

WARANGA NEWS

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

Published fortnightly since 1978

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

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A community newspaper
staffed by volunteers

Thursday 2 October 2025

Canola Walk at Shiraz Republic

When the idea of a walk through the canola came to Brian Spencer at the Shiraz Republic vineyard four years ago, he had noticed people stopping along the roadside to take photos of the crop in his front paddock. It occurred to him that mowing a walking track out to the middle of the paddock and parking an old tray truck with steps to provide a viewing platform could have appeal and by charging a small fee for the privilege it could generate some extra revenue for the winery business.

He was somewhat astonished when 700 people turned up over the four weeks or so that the crop was in full flower and so he decided to do it again the following year. Because of the publicity the first year had generated, this time 2500 people came to do the walk and no doubt some enjoyed the pizzas, wine and beer in the warm tasting room or the outdoor setting.

Last year 5000 people came and the walk now include not only the Bedford viewing platform but also a piano under a tree along the way for anyone with an urge to tickle the ivories.

This year the walk has developed further, with a fairy tree, the viewing platform, the piano, two vintage tractors and a couple of drone pads along the way.

It was difficult to predict how well patronised the walk would be this year – would the novelty start wearing off or would the numbers double again! To Brian's amazement, the total so far with a week to go is 16,000! Good for business, but introducing factors not previously considered like parking and toilet facilities.

Brian Spencer is well known to the local community, not only as owner of the Shiraz Republic Winery and its associated Cornella Brewery, but also as the local Uniting Church minister, serving Colbinabbin, Murchison, Rushworth and Tatura. He is a regular contributor to the



Waranga News with his column The Good Life.

Two weeks ago, the four Uniting Church congregations held their combined service in the canola paddock in a Celebration of Spring and Renewal. The back page of the Order of Service was A Walk of Wonder, a series of brief reflections to consider as the Canola Walk became for some a Pilgrim Path.

The Canola Walk is scheduled to close officially on October 5.



Chris Bolton

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Positive messages from goldfields UNESCO bid

The pathway to possible inclusion of Victoria’s central goldfields on the UNESCO World Heritage list is complicated and any final decision is likely to be at least five years away, possibly longer.

A successful listing would have no impact on current lawful activities in the local forest. Bush-walking, wildflower watching, cycling, prospecting, authorised timber-gathering and the riding of trail-bikes by licenced riders would all continue as at present.

These were just two of several points of interest from a public information exchange at the Rushworth Service Centre of Campaspe Shire on Tuesday, 23 September.

The day featured a presentation by Trevor Budge and Sue Fayad, from the team bidding for inclusion of central goldfields towns and districts on the World list. Fifteen Shires, including Campaspe, are collaborating within the bid, encouraged by the significant tourism outcomes for many places worldwide after being given UNESCO status. About a dozen locals interested in local goldfield history attended.

While Whroo’s Balaclava Mine precinct, recently included on Victoria’s own Heritage register, got plenty of mentions during the day, other key gold-related points of potential tourist interest near Rushworth were also “put on the table”. The growth in numbers of families investigating their ancestral roots, the significant involvement of Chinese gold-seekers, the interest in local cemeteries and the original Rushworth burial ground, were just some of the topics discussed, along with the need for accurate interpretation boards placed at sites of interest.

The presenters were interested to learn that one key site near Waranga Swamp where the Gold Commissioner’s Camp was established in late 1853 and where a furious



Trevor Budge from Heritage Victoria discusses the bid with local historian Alan McLean.

and dangerous rebellion by diggers protesting the 30 shillings per month gold licence fee took place, has its own special significance for locals. When the Waranga Basin level is quite low, the site is visible, as needed under UNESCO criteria. When the Basin is full the site is completely submerged.

A long pathway lies ahead. While the proposal has met the first UNESCO criterium of being worthy of consideration, the next phase involves visits by key international historians to various goldfield sites to fully document what is there, to note what needs to be partly restored, and to assess whether the large region is truly worthy of world listing.

The presenters emphasised that it is not too soon for local businesses and start-up enterprises to start considering what would be needed in the event of 25-30% increases in tourism, both national and international, some years down the track.

The bid has official Victorian Government endorsement, encouraging collaboration among the fifteen Shires and cities on strategies for possible success.

Further information is available via goldfieldsworldheritage.com.au

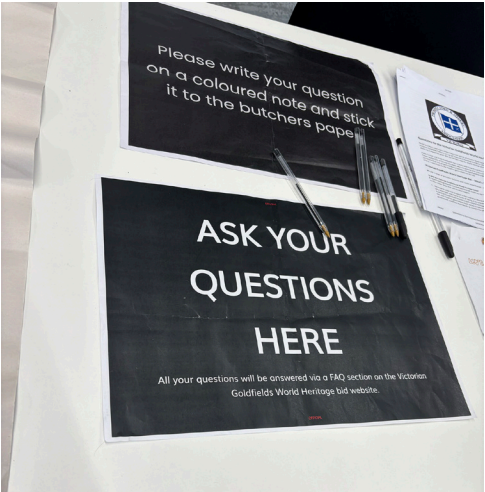
Footnote: UNESCO is the United Nations agency that promotes education, science, culture, and communication to build peace, equality, and sustainable solutions worldwide.U



Susan Fayad indicates the location of sites significant to the UNESCO bid.



Campaspe Shire’s Astrid O’Farrell speaks with Trevor Budge.



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2026 Calendar Comp - Snap to Win!

I'm inviting photographers of all ages - whether you're experienced, amateur, or just starting out to take part in my **2026 Places of Nicholls Calendar Competition**.

Each year, the calendar highlights the people, places, and charm that reflect the heart of our community.

I'll be selecting 14 standout images to feature, with full credit to each photographer.

The photos can be a variety of subjects - think local towns, streets, farms, community groups, weather events, pets, animals, letterboxes, rivers, sporting clubs, buildings - anything that captures life in our region.

It's a great chance to showcase the beauty and character of our community through your lens.

The cover photo will receive a **\$200 gift voucher** to a Goulburn Valley Photography store of the winner's choice.

Photo guidelines:

- Landscape orientation
- Name of the photo
- Light edits allowed
- Phone photos welcome

Thousands of calendars will be printed and distributed via local newspapers in early December.

Send your entries to sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au or drop them off at 426 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630.

Entries close **Wednesday, October 29, 2025**. I'm looking forward to seeing your view of Nicholls!

Future Campaspe Council adopts council and wellbeing plan 2025-2029

Campaspe Shire Council has announced the formal adoption of the **Community Vision 2040** and the **Council and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029**.

The Council and Wellbeing Plan is a comprehensive roadmap to guide the Shire's growth, prosperity, and community wellbeing over the next four years. Following an extensive period of community and stakeholder consultation, the Council and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 integrates the Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and sets out four strategic priorities set by the Councillors, which include:

- Revitalising Assets and Infrastructure
- Invigorating Public Spaces
- Enhancing Community Capacity and Wellbeing

Embedded into the Plan is the long-term Campaspe Community Vision 2040, shaped by the inaugural Citizens' Panel, held in March. The renewed Community Vision 2040 is:

"Our Campaspe is welcoming, inclusive and diverse.

Our people are supportive, resilient and thriving.

Our places are vibrant, healthy and sustainable.

Stronger together, like the three rivers flowing through our Shire."

The draft plan was open for comment in July and August and community feedback led to a number of amendments, including stronger references to cultural values, climate change impacts to health and arts and culture initiatives.

"Councillors have deliberated on the strategies and key initiatives, incorporating the consultation and feedback received from our constituents," said Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell.

"The Council and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 will guide the next four years' decision-making, resource allocation and partnerships to ensure a flourishing future for all residents," said the mayor.

To read the Council and Wellbeing Plan, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/futurecampaspe

SPRING 2025 EDITION

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



Scan to find out more and book your seat, or visit:
riverlinkvenues.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 GVV 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:
gvwater.vic.gov.au/save-water



Need to get in touch?

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Email: mail@gvwater.vic.gov.au



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

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✉️ sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au 🌐 sambirrell.com.au 📺 SamBirrellMP

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

Drawing on her own experience in regional journalism, Ms Cleeland spoke passionately about the need to support and sustain independent local publications like the Waranga News. She reflected on the importance of telling local stories that often go unheard in mainstream media, and shared personal anecdotes from her time as an



As the Waranga News moves forward, the AGM reaffirmed its commitment to delivering trusted, community-driven journalism that reflects the voices of the Waranga region.



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

Honouring our police

September 29 marked National Police Remembrance Day, which coincided with Blue Ribbon Day - a time to pause and honour the dedicated police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

This day carried a heavy weight for our wider regional community following the tragic passing of Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompson and Senior Constable Vadim de Waart-Hottart. Their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Across Victoria, services were held to honour the courage and commitment of our police, including a ceremony at Seymour Police Station on the morning of the 29th.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the police officers across our region who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe. Their daily commitment to protecting Victorians deserves our respect, gratitude, and recognition.

On Blue Ribbon Day, we stand together to honour the memory of those who have fallen and to express our deepest thanks to those who continue to serve.

*Annabelle Cleeland MP
The Nationals' Member for Euroa*




Catherine Fraser
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Police Beat

Greetings and welcome to your local police report for the Rushworth Police Service Area, for the period of 01/08/25 to 18/09/25.

- The following is a list of reported incidents. Any information in relation to these incidents can be reported to the Rushworth Police Station on 58561000, or by calling Crime Stoppers on 1800333000 if you wish to remain anonymous. Any information is greatly appreciated by both victims and police.
- A theft occurred at a Rushworth-Tatura Road Waranga Shores property between 28/04/25 and 01/08/25. An Evinrude outboard boat motor valued at \$1000 was stolen from a boat by offenders.
 - A burglary occurred at a Northern Highway Toolleen property between 27/08/25 and 10/09/25. The house and sheds were entered by offenders who stole a hot water system and pump valued at \$5000.
 - A theft at a High Street Rushworth medical facility occurred on 13/08/25. A wooden donation box containing approximately \$120 in cash was stolen. A 40-year-old female has been interviewed by police and will face Echuca Magistrates Court later.
 - A theft at a Poulson Road Rushworth property occurred on 14/09/25. A security camera, wood splitter, generator, and other items were stolen from around the premises and valued at approximately \$5000.
 - Police also responded to ten family violence incidents during this period.
 - On 17/08/25 police responded to a car fire on the Rushworth-Tatura Road in Waranga Shores. A 2015 Kia Carnival station wagon had caught fire after colliding with a tree. The vehicle was destroyed with the incident being deemed non-suspicious.
 - On 24/08/25 police responded to another car fire on the Bendigo-Murchison Road in Rushworth. A 2016 Jaguar station wagon was also destroyed after a mechanical fire started. This incident was also deemed non-suspicious.
 - Police are also investigating two deception reports. These matters involve transferring of money to make online purchases. These sites can seem genuine but often turn out to be fake. Please investigate and be sure before transferring your money to buy things.
- That is our list of reported incidents. Local members have issued ten infringement notices over this period. With the weather warming up and road conditions improving please remain alert when out driving. Speeding offences continue to be our biggest concern. Using cruise control can certainly help in avoiding a fine or loss of licence if more than 25 kph over the speed limit.
- I had a coffee with Julie at the Colbinabbin Hotel this week. She continues to set the standard for sure. Please pop in and support your local businesses when you can.
- Well, that about wraps up another police report. I've got to put up with two Cats fans at the station, which is not easy at all. They look like they might win it this year. Please stay safe and look after each other. Until we chat again.

*LSC Steve THOMSON.
Ldg. Sen. Cons Steve Thomson
Rushworth Police*

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Rushworth shines at Horsham Yard Dog Trials

It was a weekend to remember for Rushworth’s Wallace Working Dogs as their four-year-old Kelpie, The Lees MAJIK, stormed home with first place in two events at the prestigious Horsham Yard Dog Trial on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 September.

Facing some of the most challenging and flighty sheep seen on the trial circuit this year, Majik showed not only grit and instinct but also a level of patience and skill well beyond his years. Handled by Shannon Wallace, Majik rose to the occasion in front of a strong field of competitors and a supportive crowd.

“The sheep were very tricky and testing - you really had to work for it,” Shannon said after the run. “Majik gave it everything. He’s got such a natural feel for his stock and he just loves the work.”

