

# WARANGA NEWS

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Print Post Approved PP1000007000

RRP \$2.00

A community newspaper  
staffed by volunteers

Thursday 18 September 2025

## Lessons from the wetlands – a guided learning tour for local group



Members of the Corop Wetlands Working Group took part in a guided walk visiting Reedy Lake and the Whroo Aboriginal waterhole, concluding at Nagambie. The informative tour was organised by the Taungurung Wetlands Cultural Landscape group. (left) John Avard was given the privilege of trying a possum skin coat worn by the Taungurung guide. (Turn to page 5 for more about the tour.)



# WATER MATTERS

## Join us for National Water Week: 20-26 October 2025

National Water Week 2025 is a vibrant celebration of water, and we are proud to lead the way in engaging communities to understand its importance. Through a series of creative, hands-on events, we want to continue to help people value, understand, and use water wisely.



### Free event - Let's Grow: Waterwise Gardens

This year's main event, **Let's Grow: Waterwise Gardens**, will be held on Wednesday 22 October, starting at 7pm at Eastbank in Shepparton. Landscape architect Louise Costa and native plant expert Cathy Olive will inspire residents to transform their yards into beautiful, waterwise outdoor spaces.

Book your seat early to attend the seminar in person and collect a free waterwise garden pack on the night, including our new gardening handbook. The seminar will also be livestreamed for anyone who can't make it to the event in person.

### 23 October: Register to join and support this year's Water Night challenge.

Join us in the national challenge to turn off all non-essential taps for five hours. Supported by Costa Georgiadis, Water Night reached over 4.2 million people in 2024. This year, we're inviting people to nominate their school, club or business to be recognised and celebrated for leading community waterwise action.



Find out more and register:  
[waternight.com.au](http://waternight.com.au)



Scan to find out more and book your seat, or visit:  
[riverlinksvenues.com.au](http://riverlinksvenues.com.au)

### School kids take part in competition to design a toilet paper wrap.

We're engaging thousands of students to create a design for the wrap around toilet paper rolls. This year's competition reinforces 'Don't Flush It' and the 3Ps (what to flush) - pee, poo and paper, sparking creativity and awareness of wastewater processes. Winning designs will be shared across GVW platforms.

## Every Drop Counts - Let's work together to save water.

We all need to take action to protect precious water supplies right across the region as we move into spring and summer.

Using water wisely not only help us maintain drinking water supply, it helps the environment and can also save you money.

You'll find tips for your home and garden, a water use calculator, and reminders about **Permanent Water Saving Rules**, which apply all year round.

Visit our Save Water webpage to help you understand your water use and find practical ways to reduce it.



Scan for tips to save drips, or visit:  
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# ‘Celebrate Stanhope’ Food & Wine Festival is back for 2025!

Get ready for a fantastic day out as the Celebrate Stanhope Food & Wine Festival returns bigger and better than ever on Sunday, 5 October 2025, from 11am to 4pm!

Come along to Birdwood Avenue, Stanhope, where the street will come alive with live music from JB and Me and Tim Richards, mouth-watering food, local wines, and family-friendly fun for everyone.

Foodie Favourites include Dairy-Fresh Gelato, G-Free Donuts, Brothl Ramen (Japanese), Smoke-n-Roast, Oh My Ceylon (Sri Lankan), Girgarre & Stanhope Fire Brigade BBQ, Angelo’s Pizza & Pasta, Stanhope café, Upside Down Coffee On the Go, Top Notch Poffertjes, B Sweet Creations and Kate Burke-charcuterie boards.

Local products will be well featured on the day, with wine and produce from Wine X Sam, Callipari Wines – Ned Kelly Red, Strathbogie Estate, Echuca Distillery Lisadurne Hill Olive Oils, AAA Honey, The Cheese Man, Timmering Food & Beverage Co.

### Family fun

The children will be well-catered for with face painting, horse and cart rides, crocodile jumping castle, soccer, Connect 4, Jenga and more. All of this entertainment at the Stanhope Food and Wine Festival is waiting for you with just a gold coin donation requested on the day. But for safety reasons please leave your fur-baby at home as it is a dog-free, glass-free and smoke-free event - and for environmental reasons you’re tasked to bring your own wine keep cup.



Stanhope Wine and Food Festival has become a popular annual event.

If you have some time to volunteer on the day, the organisers would love to hear from you to arrange a time on the roster - and if you have a gazebo that you could loan for the day, please let them know.

### Location and Road closures

Birdwood Ave, parts of Monash St, and surrounding lanes will be closed from 7am to 5 pm. Signage will be in place.

### Thanks

Organisers would like to thank sponsors: Kyabram Club, Viking Forge Productions, Shire of Campaspe, Australian Consolidated Milk, Northausen Maintenance, Leocata Transport, Kyabram Hire & Batteries, Goulburn Valley Water, and the Stanhope & District Development Committee, Hair Zone Hairdressing, Knights Building and Plumbing Supplies.

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# ‘The Big Flood’ — book launched to support recovery in Rochester

A powerful new book capturing the voices and experiences of the Rochester community following the devastating 2022 floods has officially launched.

Titled The Big Flood, the book was edited by renowned author and photographer, Kathy Mexted and stands as a testament to the strength, resilience, and unity of the community.

Funded through the Campaspe Shire Council Flood Recovery Program with support from State and Federal Government recovery funding, the project was community-led, with heartfelt contributions from local residents forming the backbone of the book’s narrative. Through storytelling, reflection, and community voices, the book offers a space for acknowledgment, understanding, and hope.

The launch event, held at Rochester Shire Hall with retired local police officer John Atley acting as master of ceremonies, welcomed all members of the public to come together in recognition of the shared journey through recovery. Attendees were gifted a free copy of the book, and additional copies are now available at Rochester Community House.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell congratulated the community on the launch of the book.

“The Big Flood is more than a record of events. It serves as a cathartic and healing resource, created to support emotional recovery and connection in the wake of the floods.

“This project exemplifies the power of community collaboration and storytelling in times of crisis. It is a tribute to the people of Rochester and a reminder of the importance of listening, sharing, and healing together,” he said.

The books are available to pick up from Council’s Service Centre in Rochester, 43-45 Mackay St.

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# Escaped burn-offs prompt warning from CFA

CFA has urged landowners to be careful of burning off activities after a day of strong winds saw more than 40 grassfires burn across the state on Monday.

Landowners are also encouraged to keep checking their recent burn-offs up to 48 hours later.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said conditions lately have been exceptionally dangerous for burning off.

“Firefighters have responded to multiple escaped burn-offs today, many which have reignited from burn-offs over the weekend,” Jason said on Monday.

“We’re asking the community to be aware of your local conditions and stop burning off activities until safe to do so.

“We know burn-offs can flare-up several days afterwards, so it is important residents are consistently monitoring wind conditions before and after their burning day, while also notifying their neighbours to be mindful of smoke.

“If you light a fire to burn-off, you own it. Please don’t leave your burn-off unattended

and always make sure it is extinguished properly with water.

“Victorians should be registering their burn-offs online through the Fire Permits Victoria website to help agencies manage fire risk effectively.”

## Before burning off, ensure:

- You are following regulations or laws by CFA and your local council.
- A fire break is established with no less than three metres cleared of all flammable material.
- You register your burn-off using the Fire Permits Victoria website or by calling Triple Zero Victoria on 1800 668 511.

Check for more information on how to prepare your property and burn-off safely on [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/prepare](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/prepare)

# Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan open for feedback

Campaspe Shire Council is currently reviewing its Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) for 2026–2029.

This plan sets out the main issues, goals, and priorities for managing cats and dogs within the local community. As required by the Domestic Animals Act 1994, a new plan must be developed every four years.

The Mayor of Campaspe Shire, Cr Daniel Mackrell, highlighted the significance of this plan for all residents, not just pet owners. With around 9,000 registered pets in the region, the Council recognises the valuable role domestic animals play in people’s lives. The aim is to create a balanced approach that considers the needs of pet owners, animal welfare, and broader community expectations.

The plan addresses a range of topics related to responsible pet ownership. These include desexing, microchipping, managing dogs in public spaces, designated on- and off-leash areas, managing nuisance animals, barking complaints, cat confinement, and proper disposal of animal waste.

Input from the community has played a

key role in shaping the draft. Feedback from 190 survey responses revealed strong support for improving education on microchipping and registration requirements, simplifying the registration process, and offering guidance on how to deal with nuisance animals or dog attacks.

The draft plan is now available for public review and feedback through the Council’s website under the Now Open section, with submissions open until 4pm on Friday, 3 October 2025.

Community members are invited to have their say by submitting feedback:

- Online at [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/NowOpen](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/NowOpen)
- In writing, addressed to ‘Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan Review’, PO Box 35, Echuca 3564
- Or by email to: [shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au)

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# Wetlands group tours historic Indigenous sites

Taungurung Land and Water Council’s Corop Wetlands Cultural Landscape Project area of interest extends from Reedy Lakes in the south to the Corop Lakes in the north and takes in the Rushworth forest.

A tour group starting from Nagambie and led by Uncle Shane Monk and Ashley Wilkinson drove into Reedy Lakes reserve and looked at Aboriginal ovens (middens) and scar trees. Ash gave an explanation of the process of bark removal and showed the group a recent demonstration scar, and a number of ancient scars were viewed. The bed of the lake was almost dry, and the middens were dotted all over the ground where they had followed the receding water.

The bus then took the group to Whroo campground where a morning tea was served, including beef and kangaroo sausage rolls and a choice of herbal teas from local plants.

Uncle Shane and Ash then showed us their possum skin

cloaks, (skins now sustainably sourced from New Zealand where they are an environmental pest after being introduced from Australia), and invited group members to try them on!

The tour bus then drove the group to the Aboriginal rock water hole near Whroo Cemetery. Uncle Shane explained that this was an important hydration point as the mob moved in dry times from the Corop Lakes area as they the water dried up, towards Reedy Lake and the Goulburn River.

The final stop was to look at grass trees, and Ash explained their importance in providing fire-starting materials, and the how resin from the flowers was used for making very strong glue for spear heads.



The Aboriginal waterhole at Whroo.



Ashley Wilkinson (left) and Uncle Shane Monk with their possum skin cloaks.

“The Waring (mid-Goulburn River) is defined by the many hundreds of wetlands, billabongs and lagoons that spread across its flood plain. These have formed over many thousands of years, as the living river has changed course over time, leaving depressions that fill with water when the river floods in the high flows that come in winter and spring. This water brings life to the wetlands, which provide nursery grounds for fish and rich nesting and feeding places for countless water birds. The wetlands are also the lungs and kidneys of Waring, helping slow and filter flood waters, and retaining water in the landscape to support all life . . . .Taungurung Land and Waters Council has led the development of a Corop Cultural Waterscape program, which is looking at how the Corop wetlands can be cared for in a holistic way that takes into account cultural knowledge and values, while collaborating closely with government agencies and the wider community. This program has now been launched, with support from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and other government departments and agencies. A key aspect of this program will be to find solutions to complex land and water management challenges by working closely together with present day local communities to understand their needs and perspectives, and will provide many opportunities to connect to the practical work of caring for Country at important places within the waterscape.”  
(from <https://wawabiik.com.au/returning-right-way-water-to-taungurung-country/>)



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

**The Rushworth Easter Festival needs you!**

Do you have great ideas about what you would like to see at the 2026 Easter Festival? Can you spare one hour a month to help us?

Planning for next year's Easter Festival is underway but we can't go ahead without a full committee. We need three new committee members and we need them now.

So if you want to help make the Easter Festival happen, grab a friend or two and contact Peter on 0459 520 843, Lyn on 0491 764 792 or email [rushworthmarket@gmail.com](mailto:rushworthmarket@gmail.com)

*Lyn Reade  
Rushworth*

**Women's Health Week**

This year's Women's Health Week (September 1-5) was a timely reminder of the importance of investing in the health of all Victorians, no matter where they live.

Across our region, women face unique health challenges and improving outcomes requires both long-term investment in healthcare infrastructure and strong frontline services.

We need to ensure that every Victorian, whether in Melbourne or our region, can access the care they need, when they need it.

Recently, I had the pleasure of speaking about women's health at the Violet Town Community House High Tea, alongside 40 incredible local women who are doing amazing work to improve outcomes in our communities.

Their dedication highlights the vital role that local initiatives play in supporting health and wellbeing.

As your local MP, I will continue to push for meaningful improvements in regional health.

That includes restoring maternity services at Benalla, securing fairer patient transport access, delivering overdue PET scanners for Wangaratta and strengthening support for regional doctors.

These are practical steps that make a real difference in the lives of families across our region.

*Annabelle Cleeland  
Shadow Assistant Minister for Health*

**Community garden closure**

Rushworth Community Garden was established in 2001 by a group of dedicated volunteers who spent many hours planning the landscaping, building raised beds and paths, improving and obtaining good soil and finally establishing fruit and vegetables.

The idea was to provide a safe and friendly garden for members of the community to get together, enjoy a hobby and provide fruit and vegetables for not only themselves but other community members

Over the years, a barbeque area was established and a pizza oven built, a seedling shed was added and also there is a big shed with a veranda where volunteers can make themselves a cuppa, relax, chat and admire the garden.

Unfortunately Jo Winters, who has been

managing the garden, can no longer do it because of a lack of volunteers. It is a great pity that the garden has gone into decline because the lack of volunteers and it has been struggling for quite a while. Giving two hours a week is a small ask. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time there as a volunteer and have learnt so much to take home to my own veggie patch.

