touch of beauty amongst the gold. When I searched Facebook Marketplace, I was startled to find at least six pianos being given away within an hour's drive of the Shiraz Republic. I didn't end up choosing the closest destination. Instead, I went for the one whose roads I knew best.

That decision set me thinking. Why does a familiar road feel shorter? The kilometres are the same, the time on the clock is the same, but when we travel a road we know, the journey seems to shrink. Somehow, when there are familiar bends, trees, and landmarks to reassure us of where we are along the way, time seems to pass more quickly.

## "Are we there yet?"

I remember this question from my family's holidays as a child. Like many other families, ours piled into the car and set off on long road trips to visit distant relatives. And like every family, at some point from the back seat came the cry: "Are we there yet?"

My parents must have heard the question a hundred times because as children, the journey stretched out endlessly. Each bend seemed to lead only to another stretch of unknown road.

But the more we made that journey, the way became more familiar, we began to create our own milestones, and the trip felt shorter. Somehow knowing what lay ahead changed the way we measured time and distance.

It struck me that this is also why we look back to history. There's a reason the old saying goes: "Those who don't learn from history are condemned to repeat it." Familiarity with what has happened before shortens the distance to understanding what is happening now. That's why programs like ABC Radio National's 'If You're Listening' resonate - they take a messy, confusing situation and place it alongside a story from the past. The parallels don't give us certainty, but they give us orientation, just like landmarks on a road



do.

In life, we all ask our version of "Are we there yet?" It's the cry of impatience, but also the cry of uncertainty. We want to know when the end will come, whether it's the end of a car trip, the end of a busy season, or even the end of suffering. Sometimes, we just want reassurance that the road really will lead us somewhere good.

This is not a new question. In fact, it's one of the oldest. In the Gospels, the disciples ask Jesus about the end of all things: "When will this be? What will be the sign?" They were looking for the map, the timetable, the GPS co-ordinates. They wanted certainty. In other words, they were asking, "Are we there yet?"

## Milestones, not maps

But Jesus didn't answer them in the way they expected. He didn't give them a date or a deadline. Instead, he pointed them to milestones: "You will hear of wars and

rumours of wars ... nation will rise against nation ... there will be earthquakes and famines." These weren't answers that provided a date on

the calendar. They were signs to remind the disciples that the journey had markers, and that they were not lost along the way.

Jesus' words can sound unsettling, even grim, but perhaps they are better understood as the reassurance that we do not travel aimlessly. The milestones may not be ones we would choose, but they remind us that we are part of a larger story. Like familiar bends in the road, they mark progress, even when the destination is still ahead of us.

## Learning to travel without a timetable

It seems to me that much of faith is about learning to travel without a timetable. We don't get to know exactly when "we will be there" but we do learn to notice the signs of God's presence along the way, the familiar markers that tell us we are not lost. A word of encouragement, an act of kindness, the comfort of prayer, the beauty of creation - these become the landmarks of faith. They don't shorten the distance, but they do remind us that we are still on the road.

In our own lives, the question "Are we there yet?" keeps surfacing. Children ask it on road trips but adults ask it in their own way. We ask it when waiting for results from the doctor, when wondering how long a hard season will last, when hoping for peace in a troubled world. We ask it in frustration, but also in longing. We want to know that the destination will appear, that the promises of life and love will be fulfilled.

Perhaps that's why familiarity helps. When we've travelled a road before, or when we know the markers along the way, the distance doesn't feel quite so overwhelming. We can be patient. We have learnt to trust the journey. Faith, at its heart, is about learning that trust. It's not that we know exactly when we'll "be there" but that we can recognise God's hand along the way.

## Look for the signs

So, the next time you find yourself wondering "Are we there yet?", whether on a long car trip, in the midst of a personal struggle, or while waiting for the world to make sense, remember milestones. Look for the signs of God's presence on the road.

Familiar or strange, short or long, every journey is made lighter when we notice where we are and who travels with us. In the end, it is not the timetable that matters, but the promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This is the gospel and it's good news.

Brian Spencer, Minister  
Waranga Uniting Churches



**Season of Creation**  
OUTDOOR MASS TO CELEBRATE

🕒 11.00 a.m.  
📅 Friday 5 September 2025  
📍 Huntly Streamside Reserve, Huntly  
👥 All Welcome!