The result is a testament to the hard work, countless hours of training and the strong bond between handler and dog. Travelling the four-hour journey from Rushworth to Horsham,

the Wallace Working Dogs team couldn’t have been more proud to see Majik at the top of his game.

This double win cements The Lees Majik’s reputation as a rising star on the working dog trial scene and showcases the dedication of the Wallace Working Dogs team, who continue to balance their passion for training and trialing with their everyday life on the land.

As the ribbons and awards were collected, the pride was clear: for Shannon, for Majik, and for the Rushworth community they represent. ‘Wallace Working Dogs — where instinct meets hard work’.

(You also might know Shannon as the water boy around town).



Campaspe Pound transition update

From 1 October 2025, Campaspe Shire Council will change its animal shelter and pound service to a pound-only service.

Since the decision was made in August 2024 to make this change, about 900 animals have been surrendered or impounded at the shelter. Council has partnered with 21 re-homing groups and 226 of these animals have been transferred to these groups.

Additionally, 314 animals have been rehomed to the public, and 200 have been returned to their owners. Unfortunately, 210 animals were deemed unsuitable for rehoming.

Animals at the pound will only be euthanised for specific reasons which must be determined by a qualified vet, such as unsuitable temperament, disease, injury, or age. Council will ensure that any future partnerships with animal rehoming providers include provisions to avoid unnecessary euthanasia.

For animals registered with Council, a new policy has been in place since 1 July 2025. If your pet is impounded, you can reclaim it for free on the first day of impoundment.

The facility’s operating hours have been extended to give pet owners more time to

reclaim their pets.

Opening hours

Monday to Friday - 10am to 4:30pm;
Saturday and Sunday - 10am to 12 noon;
Public holidays - 10am to 12 noon
(Closed Christmas Day, Easter Weekend and ANZAC Day).

Council has also frozen pet registration fees for the 2025/26 financial year, and there is a new registration class that allows free initial registration for pets under twelve months of age.

Council’s main goal is to reunite animals with their owners. To make this possible, it is essential that animals are microchipped and registered and that owners’ contact details are up-to-date with Council and the microchip registry.

To check your pet’s microchip details, visit www.petaddress.com.au. If you can’t remember your pet’s microchip details, you can take your pet to your local vet clinic or the Campaspe Animal Shelter team to be scanned for a microchip.

From 1 October 2025, pet adoptions will no longer be available at Council’s McKenzie Road facility. Instead, Council will continue to work with community animal foster care networks and rescue groups to transition animals to these groups after their eight-day statutory holding period so they can find their forever homes.



Advantages of Dog Parks at Kyabram and Tongala

Stage 4 of the Australian Government’s Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program and has provided two dog off-leash exercise parks in Kyabram and Tongala.

Following community consultation, Edis Park in Kyabram and an open space behind Brose Reserve at Tongala were identified as the preferred locations.

Works began mid-2025 and were completed in early September 2025.

Community priority

The development of these dog parks was a key community priority of the Kyabram and Tongala placed-based plans, with the aim being for people and their dogs to feel welcome to exercise and socialise with other dogs and their owners.

Benefits for communities:

Social interaction

For humans: Dog parks serve as communal spaces where neighbours can interact, fostering a sense of community.

For dogs: They provide a safe environment for dogs to socialise and play, which can reduce behavioural problems.

Health benefits

Physical activity: Both dogs and their owners get more exercise, leading to healthier lifestyles.

Mental well-being: Spending time with pets and other dog lovers can reduce stress and improve overall happiness.

Safety

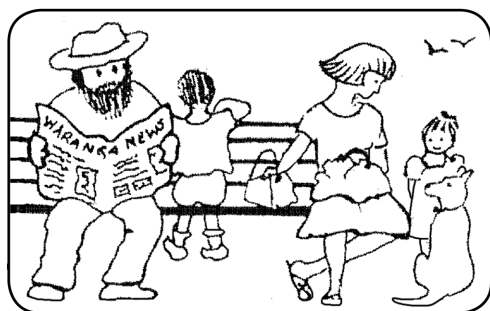
Controlled environment: Dog parks offer a contained space where dogs can run freely without the risk of traffic or other hazards.

Community engagement

Events and activities: Many dog parks host events, from training sessions to social gatherings, enhancing community engagement.



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



Around Rushworth

Garden Club speaker from CFA

Twenty members attended the last meeting of Rushworth Garden Lovers. Guest speaker was Colin Consiglio, the Safety Officer from Rushworth CFA, with a very informative talk on fire safety. We live in a very fire prone area.

Next meeting is on Thursday 16 October. There will be a picnic lunch at the Half Way Dam, leaving the Shire car park at 12 noon. BYO everything, plus afternoon tea to share. There will be a local speaker who knows the forest well. All welcome.

Rushworth Events Inc AGM

Rushworth Events held its AGM on Wednesday, 24 September at the Rushworth Community Space. Committee positions for the 25/26 year are: President: Graeme Hanigan, Secretary: Phil Lemin, Treasurer: Christine Sandford.

LADIES - are you interested in starting a Ladies Shed?

The Murchison Men's Shed committee will be holding a meeting at the Shed at 4:30pm on Wednesday 8 October 2025 to gauge community interest in establishing a Ladies Shed. This is an opportunity for the local ladies to share their ideas regarding a Ladies Shed facility.

The Murchison Men's Shed is an active and busy organisation with the activities below planned for the remainder of the year.

- Wednesday 1 October Men's Shed gathering at Murchison Men's Shed 11am to 2pm coffee, tea and lunch supplied. New members welcome
- Saturday 4 October Love Murchison at the Football Oval Hot dog stall 11am to 2pm
- Wednesday 8 October Meeting to gauge community interest in Ladies' Shed at the Men's Shed 4.30 pm
- Saturday 18 October Land Care at the Murchison Golf Club Sausage Sizzle 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
- Wednesday 5 November Lunch at Men's shed Chef to be confirmed
- Sunday 16 November Garage sale at the Men's Shed. All Welcome sausage sizzle available

Meanwhile our Murchison Men's Shed "OPEN" banner will be on display on Watson Street whenever we are open, so come to the Men's Shed, meet and chat with the guys. New members are always welcome
For more information contact
Con Scarvelis (Secretary) on 0421525665 or
Dennis McCullagh (President) on 0428148210

Youth Park sign returned

When Rushworth's youth park sign was taken down to allow emergency vehicle access it was stored at the Machinery Club depot. After some P12 students teamed up with Club members to do some repairs, the sign is now back in place at the park.



Murchison celebrates Seniors

Celebrate The Victorian Seniors Festival from 1-31 October 2025.

The Victorian Seniors Festival is a major state-wide festival for and involving seniors and runs from 1 to 31 of October every year.

The Victorian Seniors Festival delivers a range of free and low-cost events for older Victorians. Celebrate positive ageing and take part in events and activities close to home and right across the state.

Festival events are delivered by:

- the Victorian Government
- local councils
- community and cultural organisations
- commercial partners.

A local community organisation to celebrate the Seniors Festival this year is Murchison Neighbourhood House.

Join Murchison Neighbourhood House to celebrate Seniors Month at 23 Impey St Murchison Monday to Friday 9-3. The Neighbourhood House Murchison will have a display of memorable photos provided by the community and offer art works for sale created by dedicated volunteers. Whilst viewing the displays you can enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea for a gold coin donation. Everyone is welcome!

Girgarre Annual Open Garden Festival

Girgarre's Annual Open Gardens Festival is about to make a major move for this year.

On Sunday 26 October, the popular spring event will change from a tour around local gardens to a one-stop event in the Gargarro Botanic Gardens. A day choc-full of interesting activities is planned including the unveiling of the 'Banksia' sculpture, commissioned by the Gargarro Gardens Committee and created by the highly regarded sculptor, Julian Smith. The formalities will take place in the gardens at 1pm.

The high tea will be on offer as usual and there will be opportunities to learn more of the history of the botanic gardens and the intricacies of

the novel musical installations on the sound trail. A variety of market stalls will be on the main front lawn, along with demonstrations of the skilful arts of flower arranging, decorating pottery, and painting with acrylics.

If you prefer, just take a peaceful walk along the paths of the now mature gardens, while listening to the music.

Girgarre Primary School parents and friends will have a BBQ fundraiser sizzling from 11am until 2pm.

Morning tea and lunch will also be available from the Gargarro Gardens Café.

Come along and see what a small but ambitious community can achieve when their heart and soul is in it.

Tickets are prepaid only

and are strictly limited in number. Cost is \$25 per person (plus a small booking fee online).

NO tickets sales will be available on the day. Bookings can be made online here at: <https://events.humanitix.com/girgarre-open-gardens-festival-2025> or by using the QR code below. Bookings and raffle tickets may also be obtained from the Gargarro Green Thumbs Nursery on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9am until 3pm.

All funds raised are used for the future development of the gardens. Donations will be gratefully accepted. If you need more information, contact Loraine Warde 0438 546 237.

Irene Labbett

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

Celebrating history and seniors in Murch

Our activity for celebrating both History Month and Seniors' Month this year is a guided town walk on Saturday 11 October. Starting at Murchison Heritage Centre at 10am. We will stroll through the park towards the bridge and learn about intriguing events and people that shaped the early years. Walking across the bridge gives us a very different view of the river and a chance to hear about the impressive history of Thornebridge. We then return to the main street for some more insight into the beginning of the township, through Meteorite Park for the story of the most studied meteorite in the world and then around the block to see Victorian era houses and hear the history of the three churches. The walk concludes back at the Heritage Centre at approximately 11am where morning tea is provided and you will have an opportunity to see the displays in the Centre Gallery, finishing 11.30 to 12 o'clock.

So ... the walk is on Saturday 11 October, 10am starting at Murchison Heritage Centre, 4 Stevenson Street, the only building in the Riverside Gardens. There is plenty of parking beside the Centre and the walk is on flat ground suitable to walkers and wheelchairs. Entry is \$5 which includes morning tea. Bookings preferred: 0475 018 743, leave a message or send and SMS.

Keep in mind Ossario Day, this year that will be Sunday 12 November. This is a moving service remembering the 130 Italian Internees and Prisoners of War who died while held in camps around Australia and whose last resting place is the special building, the Ossario, in the Murchison Cemetery. Proceedings begin at 10am with a procession to lay flowers on the monument. Bring a folding chair as the service takes about an hour and a half. Well worth making the effort to attend.

*Kay Ball,
Murchison and District Historical Society
Inc.*

Floral tributes on the monument



Walkers pause to admire the 1915 streetscape - photo Rhonda Christanthou



Walkers hearing about the plane spotters - photo Jackie McLean



The Ossario

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

Hello everyone, hope you are enjoying the spring weather. Four seasons in one day but in the warmer season it's great to get out in the garden. Well ... maybe. Any more than an hour's weeding and I'm moaning and groaning about my back. And the weeds are growing so quickly now. Some one once said "Weeds are plants that no one wants".

We had our Rushworth Community Support AGM the other day (with lots of goodies to eat). Margaret Raglus thanked everyone - position holders, committee members, volunteers and customers for supporting the Rushworth Food Bank and Op Shop. We had a good year again and were still able to support the Food Bank, despite rising prices and more people requiring assistance. The Op Shop is gathering a very good reputation far and wide and we are now getting people from Shepparton coming over regularly. Even some people in Geelong have heard of us.

Bruce Raglus took the chair and conducted the election of officers for the committee and we are pleased to announce the following:

- Margaret Raglus – President
- Claire Campbell – Vice President
- Secretary – Tina Hanigan



Treasurer – Christine Sandford
Our other committee members are: Gail Corner, Graeme Hanigan, Christine Smith, Samara Rouget, Heather Wellington, Esther Weichman and Janis Day.

Because of a few incidents our volunteers have faced over the last year there is to be a Mental Health Workshop on Tuesdays 21 and 28 October, 9.30am to 4.30am. Christine Smith from the Food Bank applied and received a grant to run this workshop. There will be plenty of reference material handed out which you can keep. This is to assist volunteers who may come into contact with people who are ill or under a lot of stress. If you are in an organisation or a private person and you think this course may benefit you please contact Christine Smith on 0434 866 703 for further information and to book a place.