If you haven't seen the Community Garden, follow the path at the side of Rushworth Community House between the three houses to a picket fence and the gate will lead you into the garden. The gardening group used to meet on Wednesday morning for a working session and at other times when necessary.

*Esther  
Rushworth*



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# Get crafty with the spring 2025 school holiday program in Campaspe

Campaspe Library branches are bursting with creativity, fun, and learning these spring school holidays! Families can enjoy a wide range of free activities designed to entertain and inspire children of all ages.

Youngsters can get hands-on and creative with a series of fun craft sessions happening across the region. Children aged 5 years and older can show their team spirit by making colourful team bracelets and fobs in their favourite footy colours, or design and decorate their own spinners. For those who love tiny treasures, the Treasure Trinket Boxes activity offers a chance to craft a special box to store keepsakes and secrets.

Tech-savvy children aged 6-12 years can book a half-hour session on the Nintendo Switch, while LEGO, jigsaw, and boardgame lovers can drop in for all-day LEGO and games sessions across multiple days. Younger children can join in the joy of Baby Rhymetime and Toddler Rhymetime, while families can relax together at one of several family movie screenings.

Special guests include the teams from Bunnings Echuca and Coliban Water, offering engaging craft and storytime sessions.

Refer to the program below for more information on session times and activity descriptions:

School Holiday Program:

B = Bookings essential

Children must be accompanied by an adult or carer during all activities.

## Kyabram Library

Monday, 22 September from 10:00am - 1:00pm – Nintendo Switch (B, 6-12yrs, 30 min bookings)

Tuesday, 23 September at 10:30am –

## Toddler Rhymetime

Tuesday, 23 September at 1:00pm – Team Bracelets and Fobs (B, 5+)

Wednesday, 24 September at 1:00pm – Little People Charms (B, 5+)

Thursday, 25 September from 10:00am - 4:00pm – Lego and Games

Monday, 29 September from 10:00am - 4:00pm – Lego and Games

Tuesday, 30 September at 10:30am – Baby Rhymetime

Tuesday, 30 September at 1:00pm – Spinners (B, 5+)

Wednesday, 1 October at 1:00pm – Masks (B, 5+)

Thursday, 2 October at 2:00pm – Bunnings Craft (B, 5+)

Friday, 3 October from 10:00am - 4:00pm – Lego and Games

## Rushworth Library

Monday, 22 September at 10:30am – Team Bracelets and Fobs (B, 5+)

Tuesday, 23 September from 8:30am - 4:30pm – All day Lego and Games

Thursday, 25 September at 10:30am – Family Movie (B)

Monday, 29 September at 10:30am – Spinners (B, 5+)

Tuesday, 30 September at 10:30am – Family Movie (B)

Thursday, 2 October from 8:30am - 4:30pm – All day Lego and Games

## Colbinabbin Library and Business Centre

Wednesday, 24 September at 10:30am – Team Bracelets and Fobs (B, 5+)

## Activity Descriptions and Age Requirements

All day LEGO and Games – Choose a game to play or build an amazing LEGO structure. Free play.

Baby Rhymetime – Stories, rhymes and songs. For babies up to 18 months.

Bunnings Craft – Session with the team from Bunnings Echuca. Ages 5+.

Coliban Water Storytime – A water education storytime and craft session facilitated by Coliban Water. Preschool to lower primary ages.

Family Movie – Bring your nibbles and drinks and enjoy a family movie together.

Little People – Create a little person lucky charm. Ages 5+.

Masks – Make an animal or a monster mask. Ages 5+.

Nintendo Switch – Half-hour bookings available to play on the Nintendo Switch. Ages 6-12 years.

Pizza and Movie – Family fun with pizza and a movie. Pizza available at \$5 per head (adults included). Please book at Echuca Library and indicate your favourite pizza.

Sand Art – Create brilliant, vibrant pictures using sand. Ages 5+.

Spinners – Colour and make a spinner. Ages 5+.

Team Bracelets and Fobs – It's footy finals time! Make a bracelet or key fob in your favourite team's colours. Ages 5+.

Toddler Rhymetime – For children aged up to 3 years.

Treasure Trinket Boxes – Create a tiny trinket box to store your treasures. Ages 5+.

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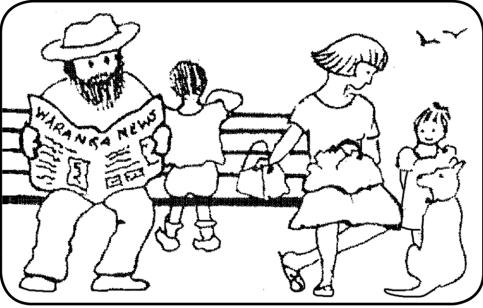
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Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns



Around Rushworth

Garden Lovers changed venue

Change of venue again, back to the Shire Meeting Room for this meeting on the 18 September. Rushworth Community Space still not available. 1:30 pm and we have a guest speaker.

Community Christmas Lunch

Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club Australia 14 proudly presents Community Christmas Lunch which will be a five course lunch that is FREE entry for all 25 December 11AM - 3PM Bookings can be made at Rushworth Op Shop, Rushworth Community Bank and the Rushworth Food Bank. Save the date.

Returning Volly

It was great to see Ekaluck (Volly) Chakatis back in Rushworth this past week. Volly was an AFS Exchange student who was hosted by the Schoenborn family back in 1993 when he was fifteen. He attended Rushworth P-12 for a year and took subjects he had never tried back home in Bangkok, Thailand.

Volly now has his own family and is a successful business owner back in Thailand. He is also a keen marathon runner and hiker. Every day he could be seen going for a run on the Rushworth Rail Trail and taking lots of photos around town.

He enjoys travelling and has been back to see his old friends and family here three times over the years.

One of the main highlights of this visit was a special birthday gift of a day out at the Tabled Together day at Longleat with his host mum Gillian and friends Sarah and Mary Jo Fortuna.



Gillian Schoenborn, Volly Chakatis and Sarah Fortuna at Longleat Winery.

Angelus Trio - at a town near you



Angelus, Lou Costa, Julie Price and Emma King were joined by Maple and Murray, Mark Osmond (pictured right) and Lou Walsh at their concert at St Mary’s Hall, Echuca in August. The accoustics of the hall really enhanced their performance.



Angelus can be quite a family affair. Lou’s children joined her on the stage for the final songs, as did Emma’s son (left). Perhaps there will be some budding musicians in the future.

Coming to Euroa

If you missed their concerts in August don’t despair, they will be performing again soon. This time it will be at The Northy in Euroa on 26 October. They say “Come for the music, Come for the vibe of the thing. Come for the atmosphere or the cakes or a Sunday afternoon cider. Come to celebrate life. We’ll be there.”



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

# Happy Birthday, Eileen Johnson!



Happy Birthday to Eileen Johnson who celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 3 September 2025. Eileen’s early life was spent at Gobarup and Rushworth, until she married her husband Cliff, and moved to the farm at Colbinabbin. She retired to Rochester until the floods forced her out of her unit there. She is now living at Howlong with her son, Jack, and his partner, Donna.



# Seniors Concert 2025 - Frankie Valli vs The Beach Boys

Campaspe Shire Council is inviting all senior community members to a special trip down memory lane at the annual 2025 Seniors Concert, as part of this year’s Victorian Seniors Festival running statewide throughout October.

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 supremely entertaining tribute show Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons vs The Beach Boys – sure to get toes tapping as audience members enjoy the fun, fun, fun of feel-good tunes that never grow old and maybe even walk like a man to the dancefloor, where wouldn’t it be nice to grab your Ronnie or your Barbara Ann for a spin around the room!

You can step back in time to December, 1963 from 11am with the Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons show, bringing the hits of the 60s to life. Audience members will then be served morning tea (no sherry) during the interval, after which the entertainment will resume with a surfin’ safari of good vibrations from the Beach Boys Band.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell said the annual seniors’ concert was one of Council’s most cherished events and offered a chance for seniors to soak up the nostalgic sounds and connect with friends old and new.

“We’re proud to celebrate our seniors and the incredible legacy they’ve built in our community.

# Wellness, learning, and connection for all ages at Tatura

## Soup Day Success

On 26 August, the community was warmly welcomed to a free Soup Day at Tatura Community House, supported by Mental Health and Wellbeing Local. Attendees enjoyed delicious bowls of tomato, pumpkin, and chicken vegetable soup, along with friendly conversation and a sense of connection. It was a simple yet meaningful way for the community to come together and support one another.

## Health and Fitness

This term, Tatura Community House continues to offer a diverse range of fitness classes to keep participants active and engaged. Options include Hatha Flow & Vinyasa Yoga, Chair Yoga, Circuit Training, Strength & Conditioning, and Tummy Hips Thighs. Please note: there will be no yoga sessions in Weeks 2, 4, and 11 this term.

## Health Services

Tatura Community House is pleased to host GV Health Coaching appointments for individuals living with chronic conditions. The Women’s Health Clinic will be available on 7 October, 4 November, and 2 December. The Heart Health Peer Support Group also continues to meet, alongside the weekly Heartbeat walking group held every Monday.

## Community Support Services

Greater Shepparton City Council maintains its fortnightly Customer Service Outreach at the House. The Housing for the Aged Action Group will also return to offer free, confidential advice sessions for older residents planning their housing future or facing the risk of homelessness.

## Learn Local Classes

“Learn English” classes are held on Monday evenings to support learners in developing their spoken and written English skills. Expressions of interest are now open for the Introduction to Smartphones and Tablets course—a 30-hour program designed to build digital confidence and practical skills.

## Creative Activities

Creative offerings this term include Knitting, Sewing & Crochet, Spinning & Weaving, and Art for Wellbeing. A special Wreath-Making Workshop and a Carers Information Session will also be held during the term.

## Social Groups

Tatura Community House hosts a range of social groups that offer connection and camaraderie, including Mah Jong, Bridge, the Italian Ladies Social Group, the Tat Gathering at Ross Street Café, the Coffee Hub Club, and the Family History Group. Families with young children can also connect through the Wednesday 54 Reasons Playgroup.

## Coming in 2026

Looking ahead to next year, the Maker & Creator Club will launch in 2026. This exciting new program will invite participants to explore hands-on projects such as LEGO builds, crafts, 3D printing, and more—encouraging creativity and innovation for all ages.

Visit: 12–16 Casey Street, Tatura  
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm. Contact: To book a program, join a group, or make an enquiry, call 5824 1315 or visit [www.tatcom.vic.edu.au](http://www.tatcom.vic.edu.au)  
Come be part of something wonderful this term at Tatura Community House!

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

Lots of games and puzzles  
for the school holidays

I do hope you have been into the shop to look at all our clothes on a special Spring Sale. It will be on for an extra day Saturday 20 September, our Rushworth Market Day. This is the chance to pick up some great clothes for half price and winter boots which are on sale for \$3.

Just check out the great black and white dress, size 8, that I persuaded a young customer to model. The dress is a 1950s design, fully lined and quality material. It looked stunning on the young lady. With a red belt for a pop colour it would be great for the party season. If you are not a size 8 we have lots of other dresses, trousers and tops which are half price up to and including the twentieth of this month.

Handbags are down to \$3 and there are some stunners amongst those as well. Check out our shop for bargains before you spend a lot of money in Shepparton or elsewhere. Remember that all our profits go towards supporting the Rushworth Foodbank, a very necessary organization which more and more of our community members are needing.

With the rise in cost of living it really is becoming a struggle to feed the family. On that note, maybe volunteering with the Community House Garden group will enable you to grow and use the fruit and vegetables there. It's worth a thought – and if you have little ones under five it gives them a chance to get interested in food growing. Besides



which, it's a good social group. In the Little Green Shed there is a beautiful solid wooden table that seats eight people, but then has extensions for ten and twelve people. Wonderful to accommodate extended family at special occasions. This is a real bargain at \$200. Also are two sets of shelves at \$40 each. You could either put them side by side or arrange them symmetrically in the room. The other photo is of a little red car buggy. Any child would adore this. Their own private car, but Mum or Dad still can control where they go! This is for sale at only \$20, so better be quick to get this one.

Sadly, we are also still getting thefts from the shed and shoplifting in the shop. This is very frustrating for us as the shop's profits are helping the community. Our prices are lower than a lot of other Op Shops. Really, why would you go to the bother of stealing a phone case when they are only priced at \$2. If you see anyone stealing things please let us know. We do have cameras around the place so any video footage will be passed on to the police.

On a happier note, school holidays are coming up (that may be happy for you – or not!) so now the weather is better I expect the kids will be outside a lot. Just remember we have lots of games and puzzles and toys for the children so they have no excuse to be bored – and if they are, tell em' you need a hand with the housework/garden and just see how fast they back pedal!

Time for me to go outside and look at the weeds and contemplate how long it is before I really have to do something about them.

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

Heather



Don't do the  
housework

The birds are nesting, singing loud,  
The bees are buzzing in their crowds.  
It's time to do the big Spring Clean  
And make your house look like a dream  
With polished wood and shining floors  
Uncobwebbed windows, fresh painted doors.  
I'd like it to look like 'House and Garden'  
But I really must beg your pardon.  
My cobwebs looks like pretty lace  
The spiders built at such a pace.  
The shining floors – we have a dog!  
And Him who tramps in muddy clods!  
Polished wood? If you dare  
Just spray the polish in the air  
People think you've done your work  
And don't look close to find the murk!  
Fresh painted doors – now what are those?  
Go shabby chic – it lessens woes.  
To ring the changes in this Spring  
Op Shop offerings make you sing.  
A table sits eight, ten, twelve.  
Better be quick it soon will sell.  
We've shelves and beds and chairs for you  
Appliances, bikes and curtains too.  
So have a shop and spray the polish  
For winter smells to abolish  
Then put your feet up, have a rest,  
Enjoy your home, your own little nest.