**Garden of Peace**  
Isaiah 32:14-18

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



# WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

## BEREAVEMENT THANKS

**HITCHCOCK, Trevor:** Helen and family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who sent cards and flowers on the loss of my loving husband and our father, Pa and great grandfather.  
*The long day closes.*

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Committee of Management of Community Cottage AGM**  
to be held on  
**Wednesday 17 September**  
at 1pm at  
**‘The cottage’.**  
New members welcome.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Waranga News Inc.**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday 17 September**  
**7.00 pm**  
at the **Community Space**  
(former Seniors Citizens)  
**34 Esmonde Street,**  
**Rushworth**  
**Guest speaker:**  
**Annabelle Cleeland MP**  
Nominations for membership of Committee of Management welcome.  
(Nomination forms available pre-meeting)  
All welcome.

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**RUSHWORTH EVENTS INC AGM**  
**24 September 2025**  
**12 noon**  
**Venue: Rushworth Community Space/Place Rushworth.**  
Also extending an invitation to join us for lunch at Motofinish, Rushworth, afterwards.  
Members are reminded that the \$5.00 membership is due.  
**RSVP:**  
**events4rushworth@gmail.com**



**Annabelle** *Member for Euroa*  
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## Solutions from last edition

E	S	C	A	P	E	C	G	E	N	T
N			M		S	T	A	S	H	U
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5	8	6	1	4	2	7	9	3
7	9	4	5	8	3	1	6	2



**Helen Truran**  
**Marriage Celebrant**  
Mobile: 0419 529 155  
Phone: (03) 5826 2001  
Email: hjtruran@gmail.com  
*Ceremonies with compassion*

**Trivia answers from Page 30**  
1. Washington, D.C. 2. 366.  
3. Octagon. 4. 7. 5. Mercury.  
6. H2O.



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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

SEPTEMBER

Fri 5	Free Baby & Child First Aid CPR 10am Rushworth Shire Hall
Sat 6	Community Dance Live Music by True Country \$15 per head 7pm Rushworth Shire Hall
Sun 7	Stanhope Community Market from 8am
Wed 10	Cornella Care General meeting will be held at the home of Ann and Bert Stewart at 1pm
Mon 15	Look Good Feel Better Workshop - Facing Cancer with confidence 10-12.30pm Free. Register 1800 650 960
Sat 20	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm

OCTOBER

Sun 5	Stanhope Community Market from 8am
Sun 5	Stanhope Food and Wine Festival - 11am-4pm
Sat 18	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm

Meetings & Activities - around the district

- Alcoholics Anonymous(AA) meetings, 14 High st, Rushworth, Thursdays 7pm
- Colbinabbin Library: Wednesdays
- Colbinabbin Community Shed: most Thursdays (old Shire Depot), 10am
- Colbinabbin: Chris's exercises at Colbinabbin Hall Mondays 3.30 - 4.30pm
- Colbinabbin Pub Choir 5pm Tuesday's at the Colbo Pub.
- Ladies Coffee and Cake - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month 10.15am Colbo pub
- Carers and Bubs Catch up - 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month 9am Colbo pub
- Soup and Scrabble - 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 10.30am starts 8 July. \$10, bookings 54329230 Colbo pub.
- Friends of the Hostel: Third Monday at 1.30pm monthly
- Murchison Mens Shed: Wednesdays 10am – 3pm
- Murchison CFA: Meeting 1st Monday 8pm - training on 3rd Monday 6.30pm
- Murchison Community Garden: Wednesdays 9am - 11am
- Community meals - Wednesdays 12pm at Murchison Neighbourhood House
- Rushworth CFA: Tuesday nights
- Rushworth SES training: Wednesday evenings at 7pm
- 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 9.30am to 12.30pm
- Rushworth Band practice: 7.30pm every Monday night
- Rushworth Market: 3rd Saturday of month - 8.30am to 1pm
- Rushworth ART Depot (RAD) - every Market day - Sat 10am -1pm
- Rushworth Museum: every Saturday 10am-12 noon, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11am - 1pm
- Rushworth & District Community Bank Board: meets 1st Tuesday monthly, at 6pm
- Rushworth Events Inc: meets bi-monthly, third Wednesday at 7pm
- Rushworth Community Walking Group: Thur 8 - 9am meet at front of Waranga Health
- Rushworth: Chris's exercises at Rushworth Community House Mondays 1 - 2pm
- Rushworth Garden Lovers Club meet 3rd Thursday Month 1.30pm at old Senior Citizen's building
- Stanhope Walking Group: Tuesdays at 9.30am at McEwen Place
- Stanhope Community Garden: Wednesdays 8.30am to 9.30am
- Stanhope Mens Shed: Mon - Wed - Fri 9am - 12 noon
- Stanhope: Chris's exercises at Seniors: Mondays 10.45am
- Stanhope Community Market 1st Sunday of month from 8am

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.