The volunteers in the Little Green Shed have been working very hard to make it more presentable. They obtained some of the under carpet the Bowls Club has discarded and used it in the Shed. So now, instead of cracked and discoloured concrete there is a much softer surface to walk on. Plus it will make a more presentable area to display the furniture etc. that is kept over there. At the moment there is a **sale on at the little green shed**. With up to 40% off items. Not only can you shop in comfort but you can get a real bargain as well. Other specials on at the moment:

- Handbags \$3 each



- Cushions from \$2
 - Children's clothes \$5 a bag
- We have plenty of homemade marmalade (yummy yummy says my tummy as the Vicar of Dibley says). I think we also have some sauce left. Our two Margarets are wonderful cooks and there's always a rush for their products when a new batch comes off the stove.

Also I have a photo in here of a beautiful water jug and matching glasses. With the warmer weather coming up, just imagine a lovely home made iced lemon drink in the jug with mint leaves and ice floating around in it. We also have a very elegant pair of loved-up herons on display, I would not recommend them in a household containing children or cats or clumsy people as they look so delicate. But if you are a budding Mrs Bouquet, it is just the sort of thing she would have on her mantelpiece!

In the same league is a lovely display plate if you are a plate collector. A royal blue rim with beautiful flowers in the middle. Just the thing to put your TimTams on when you have a visitor.

Other members of the Op Shop will be doing the next two issues. My sister is coming over from the UK and my eldest son is getting married so my head will be full of happiness and holidays!

I wish you all a full belly and a happy smile until next time.

Heather





Colbo Tit Bits

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Spring forward

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Sunday.



LIBRARY

Wed 8 Oct Pauline Wilson
Wed 15 Oct Janice Tait



FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

Oct 5 Christopher Ryan, Steve Tuohey
Oct 12 Bill Johnson, Gerard Stewart

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.

Lunch at Colbo with the grandchildren



Judith Ryan dined with some of her grandchildren (L–R) Finn MacGregor, Niamh Ryan, Grandmother Judith, Ada Ryan, Lucy Ryan, Mavis Johnstone and Gus McGregor.

All aboard the Canola Express at Shiraz Republic!



A celebration of creation, renewal and God’s gift of life took place on Sunday 21 September in the canola crop at Shiraz Republic. Waranga Uniting Churches parishioners and friends all came together for a combined service in amongst the canola in full bloom. Hopping on the waiting train in the paddock, the congregation was ferried to where the service was to be held. The canola’s message of spring is certainly having an impact and is drawing hundreds (even thousands) of people by car and bus to make the most of the photo opportunity. (See page 25 in this edition for more of the story).



Got some news for the WNews?

Send an email to
wnews@iinet.net.au
or call 5856 1311

Colbo Diary

Menfolk Mondays - Mondays 10am at CCH
Coffee and Cake - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 10.15am @CCH
Scrabble & Soup - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 10.30am
Colbo Pub Choir - 5pm Tuesdays at CCH
Colbo Community Shed - Thursdays BYO BBQ lunch
New Parents' Group - 1st & 3rd Thursdays 9am @ CCH

NOVEMBER

Wed 26 Cornella Care’s 40th anniversary

Cemetery Trust

Mowing Roster (lawn section only)
October - Barrie Borger



Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

Phone (03) 5856 1295

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admin@rushcomhouse.org.au

Website:
www.rushcomhouse.org.au

Facebook:
Rushworth Community-House

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

**Your local access
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Australian
Government services.**

Country Dance hits the Shire Hall



Last month's Country Social Dance proved popular with locals and visitors alike, including a group of people who travelled across from Shepparton for the event.

Organised by the Community House, the evening featured musical entertainment by local duet "True Country".

The House would also like to thank the following businesses for supporting the night by providing raffle ticket items:

- Rushworth Variety Store - \$10 Voucher
- Motofinish - \$10 Voucher
- Perry's Butchers - \$10 Voucher
- Balloons and Stuff Rushworth – a cute butterfly umbrella.

Events such as the Country Dance are a great way for people to get together and share their delight in a friendly community activity.

The House will be hosting similar events in the future, so watch this space (and our popular Facebook page) for further details.

Power saving bonus assistance

Rushworth Community House is an official community outreach provider for the Victorian Government's Power Saving Bonus, and can help eligible householders to apply for a \$100 one-off payment to assist with payment of their electricity account.

To be eligible for the bonus, you must be the account holder of a residential electricity account and have one of the following concession cards:

- Health Care Card
- Pensioner Concession Card
- Veterans' Affairs Gold Card
- Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.

Importantly, only one payment is available per household, and renters who meet these criteria are also eligible for the bonus.

Applying is easy

Contact the Community House and arrange a time to prepare your application. When you arrive, you will need the following documents:

- A copy of a recent electricity bill (which includes your 'NMI' meter number)
- Medicare Card
- One of the eligible concession cards listed above
- Bank details (BSB and account number) if your preference is to receive the funds via direct debit into your account.

Join us for morning tea in October

Volunteers are critical to the successful operation of Rushworth Community House, and they play many and varied roles within the organisation.

Volunteers run the House's Reception Area, drive the Community Car (or their own cars) for the Community Transport Service, coordinate activities such as Quilting and Genealogy, and help out in the Community Garden.

A small but dedicated team of volunteers also runs the Container Deposit Scheme at the Community Hub, providing a welcome recycling service for the town and handsome rewards to those who cash in their recycled bottles and cans.

Community House to the rescue

Since its introduction in the 1980's the Internet has become a vital component of modern life. It is especially critical to the successful operation of most businesses, including emergency communications centres and TV and radio broadcast stations.

Rushworth's new radio station - 3RW - recently experienced problems accessing the internet reliably from its site at the Community Hub in Horne Street.

Emails and file transfers were apallingly slow, and the station's online outlet was reduced to an occasional burp or blurt!

A remedy was needed - and fast!

Support from the House

Rushworth Community House has been an avid supporter of 3RW since it was first mooted last year. The station operates from the Community Hub (which is managed by the House) and shares the site with the Container Deposit Scheme, Rushworth Artistries and the Men's Shed.

To help restore 3RW's internet access, the House extended its internal computer network to include the Community Hub using

HAVE YOU GOT A:

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Applicants for the bonus will also need to provide a secondary form of identification for authentication purposes. This can include a driver's license, Medicare card, Immigration Card or an Australian Visa.

The Community House is happy to provide this valuable service to eligible residents at no cost to the applicant.

Informative morning tea

On Thursday, October 16, the Community House is holding an informal morning tea session to thank our current volunteers and introduce members of the public to the many benefits of volunteering at the House.

The session starts at 10 a.m., and will give potential volunteers a chance to talk with members of staff and current volunteers to get a feel for the many ways in which they could benefit from becoming a member of the Community House's special team.



a dedicated microwave link from High Street to Horne Street. The link is now connected to the station, restoring its access to the Internet.

The link will also be used to provide reliable high-speed broadband to other activities and services at the Community Hub.

Arts & Tourism

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Graham Hearn - Going Home at Foundry Art Space Echuca

Saturday last saw the opening of new exhibitions at the Foundry Art Space in Echuca. Graham Hearn’s large landscapes certainly made a statement about the farming communities he is familiar with and included aerial views of farms which he does as commissions. He also ventures into transferring his art onto textiles, giving another dimension to his work.

Also newly displayed was the third Members Gallery for this year. A great way for the hard working volunteers to show their own work.



(Left) Artists and friends enjoying the work on display in the Members’ Gallery at the opening. (Right) Foundry Art Space committee member, Penny Silver with artist Graham Hearn.



All Together Now at Kyabram Town Hall Gallery

The ever changing array of exhibitions at the Kyabram Town Hall Gallery always has something new for the visitor to enjoy.

At the moment the work of the many artists who opened their studios during February is being showcased in one place.

One of the artists, Chris Hartley had a great idea and set up a large canvas as a

drawing board outside her ‘Little Red Shed’ during the open studio event.

She encouraged visitors to add their marks. At first many were hesitant but by the end of the weekend this (pictured below left) was the result.



Kennedy Vintners
Current vintages of Kennedy wines are now available locally at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel and Wallenjoie Hotel Stanhope.

Don't forget to visit the Heathcote Wine and Food Festival at the Heathcote Showgrounds, on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 October as there will be a huge range of wineries represented with a variety of wines to try and buy.

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

Roast pumpkin salad

As the weather warms up, our thoughts turn to salads. This one (brought to you by one of our other daughters) can be served hot or cold - delish either way.

INGREDIENTS

- Pumpkin
- Pkt haloumi cheese
- Pitted olives
- Almond slivers or pine nuts
- Baby spinach leaves
- Salt and pepper to taste

DRESSING

You can use a commercial dressing (there's such a large variety available these days) or just make up your own using extra virgin olive oil, white wine vinegar and a touch of mustard eg. 6 tbs extra virgin oil, 2 tbs vinegar, 1 tsp mustard and a pinch of sugar.

METHOD

Cut the pumpkin up into 3cm cubes. Spray

with some olive oil and bake in the oven or air fryer until getting some yummy brown edges to each piece. Slice the haloumi cheese and fry each side in a little olive oil to brown.

Lightly toast/fry the almond slivers or pine nuts for a bit of added flavour. Quickly blanch the spinach leaves and drain well.

Put all the ingredients into a bowl and toss with dressing.

I promise you that it's a very tasty salad whether you serve it warm or cold. You can just pop it into the microwave for a few minutes if you want it warm. . . room temperature is fine, which brings out all the various flavours of the ingredients.

Glen



I should have been quicker to get a photo, but it disappeared very quickly!

Garden Hints & Tips

Spring is here and it never ceases to delight me to see the garden begin to burst with colour. If you can, it is a lovely time to walk around your neighbourhood. It is also a great opportunity to see what grows well in your area.

Many exotics (not native to Australia) can do extremely well here. Roses especially love the climate and the clay soil, but take note from Roger Mann, the author of Yates "roses". "Don't put a \$10 plant in a 10 cent hole!" Good preparation is always the key to successful planting with any plants. And don't forget that roses are heavy feeders throughout their flowering stage. Roses require a minimum of five to six hours of direct sunshine per day for optimum health and flowering but must not be over watered once established. They can be higher maintenance requiring pruning and attention to pests and disease.

Unfortunately as your plants burst into their spring glory so come the pests. Aphids or greenfly (*Macrosiphum rosae*) are probably the worst insect pest of the rose. The pinhead size insect sucks the sap off new shoots but before you reach for chemical sprays, try a natural approach and save the "good" insects. Squash the soft body aphids between your thumb and forefinger or shoot them with a blast of water from the hose. Last year I waited (a little anxiously) for the aphids natural predator to arrive. Ladybirds, lacewing and hoverflies did come and saved the day!

If you look at Mediterranean gardens, many of those plants can work well here, sharing a warm climate and stony soil.

The other great performers in my garden have been African daisies (Cape Marquerite or osteospermum) and Liriope. I'm mentioning these as they require absolutely minimal

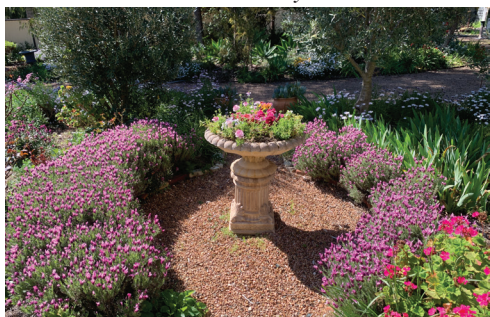
attention. The vibrant daisy like African daisies are native to South Africa. They tolerate low water, low nutrient soil, heat and frost. They are great ground cover, coming in white, pink, purple, orange and red. Give them a good cut back occasionally to prevent them from becoming leggy or invasive.

Another ground cover is the hardy perennial Liriope. A low, grass-like flowering plant from Asia, Liriope grows in full sun, part shade and full shade. It's flowers can be purple, pink or white in the late summer to autumn. It does have small berries which are not known to be toxic to dogs but always take care. Again, Liriope are drought and frost tolerant and can be grown as a grass alternative. As it spreads through underground rhizomes, just check that it is not competing too much with the other plants in a garden bed.

Finally, my lavender hedges are a constant source of delight in spring and summer. Another plant tolerating poor nutrients soil heat and low water once established lavenders do require pruning and at least six hours of sunlight daily. I have various purple, white and pink varieties in my garden.

This is just a tiny snippet of wonderful plants to be found in local gardens. Enjoy this glorious time of year and happy gardening!