Heather







# Colbo Tit Bits

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Congratulations

Colbo A Grade netballers brought home the flag on Saturday with A Reserves, in a real nail-biting game, missing out by just one goal. Nothing could pour cold water on the celebrations into the night as *everybody* - footballers, netballers and supporters all turned up at the Bowls pavilion to join in the fun.

Sympathy


Our sympathy to Donald and Rhonda Ristrom and their family on the loss of Donald's father, Harvey Riststrom. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Drysdale Uniting Church on Friday 19 September 2025 at 11am, followed by the Drysdale Cemetery service at 12noon.

Services with a difference

- (1) UC service in the canola at Shiraz Republic this Sunday 21 September at 9.30am. BYO chair, hat and a friend or two and join a celebration of creation and renewal. All welcome.
- (2) The only Mass in St Mary's parish this Sunday 21 September will be at 9.30am at Stanhope before car pooling and heading off to the native garden and history trail dedicated to Mary MacKillop at Numurkah. Anyone welcome to come along.

### LIBRARY

Wed 24 Sept	Lynn Rathjen
Wed 1 Oct	Pam Nihill



### FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

Sept 21	Paul Tait, Oliver Rathjen
Sept 28	Leo McEvoy, Tim Hill

*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.

### Cemetery Trust

**Mowing Roster** (lawn section only)

September	- Will Hayes
October	- Barrie Borger

### 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

Sun 21	Spring service in the canola crop at Shiraz Republic 9.30am
Sun 21	OPM 9.30am Stanhope. Parish trip to Numurkah.

#### NOVEMBER

Wed 26	Cornella Care's 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
--------	--

Celebrating Rob's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday



Yes, Rob Ryan celebrated with his family at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel . . . his EIGHTY years. His granddaughter, Poppy and wife, Maxine were just two of the family who helped him kick up his heels.

Any news for the News?  
email: [wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)

A Hens' Day out with Filly Ryan



A Hens' Day was held in Colbinabbin for Felicity Ryan leading up to her wedding (which is *very* soon) L-R: Tamara Tuohey, Renée Contin, Amy Ryan, Kristy Ryan, The Bride herelf Filly Ryan, Louise Coppolock, Katie and Joy Ellis and Mother of the Bride to Be, Robyn Ryan.

New guttering should do the trick!



THIS time will hopefully solve the problem of flooding along the main street around the Colbo Store. There's certainly been a lot of machinery and workmen and digging up and carting away and flash new drainage happening. Here's hoping all will be well . . all WILL be well.

Any news for the News?  
email: [wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)





# Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

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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.**

## Welcome grants

In recent weeks, Rushworth Community House has been the recipient of two significant grants to aid its service delivery.

Some time ago, the Federal Member for Nicholls, Sam Birrell, MP, nominated Rushworth Community House for a \$3,000 grant to support our volunteers and their wide range of activities.

RCH staff were recently advised that the House was successful in its application for the 2024-25 Volunteer Grants Program.

Rushworth Community House extends its sincere gratitude to Mr Birrell for his help.

## Shire Community Grant

Campaspe Shire recently approved a 2024/2025 Community Grant of \$3,146 to Rushworth Community House to acquire new and upgraded service delivery equipment.

Items purchased for RCH community support activities include a barista coffee machine, a microwave oven and refrigerator for our multipurpose room (MPR), and a water-efficient, dual-drawer dishwasher for the House's commercial kitchen.

The coffee machine has already undergone its baptism of fire at the hands of students from Rushworth P-12 College during a recent community-wide morning tea.

The new microwave and fridge in the MPR room will be especially welcomed by the House's Quilting Group, and other groups and individuals who utilise the room.

Community members are invited to call into the House to "check out" the new additions.

## Another great Women's Health Night



Rushworth Community House recently partnered with Goulburn Valley Health Waranga Campus to present another Women's Health Night, held in the House's multipurpose room. More than thirty people attended the event.

The event's first guest speaker was Ms Rebecca East who is a Nurse Practitioner with The Holistic Care Collective.

Ms East's theme was "Why proactive care matters - tracking and monitoring your health" and she canvassed practical ways in which women - and men - can maintain and even improve their health.

### Checkups for all

She discussed booking annual check ups that include assessing blood pressure and sugar level, cholesterol, BMI, skin, breast, prostate checks, cervical, bowels, bone density, understanding family health concerns and genetic pre-disposition.

Ms East then went on to talk about daily habits to support your body and mind - movement, nutrition, rest, mental health.

"Empowered aging starts today - don't wait for symptoms; have regular check-ups and health assessments; book appointments in advance; encourage your friends and family; start with small daily habits.

"Start with one action this week - book a check-up, go for a walk, check your BP! If you are not sure; book your appointment as you're not bothering your health profession."

### Menopausal matters

The evening's next speaker was Dr Margreet Stegeman, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, from Shepparton Women's Health Centre, who spoke about menopause.

Dr Stegeman Margreet discussed the complex topic of perimenopausal symptoms, and how the average age for these to start is fifty one years.

A number of change occur at this stage, including depletion of egg numbers, fluctuations in hormone levels, decrease in oestrogen and progesterone, temperature control dysfunction, and narrowing of a person's thermoneutral zone leading to increased sensitivity to changes in core body temperature (feeling unusually hot or cold).

Many of those present on the night had experienced these changes, so the discussion was particularly relevant to them.

Dr Stegeman described how hot flushes, and night sweats are influenced by a number of factors, including:

- climate
- diet and obesity
- lifestyle
- limited physical activity and smoking
- mood disorders
- depression and anxiety.

Dr Stegeman discussed the benefits and risks associated with Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) and its role in treating some of the worst symptoms of menopause.

She also noted how changes to weight and lifestyle can reduce menopausal symptoms, while other non-hormonal treatments and alternative therapies can also prove beneficial.

Those who attended were all provided with gift packs with information on:

- heart health
- menopause, HRT and mind health
- cervical and lung cancer screening
- bone and joint health
- nutrition and healthy eating
- calcium, vitamin D and other supplments
- social connection
- information about Shepparton Women's Health Centre and its services.

### Thanks for your support

The organisers of the Women's Health Night extend a big thank you to the following local businesses who provided gifts for the raffle that was held at the end of the evening:

- The General Store - \$50 voucher
- Rushworth Variety Store - \$10 voucher
- Motofinish - \$10 Voucher
- Rushworth Pharmacy - hand cream
- Nagamo - ear rings.

Thanks also go to Angie Russi, who provided bespoke hand made ceramic mugs as gifts for our presenters.



# Arts & Tourism

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## Tabled Together at Longleat Winery

The great team of Sandra and Guido Vazzoler, Jack Brady and Angie Russi created their second 'un pranzo degli artisti' - a lunch of the artists.

*Tabled Together* was held at Longleat Winery in Murchison last Sunday and was a real treat for the appreciative crowd.

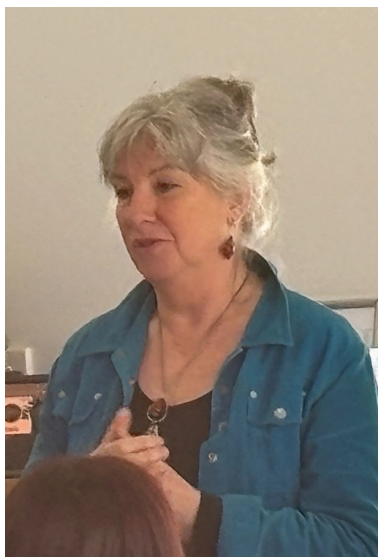
Local ceramicist Angie Russi created individual plates for each person's pasta plate which they could then take home, the design inspired by life at Longleat. Longleat

chef Jack Brady created a very special menu to star atop Angie's plates which had a pomegranate theme.

The weather was perfect and the guests were welcomed with a glass of bubbles before enjoying their Italian inspired lunch in the La Zingara dining room.



Guests display their plates after eating the pasta. Sarah Fortuna, Volly Chakatis visiting from Thailand and Gillian Schoenborn.

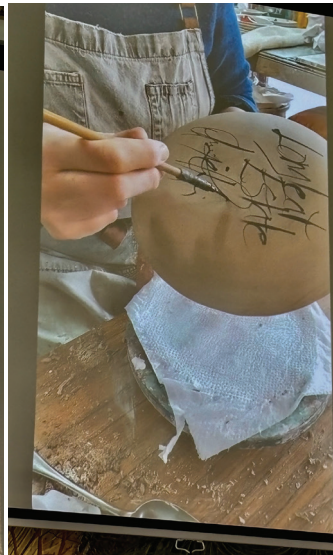
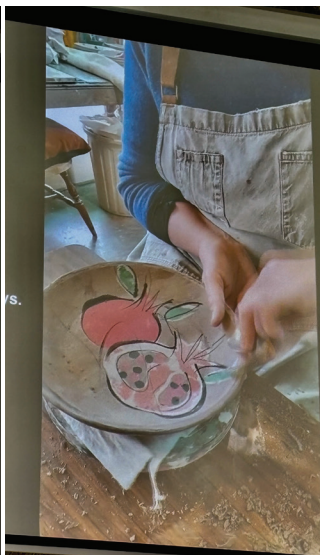


Angie giving the commentary to her video (below).



### The process of creating the plates

Angie showed a video of the long process of creating the plates over a long period in her Rushworth studio. Starting with kneading the clay, to rolling it out into a plate, then decorating, firing, glazing, firing again and so it goes. The video helped everyone appreciate how special the plates are and made them a special souvenir to take home. There were even extras to purchase to make up your own set.



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

### A visitor's cornbread

**Don't you love visitors that arrive bearing something they've baked for you to try?**

I hadn't even met Erica, but she arrived at our door with a plate of her home-made cornbread. I had to admit that I knew nothing about cornbread, so after I'd taste tested it over a cup of tea, she wrote out her recipe for me.

It was beautifully moist and we ate it just as it was, but could've spread it with a little butter. Erica said it's nice served warm, so we did give it a few seconds in the MW which was enough to melt the butter. Taste tested!

#### INGREDIENTS

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup polenta (not instant)  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups plain flour  
1 tspn baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar  
pinch of salt  
1 cup creamed corn  
125g melted butter  
2 eggs  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup milk

#### METHOD

Combine all the dry ingredients and mix well. In another bowl, combine and mix all the wet ingredients then mix the wet and dry ingredients together.

Pour the mix into a pre-heated, greased pan and bake at about 190°C for 30 minutes or thereabouts until the top is nicely browned and a skewer inserted in the middle comes out clean.

Note: When I was Googling 'polenta', I found it could be used in numerous ways and I aim to try this next time I'm roasting potatoes. You par-boil the potatoes, drain them well, sprinkle polenta over them and give the pot a good shake. Bake them in a roasting pan with olive oil, some sprigs of Rosemary and a few garlic cloves.

Glen



Next time we have a roast, I aim to try: polenta roast spuds!

## Handy Hints

- from Lyn Rumble

Hi there,

*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!*

*This issue is garden focused, as now the days are getting slightly warmer, things (mostly weeds in my garden anyway) are growing rapidly, so I need to do some veggie and flower planting to control the spread. Hope you get some benefit from these tips this issue!*

\* **Now is the time to start seedlings or repot small plants for early spring veggies and flowers** – a recycle way to do that is use your empty ice cream containers. Put some holes in the bottom with a hot steel knitting needle to make the drainage holes (Kids – get Mum or Dad to do that for you) and fill with good quality potting mix.

\* **Clean shredded paper makes great mulch for strawberries and asparagus** – it's a win-win all around really, as the fruit stems are kept clean, the nasty crawlies and bugs hate the sharp edges of the torn paper, and the paper rots down as compost – what more could you ask of something that would get chucked away!

\* **Got an old hot water bottle that cannot hold water any longer?** – What to do with it? Put some loose sand inside and seal it, and use as a kneeling mat for when you are in the garden weeding or planting.

\* **I'm always misplacing small garden tools** – but if you paint the handle with some fluoro paint, it should stand out amongst the garden beds when you've left it behind - so problem solved!

\* **Bees – beautiful creatures they are** – and they just love yellow and purple flowers. If you plant things like marigolds, violas, crocus, daffodil, tulips, wildflower mixes..... It will greatly increase your pollinating potential for your other garden varieties.

## Garden Hints & Tips

### Have you planted your natives yet?

We at the Goulburn Valley tree group Tatura, there is still time to plant out your native vegetation and we are still currently open for sales on Tuesday mornings.

We have a good range of eucalypts including the popular red gum, a great tree for those wet corners in your paddocks, grey box and the lovely perfumed lemon scented gum as well at the gorgeous smaller mallee Eucalypt varieties including Tetraptera with its stunning leathery leaves and bright red box flowers, then there is Woodwardii with its gorgeous yellow flowers and Torquata with its beautiful red flower cases and lemon stamens.

These are just some of the Eucalypts available.

Still also available is a selection of midstorey plants including a few banksias,

Leptospermum ovata, a few wattles as well as the adorable *Kunzia pulchella*, a lovely little plant to cover space in your garden exhibiting showy red flowers.

Grasses play a big part in many gardens now as well as revegetation projects.

We currently have Ficinas and Carex.

This is just a sample of what is currently in stock at the moment.