Advertising in the Waranga News supports your business AND your community call 5856 1120 or email wnews@iinet.net.au

LOCAL SERVICE  
PHONE NUMBERS

**POLICE or FIRE.....Emergency.....000**  
Non-emergency 13 1444  
**AMBULANCE.....Emergency.....000**  
Non-emergency...13 3009  
SES: (storm & flood).....13 2500  
**DOCTORS:**  
Murchison Medical Centre.....5826 2575  
Rushworth Medical Centre..... 5856 1329  
Stanhope Telecare Medical Centre  
4800 5291  
Waranga Medical Centre..... 5851 8400  
**HEALTH:**  
Stanhope Health.....5857 0451  
Waranga Health .....5851 8000  
Nurse on call..... 1300 606 024  
**HELP:**  
Lifeline.....13 1114  
Kids Helpline.....1800 551 800  
**POLICE:**  
Rushworth.....5856 1000  
Murchison.....5826 2222  
Colbinabbin.....5856 1000  
**SUPPORT SERVICE:**  
St Vincent de Paul.....0417 597 468  
**WARANGA NEWS OFFICE.....5856 1120**  
**DEFIB LOCATIONS**  
Waranga Health 14 High St, Rushworth  
CFA 20-24 Murchison Rd, Rushworth  
Community House 67 High St, Rushworth  
Recreation reserve 2 Coyle St, Rushworth

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

NEXT EDITION - 18 September

Display Ads: Friday, 12 September

Classified: Monday, 15 September

wnews@iinet.net.au

Waranga News



A Voluntary Community Newspaper

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Website: www.wnews.org.au

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Editor: 0407 561 311

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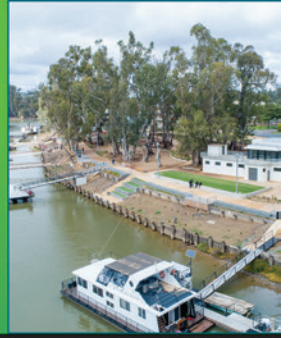


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 E: [shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au)  
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## Project update

A project is under way to provide an all-abilities access ramp at Riverboat Dock to enable greater access to the river's edge for the community. Steelwork fabrication has begun off-site, with on-site works including minor demolition, concreting, landscaping, irrigation, and decking expected to start in early November.



## Coming Up

Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 23 September 2025 | Echuca Civic Centre  
Meetings can be streamed live: [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming)

## Employment

Visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/careers](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/careers)

## Immunisation Sessions

**By appointment only.** Register at [campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations](http://campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations)  
If you are feeling unwell or have any cold or flu-like symptoms, you must cancel or reschedule your appointment.

### Wednesday, 17 September

• 9-10.30am | Kyabram Senior Citizens Centre

### Thursday, 18 September

- 10-10.30am | Gunbower Primary School
- 11:30am-12 noon | Lockington Bush Nursing Centre
- 5:30-6:30pm | Echuca Library

### Monday, 22 September

- 9-10.30am | Tongala Shire Hall
- 11:30am-12 noon | Rushworth Service Centre

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

## Tender

**Request for Tender C25020: Echuca Victoria Park Playing Field Drainage, Irrigation and Surface Renewal**

Council is seeking submissions from suitably experienced providers for the above work. RFT submissions must be uploaded to the eProcure tender portal on Council's website no later than 2pm on 13 October 2025. Late submissions will not be accepted.

## Works in progress

Roadworks are being undertaken on Morton Road, Rochester, between Dingee and Foster roads. There will be road closures during construction, however, access will be maintained for residents and emergency services. Road users are advised to follow detours or plan alternative routes during the works, which are expected to be completed in November.

## Now Open

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

### #MyCampaspe Photo Competition

Show off what you love about where you live, work or visit for the chance to feature in the 2026 Campaspe Shire Calendar! All photos, including for three new artwork categories, need to be taken in Campaspe Shire and must be in landscape orientation and of high-quality resolution up to 10Mb in file size. Each winning entry will receive \$100 and a month's coverage in the calendar. Entries close Friday, 26 September.

### Rural Tree Scheme

Are you a rural landowner? Would you like more indigenous plants on your property at a discounted price? If so, consider Council's Rural Tree Scheme, which gives rural ratepayers access to subsidised indigenous plants. Orders are open now until 1 December (unless fully subscribed earlier), for collection in autumn 2026.

### Draft Road Management Plan

Council's Road Management Plan is currently under review. The draft plan is open for public exhibition and feedback until 4pm Friday, 12 September 2025. Visit Now Open for more details.