The baby boomer bloomer



Haloumi is a salty, semi-hard white cheese. Its high melting point makes it ideal for grilling, great for salads or as a stand alone snack.

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!
There is a real mix in this issue, with a few in preparation for the oncoming spring and summer activities. Hope you get some benefit from these tips!

- * Warmer weather is just around the corner – and the backyard swimming pool will need to get a check-over. If you find any holes or tears in fabric or plastics there are some fantastic tapes available now in the hardware stores, like Duct Tape (many brands and colours available) that will do the job in sealing and making it temporarily watertight until proper repairs can be done. At least the kids keep happy during school holidays! Ps: If you want to use tape on a more permanent basis – use proper Gaffer Tape as the adhesive is not as aggressive as Duct Tape.
- * Need to go for a big family shop for groceries but you cannot leave the house or the car is out of action? I recently had this problem when my car was out for nearly a fortnight and I live outside of the town precinct. I discovered that Coles and Woolworths now deliver to Rushworth and surrounding areas as well. You can do it online, it is very easy and user friendly, and you can book the time of your delivery for a very small & reasonable cost. I can definitely say well worth it if unable to walk around the store yourself.
- * Do your berries or grapes go mouldy before you have used them up? Try storing them in a colander in the fridge (and not a plastic container). Being in a colander lets the cold air circulate around and through the wires to the fruit keeping them fresh for longer.
- * Easy face paint from ingredients in the cupboard – this is a safe and easy recipe and washes off easily with some soap and water – Mix 1 teaspoon cornflour, ½ teaspoon of water, ½ teaspoon of cold cream and 2 drops of food colouring of choice. Give a good mix, and perhaps use a small paintbrush to paint designs for a bit of fun!
- * Instant bibs for kids – use a clean tea towel and a clothes peg to hold around the child's neck. You could use bigger towels and the same process for adults too!

Health and Wellbeing

Mental Health Month in Campaspe

October is Mental Health Month and Campaspe Shire Council in conjunction with Campaspe Murray Mental Health and Wellbeing Network are promoting a range of events that aim to educate and support community members as well as raise awareness about the importance of mental health.

Campaspe Shire Deputy Mayor, Cr Jess Mitchell said helping to improve community mental health was a priority for Council.

She noted that mental health impacts many people and families across the country, including within the local community, and urged residents to connect with available support networks and groups.

“Events like those being held in October for Mental Health Month are incredibly

important in helping to create safe and welcoming spaces for open conversation, connection and access to resources,” said Cr Mitchell.

Some of the events that are happening throughout Mental Health Month include:

1 October: Grounding and Wellbeing activity – Njernda

2 October: Free movie matinee, 12 noon – 3pm at Rushworth Library – Campaspe Shire Council

6 October: Soaring Drawing and Laughter Yoga – Echuca Regional Health (at Echuca Library)

7 October: SafeTALK Suicide Prevention Training – Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit

7 October: Beyond the Binary – Reimagining Gender – Greater Bendigo-Loddon-Campaspe Mental Health & Wellbeing Local

8 October: Free movie matinee, 12 noon – 3pm at Echuca Library – Campaspe Shire Council

8 October: Self Care Workshop in Rochester – Anglicare Victoria

10 October: Roots of Resilience – Echuca Neighbourhood House

15 October: Free movie matinee, 12 noon – 3pm at Echuca Library – Campaspe Shire Council

22 October: Self Care Workshop Echuca – Anglicare Victoria

22 October: Free movie matinee, 12 noon – 3pm at Echuca Library – Campaspe Shire Council.

For further information and more events happening across the month, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/eventsdirectory

Shocktober

Ambulance Victoria’s (AV) annual campaign Shocktober, which runs throughout the month of October, aims to educate Victorians about how to perform CPR and use an AED (Automated External Defibrillator).

Also AV would like to encourage more people to download the GoodSAM app, which connects people in cardiac arrest with people who are nearby and willing to begin CPR in the critical minutes before paramedics arrive. The overall aim is to reduce death from cardiac arrest in Victoria.

AV have hundreds of events running across the state throughout October, including in Stanhope, Elmore, Echuca and Mooroopna. These are free events with paramedics teaching Call, Push, Shock to the community. Locals are encouraged to attend.



Seniors Festival activities at Tatura Library

Tatura Library is offering some free activities as part of the Seniors Festival this year.

On Thursday the 2 October the Library will host Craft & Coffee at 10.30am. You are invited to come along to make an owl decoration from rolled up pages from a magazine. Once learned the technique can be used to make many creations.

Celebrate being a senior or having a senior in your life, and the contribution seniors make to our communities with morning tea at the Tatura Library on Thursday 9 October at 11.00 am. This is a celebration and thank you all rolled into one. Bookings help with catering, so contact Tatura Library by calling 1300 374 765 or emailing tatura@gvlibraries.com.au.

Is your smartphone stressing you out? Need help with your tablet or laptop? Book an appointment and see a library staff member, one on one, for some device help on a range of topics! This session will take place on Thursday 16 October from 10.30 am. Bookings are essential so give the library a call on 1300 374 765 or drop in anytime before the 16 October and speak to a staff member about what you need help with.

Not a member? No problem. Membership is free and it’s quick and easy to sign up. Check out the Goulburn Valley Libraries website www.gvlibraries.com.au or contact the library for details.



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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.

Vulnerable ducks

Regardless of how many native ducklings I've seen and raised over the years, they still melt my heart. Each year many come to Bohollow for help when they run into trouble.

The season has started with Wood ducklings and the first one to come in for the season moved to an outdoors enclosure today, although he will be brought back in overnight for the first week as he acclimatises to life outside a light box. We turn off heat in the light boxes for a week or two before they move outside as birds are very susceptible to sudden temperature changes so each step in the raising process has to be carried out accordingly.

Australian Wood Ducks, also known as the Australian Maned Duck, are one of Victoria's most common native duck species. They are a true grazing duck, unlike our Teal and Pacific Black ducks who are dabblers. Dabblers do most of their feeding in the water, dabbling in the shallows, while grazers feed mostly on land.

Wood Ducks only nest in hollows. This means many hatch out in the last remaining old growth trees along our roadsides and even in old growth trees in our towns.

The eggs usually hatch out over a 24 hour period and mother duck stays in the hollow with the young for about a day after the ducklings hatch. Then one by one, they climb out of the hollow and launch out of the tree to the ground. Many duck nests are quite high up but the fluffy ducklings seem to cope with the drop well and casualties from the fall are rare.

The problem for the parent ducks and their babes is navigating through streets and roads on their journey to feeding areas, as

the nest site may be nowhere near water or a good food source.

Ducklings fall down stormwater drains as they travel along the gutters, fall down the grates, again through to the stormwater pits and pipes in carparks and run the gauntlet of traffic.

A common rescue for us is rescuing ducklings from swimming pools. They get in ok but they are usually too small to make the jump back out and without adequate water proofing yet, the ducklings cannot remain in water for lengthy time periods or they get waterlogged, cold and drown. Putting a makeshift 'ramp' up the edge of a pool can save duckling lives. Even a towel draped over the edge will often suffice as they have great claws on their little webbed feet and can climb out as long as they can get purchase.

Both Wood Duck parents carry out ducklings duties and male Wood Ducks will fiercely protect their family. I've had male woodies charge at my vehicle from the edge of roads as I travel past, in a gutsy display of parental duty!

From hatching to flying our native ducklings take about eight weeks, so grow extremely fast! Therefore care and diet is really important to accommodate their rapid development.

Here at the shelter, all the ducklings raised are soft released at our rehabilitation dam. We built the dam specifically for the rehabilitation and release of our waterbird species.

The enclosures surrounding the dam are simply opened up when they are ready and it's the perfect environment for them to learn foraging techniques and acclimatise to wild life again while being supported by us.

Once ducklings are released, food is placed out once a day so they are encouraged

to forage on their own. They fly in and out as they please and know they have a safe place to rest at night. It's also a great, natural environment for them as many wild bird species visit the rehab dam, some, I'm sure have been patients here at Bohollow before and choose to drop in at times.

This time of year, the rehab dam becomes a place full of fresh new beginnings for many waterbirds who have lost their parents or run into trouble. It's a valuable asset for our rehabilitation work.

Keep an eye out for baby birds navigating our roads and streets. They are slower and have little to no road sense until they learn the dangers vehicles pose. Through being vigilant, slowing down and using our vehicle horns, we can help more of our young wildlife make it through the heightened danger period that recently hatched and fledgling birds face when their life begins out in the wild world.



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

Spring into the garden with free mulch and discounted delivery

Spring has sprung, and that means there's no better time to roll up your sleeves and get your garden looking fabulous for summer, and Campaspe Shire Council can help!

Council is making it easier than ever for residents to revitalise their gardens by offering discounted delivery for loads over 5m3 to enable those residents with small or no trailer to also access free mulch. Residents are already able to collect free mulch from Colbinabbin, Echuca, Gunbower, Mt Scobie (Kyabram), Lockington and Rushworth Resource Recovery Centres while stocks last.

Perfect for retaining moisture, suppressing weeds and enriching your soil, Council's mulch is made from green waste that's been shredded on-site at its Resource Recovery

Centres, helping you improve your garden in an environmentally friendly way.

To make your gardening efforts even easier, Council is offering discounted delivery within the shire on mulch orders of five cubic metres or more. Whether you're refreshing a backyard garden or tackling a larger landscaping project, now's the time to take advantage of this great offer.

Campaspe Shire Councillor, Cr Tony Marwood said the initiative was part of Council's commitment to reducing waste and supporting residents to create greener, more

resilient outdoor spaces.

"Not only is this mulch free, it's great quality and environmentally friendly. It's a win for your garden and a win for the planet," Cr Marwood said.

To seek a quote for mulch delivery, visit the Now Open section of Council's website at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/mulchdelivery

ON THE BRINK *by Neil Laurie*

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

Myth Busters

One thing about researching for this column is that I have found that many of the arguments put forward by people, especially when they are about contentious issues, are simply not true. Here are a few of these myths.

Barmah heritage horses. The feral horses in the Barmah Forest wetlands are descendants of a team of redundant half-draft horses released into the forest in the 1940's. This is why they are a little bigger than the feral horses found elsewhere. Calling them 'heritage horses' is misleading. There are better bred domestic half-drafts.

Solar farms change the climate. They do change the climate...about the same amount as a ploughed paddock. If we are worried about the panels changing the climate perhaps we should also stop ploughing paddocks.

The sound of wind turbines cause illness. While some people claim the turbines make them ill, there is no scientific proof this actually occurs.

Wind turbines kill birds. Yes, some birds are killed due to flying into the turbine blades. Conventional power stations also cause bird deaths. Per gigawatt generated conventional power stations kill more birds than wind turbines.

The cessation of duck shooting will cause a plague of ducks. There is no evidence to support this. However, there is clear evidence that waterfowl numbers in Victoria have been steadily falling. The only evidence of a duck plague I can find is in the early 1960s was when a failed attempt to grow rice at Humpty Doo in the NT provided a waterfowl smorgasbord. The ducks and magpie geese simply ate the rice as it was sown.

The cessation of hardwood logging will result in more devastating bushfires 1). The people who say this are saying that the forests will become over-grown and will burn more easily than managed forests which are regularly logged. The CSIRO found that it is the managed forests that pose the greater fire risk. Unlike managed forests, mature forests have trees of different heights, making it more difficult for fires to 'crown'. Mature forests have an understory of shrubs and plants and have a layer of leaf litter. These absorb and store moisture and create a more humid microclimate in the forests, making them less fire prone. When a forest is clear felled the understory plants and the leaf litter are destroyed.

The cessation of hardwood logging will result in more devastating bushfires 2). With logging stopped the logging tracks will become overgrown, making it difficult to fight fires. Yes, many logging tracks are being left to go back to nature, however key tracks are being kept open for park management and recreational purposes. Since the tragic loss of two fire crews in the 1998 Linton fire, the CFA, DEECA and Parks Victoria have changed the ways in which fires are fought. Today, fire crews will not be sent along the logging tracks, even if they passable.

Stopping cattle grazing in the high country will result in more fires due to the ungrazed vegetation becoming a fire hazard. The cattle never ate the alpine grasses; they are too tough and have little nutrient value. They grazed upon the herbaceous plants such as clovers and buttercups. These only ever grow to a little above ankle height and remain green and luscious over the summer months.