We have been busy with sales so you will need to be quick so you don't miss out.

Make great use of the warmer weather and the moist ground and plant out your natives this week!





# Health and Wellbeing

## Talking about Women’s Health

Thirty-two participants from Rushworth, Stanhope and Colbinabbin attended an informative and fun event co-hosted by Waranga Community Health and Rushworth Community House. Guest speakers were Dr Margreet Stegeman, Gynaecologist - Shepparton Women’s Health Centre and Ms Rebecca East, Nurse Practitioner - The Holistic Care Collective.



Guest speakers Margreet and Bec.



Old school friends Sadie, Helen and Sharryn.



Guest speaker local girl Bec and her mumma Kez.

## Free menstrual products available at Council locations

Campaspe Shire Council is participating in a Victorian Government initiative providing free menstrual products at public locations across the state, aiming to combat period poverty and improve access to essential hygiene products.

For many, menstrual products can be unaffordable, leading to negative impacts on health, education, employment, and social participation. This statewide rollout follows a successful pilot and will see 1,500 vending machines installed at up to 700 sites, including hospitals, TAFEs, libraries, train stations, and more.

In Campaspe Shire, machines have been installed at customer service centres in Rochester, Rushworth, and Tongala, as well as the EchUCA Library. Due to space limitations, Kyabram’s centre is currently on hold.

The vending machines are low-maintenance, requiring no mains power, and are monitored remotely via Wi-Fi for battery life and stock levels. Refills are managed by the provider.

EchUCA Library’s Jenny Mustey, leading the project locally, said:

“This simple but impactful measure can prevent missed school, work, or social opportunities, making public spaces more inclusive and supportive for all.”

## Be asthma-ready this spring

The arrival of spring means warmer weather and more time outdoors, but for many Victorians, it also brings an increased risk of asthma.

Ambulance Victoria is reminding the community to review and update their asthma action plans as spring approaches—a season known to trigger asthma symptoms and flare-ups.

Asthma affects individuals across all age groups, and while it can be life-threatening in severe cases, it is generally manageable with a personalised action plan developed in consultation with a healthcare professional. These plans are essential for avoiding emergency situations and maintaining control over the condition.

Common asthma triggers during spring include outdoor allergens such as pollen, dust, and air pollution, as well as weather-related events like thunderstorms. Indoor irritants—such as mould, dust mites, and emissions from gas appliances—can also contribute to symptoms.

People with asthma are advised to watch for signs such as wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and persistent coughing. Even if symptoms have subsided

over time, asthma does not simply go away, which is why it’s important to keep action plans current.

Medical experts recommend that adults update their asthma plans at least once a year. For children, a review every six months is advised. It’s also important to note that asthma can develop later in life; persistent hay fever or allergy symptoms such as a runny nose and itchy eyes may indicate the onset of asthma, and should be discussed with a GP.

Taking proactive steps to manage asthma not only reduces the risk of serious flare-ups but also helps ease the demand on emergency services. Those experiencing difficulty breathing that does not improve with reliever medication should call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

For non-emergency concerns, Victorians have access to various urgent care options, including the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED). This online service connects users with emergency doctors and nurses via video telehealth, available from

anywhere in the state, 24/7. The platform can be accessed at [www.vved.org.au](http://www.vved.org.au) from any internet-connected device with a camera.

Visiting an Urgent Care Clinic is also an option or visiting a GP or pharmacist who can provide timely non-urgent care.

Calling Nurse-On-Call, which offers free medical advice 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The number for Nurse-On-Call is 1300 60 60 24.



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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.*

### Snakes Alive! (And it's important that they are)

The babes have begun to arrive at the shelter. Ducklings, plover chicks and the first magpie nestling have already required our assistance and care.

Other native critters that are making an appearance are our reptiles. Snakes and lizards are becoming more and more active as the warmth of the changing seasons becomes obvious. This time of year, our reptile friends are usually still not far from the shelter of their winter hiding spots. They are slower as being ectotherms, they rely solely on the ambient temperature around them and external heat sources such as the sun to bring them to active temperatures.

If you are worried about snakes around your property, there are things you can do to minimise the risk to your pets or people around your yard.

The most efficient way to deter our native snakes is to snake proof your yard or even a section of yard. Vermin proof mesh is hard, fine gauge, small holed mesh and is the only material safe to erect around the bottom of fencelines, gates and yards. Snakes will and do fit through chicken wire, even the small stuff and there is also a high risk of a snake getting stuck in chicken wire.

Soft, fruit tree netting, also called 'snake netting' is damaging to all types of our native creatures, not just snakes, as they get tangled and stuck in it. Netting causes horrific injury, pain and suffering to our natives and we attend entanglement cases of both reptiles, birds and



mammals who fall victim to this horrible stuff each year. This netting is illegal, for very good reason. Please, do not use it.

Snakes need places to shelter and hide. If you do not wish to have a resident snake in your yard, eliminating piles of debris and rubbish helps.

If you love your rambling garden and have provided a welcoming habitat for snakes to live on your property, there are other simple things you can do to make things a little more snake safe. Keep paths and high human traffic areas clean and mowed short. This way you will be more likely to see a snake before you get to it. It's usually when a person does not realise they've got too close to a venomous snake without realising or they are attempting to kill it, when a snake is more likely to deliver a bite possessing venom.

The scent of introduced rodents attracts snakes so if you have a rodent problem in your house or sheds, you can almost guarantee a snake will eventually appear. We recommend the old snap traps, electric traps or live capture traps to control introduced rodents as baits are lethal for all of our native species who feed on poisoned rodents.

Snake safety in our Australian environment is something every Australian should know as these animals are a critical member of a healthy ecosystem. Not only are they a top end predator but they are also a valuable food source for other critters such as birds and other reptiles.

Every household should have a snake bite bandage handy in both their first aid kit and also their vehicle, particularly if you're a bush walker as I am. Scrub up on your first aid response for snake bite, there are plenty of resources online where you can refresh your knowledge on this. If you follow medical recommendations, if you do manage to be unlucky and cop a bite, you should survive and have

plenty of time to get to hospital for treatment. Not many people die of snake bite in Australia due to our excellent antivenoms. You do not need to know what type of snake bit you now to receive the appropriate treatment.

Things you can do if you are faced with a snake in close proximity to minimise getting bitten are pretty straight forward.

Snakes move around their environment using smell and eyesight. They are extremely reactive to movement. If you are too close and a snake has realised you are there and they cannot escape, they will flatten their head and neck and raise their head off the ground. If the threat continues, they will stand right up, in what most people refer to as strike position. This is to warn us that the snake feels threatened and is prepared to attempt to defend itself. If the threat continues, a snake may throw itself towards you in a mock strike, not actually intending to deliver a bite but a further warning to move away. I'm sure everyone has heard someone they know say a snake 'chased' them. This act of moving towards a threat and mock strike behaviour is all defensive behaviour. A snake has no desire to actively hunt you out and chase you, but it will attempt to drive you away if other defensive tactics are not working.

The simple act of moving away from a snake is usually enough for the snake to take the opportunity to disappear into the surrounding environment without any more fuss. Snakes do not wish to engage with us just as much as we do not wish to engage with them. We are a predator in their eyes which they wish to stay clear of.

If you cannot freely and safely move away, if you stay still and do not move, the snake will perceive the threat gone and continue on its way.

If a snake is sitting in a place that's not ideal, a soft broom is



a great tool to use between you and the snake, the movement of a broom is usually enough to persuade it to move to a safer spot without getting close.

If you are walking or working in an area with lots of cover, habitat or a possible snake area, be vigilant, wear appropriate footwear and be mindful of your hands reaching into places you cannot see and lifting things off the ground which may have a snake resting underneath.

If you do not wish to share your space with a snake and you wish for it to be removed, do not kill it, call a snake catcher.

Killing a snake is not a hero move or necessary and is in truth, the senseless killing of a justifiably protected native species.

Remember, snakes do not wish to hurt us or our pets unless they feel their life is in danger.

Of all the bites in Australia, over 80 percent are 'dry bites'. This means the snake has chosen not to envenomate and it was a warning bite.

We really can live alongside such a venomous species without harming them.

If you need a catcher, Bohollow can help.



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.

### Mosquito fish

While most people know about the European carp and the damage it does to the ecologies of our lakes and rivers, few have heard of the mosquito fish (*Gambusia holbrooki*), which is common in our waterways and also does a great deal of ecological damage.

The mosquito fish is a small fish (males are around three centimetres in length and females six centimetres). They were introduced into Australian waterways in 1925 to control mosquitos and quickly spread across much of Australia, including our district. So how can such a small fish that goes largely unnoticed impact upon the ecology of our waterways?

For a start, the mosquito fish did not control the mosquitos and mosquito larvae any better than the native species. However, they did have a voracious appetite for fish eggs and fish larvae as well as frogs' eggs and newly hatched tadpoles. They also nip the fins of native fish, leaving them vulnerable to infection and less capable of swimming after prey. Mosquito fish are very aggressive and will attack and harass larger species. They will eat anything that will fit into their mouths, meaning they are in direct competition with native species that also eat small aquatic creatures. All across the mosquito fish's range the populations of native fish and amphibians have fallen dramatically.

Mosquito fish are prolific breeders and can out-breed native species. They give birth to live young three or four times a year. The young attain breeding age in only four to six weeks. This puts enormous pressure on the native species.

Mosquito fish are very hardy and can survive in a wide range of water

temperatures, in water with low levels of oxygen and in turbid and polluted waters. It is a tough little survivor that can weather droughts with its ability to survive in small, muddy remnant waters.

One of the native fish most affected by the mosquito fish are the various rainbow fish species (genus *Melanotaenia*). These are small fish with horizontal stripes, often like a rainbow, along their sides. Many water catchments have their own unique species of rainbow fish. Some species from small, de-graded catchments are particularly vulnerable with a number of species being listed as "Critically Endangered" and others as "Endangered" or "Threatened". Luckily, they do well as aquarium fish and can be saved. Another endangered fish species is the purple spotted gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*). It also does well in aquariums and captive bred gudgeons have been reintroduced to several water catchments. The mosquito fish has also had an impact upon ten frog species including several species of bellfrog.

In short, the mosquito fish is the fish from hell. The only thing good about it is that it seems to be able to eat cane toad eggs. In Victoria it has now been declared a restricted noxious fish. It is illegal to keep the fish or to release it into a waterway (even if it was just caught moments before). If the fish is sighted it should be reported to the Fisheries Victoria Customer Service Centre on 136 186.



## Birds of a Feather

### Australian Reed Warbler



The Reed Warblers are back. While walking along the bike path near the Rushworth railway ponds I heard their familiar call. The recent rain had brought the Pobblebonks (Bango frog) out of hibernation and along with other frog species they were all in full voice and the call of the reed warbler could also be heard deep in the vegetation. The reed warbler is not a spectacular bird, only a little larger than a house sparrow and mostly drab brown in colour with white on the throat and with a pale eyebrow (supercilium). Although difficult to see in the reeds its strong voice makes its presence felt with its different combinations of calls, sometimes harsh and loud with staccato 'chucks' and at other times sweet and melodious.

The Australian reed warblers can be found throughout the Australian wetlands most of the year but in the south, as in Rushworth, they migrate north in April to enjoy the warmth and return in September to breed. The males are the first to arrive and claim a territory. They grip a stalk with their feet sideways, raise a small crest and sing loudly to warn off other males and to attract females as they don't pair with the same mate each year. The male will also build a pseudo-nest – a nest-like structure - which is not for brooding but to attract a female by showing how good a nest builder he is. Once paired up the couple will build a nest together in the reeds and raise their young feeding mostly on insects and spiders.

Reed warbles may be difficult to see but with a little patience, listening to their warbling which continues with only short breaks, they will show up moving around in the wetland vegetation. It's a song of spring in the wetlands – insistent but cheerful.

*The Rushy Birder*

**"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."**

**Robert Swan**

(Robert Swan is the first person in history to walk to both the North and South Poles - and is now dedicated to saving Antarctica and the planet.)

## Swooping season here again

As the weather gets warmer and the days longer, we also start to see the occasional swooping bird. Native birds enter their breeding season in spring, and some may get protective of their young.

Swooping is a normal, temporary behaviour for native birds like magpies, butcherbirds and masked lapwings to defend their eggs and chicks for a short time while their young are most vulnerable.

"Not all birds swoop during the breeding season, so the presence of magpies or other common swooping birds does not necessarily mean you will be swooped", said Lachlan Clarke, Manager Statewide Wildlife Advisory Services at DEECA.

This behaviour only lasts a short time, usually ending once the young have left the nest.

If you are worried about being caught out by a protective bird this spring, there are some steps you can take to feel safe, while also protecting our native birds: avoid known swooping hotspots; move quickly, don't run if near a swooping bird; wear protective head and eye coverings; don't harass birds, as this can escalate swooping; don't feed birds or destroy their nests.

Remember - all native wildlife is protected by law. Harassing, harming or disturbing native birds and other wildlife is illegal in Victoria and penalties apply.



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

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



### Heavy penalties decided at Rushworth Court House

Magistrate Curtain explained to a defendant that it was bad enough to be driving without a licence, but to be swaying all over the road and testing positive to alcohol when Sergeant Durston pulled him over, was completely unacceptable. The defendant's solicitor applied for an adjournment of the case. The magistrate was not in the mood to adjourn, sending the defendant to gaol for a month.

Local men were penalised for unroadworthy vehicles and speeding while another pair were fined for carrying and firing a rifle on a Sunday at Whroo.