### Victorian Government Farm Drought Support Grants

The Victorian Government has established the Farm Drought Support Grants program to assist primary



Photo: Amanda Wilson

production businesses to implement on-farm infrastructure improvements and undertake essential business activities that improve drought management and preparedness. A grant of up to \$5000 (excluding GST) per eligible primary production business is available statewide. For further information and to apply, visit [www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants)

### Seniors Concert

Senior community members are invited to Council's 2025 Seniors Concert. This free event will be held on Wednesday, 29 October at Tongala Shire Hall in Mangan St, from 10am to 2pm. This year's performance features the tribute show Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons vs The Beach Boys – sure to get toes tapping as audience members enjoy feel-good tunes that never grow old. Bookings are a must for catering purposes. For more information and to book, visit the Now Open section of Council's website.

## Public notice

Council is rolling out new Licence Plate Recognition technology to improve parking management across Echuca. From 8 September a two-week warning period will begin, during which vehicles that overstay the parking limit in timed non-metered areas will receive warning notices. Enforcement through infringements will commence from 22 September.

## Traffic notice

Echuca United Football Netball Club is hosting a Murray Football League Final at Echuca South Recreation Reserve. To support event operations, the reserve will be closed to vehicle traffic from 7pm on Thursday, 4 September until the evening of Saturday, 6 September. Pedestrian access will remain open, and the reserve will be available for informal community use on Friday, 5 September.

## Promote your community group or event on our website!

Involved in a community group or event you'd like to promote? You can add your listing to our website for FREE! The Community Directory lists community organisations, special interest groups and clubs. The Events Directory lists upcoming events across Campaspe Shire. There is a helpful video on each page to show you how to create a login and upload your listing. Visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/communitydirectory](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/communitydirectory) and [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/eventsdirectory](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/eventsdirectory)



Readers' Corner

- interesting things to know and do!

BOOK IT IN

Bill the Bastard

The story of Australia's greatest war horse

by Roland Perry. (Allen and Unwin. 2012)

Bill was a Waler and a big one. A huge chestnut, weighing in at 730 kilos and 17 hands, Bill was extremely powerful and highly intelligent but he had one major fault. No rider could stay on his back for more than a few seconds. Bill was recruited into the Australian Light Horse and when the First World War broke out it was decided to label him unrideable and send him to Gallipoli as a pack-horse under the care of Banjo Paterson who signed on as an honorary vet in order to get to the front line of the war as a war correspondent.

At Gallipoli, Bill met Major Michael Shanahan who today would be called a "horse whisperer", and whose innate understanding of Bill's temperament, some gentle persuasion and a pocket full of licorice-all-sorts made him the only man who could ride Bill without being unceremoniously bucked off! The two became great mates although with his fiery temper Bill was never a pushover and he and Shanahan distinguished themselves at Gallipoli daily braving withering Turkish fire to deliver the post and important messages. They helped rescue the wounded along with Simpson and his donkey and, when Simpson was killed, they brought him back even though Bill received two bullet wounds.

When Gallipoli failed, the Light Horse were sent to Egypt where Bill's extraordinary stamina, his courage under fire and his ability to carry huge loads made him invaluable although no-one other than Shanahan and Bill's aboriginal trainer Jackie Mullagh would dare to get on his back. On the 4th of August 1916 at the battle of Romani and the most important step in the battle for Egypt, Shanahan earned his Distinguished Service Order and Bill's story went into history. The Australians were outnumbered and there were many casualties. Shanahan rode Bill into enemy lines and found four Australian survivors, two of them wounded. He loaded two either side of Bill on the stirrups and put the other two plus himself on Bill's back and through heavy fire Bill brought them all safely home without a murmur. Later in the war Shanahan was wounded in the leg and Bill brought him home unconscious to the Australian Headquarters.

Shanahan lost his leg but lived a long and happy life with his English wife in Brisbane where he died in 1964 at the age of 94 much loved by his many children and grandchildren. And Bill! Well instead of suffering the fate of most of the horses who went to the war who were shot to avoid the expense of bringing them home, Bill was given with his favourite mare Jenny to a Turkish family with strict instructions not to ever again use him as a packhorse and he lived out his days happily retired at Suvla Bay and is buried at Walker's Ridge.

There is a bronze statue to Bill the Bastard at Mullumburrah south west of Sydney and a famous painting of Bill and his load of troopers on their run to safety. A really great book about two Anzac legends. I loved it.

The Bookster

KIDS' QUIZ

1. What is the capital city of the United States?

2. How many days are there in a leap year?

3. What do you call a shape with eight sides?

4. How many continents are there?

5. What planet is closest to the Sun?

6. What is the chemical symbol for water?

Answers on page 26.

Did you know? . . .

The oldest English word is 'town'.

This is one of the oldest words in the English language that is still in use. The first dictionary took note of this in 1755.