It is projected that climatic conditions are the biggest factor affecting fire risk. The current conditions are similar to previous bad fire years. It is now predicted that we are in for a fiery summer. The 'armchair experts' will cite various reasons for the fires when it is simply the weather pattern that has developed.

Birds of a Feather

Pardalotes

It's Spring and around town the call of the Striated Pardalote can often be heard from the top of the power poles. Pardalotes are among Australia's smallest birds at about 10 cm in length and this endemic family has four species, two of which occur locally – the Striated Pardalote and the Spotted Pardalote. The two other species are the Red-browed Pardalote found in the outback and the north and the Forty-spotted Pardalote found only in Tasmania. Both local species are usually hard to see as they feed high in eucalyptus and other trees on insects, insect larvae and lerps.

Striated Pardalotes occur over most of Australia but prefer woodland and are common around our area. Although normally hard to see, at this time of year their distinctive call coming from above on power lines and power poles gives them away. Several striated pardalotes can often be seen on or near power poles competing for nesting sites. I have seen up to six on one pole with two of the birds calling and spreading their wings to try to claim this territory. In nature the striated pardalote will nest in holes in trees or make a hole in a bank with a long tunnel but these birds have discovered there are also good nesting holes in walls and electricity poles. Concrete poles have holes near the top and wooden poles have metal cross bars which have holes on the underside which the pardalotes compete for. You may be able to see these tiny birds fly directly into one of these holes without the need for a perch – quite a skill. Both the male and female have similar plumages but the female is a little duller. They have a strong eyebrow which is yellow nearer the beak and white further back. Both sexes incubate the eggs and look after the young.

The Spotted Pardalote is harder to spot! The male is quite beautiful with its spotted plumage and a bright yellow throat, while the female is duller and without the yellow throat. The Spotted Pardalote is less widespread and not in the drier parts of Australia. It nests on the ground or in a bank by making a long tunnel up to 1.5 metres long leading to a chamber with a nest of shredded bark.

Both species are difficult to see close up unless you are patient and lucky enough to see them feeding closer to the ground but it's rewarding to see them with binoculars and appreciate that even very small birds are worth the effort that bird watching brings.

The Rushy Birder



Above: Striated Pardalote

Below: Spotted Pardalote



Fifty years ago in our district....

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



Police news prominent in early October 1975

Replacing the retired Senior Constable Ray Gavin at Stanhope was Senior Constable Harry Hoskin, transferring from Newstead near Castlemaine. An early assignment was getting down to business in the local pennant bowls team as a new recruit.

At Rushworth the little old timber police station was removed by truck to allow work to commence on the new station and residence. The plan was to re-position the old building at the Rushworth Park.

There was a collision on the Old Lead Road involving the Rushworth police car driven by Sergeant Durston. Both drivers escaped injury, but not so the vehicles.

Constable Peter Hromenko of Rushworth was promoted to Senior Constable. He was the attending officer after Shepparton used car dealer Jim Hook collapsed and died while water skiing on the Basin.

Waranga Shire

The Shire gave permission to close Hume Street Rushworth for half a day to enable the district Scout troops to hold a billy-cart derby. *(Can you imagine the red tape which would be associated with a similar event today?)*

Farming

73 acres (30 hectares) of basic farmland midway between Rushworth and Murchison fetched \$11,325, about \$155 per acre in the old money, at auction. *(Land prices seem to have changed since 1975.)*

Operation of the grain silos where the fire station now stands was governed by a committee. Elected as chairman was Jim Barlow, Peter Meagher as secretary, with the committee being Jim's sons Kerry and Anthony Barlow, Bill Barlow, Bob Barlow, Michael Barlow, Bruce Laurie, Jim Laurie, Bryon McIntosh, Ian Borger, Denis Ogden and Bob McLean. *(The Barlow Silo Committee?)*

Farmers adjacent to Reedy Lake had pressed for an enlargement of the outlet drain to the Goulburn River so that when the lake filled, water would not back up and flood nearby farmland. Under the authority of the Forest Commission, the move was rejected and the already-long debate was set to continue. The Commission attitude was based on its desire to see the red gums on the lake's margins regularly supplied with water, as the lake was quite often dry or holding very low levels.

Schools

Australian National University in Canberra made early announcements of

offers of places for 1976 to Rushworth High School Form Six students Catherine Poulson, Brett Cheatley and Geoff Burge.

The High School competed in the Goulburn Campaspe Secondary School Sports Association athletics carnival in Echuca. Brendan Sullivan and Susie Hitchcock (now Emmett) scored most points for Rushworth. Others doing well were Trevor Johnson (400 metres), Dianne Allen (high jump), Greg Holschier (800 and 1500 metres), Brendan Clarke (long jump), Bev Hancox (high jump), Glenys Hancox (discus), Trevor Hawking (triple jump), Denise Jones (now Snelling, 200 metres) and Isabel McLean hurling the under-15 discus.

Community

The Elmore Field Days were held in Sam Ayson's paddock, in a bend in the Campaspe river near Elmore. Exhibitors were encouraged to show labour-saving devices in various types of farming.

All sporting clubs using the park at Rushworth were encouraged to send members to a special working bee to achieve a general clean-up.

At Murchison, a building in Stephenson Street, formerly used as the State Savings Bank of Victoria as an office for the Chronicle, and substantially renovated by Mr Ern Jackson, re-opened as the Trading Post. Hardware, hard-to-get fittings, drapery, softgoods and handicraft materials were included in Mr Jackson's stock on display.

The Rangers section of Murchison Guides were photographed in their new uniforms. Leader was "Scotty" Muirhead, with Rangers Jenny Henderson, Cathy Hastie, Kay Revell, Louise Bourke, Jane Begg and Caire Seymour.

Rushworth Guides Fiona and Vivian Taylor were prominent with arts and crafts displayed at a guiding event in Melbourne.

Colbinabbin Guides met at the home of Mrs Avard, a report given by District Commissioner Mrs H. Branson. A group of guides had enjoyed the Gang Show in Melbourne. This was an entertainment event for all guides and scouts across Victoria.

People

Dr Knox Jamieson commenced his practice in Esmonde Street, now the home of Peter and Lyn Reade. (Phone Rushworth 12 to make an appointment.) Joining the doctor was his wife Sheila. Together they had worked in several States of Australia, and in New Guinea when it was part of Australia.

Mrs Lillian Budd returned from three months in Canada, where she visited her daughter Annette.

Frank "Meggsy" Hageman retired, aged 65, from the Forest Commission after 28 years of service. Work colleagues farewelled him with a party, his family giving him another.

The sudden death of John Mason, born and raised at Rushworth, came as a shock to all his friends and relations. He was just 21.

Mr Percy Leake was found dead in his caravan at Rushworth Caravan Park. He had been in poor health for some time.

Football

Committee of Rushworth Football Club called a public meeting to consider which league might be appropriate for the club in 1976. Would Stanhope leave the Goulburn Valley League? Might Stanhope join the Heathcote League? Would Rushworth then stay in the Heathcote League, as Stanhope would make a six-team competition? Irrespective of any decision by Stanhope, would Rushworth be better off in the Kyabram District League? *(It was like a game of chess!)*

Golf

Associates at Rushworth played their final game for the season and the AGM which followed elected Peg Jell as President, vice-presidents Norma Bolden and Joyce Heily, Anne Pearce as secretary, assisted by Maree Cogan (also treasurer). Captain and handicapper: Doris Barlow. Vice-captain: Nan Jessup.

Bowls

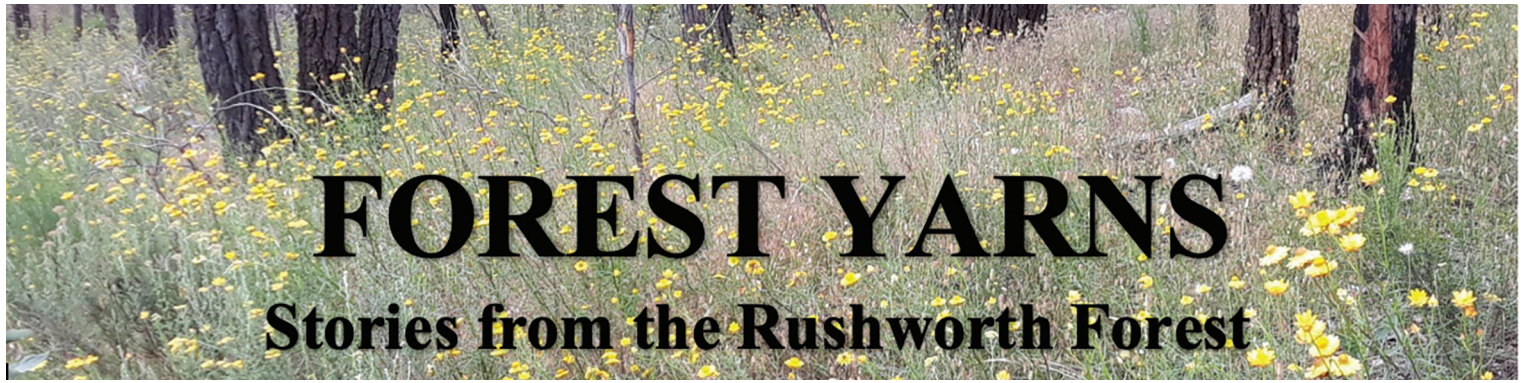
Rushworth had teams of four rinks in each of A2, B1 and B2 grades of Goulburn Valley bowls. Several bowlers were from Colbinabbin as there was no green or club there in 1975. Reserve players not selected for pennant played social bowls each Saturday, the winner to receive a spoon. Allan Hammond won the first spoon, ahead of promising new bowler Cliff Johnson.

All three teams lost their opening matches, only Vic Cruz's rink successful in A2, Dick Duke's four winning in B1, while new man Jack Cooper's rink won in B2.

Stanhope bowlers fared little better, despite skippers Norm Hadfield and Syd Linford getting their teams up in A1. In division A2, Stanhope went down by a big margin to Murchison Gold.

Clay target shooting

Competition shooting was popular at Colbinabbin where Bob West was the energetic club secretary. Alternate Saturdays over summer were listed for events at the recreation reserve on the hill, near the crossroads.



Risstrom's timber mills

Risstrom is one of the family names synonymous with the timber industry in Rushworth. Without going into too much detail on family history, because the story is well documented elsewhere, the progenitor of the family in Australia, Eric Ollov Risstrom, emigrated from Sweden. He and his wife Mary came to Rushworth with their six surviving children in 1878. Another daughter was born soon afterwards.

One of their grandchildren was Ollov George – known simply as George – who became a legendary figure in the local timber industry and in relation to his dedicated work in many significant community organisations.

George Risstrom

George was born in Rushworth in 1890. In 1912, he married Ethel Jean Anderson, whose father William was a stalwart of the local timber industry. William Anderson was born in Whroo in 1866 and for much of his career worked in a sawmilling partnership with William Colliver. George and Ethel Risstrom went on to have seven children of their own, including five boys and two girls. One of those girls is the very stylish 99 year old Peggy, who lives at Waranga Aged Care.

The family acquired a traction engine just before the start of the Great War. One of the primary functions of the engine was to cart timber out of the forest to wood mills at the railway station when weather and road conditions permitted. The Rushworth museum website states that it was one of nine traction engines operating around the town in the first three decades of the twentieth century. At one point, the Risstroms leased an additional traction engine from the Aherns.¹

Timber mill

George set up a timber mill around 1930 on a block of land which at the time ran through from Murchison Road (now number 13) to Taylor Street (now number 11). A whole range of timber products were produced there, including building and fencing materials. As well as this mill, the family had a wood mill at the nearby railway station, which supplied firewood to the voracious Melbourne market. Three sons – Ron, Jack and Roy – all worked in the business, which in later years was managed by Ron and then, in turn, Ron's son Wes.

The Risstrom mill, which was the last substantial mill in the town, closed in the early 2000s after over seventy years of operation. It was getting harder and harder to access the

required amount of timber from the forest to make for a continuing viable business.