A farmer was fined \$100 for failing to carry a knapsack on a tractor while slashing grass. A spark had started a fire.

A Camberwell solicitor was placed on \$100 bond to be of good behaviour for twelve months for lighting a fire without a permit on a bush block near Rushworth. (A few years later, in 1999, well after his bond had expired, the same solicitor was convicted of importing and trafficking cocaine worth \$2.7 million!)

### Shire

Waranga Shire called tenders to operate the pan service, after the contractor sought a rise in the \$31 per week paid for his collection service in Rushworth, \$33 per week in Murchison. In the previous contract period, 30 homes had converted to sewer or septic systems. Properties still using the pan service faced a Shire levy increase.

Shire officers welcomed two State Government officials to "talk tourism", visiting Whroo cemetery, the puddling-machine, the Balaclava mine and the aboriginal waterhole. With recent interest from people seeking to purchase abandoned Whroo township blocks, and Shire hopes of gathering rate revenue from new buyers, the next step was to confer with the Forests Commission, seeking its views on possible residential re-occupation of Whroo.

### Community

Waranga Memorial Hospital Ladies Auxiliary applauded two generous donations. Mrs Cole, mother of the hospital's Matron Marion Cole had contributed \$30 to assist the Auxiliary's work and the Golf Club Ladies had raised \$43 through the holding of a Charity Day competition on the local course.

### People

"Popular Chronicle office girl and typesetter, Sharon Jones, announced her engagement to Allan Perry at a party at her parents' home in Murchison Road on Saturday night. The party was attended by 120 friends."

Murchison Guide Lynda Bertram received her Queen's Guide award from the District Guide Commissioner at a ceremony in the RSL Hall. The Commissioner was her mother Helen!

Ownership of Colbinabbin Supply Store passed from Fred and Nora Reed to John and Irene Gibbs, bringing their family of three children from Katamatite.

Rushworth Hotel (the Bottom Pub) had new licencees Bob and Christine Waugh, in partnership with George and Janice Saynor.

The Greenaway brothers offered "a reward for information leading to the arrest of the person who has been tampering with our tractor and property on our land on the Stanhope Road".

### Schools

Rushworth High School started third term with new arts and craft teacher Miss Ursula Betka from Warracknabeal, and taking up his first teaching post was Mr Alan Akerstrom, from Seattle, Washington, in the USA. He was to teach Geography and History, "and likes basketball and soccer".

Miss Anne Marie O'Connor attended Rushworth High to explain the processes to apply for various tertiary courses to the Form Six class. She was photographed with students Noel Tuohey and Geoff Burge.

St Mary's School received a donation of a stove for school use from Mrs Blackshaw, together with a steam and dry iron to feature as a raffle prize. Sister Nora asked whether any mothers could assist in teaching the children to crochet and to sew.

### Football

Murchison Seconds lost the Kyabram District Football League Grand Final, down to Tallygaroopna 9-15 to 15-10. The senior flag went to Nagambie 10-19 over Merrigum 9-13. Girgarre won the Thirds premiership 10-6 to Lancaster's 7-3.

At the Grand Final there was discussion among KDFL officials, hoping that Stanhope would join if the club left the Goulburn Valley League. Some Rushworth players expressed concern about continuing in the five-team Heathcote League, and angling towards the KDFL. The discussion was to continue through much of the summer which followed.

Rushworth Under-15s had their grand final a week later than the men after a draw during the finals. On a miserable wet day, Heathcote won easily, with pats on the back to Tiger brothers Greg and Malcolm Cruz, cousins Peter and Alan Hawking, Joe Barlow, Anthony Fullarton, and Craig Beck returning from injury.

At the presentation night, Mrs Eileen Lambden presented the Lambden trophy for the senior best and-fairest to Mark

Mackinder, and the Ladies Auxiliary President Mrs Win Hageman handed over a big cheque to Club President Don Perry.

### Golf

A-grade champ at Rushworth was David Heily, defeating Graham Spence, Norm Geisler taking out B-grade over Aub Geisler. D-Grade champion was Rob Borger, ahead of Noel Perry. The C-grade final between Gordon Raglus and Ralph Barlow had been delayed. President Ivan Jell selected a President's team for a contest against the Captain's team, the latter taking the honours. In a stableford event, Peter Meagher and Jack Borger led the field home in A-grade, the promising young Slim Perry taking the B-grade contest.

Breaking their handicaps at Associates golf were Maree Cogan and Elsie Laurie. Leaders in the Frank Richards Trophy were Alice Brown and Marj Johnston.

### Bowls

The opening of Rushworth bowls season had capacity numbers on the green (when there was only one green). President Geoff Beck called on wife Mary to roll the first kitty, Associates president Mrs Linda Duke sending down the first bowl. Winners on the day were Bill and Mary Furphy with Joan Whitehead the third member of the rink.

Ron McLeod was commended and warmly thanked for all his work to brighten up the clubhouse.

### Tennis

With the season fast approaching, only ten girls and two boys had signed up to play junior tennis for Rushworth. Made it difficult for the club to advise the Association how many teams it would field, with a fixture still

### Rushing to Whroo,

1853 to 1880

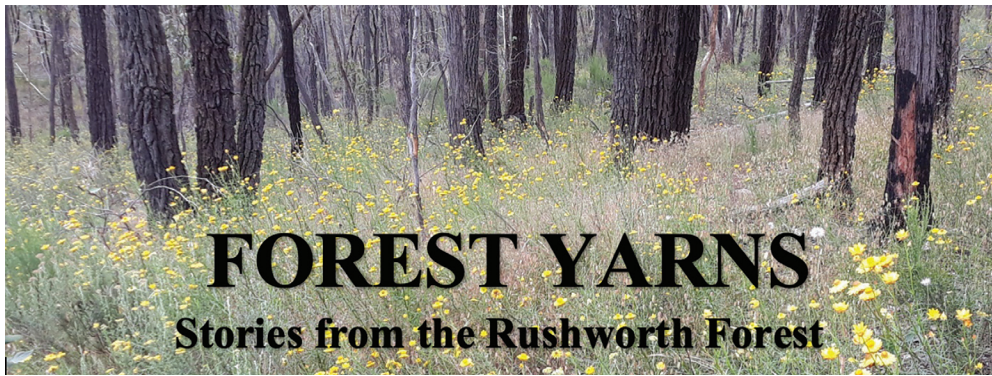


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## Revolution – the chainsaw

In the mid-1950s, chainsaws were introduced to Rushworth by Maurice Hitchcock, revolutionising the way that work was done in the forest. In the blink of an eye one man could cut far more timber in a day than had been humanly possible in the past. This innovation, in conjunction with replacement of horse drawn vehicles with motorised trucks caused major changes to the local timber industry.

The number of men working in the forest would dramatically decline after that time, although many continued to work in the old ways as a means of supplementing their income. One such old timer was Alfred Thomas, who had been born in 1891 in Bealiba, another Victorian gold mining town. Alf was in his 60s when these significant changes were taking place.

## Moving to Rushworth

Alf, the tenth of twelve children in his family, was married in his hometown of Bealiba in 1911 and the couple had two children before he served in the First World War between 1915 and 1919. Sadly, the war seems to have cost the pair their marriage as they divorced in 1919 after his return from Europe. He moved to Rushworth after the war and remarried, this time to Ida Smith.

The Smith family had been in Rushworth since the late 1850s. Ida's grandparents were both Irish convicts, transported to Tasmania for seven years for what now seem like trivial theft offences. After their release they married and moved to Victoria, and ultimately to Rushworth, where they lived for the rest of their lives. Ida's grandfather "Old Jack Smith" had been a resident of the town for 50 years when he died in 1909.<sup>1</sup>

## Timber cutting – the end of an era

Alf Thomas continued to work in the forest in the old ways, cutting timber by hand and transporting it into Rushworth station by horse and cart. In the 1950s he supplied five-foot billets to Bill Corner, who in turn was supplying firewood for the boilers at dairy companies at Stanhope and Girgarre.

The chainsaw revolution had begun back in the 1920s, when Andreas Stihl invented an electric machine that required two men to operate because it weighed a massive 64 kg. Shortly afterwards his business partner developed a petrol chainsaw. After World

War 2, the first one-man chain saws were developed, using "lighter materials, metal alloys and improved engine designs".<sup>2</sup>

## Jonsereds chainsaws

As noted above, Maurice Hitchcock introduced chainsaws to the local area after becoming an agent for Jonsereds chainsaws. Over the years, the Jonsereds company has been incorporated into the well-known Husqvarna brand.

"Mooky" decided that the best way to display his new product was to hold a demonstration of how it worked and what it was capable of doing. Because the forest workers were operating at many locations he decided that the best place to demonstrate the new machine was in a pub yard after knock off time, when there was sure to be a number of workers engaging in what was known as "The Six O'Clock Swill" i.e. getting down as many beers as possible after work before the pubs officially closed at 6pm. Word of mouth would do the rest.

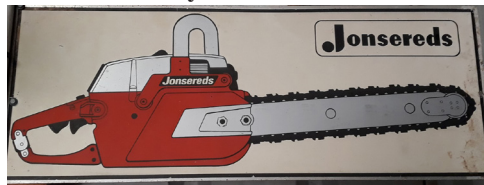
There were sceptics in the crowd at Brice's middle pub, suggesting that there was no way that such a new-fangled machine would be able to cut through the famous Rushworth forest hardwood, the red ironbark. Looking back there must have been a sense of amazement as the Jonsered chainsaw did indeed cut through logs easily, and in record time.

Perhaps there was also some trepidation amongst those who could foresee what this meant for the ongoing employment of those cutting timber out in the forest. Old timers like Alf Thomas would gradually disappear from the forest and the numbers of people employed in the timber industry would decline dramatically.

References: 1 Rushworth Chronicle 11.6.1909 per favour Rushworth Cemetery Trust website/Alan McLean; 2 Victoria's Forest and Bushfires Heritage blog by Peter McHugh 12.6.25; Other – Ancestry website, Interview with Murray Hitchcock



Blade of an early Jonsereds chainsaw



Jonsereds logo

## A Name from the Past

**Ellen Louisa Jones,  
known always as Nell**

Ellen Louisa Jones was known to all as Nell. Some residents, even her neighbours, would not have known the given names of a fine contributor to the town of Rushworth.

A small fraction of her contributions was captured in Waranga News of 22 January, 1981, about four weeks after her death in December of 1980.

"DEATH: JONES, NELL.

Passed away 23rd December 1980 (suddenly), loving sister of Rita, sister-in-law of Frank, auntie of Frank, Graeme, Jennifer (dec) and Ian. Loving great aunt of Peter and Gillian. Peacefully sleeping.

On the 23rd December 1980, the whole town was shocked to hear of the sudden death of Nell Jones in her 74th year.

Nell lived in Rushworth all her life, being born into the Simpson family who were pioneers of Rushworth. In 1933 she married George Jones and he pre-deceased her by 24 years ago.

She leaves a family of two sons and two daughters – Ethel (Mrs R. Hageman), Ron, George and Margaret (Mrs Perrett), twelve grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. Her death being the first in the family is mourned by her sister Rita (Mrs F. Hageman), and brothers Alf, Tom, and Bill.

Nell will be missed in this community and remembered for her work at the Waranga Memorial Hospital. She will be sadly missed by the Brownies as she had been their much-loved Brown Owl for eighteen years.

Many relatives and friends, including the Brownies, attended her funeral service at St. Paul's Church of England on 27th December."

One could only guess at the number of Brownies Nell would have guided in those eighteen years. We can also note that Nell's sister married a Hageman, as did one of her daughters.

Ellen "Nell" Jones was buried in the Rushworth cemetery, after a subdued Christmas for her family.

Today her direct descendants include many locals who might have the surname Jones, Perry and Snelling, and just as many nephews, nieces, great nephews and great nieces and so on. Hageman, Harcoan and Parker are just three names which come to mind.

*Alan McLean*



*Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our*  
**Father's Day celebrations at St Mary's school**



Photo above: Students bless their fathers at Mass.



(Above) That's what you call a gathering! St Mary's students hosted their fathers with a special celebration of Father Day 2025.

**What a wonderful week we have shared in celebrating Father's Day at St Mary's!**

A huge thank you goes to our Parents and Friends Committee for all their hard work in preparing and running the Father's Day stall. This was such a success, and it was beautiful to see the joy on students' faces knowing they could take home a special gift for their dads - something made possible by the generosity and support of our P&F team.

Another special shout-out to all the parents, grandparents, and families who joined us for our Father's Day Mass. It was truly heart-warming to see dads, grandfathers, mums, and grandmothers in attendance. Our students did a wonderful job leading the readings and prayers, and we extend a sincere thanks to our Year 3/4 class for running the Mass alongside Father Boniface. The meaningful prayers and joyful music made this a very special occasion for all.

We also thank everyone who came along to our Father's Day Breakfast on Friday morning. It was a fantastic turn-out, with so many students proud to share this moment with their special person.

It was indeed a big week at St Mary's, filled with gratitude, community, and celebration.

We sincerely hope all fathers, grandfathers, and special people enjoyed a beautiful Father's Day on Sunday.

*Angela Fiske-Kealy*

(Left) Fr Boniface Kamulegeya comes from White Hills parish in Bendigo to celebrate St Mary's school Masses with the students. He was pleased to invite fathers to come forward for a blessing from himself and the children.

Fr Boniface was born in Uganda and trained and ordained a priest for the Diocese of Butare, Rwanda, and is now the administrator of White Hills parish.