Sudoku and Crossword puzzle

HOW TO PLAY

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Crossword No: 59

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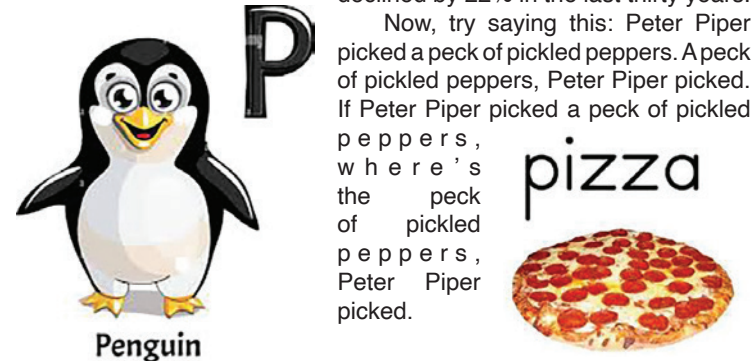
P is for Platypus



A platypus is also known as Ornithorhynchus anatinus... (practise saying it before you try to tell somebody else!) a strange little fur-covered native animal that lays eggs, lives on land and in fresh water along the eastern side of Australia. The mother feeds her young on milk which the babies lap in her fur. It's no wonder that early scientific samples of the platypus were thought to be fakes, stitched together from various animals.

Google 'platypus' where you'll find so much about this fascinating little animal. They are considered 'vulnerable' which means we should be doing our very best to maintain their habitats which have declined by 22% in the last thirty years.

Now, try saying this: Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. A peck of pickled peppers, Peter Piper picked. If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, where's the peck of pickled peppers, Peter Piper picked.





# Long Winter bowls season ends with Charity Day

Thursday 28 August was the final day for Rushworths winter bowls. The season ran this year for sixteen weeks and the turnout of bowlers each week was amazing.

It was necessary to make fours per team instead of the usual triples as we had an excess of bowlers each week. We were also blessed with the weather, despite a couple of cold days. We didn't miss any days due to rain.

Our final day was our annual Charity Day. Bowlers arrived in pink/blue gear, as the money raised goes to breast/prostate cancer.

There were some amazing outfits on display and it was wonderful to see everyone getting into the spirit of the day. I suspect the op shops may have had a run of bowlers in the last couple of weeks.

**Winners on the day:** Mavis, Janet, Geoff and Whoppa.

**Runners up:** Kay, Col, Deb Dunkley and Karren.

We were very grateful to IGA Supermarket, Bega in Tatura and Perry's Butchery for their donations for the raffle. Their support each year is very much appreciated. The total raised was \$1651.00.

I would like to thank the girls who came in early each week to make the salads for lunch and also Kev and Bruce for dealing with the BBQ. Your help makes everything run smoothly and was very much appreciated.

*Jean Sprague*

**Winners on the Charity Day:** Geoff, Janet, Mavis, and Whoppa.



## Congratulations to Ryan

Congratulations to Ryan Raglus on his nomination for KDL Coach of the Year, Junior Football.



## KDFL - games and times

### Preliminary Finals - 6 September

**Central Park Recreation Reserve, Shepp East**

- 9.05am - U15s - Undera vs Nagambie
- 9.15am - U15s - Rushworth vs Shepp East
- 10.30am - U13 - Nagambie vs Girgarre
- 10.30am - U17s - Rushworth vs Merrigum
- 10.35am - U18s - Murch/Tool vs Tallygaroopna
- 11.45am - C Grade - Shepp East vs Murch/Tool
- 12.30pm - Reserves - Stanhope vs Lancaster
- 1.00pm - C Reserve - Merrigum vs Tally
- 1.00pm - B Grade - Merrigum vs Shepp East
- 2.15pm - A Grade - Rushworth vs Girgarre
- 2.30pm - Seniors - Rushworth vs Lancaster

# RFNC

## Presentation Day 2025

### Sunday - 5 October

#### Ironbark Stadium

**Juniors starting at 10 am**

**\* lunch at 12 noon**

**Senior grades from 1pm**

## GVW hydration station ready for GVL finals series

Staying hydrated during the September finals series just got a lot easier for Goulburn Valley League fans, after Goulburn Valley Water installed its latest hydration station at Deakin Reserve in Shepparton.

Football and netball supporters - along with the general public - will be able to access water from the drinking fountain, which is located at the western end of the ground.

The partnership between Goulburn Valley Water and Greater Shepparton City Council to increase community access to drinking water started back in 2014 and has now extended the number of drinking fountains in the local government area to 33. Goulburn Valley Water Managing Director Dr Steve Capewell said recreation reserves were often hubs for physical activity and the availability of water while exercising or competing was important for the community.