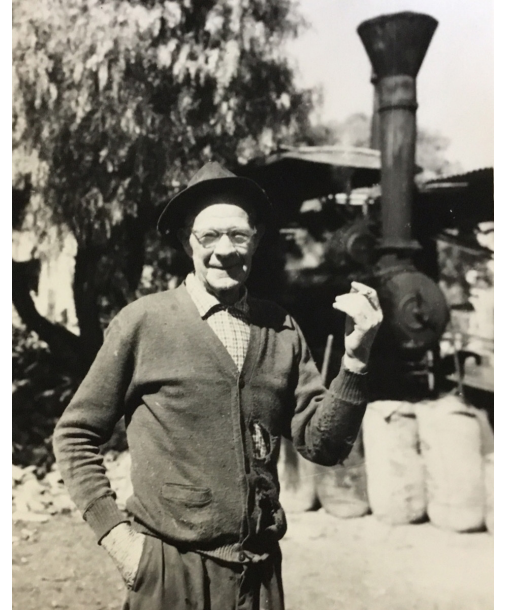
Community service

As well as running the family business, George was heavily involved in community service. Perhaps most notably, he was President of the Rushworth Football Club from 1934 to 1953. The club was in recess during the war from 1941-5, but that still represents fifteen years in the demanding role of President. George relinquished the position to his son Ron in 1954, with Ron serving for another eleven years until the club left the GV Football League at the end of the 1964 season. Both George and Ron served the GVFL in various capacities with both receiving Life Memberships of that organisation.

Rushworth's Wood Day committee, of which George was President for a time, ran the Easter Carnival which in the late 1940s boasted an incredible array of events. They included a street procession, a Queen competition, wood sales, a dance on the Saturday night and a "Grand Ball" on the Monday night, in conjunction with euchre played in the supper room of the Shire Hall "till 2 am".²

As a young man, George had served in the local unit of the 7th Light Horse Regiment. He was active in supporting the Mooroopna Hospital and was awarded a Life Governorship by the hospital in 1930. This was similar to a life membership.

Like many Rushworth businesspeople, George took an interest in gold mining. He was a director of Rushworth Gold Mines NL, a company that was floated in 1955.



George Risstrom in his happy place

End of an era

George Risstrom worked in the timber industry all his life. Even after retirement, he "turned up each morning, got the fire going in the drum and sat ready to sharpen the mill saws and saws of other wood blokes."³ He just loved being part of the industry right up until his death in 1966.

The involvement of the Risstrom family in the timber industry ceased in the early 2000s when access to the forest was severely limited and orders could not be filled.

SOURCES: 1 Interview with Wes Risstrom; 2 *Kyabram Free Press* 14.4.1949; 3 *Shepparton News* 6.7.2015; Other – *Ancestry*, *Trove*, *Shepparton News* articles, *Rushworth Museum*

Risstrom mill in Taylor Street



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

Building Foundations: a warm welcome to St Mary's 2026 starters

On the last day of term, St Mary's hosted a 'Come and try morning' which is the first of the school's 'Building Foundations' transition program, welcoming enrolled 2026 Foundation students for their first taste of school life.

The children engaged in a literacy session, learning routines and expectations in a structured and engaging environment.

Mr. Ryan warmly hosted new and existing families for an information session and a cuppa, creating a relaxed space to connect and learn more about the journey ahead at St Mary's. It was a wonderful start to building strong foundations for future learners.



St Mary's Tabloid Sports Day shines

Under perfect skies, St Mary's hosted the annual Tabloid Sports Day in the second last week of Term 3. It was a day filled with laughter and teamwork.

The students enjoyed parachute games, memory challenges and a spirited tug-of-war. Smiles were everywhere, with a special thanks to the wonderful parent-helpers and the smooth facilitation by Simon. A fantastic day for all!



Enrolments Open

Enrolments for all Year levels remain open for 2025, 2026 and beyond. Please contact admin for further information including the upcoming transition program 'Building Foundations'.

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

Celebrating our charism: Saint Mary MacKillop Day at St Mary’s

St Mary’s came alive with joy and reflection as we celebrated our school charism and the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop with more than 160 students and 35 staff. We were honoured to welcome special guests Gen Bryant, singer-songwriter and Jason, who led a vibrant performance involving students, staff, and our friends from Rushworth Kinder.

Joining us for the day were students and staff from St Mary’s Inglewood, Holy Rosary Heathcote and St Joseph’s Nagambie, creating a beautiful sense of community. After the performance, everyone engaged in meaningful Mary MacKillop learning activities, deepening our understanding of her inspiring life.

The day concluded with a moving liturgy led by Gen and each school’s choir, warmly welcoming parents, parishioners and community members.

A special thanks to our amazing St Mary’s staff for organising and leading as well as our incredible Parents and Friends for cooking up a delicious sausage sizzle to round off the celebration.

Vin Ryan, Principal



Footy Colours Day wraps up term 3 with spirit, smiles and sport

St Mary’s ended the term in style with Footy Colours Day, as students and staff proudly wore their favourite team colours. The school was a sea of jerseys, scarves and smiles, celebrating the love of the game.

The day finished with two exciting netball matches: Staff vs Year 5/6 students and staff vs parents. The staff narrowly held onto the title with the final game ending in a thrilling tie. It was a fantastic way to close the term and welcome the Term 3 break.

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

Concert to wind up the term at Stanhope Primary School

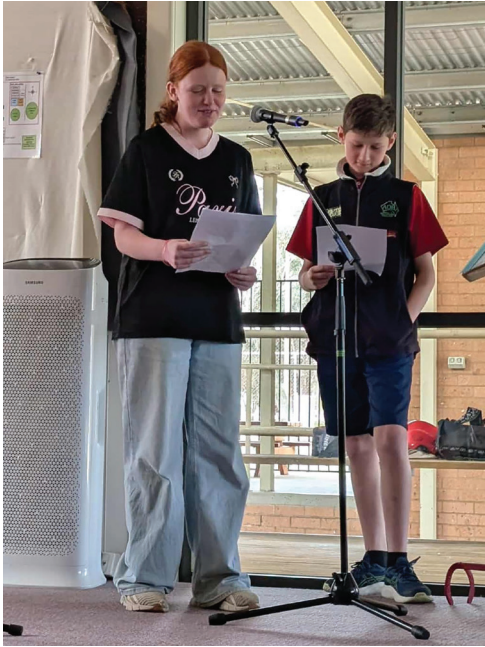
On the last day of Term 3, Stanhope Primary School students performed a concert at assembly.

The school is appreciative of the local music gurus Claire Roberts and Glenn Bowker who volunteer to provide regular music lessons at the school.

In addition to the usual lessons, Claire and Glenn have guided students in preparing for the concert.

Students in grades Prep to Six have learnt about early Australian bush instruments and the ingenuity of our pioneering forefathers in utilising anything at hand to create music. Claire has also been teaching voice projection, vocal strategies and showmanship!

Students, families and teachers embraced the fun with songs and synchronised dance movements like 'The Nut Bush'.



(Left) Glenn accompanied Spencer on this early Australian bush instrument.

(Above) Student leaders Xyla and Cooper led the assembly.

(Right) Kale enjoyed the accordion.



Kids visit Tatura for Auskick and Superkick Clinic

The children had a fun-filled day in Tatura, taking part in the NAB Auskick and Superkick clinic. Students enjoyed developing their skills, taking part in fun activities, and making new connections.

It was also a wonderful opportunity to socialise with students their age from other schools. A big thank you to NAB Auskick for hosting such an engaging and enjoyable day!

Below: The children were all smiles at the Auskick and Superkick clinic.



CFA launches statewide ‘Get Fire Ready’ initiative ahead of challenging fire season

CFA has today launched its Get Fire Ready initiative across Victoria in anticipation of a potentially challenging fire season.

More than 530 CFA brigades will host events at fire stations and within local communities across Victoria during the month of October.

This is the largest statewide community engagement initiative CFA has ever run, reaching metro, regional and rural communities alike.

These events are designed to engage residents directly, offering practical advice and resources to help them understand their fire risk, develop a fire plan, and know where to access emergency information.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said Mount Dandenong was chosen for the launch because, despite not experiencing a major fire since 1997, the region remains one of Victoria’s most fire-prone areas, a reminder that long periods without fire can lead to complacency and increased risk.

“The Get Fire Ready initiative is about making sure Victorians understand their fire risk, have a fire plan and know where to get emergency information from,” Jason said.

“Preparedness saves lives. By getting fire ready now, communities can reduce their risk and respond quickly if fire threatens.

“Our most recent bushfire survey shows that an alarming number of Victorians living in high-risk bushfire prone areas do not perceive bushfire to be a threat.

“Many still believe leaving early is not the best option, and would instead stay and protect their property, or wait until they feel



threatened or receive advice.

“Get Fire Ready is just that – getting communities ready for fire season, knowing what their risks are and how they can prepare.”

Helping to launch the Get Fire Ready initiative was Black Saturday survivor and former Marysville captain Glen Fiske. Glen’s wife and son died in the 2009 fires and Glen continues to share his story in an effort for communities to prepare. Also sharing their experience with fire is Sassafras-Ferny Creek lieutenant John Schauble, who fought the 1997 fires in the Dandenongs.

CFA is urging all Victorians, especially those in high-risk areas, to attend their local Get Fire Ready event this October. Jason reinforced that preparation doesn’t need to be complicated.

“Clearing gutters, mowing lawns, trimming branches, knowing where you’ll go if a fire breaks out and setting a watch zone in the VicEmergency app can make a real difference in an emergency,” Jason said.

To find out when your local brigade is taking part visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/getfireready.

Be prepared : Emergency services expo at Echuca

Families throughout the Campaspe Shire are encouraged to head to Hopwood Gardens in Echuca on Saturday, 25 October 2025, between 10am and 2pm, for a free Emergency Services Expo. This family-friendly event aims to equip the community with practical knowledge and resources to better prepare for emergency situations.

Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Daniel Mackrell, highlighted the event as a great chance for locals to meet emergency service providers and gain useful skills in an informal, welcoming environment. The expo is designed to help people feel more confident and ready should an emergency occur.

The day will include interactive displays, expert tips, and seasonal safety information from a broad range of emergency services. Attendees can learn important techniques like how to maintain smoke alarms, prepare for storms, use sandbags effectively, and stay safe around water.

There will be a wide variety of organisations present, including representatives from CFA, SES, and utilities providers, offering advice and answering

community questions. The event will also include children’s entertainment, such as a jumping castle, face painting, and games, along with a coffee van for attendees to enjoy.

A key feature of the day will be the First 72 Hours emergency preparedness program, led by Council’s Relief, Resilience and Recovery & Emergency Management team. This initiative focuses on helping households plan for the critical first three days after an emergency and will offer both resources and interactive activities.

Coinciding with the expo, the Port of Echuca will host a Country Fair, offering even more for families to enjoy in the area.

Event Details

Location: Hopwood Gardens, Echuca

Date: Saturday, 25 October 2025

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

This initiative is part of Campaspe Shire Council’s Flood Recovery Program, funded by the State of Victoria through Emergency Recovery Victoria’s Recovery Hubs Program, in response to the widespread flooding that affected the region in October 2022.

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St Mary’s parish visit Numurkah

Service in the canola



Two groups of St Mary’s parishioners headed to Numurkah recently to visit the St Mary of the Cross native garden and history trail to mark the Jubilee Year. In this group (L–R) Kath Macaulay, Maureen Leahy, Maree Stewart, Bec Catania, Marian and Harry de Klijn, Mary Jo Fortuna, John and Glen Avard. The garden was designed by Rushworth’s Louise Costa and although it’s already a picture with the wattles and various native plants in bloom, there is more to come with a life-sized bronze sculpture of Mary MacKillop with three children yet to be completed and added to the garden. The total project has been sponsored by a generous ex-parishioner who wanted to show his gratitude for his early education at the Numurkah school which is the first Josephite school in Victoria that Mary Mackillop established. The school at St Mary’s, Rushworth, was also established by the Josephite sisters.



Bev Williams from Tatura was one of the parishioners of the Waranga Uniting Churches who joined in the service among the canola crop at Shiraz Republic. Praise God of all creation!

Mass at hostel

Mass is celebrated by Fr Jinjo Solis on the first Sunday of each month at 1pm at the Waranga Aged Care Hostel. Anyone is most welcome to attend.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

30 November to 2 December 2025

Talk to your parish or school if you would like to be part of the journey.

District Church Times and Contacts

Anglican

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

Shine Church, Stanhope

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

Catholic

St Mary’s Parish. 1st and 3rd Sundays: Cornella 9am; Stanhope 10.30am. 2nd and 4th Sundays: Rushworth 9am; Murchison 10.30am.