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

# Feast Day of Mary MacKillop – celebrating at St Mary’s School

St Mary’s school community is getting prepared and excited to share in a very special event with our parish and with three other small schools in the diocese.

## World-renowned singer and song-writer

We are delighted to announce that Gen Bryant, world-renowned for Catholic ministry and as a singer-songwriter, will be joining us at St Mary’s Rushworth for a joyful day of celebration for the Feast Day of Mary MacKillop.

## Four school choir!

This promises to be a day filled with music, joy, and togetherness as St Mary’s Rushworth, St Joseph’s

Nagambie, St Mary’s Inglewood, and Holy Rosary Heathcote come together for a Gen Bryant concert, followed by activities for all students.

## Special liturgy to end the day

Our choir will also have the unique opportunity to work closely with Gen to perfect songs that will be sung during the final proceedings of the day—a special liturgy honouring Mary MacKillop’s legacy and her inspiring words: “May we never see a need unmet.”

Watch this space in the next edition of the newsletter for a full rundown of the day’s events!



## Magnify Sandhurst: looking ahead

Last week, I was fortunate to join more than 125 principals and leaders of teaching and learning to reflect on Magnify Sandhurst – then, now, and into the future.

Without giving too much away, I can share that Magnify continues to hold firmly to its vision of every student, every teacher, every day. The work being done behind the scenes is internationally acclaimed because it is grounded in strong evidence and research.

Our school community directly benefits from this through professional staff training, ongoing coaching, and continual support. These ensure that our teachers are well equipped with the most effective strategies to meet the diverse needs of our students.

During the leadership day, we also unpacked the latest assessment data from across the diocese. The new data platform allows teachers to hone in on individual student needs and provides immediate access to tools that support targeted learning. It was a real privilege to look closely at our own school’s data and celebrate the significant growth our students are making.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises to be another year full of amazing opportunities for the children in our care, helping them foster a bright future in both their learning and their lives.

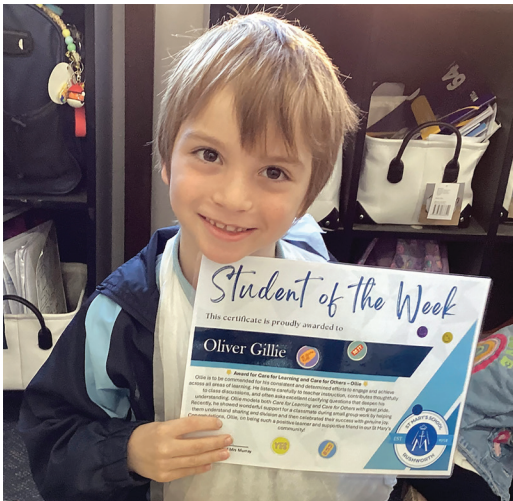
Vin Ryan  
Principal



Happy Fathers Day made happy by students hosting their fathers with food and fun.

## Student of the Week

Oliver Gillie (photo at right) was pleased with himself to be awarded the Student of the Week.  
Well done, Oliver!





# Celebrating Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is an annual Christian observance dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of creation. It is celebrated by many denominations around the world and runs from 1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4 October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology).

This year’s theme, Peace with Creation, reflects on a world marked by ecological crisis and growing inequality, calling on us all to renew our relationship with the Earth and with one another.

The theme Peace with Creation aligns powerfully with Caritas International’s ‘Turn Debt into Hope’ campaign, as communities burdened by debt are often those facing the worst environmental challenges. Together, these movements urge action to end the injustice of climate and economic crises, redirecting resources from wealthy lenders to vulnerable communities in need of sustainable development and ecological renewal.

In the Sandhurst Catholic diocese around 120 people from six schools and nine parishes gathered for their annual Mass and Picnic in the forest at Huntly Reserve last Friday. Mass concluded with the presentation of A Turn Debt Into Hope Candle to each parish and school. Each was also presented with a native plant to begin or add to their Garden of Peace (symbol for the Season of Creation).



Fr Joe Taylor spoke of our stewardship of the environment at the annual Season of Creation Mass which he celebrated along with Frs Rom Hayes and Fr Boniface Kamulegeya.



## Parish pilgrimage to mark Year of Jubilee and Season of Creation

As part of the Sandhurst celebrations for the ‘Year of Jubilee’ (which Catholics celebrate every twenty-five years), five places were nominated in the Diocese as destinations for pilgrimage. They represent opportunities for us to be pilgrims of hope, commemorating and drawing inspiration from the contribution that people of faith have made to building community throughout our history. St Mary’s Parish has chosen the recently established St Mary of the Cross garden and history trail at Numurkah for a parish pilgrimage

next Sunday (21 September), well-timed to coincide with the annual Season of Creation. The site at Numurkah commemorates the first school established by Mary Mackillop and her Josephite sisters in Victoria, so is very relevant to Rushworth (as a Josephite parish). Anyone is welcome to join in with car-pooling from Stanhope after 9.30am Mass this Sunday.

Another special connection to the garden is that it was designed by Rushworth’s talented landscape architect Louise Costa!

## District Church Times and Contacts

### Anglican

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

### Shine Church, Stanhope

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

### Catholic

St Mary’s Parish. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays: Cornella 9am; Stanhope 10.30am. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays: Rushworth 9am; Murchison 10.30am. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: One Parish Mass - Rushworth. Contact a team member on the parish mobile phone: 0459 898 925. Sunday Mass continues online from St Kilian’s Sundays 10am.

### Presbyterian

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

### Generations Church, Tatura

5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

### Salvation Army: 5852 3875

### Uniting Church

Waranga Uniting Churches – Rushworth, Colbinabbin, Murchison and Tatura. Service Times: Weekly at 9.30am (with the ‘room’ open for a chat at 9am)

Every congregation is open for services which will be streamed each week into all four of our church buildings.

Each week one congregation will host the service with people in other congregations participating in leading the readings, sharing news and fellowship via the magic of Zoom.

You are welcome to join us in person or from your lounge room via Zoom.

The link for the Zoom service can be found on our website [warangaunitingchurches.net.au](http://warangaunitingchurches.net.au) or can be emailed to you each week.

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



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

## CLIVE COVENTRY FUNERALS

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

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# living the GOOD LIFE

## Being found

*“Grace always arrives before we’re ready, and joy always breaks out before we’ve figured out who deserves it”*

Life is rarely quiet. Most weeks seem full to the brim — with work, family, community and all the unexpected things that come our way. Some days the wind blows cold and hard; other days the sun surprises us with its warmth. We say goodbye to people we love, we welcome new beginnings and through it all we keep moving, sometimes with purpose, sometimes just hanging on.

And then, layered over the rhythm of our own lives, there is the constant stream of news from the wider world. Too often it feels heavy — stories of conflict, of violence, of lives cut short or broken. Every so often there are glimmers of hope — a community coming together, a step toward justice, a gesture of kindness. But still the weight of the world presses in.

## Winners . . . losers

It’s in moments like these, both personal and global, that I notice how quick we are to divide life into categories of winners and losers, successful and unsuccessful, deserving and undeserving. How easily we blame people for being ‘lost’: the addict for their addiction, the unemployed for not trying hard enough, the person struggling with mental illness for weakness, the young person searching for identity as ‘confused,’ the refugee as “jumping the queue.”

We tell ourselves their lostness is their fault and in doing so, we keep their pain at arm’s length.

## . . stories with a difference

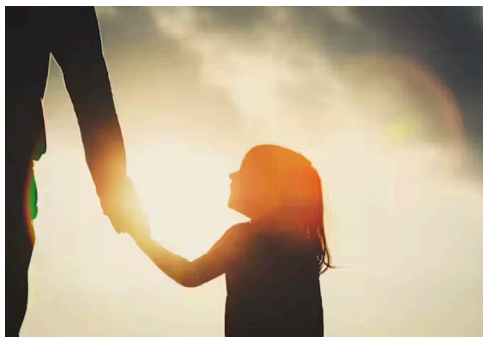
But then I open up the fifteenth chapter of Luke’s Gospel, where Jesus tells three stories:

- A shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep to

search for the one that has strayed.

- A woman turns her house upside down to find a single lost coin.
- A father loses not one, but two sons — one who runs away and wastes everything, the other who stays home but grows cold, resentful, and refuses to celebrate. The father’s heart aches for both of them.

In every case, what matters is not blame, but the search. Not condemnation, but welcome. And each story ends in celebration:



neighbours called in, friends gathered, music and feasting, joy overflowing.

At Eugene Peterson’s funeral, he was the writer of The Message translation of the Bible, his son Leif gave a eulogy. He said his father really only had one sermon, one message he preached all his life, whispered to his children at night, spoken in a hundred different ways. The message was this: “God loves you. He’s on your side. He’s coming after you. He’s relentless.”

I can’t think of a better summary of these parables.

## We are found

We too are sought. When we wander into dark valleys, God does not stop searching.

We too are found. When we feel invisible, God lifts us onto his shoulders.

We too are welcomed. When shame tells us we are unworthy, God runs to embrace us.

We too are celebrated. When we expect a lecture, God throws a feast and calls us beloved.

This is the heart of the Gospel: not about finding your way, but about being found.

And yet, like the older brother in Jesus’ story, we can find it hard to accept. We want fairness. We want people to earn their place. We want the lost to repent before they are embraced. But God’s grace doesn’t work that way. Grace always arrives before we’re ready, and joy always breaks out before we’ve figured out who deserves it.

The challenge is whether we will join the celebration, or stay outside with our arms folded.

And that’s where I come back to our own lives, our own community. Because we are not only the ones called to seek and celebrate, we are also the lost.

We get lost in illness and grief. We get lost in strained relationships. We get lost in doubt, in pride, in shame. We get lost in the quiet struggles no one else sees.

And still, God’s relentless love is for us, too.

## He’s on our side

Perhaps that’s why Jesus tells three stories instead of one. Because he knows how easily we resist grace. He knows how quickly we prefer judgment. So he tells it again, and again, and again, until the truth begins to sink in:

God loves you. He’s on your side. He’s coming after you. He’s relentless.

And maybe that’s the invitation for us, here in our small part of the world. To live as people who know we’ve been found. To welcome others not with blame but with joy. To throw parties that look a little like heaven’s.

Because in the end, the heart of the good life isn’t about finding your way. It’s about being found.

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

*Brian Spencer, Minister  
Waranga Uniting Churches*

# NCCA joins 30 hour vigil for children killed in Gaza



A 30 hour vigil when the names of 18, 432 children killed in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank since 7 October 2023 were read out took place at Collins Street Baptist Church early this month.

During the day, names were read out standing on the steps of the church and through the night the vigil continued in the sanctuary. Readers came from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Baptist and people of unknown faith. This was a living public statement, read aloud to the public in a public space.

Reverend John Gilmore, President of National

Council of Churches in Australia) who took part in the vigil said, “I finished my turn in the reading of the names wanting to shout out ‘In the name of the God of Peace this must stop. Shalom is only possible with the end of war and the actioning of justice and compassion. The people of Yahweh share this understanding and desire.

“Together we must never give up actively campaigning for an end to the inhumanity of war – in all places. We must do this in the name of the Prince of Peace.”

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**Phone: 5852 1061 Mobile: 0409 935 375**



# WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

## DEATH

**BATT, Ronald William (Ron)**  
Passed away suddenly.  
On Friday 5th September 2025  
At Mooroopna Aged Care.  
Dearly loved husband of Ruth (dec).  
Much loved father of Robert, Vicki, David,  
Keith (dec) and Alan (dec).  
Loving father-in-law of Faye, Darren (dec)  
and Sharon.  
Adored pop to nine grandchildren and nine  
great-grandchildren.  
*Funeral was held Wednesday 17 September  
2025 at 1pm*

**RISSTROM, Harvey Lancelot:**  
Passed away peacefully Sunday 7th  
September 2025 at Drysdale Grove Aged  
Care. Aged 98 years.  
Dearly loved Father and Father in Law of  
Donald and Rhonda.  
Cherished Pop of Travis, Shelley and  
Kimberley and their families.  
Malessa, Milla, Piper and Torah Risstrom,  
Adrian, Ivy and Wren Rodrigues, Daniel,  
Oliver and Alexandra (Lexi) Riley and Emily  
Risstrom-Riley.  
*Forever in Our Hearts, at Peace at last.*  
XX

## FUNERAL

**RISSTROM, Harvey Lancelot;**  
Celebration of Life Service will be held  
at Drysdale Uniting Church, Friday 19th  
September 2025 at 11.00 a.m.  
Followed by the Drysdale Cemetery service  
at 12 noon.  
All welcome back at Drysdale Uniting Church  
Hall for memories, lunch and fellowship.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**The AGM of Moora Working Draught  
Horses Inc. will be held on  
Sunday 12 October  
at the Wallenjoie Hotel, 67 Midland  
Highway, Stanhope  
at 1pm**

All members are welcome to join us  
for lunch beforehand. Lunch starts at  
12pm - get there early and place your  
orders quickly as the meeting will start  
promptly at 1pm.

For enquiries call John Quinsee  
(President) on 0413 338 729, or Lyn  
Reade (Secretary) on 0491 764 792 or  
email secretary.mwdh@gmail.com

## TRADE AND SERVICES



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## Community invitation

Waranga Health Community  
Reference Committee


# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING


**Wednesday 1 October 2025 from 6-7pm**

The meeting will be held at Waranga Health  
Multipurpose Room at 14 High Street,  
Rushworth.


Please RSVP by calling 5851 8000  
by Friday 26 September.

Light supper provided.