"We now have hydration stations in every town with a drinking water supply in our region, which includes ten towns in the Greater Shepparton area.

"Our aim is to continue working with councils to help people make the best choice - to Choose Tap," Dr Capewell said.

Greater Shepparton City Council Mayor, Councillor Shane Sali, said the hydration station was a welcome addition to Deakin Reserve. "It is perfect timing as we head into the Goulburn Valley League finales, with community members and visitors able to utilise the new hydration station at Deakin Reserve," Cr Sali said.

"The Deakin Reserve facility is utilised year-round, so we hope people take advantage of the improved amenities and the ability to access fresh water and stay hydrated while being active outdoors."



# RFNC - Pride in singing the Rushy Tigers' song

What a weekend! Rushworth had some great wins on the field and the court which carries them deeper into finals. A big thank you to all who volunteered for the finals the club hosted. The day would not have run without everyone and the huge effort of all supporters. Thank you for the cheers which don't go unheard on the court and field. Lets continue to get behind all teams and hopefully carry them through another round.

## Elimination Finals 23/24 Aug

### Netball

#### 13/U

**Rushworth 16 def Stanhope 14**

The Under 13s had a fabulous win in their Elimination Final, beating Stanhope 14-16. Although there were plenty of nerves, the girls were tenacious the whole game and worked hard for their win. They have made their club, their family and friends and their coach extremely proud!

**15/U** - Good luck

**17/U** - Good luck

### A Grade

**Rushworth 39 def Avenel 30**

**Best on court:** Kasey Barlow

**2nd best:** Ashlyn Materne

Avenel came out hard and fast and the girls battled to keep up. The team found some composure by the middle of the first quarter and managed to take the lead by quarter time. They slowly built on that lead, though Avenel didn't give up. To their credit, the girls worked hard and defended beautifully. Great work by the team. Now it's time to bring that same energy next week!

### Football

#### Thirds

**Rushworth 68 lt Shepp East 140**

Rushworth's Thirds took on Shepp East in an Elimination Final and started the match in perfect fashion with Corey Robertson snapping truly for the opening goal. However, Shepp East responded swiftly and gained control, holding a four-goal lead at quarter time.

Led by Tighe and Flynn Clarke, the Tigers lifted in the second quarter and began to match Shepp East across the ground. Jimmy Edwards was a standout forward, kicking five goals and creating constant pressure for the opposition's defence. Down back, Nixon Nikora, Angus Maher, and Cooper Gleeson worked tirelessly to limit the Eagles' scoring power.

Riley Knight continued to cause headaches for Shepp East, while Will Duke, Michael Ndisa, and Cody Brown never stopped trying. Despite the determined effort, Shepp East proved too strong and ran out comfortable winners.

**Best players:** Tighe Clarke, Riley Knight, Jimmy Edwards, Will Duke, Nixon Nikora, Flynn Clarke.

### Seniors

**Rushworth 100 def Shepp East 77**



Above: Coach, Sheree Starling  
Kacey Barlow, best on court

Rushworth hosted an historic home final against Shepp East and the atmosphere was electric. Finals football had arrived and the Tigers had earned their place. But they weren't content just to be there; they were determined to prove they belonged.

Nico McKinley kicked the opening goal to settle early nerves, but Shepp East hit back with two of their own, and an intense arm-wrestle ensued. Although the Tigers couldn't quite dictate terms early, they trailed by just seven points at quarter time and were clearly up for the fight.

The second quarter saw ruckman Liam Adlington stamp his authority on the game. The midfield, led by Liam Francis, Luke Oakley, and Ethan Arnold, began to win clearances and drive the ball forward. Riley Edwards continued his stellar form, finishing with five goals, while forwards Paul Vavlitis and Tommy Stevens applied pressure on the ground, and Andrew Clarke and Ryan Beale impacted aerially. By half time, the Tigers had built a 23-point lead.

The second half was a fierce, finals-style contest. Shepp East, to their credit, kept coming. But Rushworth remained brave and continued to take the game on. Nick Collins and Jackson McCrae backed themselves, playing with flair and courage. The backline stood tall, with Issac Griffin delivering a massive performance, and youngster Ryan Raglus showing maturity beyond his years with smart positioning and leadership.

Every contest mattered, and the Tigers' spirit and resolve never wavered. They held firm and secured a 23-point win—a victory that meant far



more than just a scoreline.

**Best on ground:** Issac Griffin, Nick Collins, Riley Edwards, Liam Francis, Jackson McCrae, Luke Oakley.

The crowd, the energy, the noise—it was a special day. When the players returned to the rooms to sing the song, it was clear this wasn't just a win for the team, but for the entire community.