5th Sunday: One Parish Mass - Rushworth.

Contact a team member on the parish mobile phone: 0459 898 925. Sunday Mass continues online from St Kilian’s Sundays 10am.

Presbyterian

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

Generations Church, Tatura

5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

Salvation Army: 5852 3875

Uniting Church

Waranga Uniting Churches – Rushworth, Colbinabbin, Murchison and Tatura.

Service Times: Weekly at 9.30am (with the ‘room’ open for a chat at 9am)

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

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

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

The link for the Zoom service can be found on our website warangaunitingchurches.net.au or can be emailed to you each week.

AN EVENING PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

Thank you, God, for all the good memories I have stored up today.

Be with the sick and lonely ones.

AMEN

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living the **GOOD LIFE** *Golden fields and Golden Memories*

I've been a little discombobulated this past week, not by bad news, nor by any crisis, but by the sheer number of people who have poured down a gravel road outside Colbinabbin, simply to walk through a field of flowering canola.

We knew it would be busy. We had prepared tracks through the crop, set up photo points and made arrangements for parking and ticketing but the numbers have far exceeded anything we imagined. Every day has demanded long, long hours. Every day, more happy people have appeared.

I sometimes find myself standing in the midst of the crowd, weary, yet smiling. What draws so many here? Why are people prepared to drive hundreds of kilometres, re-arrange their weekends, even risk being stranded on a back road in the dark, all for a stroll among yellow flowers?

Pilgrims on the gravel road

One evening, I found four young women standing in the dark on the edge of our dirt road. They had travelled from Melbourne to Bendigo by train, caught a taxi from Bendigo to the Canola Walk, and assumed they could order an Uber for their return journey to the train station. Of course, our patch of rural Victoria doesn't work like that. They were stranded.

We made a few phone calls resulting in our local shuttle service coming to the rescue with a special late-night run. As I waved the four young women off, I realised I had just witnessed a little pilgrimage: determination, planning, miscalculation, reliance on the kindness of strangers, and finally, safe passage home. This too is a memory for me to treasure because they included me in a 'selfie' before they left.

A Field Becomes a Stage

Each day the stories multiply. A young couple got engaged among the blossoms, the proposal cheered by strangers. Families announced babies yet to be born, scattering coloured confetti against the yellow backdrop. Brides and grooms posed in wedding clothes, while others rehearsed their joy in pre-wedding photo shoots.

Children danced, dogs bounded through the rows, a cat in a backpack peered out wide-eyed, and one family even brought a parrot to share in the moment.

The canola field has become a stage on which people mark milestones. These events could have been celebrated anywhere, but people chose to celebrate them here. Why? Because beauty matters. Because memory matters.

Bringing the elders back

Not everyone who came could walk the tracks. Twice this week we welcomed buses from Residential Aged Care, including a special group from Waranga Hostel in Rushworth. Among them were a couple of Colbinabbin locals, now too frail to return under their own steam. As I drove their minibus slowly through the tracks, I watched their faces light up, eyes wide with wonder, and joy. For them, the canola was not just a backdrop for photos, but a re-connection with land, community, and memory. It was a reminder of their home.

Worship in the open air

One Sunday morning, our Waranga congregations gathered, not inside a church building, but by the canola itself. Beneath a cloudy sky, but surrounded by golden blooms, we sang and prayed. We read ancient words of Scripture that suddenly seemed alive in new ways: "Consider the lilies of the field... not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these."

It felt appropriate. God's presence was as real to us in that paddock as in any grand cathedral. The air was alive with colour and scent, but more than that, alive with people seeking meaning, joy, and connection.

The power of a moment

So, what is happening here? On one level, it's obvious. Social Media spreads images like wildfire, and people want to take up the experience. On another level, though, there is something deeper occurring.

We live in an anxious, hurried world. We spend our days surrounded by screens, bombarded by news, tethered to timetables. And then, once in a while, we step away from all that, and stand in a field of flowers. We breathe. We laugh. We share the moment with family, friends, or strangers. And we create a memory to sustain us as we return to our anxious, hurried lives.

The truth is, 'the good life' isn't measured by possessions or achievements. It is stitched together from experiences, often small, sometimes spectacular, always fleeting. A proposal in a golden paddock. A photo of the



Consider the canola of the field . . .

kids climbing an old truck. The kindness of a stranger, who finds you a safe way home. The joyous smile of a local Aged Care resident, seeing their hometown fields in bloom once more.

And, if these experiences stay with us, perhaps it is because God has created us with the capacity to treasure them. Sometimes, it is not the long speeches or grand events that endure, but the fleeting gestures of love and beauty.

'In memory of her'

The Gospels include a story about a woman, who anointed Jesus with costly perfume. It was one, short, single act, quiet, extravagant, fleeting. Some men around the table muttered that it was an indulgent and expensive waste, but Jesus said otherwise. He received it as the woman's act of love and foresight, preparing him for his death. And he added a remarkable promise: "Wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Think about that. Of all the things Jesus could have chosen to highlight for the ages, he chose one woman's small, beautiful, yet simple act, not because it was sensible or practical, but because it mattered deeply. It was an expression of love that deserved to be remembered forever.

That gospel memory helps me to see the canola fields differently now. What will last for me from these weeks is not the number of tickets sold, but the moments people who visited now carry with them: a laugh, a photo, a proposal, a smile at seeing the familiar fields again. The harvest we are gathering is not just seed for next year's crop but stories that will be told and re-told, stitched and re-stitched into the fabric of people's lives.

Sometimes the best harvest is a memory.

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

*Brian Spencer, Minister
Waranga Uniting Churches*

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119 Albion Street, Kyabram 3620

Phone: 5852 1061 Mobile: 0409 935 375

WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

DEATH

Blake (Anderson) Dorothy Jean.

Passed away 20 September, 2025, aged 95 years.
Wife and partner of Gordon (dec) for 53 years.
Mother, mother-in-law, and friend to;
Jan and Trevor,
Lynn and Bruno,
David and Sue,
Jeffrey and Cathryn.
Nanny to 8 grandchildren and
Granny/Nanny to
19 great-grandchildren.
A wonderfully friendly and principled woman who will be sadly missed, not only by her family, but by all those who knew her.

HAWKING, Peter John:

It is with great sadness we announce that our amazing husband and father Peter Hawking - (Skeeta) aged 64 is now at rest. Peter passed away on Tuesday 23 September, peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones. Cherished husband of Amy and irreplaceable father of Leizal and Keegan.

DEATH

HAWKING, Peter John:

Passed away peacefully on 23 September, 2025, after a courageous 3 year battle with melanoma.
Aged 64 years.
Loved son of Howard (dec) and Rosemary.
Loved brother of Joanne and Greg (Steen), and Wendy and Chris (Morgan).
Proud Uncle of Steven and Marnie, Tahlia and Dustin, Timothy (in heaven), Daniel and Hannah, Olivia, Georgia and James.
Great Uncle of Luther and Ivy.
Forever in our hearts

FUNERAL

HAWKING

A graveside funeral service for Mr Peter John Hawking will be held at the Shepparton Public Cemetery (Lawn), Rudd Road, Shepparton on Tuesday, 7 October, 2025 at 1pm. This service will be livestreamed via our website.
CLIVE COVENTRY
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www.clivecoventry.com.au

GARAGE SALE

Moving out Garage Sale

87 Murchison Road, Rushworth
Saturday 4th October

Indoor and outdoor furniture, household items and whitegoods, mower and garden tools. Canadian canoe and other unique items.
9am start, no early birds.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Street closure

Parts of Birdwood Ave and parts of Monash St Stanhope will be closed from 7am to 5pm for the Stanhope Food & Wine Festival event on Sunday 5th October.
Signage will be in place.
We apologise for any inconvenience.

Kyabram Town Hall Gallery Exhibitions

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

- AW9 travelling textile exhibition
OPEN 22ND OCT
- SAME SIZE SAME SHAPE – Art by SPLINTER CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS
- ALL AT SEA WITH DIANNE NALLY AND FRIENDS. Mixed Media
- GIANT TRASH & TREASURE SALE
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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

OCTOBER

| | |
|--------|---|
| Thu 2 | Holiday program: All Day Lego and games at the Library |
| Sun 5 | Stanhope Food and Wine Festival Birdwood Ave - 11am-4pm |
| Wed 8 | Murchison Mens Shed - Meeting on Women's Shed interest 4.30pm |
| Tue 14 | Pina Border Leicester Stud Flock Ram Sale 11am Andrews Rd Colbinabbin |
| Sat 18 | Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm |
| 20-26 | National Water Week |
| Wed 22 | Let's Grow: Waterwise Gardens 7pm Eastbank |

NOVEMBER

| | |
|--------|---|
| Sun 2 | Stanhope Community Market from 8am |
| Sat 15 | 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, 1st and 4th Sunday 11am - 1pm
- Rushworth & District Community Bank Board: meets 1st Tuesday monthly, at 6pm
- Rushworth Events Inc: meets bi-monthly, third Wednesday at 7pm
- Rushworth Community Walking Group: 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

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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 Health5851 8000
Nurse on call..... 1300 606 024
HELP:
Lifeline.....13 1114
Kids Helpline.....1800 551 800
POLICE:
Rushworth.....5856 1000
Murchison.....5826 2222
Colbinabbin.....5856 1000
SUPPORT SERVICE:
St Vincent de Paul.....0417 597 468
WARANGA NEWS OFFICE.....5856 1120
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 - 16 OCTOBER
Display Ads: Friday, 10 October
Classified: Monday, 13 October
wnews@iinet.net.au



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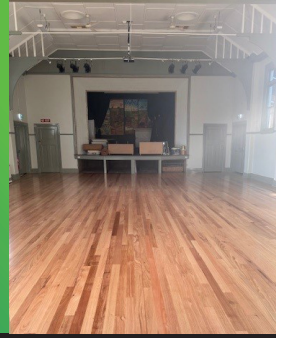
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Project update

The refurbishment of Girgarre Hall and Supper Room has been completed. Works included the replacement of flooring in the main hall, rendering and internal painting. In the Supper Room, works included internal painting and the sanding and repolishing of the floor.



Coming Up

Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 21 October 2025 | Echuca Civic Centre
Meetings can be streamed live: 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 or call 1300 666 535.

Immunisation Sessions

By appointment only. Register at 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

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.

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 Friday, 31 October.

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.

Free mulch and discounted delivery

Garden mulch is available for free at Council's Colbinabbin, Echuca, Mt Scobie, Lockington, Rushworth and Rochester Resource Recovery Centres year-round, while stocks last. The mulch comes from green waste that is deposited at the resource recovery centres and is shredded onsite. For a limited time, Council is offering discounted delivery of mulch loads of five cubic metres (5m3) and over. To seek a quote for discounted delivery, visit the Now Open section on our website.

Draft Asset & Financial Plans

The draft Asset Plan 2025-35 and the draft Financial Plan 2025/26 - 2034/35 are currently open for public review and feedback. The draft Financial Plan presents a 10-year funding strategy to support Council's delivery of strategies, plans and essential services to the community. The draft Asset Plan sets out a 10-year approach to managing, maintaining and renewing Council's public assets. Submissions close Tuesday, 7 October.

Works notice - Annual road resurfacing program

Residents are advised that contractors will be conducting road resurfacing works on behalf of Council from Monday 29, September. The works are scheduled between 7.30am and 6pm on designated dates. During this period, streets must be clear of vehicles, and residents are requested to ensure children and pets are kept away from the work zones. Driveway access will be briefly restricted while bitumen is sprayed, but the crew will inform when access is available. Post-completion, residents may drive on the new surface at low speeds. Suction sweeping of loose stones will follow in subsequent days and again after two weeks. In case of delays due to weather or other factors, works will be rescheduled. For further enquiries, contact Council on 1300 666 535.

Campaspe Murray Business Connect

6-9pm, Thursday, 23 October

Join us at Moama Bowling Club for an evening of networking and inspiration. Featured speaker Bastien Treptel brings a wealth of knowledge about the latest advancements in AI and Cybersecurity, and how these impact you and your business. Light refreshments included. Book tickets via www.investrivercountry.com.au/events



BASTIEN TREPTEL

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 and www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/eventsdirectory

Readers' Corner

- interesting things to know and do!