## Lipshut LAW



*Geoffrey Lipshut*

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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

SEPTEMBER

Sat 20	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
Mon 22	Library Activities - Book for Team Bracelets and Fobs 10.30am.
Tue 23	Library Activities - No booking necessary for All Day Lego and Games.
Thu 25	Library Activities - Book for Family Movie - 10.30am.
Mon 29	Library Activities - Book for Spinners 10.30am.
Tue 30	Library Activities -Book for Family Movie 10.30am.

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  
INFO AND 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**  
**FOR NEXT EDITION - 2 OCTOBER**  
**Display Ads: Friday, 26 September**  
**Classified: Monday, 29 September**  
wnews@iinet.net.au

Waranga News



MEMBER 2025

A Voluntary Community Newspaper

Printed by Maxam Printing, Shepparton

Published by Mary Jo Fortuna OAM,

of 3 Phillips Street, Rushworth, 3612 for

Waranga News Incorporated

(ABN 45 086 403 564)

Office Hours: Mon, Wed & Fri

9.30am - 5.30pm

(All day Mon & Tues of production week)

33 Moora Road, Rushworth.

Postal address: PO Box 53, Rushworth, 3612

E-mail address: wnews@iinet.net.au

Website: www.wnews.org.au

Advertising & Accounts: (03) 5856 1120

Editor: 0407 561 311

Annual subscription: Online \$30;

Posted \$65.00 (inc cost of postage)



# Your Council News

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

## Project update

The Tongala and Kyabram dog parks will officially open in September. Community members and their dogs are encouraged to attend. Tongala Dog Park's official opening will be on Monday 22 September from 10.30am-11.30am at Brose Reserve in Finlay Road. Kyabram Dog Park's official opening will be on Wednesday 24 September from 10.30am-11.30am at Edis Park, Oswald Street.

**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)

## Tenders

### Request for Tender C25020: Echuca Tender C25028 – Provision of Immunisation Services

Tenders are invited from suitably qualified and experienced organisations for delivery of Council's statutory immunisation function, including the provision of childhood and school-based adolescent immunisation services. A copy of the documents can be downloaded from Council's website. Tenders must be submitted via Council's eProcure portal on its website no later than 2pm (AEDST) on 9 October 2025. Late submissions will not be accepted.

### Tender C25050 - Kyabram Service Centre, Library and KCLC Access Upgrade

Submissions are invited from suitably experienced providers for the above work. RFT submissions must be uploaded to Council's eProcure tender portal on its website no later than 2pm on 14 October 2025. Late submissions will not be accepted.

### Tender C25048 - Shire FY26 Kerb and Channel Renewal Works

Submissions are invited from suitably experienced providers for the above work. RFT submissions must be uploaded to Council's eProcure tender portal on its website no later than 2pm on 15 October 2025. Late submissions will not be accepted.

## Employment #campaspecareers

For all positions currently open and application details, visit Council's website [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/careers](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/careers) or call 1300 666 535.

## Immunisation Sessions

**By appointment only.** Register at [campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations](http://campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations)  
**Need help making an appointment?**  
**Call Council on 1300 666 535.**

## 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.

### Citizen of the Year Nominations

The Citizen of the Year Awards celebrate the achievements and contributions of individuals and community organisations or groups in our region. Nominate today for any of the three award categories: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Community Group of the Year. Visit the Now Open page for more details on eligibility, selection criteria and the nomination process. Nominations close Sunday, 2 November.

### Registrations for Abilities Unleashed Sports Day

Council is partnering with Disability Sports Australia & Murray River Council to host the Abilities Unleashed Sports Day at Echuca Stadium on Wednesday, 15 October. Registrations are essential, visit our Events Directory for more information.

### Seniors Concert

Senior community members are invited to a trip down memory lane at Council's annual 2025 Seniors Concert. This **free** event is on Wednesday, 29 October at Tongala Shire Hall in Mangan St,



Photo: Matt Sullivan

from 10am to 2pm. The performance features the tribute show Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons vs The Beach Boys – sure to get toes tapping to feel-good tunes that never grow old. Seats are limited and bookings are a must for catering purposes. More information in the Now Open section of our website.

### Street Tree Applications

Council is finalising orders for next year's Street Tree Planting program. New trees are scheduled to be planted between May and August next year in streets, parks and gardens across the shire. To obtain a street tree, lodge an online request or contact our Customer Service team for help. Applications close 31 October.

### Healthy Sports Rewards

Expressions of interest are open for sports clubs to receive Healthy Sports Rewards vouchers as an alternative to the food and drink vouchers often presented to junior sporting club participants. The vouchers offer free entry to pools and leisure facilities. Expressions of interest will close on 26 September.

### Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan open for feedback

Council's 2026-2029 Domestic Animal Management Plan is currently under review and is open for feedback until 4pm on Friday, 3 October 2025.

## Libraries' school holiday programs brimming with activities

Free activities are scheduled at all Campaspe Libraries, Colbinabbin Library Depot and Lockington Library Depot throughout the September

school holidays. Bookings are essential for many activities; phone 5481 2400 or book via library website at [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/library](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/library)

## 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

May Gibbs (The Mother of the Gumnuts)  
Maureen Walsh. Angus and Robertson 1958

Cecilia May Gibbs was born at Cheam Fields in Surrey in 1877 to two artistically talented parents and grew up with British children's stories filled with traditional pixies, fairies and goblins but when her family immigrated to take up farmland near Adelaide in 1881, May was introduced to the very different flora and fauna of the Australian bush. As an adult and a talented artist, she began work as an illustrator of conventional British children's stories but gradually the image of an Australian bush fairyland began to creep into her imagination.

Unable to make a profit from the land in South Australia, her family moved to Perth and May continued her work as an illustrator and as a writer. In 1900 she returned to England to further her artistic studies at several well known art schools in London and on returning to Perth, she began writing and drawing for local Perth magazines and it was at this time that the writing of fairy stories for Australian children was born. She submitted some stories and illustrations to local publishers but initially no-one was interested. Nothing daunted, May tried again in Sydney where the New South Wales Education Department, enchanted by her work, used her stories in their Primary Readers and Australian children were introduced to the world of the wicked Banksia Men, Snugglepot and Cuddlepie, Little Ragged Blossom and other fairies of the Australian bush. In 1913 her first two books about the Gumnut Babies were published in Australia and sold out. Numerous books with more and more Australian references were published and the bush babies moved from a new phenomenon to become part of Australian folklore and to give great pleasure and a sense of identity to generations of Australian children.

Throughout her career, May always maintained strict supervision of her work, allowing no interference with her format or accepting any criticism of her ideas and as she changed her publishers with great regularity, she became renowned for reducing her printers and editors to jelly and gained a reputation for being 'difficult' but she remained steadfastly true to her vision throughout.

During the depression sales of her books declined but she joined the ranks of Australian cartoonists with a popular comic strip in the Sunday News. Paperback copies continued to sell slowly at reduced prices so American publishers were approached but her stories had no connection to American children and a possible movie was never made. May retreated to her little cottage on the edge of Double Bay and died in 1969, still fiercely independent and still terrifying her publishers but she loved children and understood them very well. Her bushland characters, like May herself, faced disappointment, met good and bad people and lived in a bustling, busy world. This book shows us the fascinating woman behind the stories who maintained her artistic integrity all her life and left us with a famous series of books that have never been out of print.

The Bookster

Solutions from last edition

D	A	T	A	B	A	S	E		A	P	E	D
E			M		N		N		G			E
M	A	D	E		N	E	A	T	E	N	E	D
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5	3	6	9	1	4	7	8	2
9	2	4	8	7	3	6	1	5
1	8	7	6	2	5	4	9	3

Sudoku and Crossword puzzle

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

- Each of the nine vertical columns
- Each of the nine horizontal rows
- Each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes

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

Across

- 1. Postponement
- 7. Levy on goods (5,3)
- 3. Ritz or Hilton
- 10. Desert gales
- 12. University researcher
- 14. Sergeants (1,1,2)
- 16. Slices
- 17. Canvas shoes
- 20. War crimes
- 23. Called
- 24. Of musical drama
- 25. Stitched

Down

- 1. Large showy flower
- 2. Cancels (TV show)
- 3. Set (table)
- 4. Air ducts
- 5. Enticed
- 5. Survives
- 9. Rubber tree sap
- 11. Plants
- 13. Charged particle
- 15. Devoured
- 16. Wax colouring stick
- 18. Vile
- 19. Scat!
- 21. Threesome
- 22. Bank vault

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Crossword No: 60

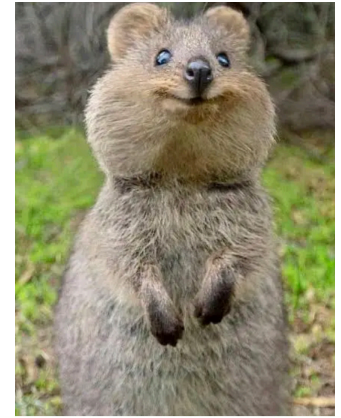
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# Q is for Quokka . . .



. . . and queen and quick, quiet, quiz, question and quail.


Quokkas are one of the smallest wallabies (about as big as a cat) closely related to the kangaroo. The carry their young in a pouch and eat native blossoms and leaves. They are native to Rottnest Island and are considered an endangered species. They have the cutest smiles and have been called 'the happiest animal on earth'.





Q is for quail

Here's a Dad Joke to try out on someone:  
Mother Duck was leading her duckling across the road. Mother Duck said, "Quack. Quack". and the little duck said, 'I'm going as quack as I can!'



Queen



# Colbinabbin PS champions compete at Campaspe Cluster Athletics

Grades 3-6 recently competed in the Campaspe Cluster Athletic Sports in Bendigo. With a variety of weather conditions, including rain, the children all performed very well, with the school coming in 2nd place and 18 students qualifying to compete in the Divisional Athletics.



Individual age champions were l-r Matilda Greenway, Isabelle Hill, Fraser Weppner, Maisy Masterson, Vinnie Ryan, Angus McEvoy and Nick Weppner.



Grade 3/4 winning relay team Fraser Weppner, Matilda Greenway, William Te Hiko and Angus McEvoy.

## Healthy Sports Rewards vouchers for clubs

The Shire of Campaspe is offering Healthy Sports Rewards vouchers as an alternative to the less healthy food and drink vouchers often presented to junior sporting club participants. The vouchers are a great way to recognise junior players and offer free entry to pools and leisure facilities, encouraging active lifestyles.

Council is committed to supporting sporting clubs to be places that are active, healthy and socially connected. Sports clubs, particularly junior clubs, should be free from unhealthy food and drinks sponsorship.

### Express your interest

Would you like free vouchers for healthy experiences to use as rewards for your junior players?

The Healthy Sports Rewards program

runs an online expression of interest twice a year to align with the summer and winter seasons of most local junior sports. The online expression of interest is now open, and all local sporting clubs with junior players are encouraged to apply. It will close at 5pm on Friday September 26, 2025.



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# Rushworth u15 Netball make it to the grand final

## Junior Netball 15 & Under GF Results.

On Saturday 5 September the Under 15 took to the court for the finals. Unfortunately, the team went down, but the RFNC is incredibly proud of the season they have had, played in good spirits all season with clear enjoyment within the squad on and off the court. We look forward to seeing what they can achieve again next season! Tigers 37 def by Tallygaroopna 52

**Under 15 team: l-r Back: Assistant Coach Tayla Starling, Jorja Saunders, Kaitlyn Garvey, Billie Johnstone, Kaley Knight, Lailah Francis, Emily Walker. Front: Kade Starling, Coach Sheree Starling, Zanna Chapman, Willow Bertram, Byron Chapman.**



# Rushworth Football/Netball Club Season Review

## Senior Netball

What a remarkable season it has been for our A Grade netball team! Finishing 3rd after a challenging previous season where we didn't secure a single win is a testament to our hard work, dedication, and team spirit. The tough games we faced this season revealed our true character. Each challenge tested our resolve, but rather than faltering, we rose to the occasion. Every player backed each other up, showcasing the strong relationships we've built. This support system has been vital to our progress, allowing us to work together seamlessly on the court. The trust we have in one another has been a driving force, and it's clear that our bond extends beyond just netball. While losing the prelim by just three goals stings, it serves as a reminder of how far we've come.

Each match was a building block, and our growth in teamwork, strategy, and confidence was evident. As we look to the future, we are determined to build on this season's successes. With our sights set on further improvement, we'll enter the off-season with a commitment to training and development. The foundation has been laid, and we're ready to come back stronger than ever. Thank you to our supporters, volunteers, community and sponsors for being part of this incredible journey. Here's to a season of growth, resilience, and a bright future ahead! Highlights This season showcased the exceptional talent of our team, particularly the dynamic duo of defenders 'big red' Ash Materne and Lilly Wasdorp. Their remarkable ability to work in tandem created a formidable defensive wall, consistently disrupting opposing attacks and securing crucial turnovers. In the attacking circle, goalers Montana Mylon and Janelle Doolan displayed impressive chemistry as

they worked seamlessly around the ring. Their strategic movement and agile abilities kept the pressure on our opponents, often resulting in vital goals that propelled us through tough matches. Additionally, we were thrilled to see Zahley Francis make her mark coming up from the juniors. Her willingness to step up and contribute when needed brought fresh energy to the team and demonstrated her potential as a rising star. These highlights reflect not only individual brilliance but also the strength of our teamwork and the promising future ahead.