The Tigers aren't here to make up the numbers. Whoever they face next week, if they bring the same team-first mentality, spirit, and determination, they're well and truly in the hunt.

*Go Tigers!*

*Photos thanks to Alek Stokes & Angela McKinley*





# RFNC - Watch out for the Tigers roar!

Who would have thought? Tigers playing for a Grand Final spot? What a journey they have had. Lets get together and support the A Grade, U17 and U15 netballers and the Senior footballers in their quest to get to the Grand - East Shepparton Central Park Recreation Reserve this Saturday!

## Semi Finals 30/31 August Netball

**13/U**  
**Rushworth 15 lt Girgarre 26**

The Under 13's finished their season on Sunday, going down by 11 to Girgarre. It has been an incredible season with so much growth and development. They have made their family, friends and the club extremely proud. Such a wonderful group of girls, on and off the court, who are commended for their efforts across the season.

**15/U**  
**Rushworth 38 lt Tally 45**  
**Best on court:** Kade Starling

It was a great game in tough windy conditions on a wet court. There weren't too many negatives to take away from the game, simply we need to work a bit harder and be more confident. Let's give it everything this week and look to having a rematch in the grand final.

**Incentives:** Lailah Francis and Byron Chapman  
**17/U**

**Rushworth 31 lt Shepp East 38**

Congratulations to the girls for making it to Finals. The game was a tough one against Shepp East. The team worked hard and didn't stop trying till the very final whistle. Although the results didn't go Rushys way, the coach and club are very proud of how well the girls played.



## A Grade Rushworth 36 def Tally 22

Congratulations to Zahley for taking the court in her first ever A Grade final game.

It was a great defensive game from both teams with fantastic rebounding at both ends. The girls came out hard and confident and kept the lead all game. It was again a great team effort with everyone stepping up. The club is proud of every player. Let's keep it going!

**Best on court:** Ashlyn Materne  
**Incentives:** Everyone else

## Football Seniors Rushworth 65 def Nagambie 64

On Sunday 31 August the boys headed to Stanhope for their second Semi Final to take on the might of Nagambie. With two losses against the Lakers so far this year, the boys knew this game wouldn't be a given. They had to earn it. The Tigers got off to the perfect start with crowd favourite Paul Vavlitis hitting the scoreboard with a goal. However the boys weren't able to take their chances in front of goal, kicking multiple points, until U18's captain, Tighe Clarke showed

*Photos thanks to Alek Stokes & Angela McKinley*



Above: A Grade Mikaela Hanson  
Left: U13s Sophie Garvey goaling

everyone his composure under pressure slotting the second goal. The Tigers were able to go into the long break with a slender two point lead.

In the second half it was the Lakers showing their class and composure to skip out to a three goal lead. Trailing by 12 points at the last change, the boys spirit was going to be tested and to their credit they lifted again.

The time-keepers ears were burning and when the siren finally went at the 26 minute mark, the boys wrote yet another chapter in their story winning by a solitary point.

**Best players:** Liam Adlington, Luke Oakley, Liam Francis, Nick Collins, Riley Edwards and Dylan Arnold.

After the game, the crowd around the boys was unbelievable. This group has inspired so many people and as these young men write their own stories, the club hope that's not lost on them.

Next week is the Preliminary Final against yet another heavy weight in Lancaster at Shepp East. No-one gave us a chance to go this far, but the belief and spirit within this group is second to none. Look out Shepp East (the hosts)....the Tiger Army is coming to town. *Go Tigers.*



U18's captain, Tighe Clarke was sensational in the his Seniors match.



A Grade team: Rear - Beth Parker, Montana Moylan, Janelle Doolan, Ash Materne, Lilly Waasdorpe, Mikaela Hanson, Zahley Francis.  
Front row: Maya Barlow, Ruby Oliver, Sheree Starling and Kacey Barlow.







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## CFNC - Hoppers still have a chance to move forward to finals

**Finals week 1: 23rd/24th Aug**  
**Qualifying and Elimination**  
**The Senior boys kicked off at Gunbower against Mt Pleasant on the Saturday, at home, while the improving poor old Colby twos were at Nth Bendigo against LBU on the Sunday.**  
**Off to Locky on Sunday to support the Seniors and A Reserve netballers in their do or die clash.**  
**Football**  
**Seniors - Qualifying Final:**  
**Colbo v Mounts**  
**Colbinabbin 8.6. 54 lt Mounts 12.15. 87**

The old rivals went toe to toe to see who could advance to the second Semi Final and it was Colbo who started like a house on fire putting together the almost perfect quarter of footy. But it was all Mounts after half time. Colbo just weren't good enough, but the double chance gives them a chance to battle with Huntly at Lockington on Sunday 31st. Mounts ran the game out to be 33-point winners.

**Goal kickers:** Nick Knight 2, Clint Shields 2, Brandyn Grenfell 1, Alex Carr, Dean Smith, Jimmy McMurtrie.

**Best on ground:** Angus Martin, Dan Hill, Jimmy McMurtrie, Nathan Basile, Sam Ryan, Alex van Ruiswyk

**Reserves - Elimination Final:**  
**Colbo v LBU**

**Colbinabbin 4.3. 27 lt LBU 14.12. 96**

Locky just inching themselves away from the Hoppers on the scoreboard but not without and genuine fight. It was a significant day in itself to have the Reserves back in finals, but it was just a bridge too far on this occasion, the final score didn't reflect the game that was played hard and fair.

**Goal kickers:** Jimmy Duke 1, Julian Bull, Evan McAuley, Chris Guinane.

**Best on ground:** Chris Guinane, Ray Pearson, Nic Palmer, Evan McAuley, Harry Lewis, Stephen Tuohy

**Netball**  
**A Grade**

A Grade had the week off as they finished top of the ladder.

**A Reserve - Qualifying Final:**  
**Colbo v Mounts**  
**Colbinabbin 48 lt Mounts 56**

Colbos goaling combinations were on fire early and the girls went into the first break with a three-goal lead. A closer second quarter saw the girls win. Going down in the third and fourth quarter, Colbo have some work to do if they get another crack at Mounts.

**Best on court:** Dom Palmer, Mikayla Palmer and Macy McCaig

**Under 15s - Elimination Final: Colbo v Huntly**  
**Colbinabbin 33 lt Huntly 38**

The U15 girls were exciting to play in an Elimination Final. Huntly got out to a hot start in the first and second quarters but Colbo was able to pull the margin back and head into the first break down by just one goal. But the second was different; down by seven goals with the scores 10-17. The third quarter was a major highlight of the game; the scores were tied heading into the last quarter. Despite another hot start by Huntly, Colbo fought back yet again and levelled the scores. It was goal for goal until the final whistle sounded, and it was a draw. The game went into overtime but unfortunately the girls went down 33-38.

**Best on court:** Ella Patrick  
**Under 13s - Qualifying Final: Colbo v Elmore**  
**Colbinabbin 29 def Elmore 21**

The mini hoppers took to the court for their first final against a strong Elmore side. Scores were locked at half time with both teams going goal-for-goal in a tight and tense game. But true to form, the Hoppers kept their composure showing maturity beyond their years. This ability to stay focused and ignore all noise will be a great asset for their finals campaign. The girls held a narrow five-goal lead going into the last quarter. The whole team played amazingly together, constantly supporting each other, whether on or off the court. A great win and now off to the second Semi Final Saturday 30 August at Colbo. (No results yet) *Go Hoppers!*

## Congratulations Logan and Will at State School Clay Target Championship

**Monday 1st September saw two Colbinabbin boys compete at he State School Clay Target Championship held in Echuca with the event being generously sponsored by Beretta Australia.**

Congratulations to Logan West who came second at this year's State School Clay Target Championship. Representing Rochester Secondary College, Logan was in the under 15s Boys division in which he claimed the runner-up spot. The championship consisted of 30 Targets divided into two 15 Target events, his first event shooting 13/15 targets and second event 14/15 ending up with a final score of 27/30. With another boy tied on 27 targets, Logan was forced into another shoot off for second which he won.

With so many good shooters from around Victoria competing, it was a delight to watch. It was special For Logan, knowing that his grandfather would be with him during his journey to State level, and to get to where he finished - he will surely now be looking down with a huge smile! With two years at this level, Logan knows what needs to be done to go the next step. Well done and well deserved!

Also, well done to Will Patrick who was representing Rushworth P12 College. Will competing in the Senior boy's division may not have come home with the chocolates, but had a very solid day and was certainly up amongst the top end of performers finishing with a score from his two events 13/15 and 11/15 (24/30 Targets). Will you should be proud of your performance and to make it to State level is an achievement in itself. Well done and good luck next year.



Local boys Logan and Will acquitted themselves well at the State School Clay Target Championships.

Bill West

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**ACCOMMODATION**

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# Finals time and the Tigers are flying high



Rushworth Tigers played Nagambie for their semi final. They had been beaten twice during the season by the Lakers. Their tenacity in the final showed they can do anything if they put their mind to it!

*Go Tigers!*







# Breath testing millions of drivers this year.

Police are out there to keep our roads safe. If you've been drinking, don't drive. Getting caught with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.05 and over will result in loss of licence and significant fines. Chances are you will be caught.  
**Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.**