## Senior Football

After years of hard work, growth, and determination, 2025 will go down as a defining season for the Rushworth Football Club Seniors. Finishing 6th on the ladder with 9 wins and 7 losses, the Tigers roared back into September action, making their first finals appearance since 2012, and showing the entire Kyabram District Football League that Rushworth is once again a force to be reckoned with. Under the steady leadership of senior coach Mark Wheatley, and the on-field direction of captain Liam Francis and vice-captain Ethan Arnold, the group grew week by week, blending experience and youth, grit and flair. The team's resilience was tested mid-season with a tough run of injuries during the cold winter stretch. But in true Rushy spirit, the group dug deep, leaned on each other, and kept the season alive with a series of gutsy performances that paved the way to finals. When September arrived, the Tigers pounced. With momentum on their side, Rushworth claimed two impressive finals wins, including a thrilling victory that brought the Tiger faithful to their feet. Although the journey ended in a heartbreaking preliminary final loss, the pride in the jumper had well

and truly been restored. Seasons highlights Multiple players played their first senior game this year, the highlight being Tighe Clarke and Flynn Clarke who are products from our U18s team. This is massive effort as we hadn't had a U18s team for 7 years. And also 'The Kid' Jackson McCrae gaining Rising Star Nomination Coach of the year Nomination for Mark Wheatley Junior Coach of the year Nomination for Ryan Raglus. Beyond the stats and scores, 2025 will be remembered for its spirit, the way the team represented the town, brought the community together, and reminded everyone what it means to be part of the Rushworth Football Club. To the supporters, volunteers, sponsors, and families - thank you. Your unwavering belief fuels this club. This season was more than just a finals run. It was a statement:

*The Tigers are back.*

**Please join us for the  
RFNC Season 2025 Vote  
Count & Presentation  
Day!**

**Sunday 5 October**  
at the Ironbark Stadium  
Clubrooms.

Junior Vote Counts and  
Presentations starting from  
10am.

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Senior Vote Counts &  
Presentations from 1pm.

Event link below to RSVP:  
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# KDL's Best & Fairest Presentation Night

Each year at the conclusion of the season, the league hold their Best and Fairest Presentations. These awards include an award for Senior Football Coach of the Year, Junior Football Coach of the Year, Senior Netball Coach of the Year and Junior Netball Coach of the Year.

Clubs are asked to submit one nomination for each category of this award (total four nominations per club) based on the below selection criteria:

- Endeavour to uphold the highest standards of behaviour and conduct as set out in the Coaches Code of Conduct.
- Endeavour to keep informed regarding sound principles of coaching and skill development, and of factors relating to the welfare of their players.
- Demonstrate a high level of respect towards their players, umpires, opponents and officials.
- Must hold current accreditation in Coach AFL for Football or have valid coach accreditations for netball.

## Coaches awards

The Coach of the Year Award recognises coaches in The Apprenticeship Factory Kyabram District League.

**Congratulations to the nominees for Senior Netball Coach of the Year:**

Sheree Starling for Rushworth Football/Netball Club Inc.

**Congratulations to the nominees of the Senior Football Coach of the Year:**

Mark Wheatley for Rushworth Football/Netball Club Inc.

**Congratulations to the nominees for the Junior Netball Coach of the Year Award:**

Stacey Fletcher for Girgarre Football

Netball Club.

Carly Tuhan for Murchison-Toolamba Football Netball Club.

**Congratulations to the nominees for the Junior Football Coach of the Year:**

Ryan Raglus for Rushworth Football/Netball Club Inc

Peter Davies for Murchison-Toolamba Football Netball Club

## Players Football

The Apprenticeship Factory Kyabram District League Rising Star Award recognises talented young players in the KDL in both football and netball.

Clubs are asked to submit one nomination for this award based on the below selection criteria:

- The player must be under 21 years of age at the commencement of the 2025 season.
- The player must have played no more than 8 senior games of netball or football prior to the commencement of the current season
- The aim of this award is to recognise the future champions and to promote their achievements.

**Congratulations to the following people for their nomination for Football Rising Star:**

Jett Guiney for Girgarre Football Netball Club.

Jackson McCrae for Rushworth Football/Netball Club Inc.

## Players Netball

**Congratulations to following nominees:**

Jessie McDonald for Girgarre Football Netball Club

Zahley Francis for Rushworth Football/Netball Club Inc

Lexi Anderson for Murchison-Toolamba Football Netball Club

**Congratulations to the following people who have been nominated for the Senior Netball Award:**

Stacey Fletcher for Girgarre Football Netball Club

The winners will be announced at the League's Best & Fairest Presentation night on the 25 September.

## Rushworth Football Netball successes

Congratulations to the following RFNC Players and Volunteers who have been nominated for Kyabram District League - Football Netball awards or are Top five finishers in their respective Best & Fairests.

Ashlyn Materne, Jackson McRae, Joshua Newton, Kade Starling, Liam Francis, Mark Wheatley, Ryan Raglus, Shannon Jarrett, Sheree Starling, Tighe Clarke, Zahley Francis.

# Murchison-Toolamba claims Kyabram District Football League premiership

Murchison-Toolamba claimed a historic victory in the Kyabram District Football League grand final against Lancaster.

The Grasshoppers were led by James Lloyd, who earned best-on-ground honours with a standout display. The win marks a significant achievement for the club, with a season that culminated in a well-deserved flag.

*Congratulations Grasshoppers!*



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# Colbo Netball takes home the flag

**Colbinabbin A Grade team completed the perfect season, not dropping a game all year to take out the A Grade 2025 Premiership. Congratulations to all the players involved!**

The game was close in the first quarter with Mounts sticking with us to be only three down at quarter time. We had expected this might be the case, so the girls were calm as always at quarter time with their minds focused on the task at hand.

The second quarter was close until the 9-minute mark and then the Colbo team went bang to see us up by 10 at half time. The second half was what we had come to expect from the Colbo team with goals being scored freely and our defence being hard to beat. Kasey and Ella dominated the centre passes, and the structures were beautiful to watch. Olivia and Grace combine beautifully on the line making the opposition work for every ball with Liv showing us why yet again she was in contention for the league medal. Grace and her long arms and ability to read the play enjoyed plenty of defensive gains and her speed down the court must seem unstoppable for the opposition. Ella and Tanzin were loving life, content to do whatever it was going to take to get the premiership – they have been the standout defence pairing all season giving opposition goalers plenty of headaches.

The grand final was no different. Chelsea also popped in for an important cameo at the end of the second quarter, fresh off a best on court performance in the A Res game. She took some strong rebounds and intercepts helping us on our way to gain complete control. The second half saw us with two 20 goal quarters and Matilda was on fire, combining with Ella beautifully as always. What an incredible goaling combination they are – speaking of headaches for the opposition! The long court passing and knowledge of where everyone would be was sensational to watch and showcased why we have had such a dominant year.

Congratulations to Matilda for taking out the Best on Court Award and a huge congratulations to the whole team for such a spectacular year.

Thanks to the crowd for such amazing support, Colbo has the best supporters.

Back-to-back anyone???

Best on: Matilda McIntyre

Colbinabbin 71 def Mount Pleasant 42

## A Reserve – Colbo v Huntly

What a game! So many what ifs when you lose a game by one, let alone a Grand-final but the team should be incredibly proud of the 2025 season. Dom Palmer has had another magnificent season and is simply unstoppable the majority of the time and was again super strong in the Grand Final.

Lily and Nicki shared the GA role and played the required role perfectly. We are so lucky to have them both in the team. Macy continued her great finals form and owned the centre passes combining beautifully with everyone around her. Congratulations to our players who ran through the centre position – Morghan, Lucy and Chelsea, running hard when you were on and helping to bring the ball down the court.

Our players who stepped on the court in WD also toiled hard all game, with tight defending and immediately swapping from defence to attack when required. Sadie showed why she stepped up from B Grade to A Res during the year and Lucy's incredible closing speed was on display for all to see. Mik went into WD to play a role for the team

and achieved this sending her opponent to the bench. Congratulations on a terrific year Mikayla and runner up best and fairest. Chelsea Whittle was chosen as best on court in the finals series and was huge in the Grand Final. She reads the play beautifully and loves an intercept. Chels works tirelessly to bring the ball down the court and was a rebounding queen. Aggie defended tightly all game, and her arms over (tree) were strong all game. Emily Percy made a much-awaited return to the court and did not disappoint. Only playing a few minutes, she made them count, rebounding and pulling in intercepts. It was a game decided by seconds and unfortunately the final siren sounded just at the wrong time. It was an amazing game, and the team should be so very proud of season 2025.

Best on: Chelsea Whittle & Dom Palmer  
Colbinabbin 52 lost to Huntly 53

## Under 13s – Colbo v Elmore

It was a beautiful day for netball, with the sun shining and nerves running high as our Under 13s stepped onto the court for their Grand Final clash. We knew it was always going to be a challenge coming up against an undefeated Lockington side. While it wasn't the fairytale ending we hoped for, what this group delivered on court was something far more powerful than a scoreboard can reflect – heart, grit, and the spirit of true sportsmanship.

The first quarter was tough. We found ourselves nine goals down at the first break, and it looked like an uphill battle from there. But to their credit, the team didn't drop their heads, they dug deep, lifted their intensity, and began to fight their way back.

We drew the second quarter and then won both the third and fourth, showing just how capable and courageous these kids are when the pressure is on. At one point, we got within four goals in the final term and had our chances, but Lockington's pressure held strong. In the end, that early gap proved just too much to claw back. Isla was relentless in centre, running her heart out and picking off intercepts with sharp timing and determination.

Maisy had the huge task of taking on a much taller opponent, but she absolutely stood up to the challenge, never backing down and making her mark on the game. A special mention must go to George – what an outstanding netballer. Possibly playing his last game for Colbinabbin, George was his ever-reliable self, as calm and composed as ever. We're sorry we couldn't give him the dream ending, but he should walk away proud of everything he's brought to this team.

These kids have the biggest hearts. They play with courage, lift each other up, and never stop encouraging, both on and off the court. That's the real win, the future of netball at Colbinabbin is looking very bright.

This was more than a game. It was an experience, one that fuels the drive to come back even stronger next year.

Well done, Under 13s. You've made your club, your coaches, and your community incredibly proud.

Colbinabbin 25 lost to LBU 31.

## Colbinabbin Football Netball Club Award Winners 2025 Netball

### Under 11s

Coaches Award – Lillie Reeves  
Most Consistent – Isabelle Hill

### Under 13s

Best & Fairest – Frankie Ryan (31 votes)  
Runner Up – George McFadzean (21 votes)  
Coaches Award – Isla Knight  
Most Improved – Gracie Cox  
Best in Finals – Maisy Masterson

### Under 15s

Best & Fairest – Macey Ryan (31 votes)  
Runner Up – Audrey McFadzean (28 votes)  
Coaches Award – Evie Riordan  
Most Improved – Ella Patrick  
Best in Finals – Ella Patrick

### Under 17s

Best & Fairest – Lynette Mountjoy (34 votes)  
Runner Up – Grace McIntyre & Ciana Hinck (15 votes)  
Coaches Award – Zahara Ali  
Most Improved – Abbey Ryan

### B Reserve

Best & Fairest – Letisha Mountjoy (18 votes)  
Runner Up – Demi Taylor (15 votes)  
Players Award – Amber Clarke  
B Grade  
Best & Fairest – Meg Hill (23 votes)  
Runner Up – Megan Fuller (22 votes)  
Players Award – Eliza Searle

### A Reserve

Best & Fairest – Dominique Palmer (22 votes)  
Runner Up – Mikayla Palmer & Emily Percy (10 votes)  
Players Award – Nicole McEvoy  
Best in Finals – Chelsea Whittle

### A Grade

Best & Fairest – Ella Kerlin (24 votes)  
Runner Up – Olivia McEvoy (18 votes)  
Players Award – Matilda McIntyre  
Best in Finals – Matilda McIntyre

## Football

### Under 18s

Reid Stockfeeds Best & Fairest – Charlie McLean (82 votes)  
Reid Stockfeeds Runner Up – Jackson Morgan (40 votes)  
Most Consistent – Wil Patrick  
Most Courageous – Henry McFadzean  
Most Improved – Brock Edwards  
Coaches Award – William Ogden

### Reserves

Wilson Family Medal Best & Fairest – Joeseeph Fiske-Kealy (52 votes)  
West Farm Supplies Runner Up – Jasper McArdle (32 votes)  
Lund McArdle Most Consistent Player – Will Brown  
Most Courageous – Ray Pearson  
Most Improved – Elijah Wallace  
Best Team Man – Ned Morgan

*Continued page 35*



# 2025 Premiers and Champions!



The winning team: Back row) Dominique Palmer, Jen McIntyre (Coach), Grace McIntyre, Macy McCaig, Chelsea Whittle, Elle Palmer, Matilda Mc(Intyre). (Front row) Kasey Conder, Tanzin Myers (Co-Captain), Ella Kerlin (Co-Captain), Olivia McEvoy.

### CFNC Award winners (continued from page 34)

**Seniors**  
Frank & Alice Brown Best & Fairest – Nathan Basile (57 votes)  
Wright & Tuohey Runner Up – Daniel Hill (38 votes)  
Manson Hamilton Family Memorial Award for Most Courageous – Issac Carracher  
Matt Ryan Memorial Award for Most Consistent – Charlie Ryan

Trademark Player – Nathan Basile  
Leading Goal Kicker – Brandyn Grenfell (60 goals)

**Club Awards**  
Life Member – Andrew McTaggart  
MJ Morgan Award for Best Club Person – Hugh Barlow



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