BOOK IT IN

Miss Benson's Beetle (Rachel Joyce)

If you enjoyed reading the 'Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' you will certainly enjoy 'Miss Benson's Beetle'. Like Harold Fry, Miss Margery Benson walks out of her stunted and very British life to embark upon an improbable journey.

Few who knew her would have dreamt that frumpy middle-aged Margory would literally walk away from her job in 1950 to sail to New Caledonia in search of a magnificent golden beetle. Her quest starts inauspiciously when the only respondent to her advertisement seeking a travelling companion/assistant was the young and very 'worldly but vacant' Enid Pretty who, as it transpired, was running away from a man. In spite of a litany of adventures and misadventures these two unlikely and very naive expeditioners eventually reach the island and begin their search for the beetle on a rainforest covered mountain.

The book is about pursuing your dreams rather than being shackled to everyday life. It is a book of how deep friendships can be forged, even between people who are exact opposites. It is a book showing how people can adapt and cope when pushed right out of their comfort zones. It is also a book of triumphs and losses. It is funny, sad in places and nearly always quirky.

Miss Benson's Beetle, Rachel Joyce, Penguin/Random House, ISBN 9780812996708.

Also available on Kindle and Audible.

The Zen reader

Sudoku and Crossword puzzle

HOW TO PLAY

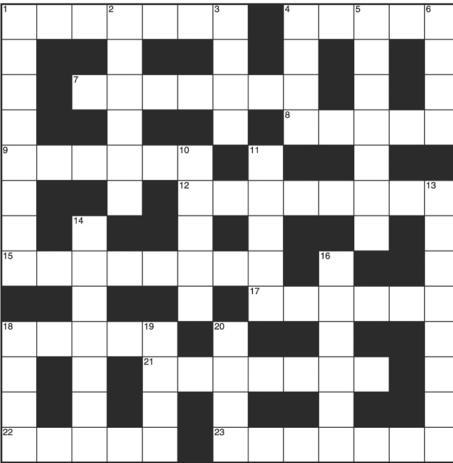
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in:
Each of the nine vertical columns
Each of the nine horizontal rows
Each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes
Remember no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.

- Across**
- 1. Wandering
 - 4. Pause punctuation mark
 - 7. Endless talker
 - 8. Period of growth
 - 9. Nursing boss
 - 12. Comprised
 - 15. Reimpose (authority)
 - 17. Posture
 - 18. Yellowish-brown
 - 21. Prolonged applause
 - 22. Grew dim
 - 23. Memorable
- Down**
- 1. 11th month
 - 2. Large bird cage
 - 3. Havana is there
 - 4. Toothed wheels
 - 5. Pillages
 - 6. Unit of land
 - 10. More charming
 - 11. Highlanders
 - 13. Convention attendee
 - 14. Blinded by light
 - 16. Hindu temple
 - 18. Animal foot
 - 19. Nobleman
 - 20. Caution

Lovatts
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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 3 | | | | | | |
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Crossword No: 61



Solutions from last edition

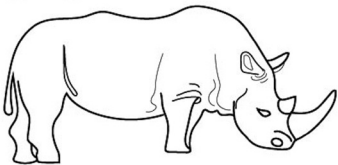
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| 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 5 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
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R is for Rhinoceros

R

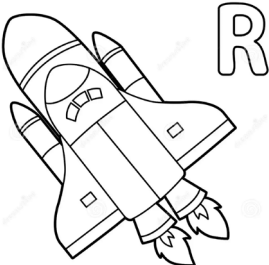
Rhino



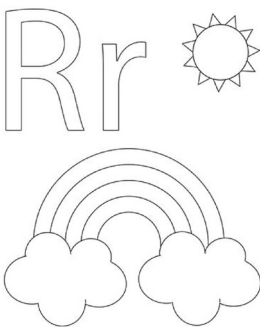
Rhinos are large (in fact, the second largest land mammal after elephants). They have thick, protective skin and keen senses of smell and hearing - but very poor eyesight! (Although, I've never seen a rhino wearing glasses). If frightened, they can run up to 64kmph. There are five different species of rhinos

world-wide, but some of these rhinos are critically endangered either because poachers kill them for their horns (which are used for medicinal reasons) or because their grazing grounds are cleared for farming or settlement. Rhinos have been around for 50 million years. Let's do our best to keep them around a lot longer!

R is for Rainbow



Rocket



KIDS' QUIZ

1. What vegetable is known for making you cry when you cut it?
2. Which vegetable is orange and helps you see in the dark?
3. Which green vegetable looks like a tiny tree?
4. What red vegetable is often used to make ketchup?
5. Which vegetable has ears but cannot hear?
6. What vegetable is long, green and often found in salads?
7. Which green leafy vegetable is known to make you strong, like Popeye? (Do you know who Popeye is? Ask your granddad.)
8. Which vegetable is purple on the outside and white on the inside?

Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Campaspe Shire council MOU renewed

Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC) and Campaspe Shire Council have signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), reaffirming their commitment to reconciliation, partnership, and the celebration of First Nations cultural heritage across the region.

Originally established in 2017, the MOU marked a historic first agreement between YYNAC and a local government authority. The updated MOU builds on this foundation, reflecting the evolution of both organisations and their shared vision for deeper collaboration, mutual respect and inclusive engagement.

Key highlights of the renewed MOU include:

- Strengthening the partnership to support Aboriginal self-determination and cultural heritage protection.
- Joint commitment to improved engagement, collaboration, and culturally inclusive services for the benefit of the entire Campaspe community.
- Ongoing recognition of Yorta Yorta People as Traditional Owners on Yorta Yorta Country, alongside a broader commitment to respecting and supporting all First Nations Peoples across Campaspe.

Development and implementation of a Reconciliation Action Plan, with a focus on co-design, increased employment and procurement opportunities, and enhanced recognition of Aboriginal cultural identity.

- Regular meetings between principal contacts, CEOs, Councillors, and Board members to ensure the MOU’s effective implementation and continuous improvement.

YYNAC Chief Executive Officer, John Patrick Kerr, and Campaspe Shire Council Chief Executive Officer, Pauline Gordon, have signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.



YYNAC Chief Executive Officer, John Patrick Kerr (right), and Campaspe Shire Council Chief Executive Officer, Pauline Gordon (left), signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations at the Dharnya Centre in Barmah.

“This MOU marks a powerful step forward in our shared journey. It reflects a genuine commitment to collaboration, respect, and truth-telling between the Yorta Yorta Nation and Campaspe Shire. Together, we are building a future grounded in cultural strength, mutual understanding, and lasting partnerships that honour Country and all peoples that share our community and country,” said Mr Kerr.

Ms Gordon added, “We are committed to working side by side with YYNAC to foster respect, inclusion, and positive outcomes for First Peoples and the wider community.”

Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Daniel Mackrell celebrated the

renewed MOU as a meaningful step forward in Council’s ongoing journey of reconciliation and partnership.

“The renewed MOU recognises the importance of Yorta Yorta heritage and ensures First Peoples’ voices are valued in shaping the future of our region,” he said.

The MOU will remain in effect for five years, with annual progress reviews and a shared commitment to transparency, collaboration, and cultural respect.

Additionally at last Tuesday’s Council meeting, an updated Acknowledgement of Country developed by Council’s Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group was endorsed

which is:
The Shire of Campaspe is the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung, and Yorta Yorta Peoples.

We acknowledge all First Peoples and their deep and enduring connection to lands and waterways, upheld through their cultural responsibilities to Country.

We pay our respect to Elders past and present for their resilience, sharing of cultural knowledge, and strength in sustaining community and Culture.

With a shared commitment to mutual respect, we walk the path of reconciliation together.



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League Best & Fairest – Liam Francis

How could we not mention Liam ‘Train’ Francis winning the Bryan McNamara Medal, KDFNL Senior Best & Fairest player. What a great year Liam has had as Captain of the seniors and the team reaching the finals.



Junior Coach of the Year

Congratulations to Ryan Raglus on being awarded the Kyabram District League Football Junior Football Coach of the Year for season 2025.

Presentation Day

RFNC will hold their 2025 Presentation Day at the Ironbark Stadium on Sunday 5 October
Juniors starts: 10am
Lunch: 12noon
Senior grades: starting 1pm
Come along and share the year as it was.
Everyone invited!

RFNC - 2026 is coming!


After an extraordinary year, Rushworth Football Netball Club are starting to plan for 2026.

Tommy Stevens

Reserves coach for 2026

Tommy is a much-loved member of the club and brings great energy, enthusiasm and passion for the RFNC to get stronger in all aspects.

He is looking to grow his legacy in a coaching capacity, joining other coaches and assistants in wanting to be a part of getting the club back where it should be!



SIGNS ON
RUSHWORTH RESERVES FOOTBALL COACH 2026

© Rushworth Tigers

Senior Netball Trials for season 2026

Put the dates in your calendar. Registration forms to follow soon.

Congratulations to KDFNL Senior Team of the Year Coach, Sheree Starling. She will lead the Rushworth A Grade into another successful year in 2026.

Join Sheree and the girls for trials on these dates and keep the motivation alive for next years finals.

Congratulations to Kade Starling on winning the KDFNL Netball Under 15 Best & Fairest. He has a great teacher!

Also to Ashlyne Materne for her position in the KDFNL Seniors Team of the Year.

Dates and times

- Monday 10 November 6pm
- Wednesday 12 November 6pm
- Wednesday 19 November 6pm

Location

- Ironbark Stadium



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KDFNL Presentations highlight the best of the best

Kyabram and District Football Netball League celebrated its players, coaches, administrators and volunteers at it's Best and Fairest Presentation Night on 25 September 2025. Congratulations to Murchison-Toolamba FNC going back-to-back and Shepparton East A Grade netball Premiers.

Seniors Best & Fairest

Bryan McNamara Medal winner

- Liam Francis - Rushworth FNC Inc

Congratulations

Bryan McNamara Medal

BEST & FAIREST - SENIORS

RUSHWORTH

FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

LIAM FRANCIS

A Grade Best & Fairest

Rita Warren Medal

- Allana Adams - Girgarre FNC

- Lauren James - Shepparton East FNC

Congratulations

Rita Warren Medal

BEST & FAIREST - A GRADE

GIRGARRE FNC

ALLANA ADAMS

SHEPPARTON EAST

NETBALL CLUB

LAUREN JAMES

Football Rising Star Award

Liam Sorraghan - Shepparton East FNC

Netball Rising Star Award

Lexie Pearce - Tallygaroopna FNC

Spirit Awards

There are six KDL Spirit Awards. These are Senior and Junior Football, Senior and Junior Netball, Senior/Junior Volunteer

Senior Football - Luke Dowling

- Shepparton East FNC

Junior Football - Lucas Daldy

- Shepparton East FNC

Senior Netball - Tahlia (Tilly) Ellis

- Violet Town FNC

Junior Netball - Ruby Sullivan

- Nagambie FNC

Junior Volunteer Award

- Mia Munro - Girgarre FNC

Senior Volunteer

- Jo Scorey - Merrigum FNC

- Stewart Cook - Shepparton East FNC

Club Championship Awards

Murch/Tool. FNC- Football Champion Club

Shepp/East FNC Netball Champion Club

Administrator of the Year

Kasey Cooper - Lancaster FNC

2025 Senior Football Team of the Year

Interchange

Kyle Montgomery - Tallygaroopna FNC

Brayden Hall - Merrigum FNC

Ethan Hart - Undera FNC

Jordan Gattuso - Shepparton East FNC

Backs

Adam Lovison - Lancaster FNC

Jye Borg - Murch/Toolamba FNC

Stuart Trevena - Stanhope FNC

Half Backs

Jamie Spencer - Shepparton East FNC

Andrew Lloyd - Murch/Toolamba FNC

Mark Nolan - Nagambie FNC

Centres

Liam Francis - Rushworth FNC Inc

Jayden Dhoshi - Shepparton East FNC

Jack Myers - Avenel FNC

Half Forwards

James Milne - Murchison Toolamba

Billy Barnes - Girgarre

Cameron Simpson - Lancaster FNC

Forwards

Dylan Webster - Shepparton East FNC

James Lloyd - Murchison Toolamba FNC

Jonathon Pearson - Stanhope FNC

Rucks

John Woodcock - Violet Town FNC

Tom Davies - Lancaster FNC

Jye Formosa - Longwood FNC

Captain - James Milne - Murch/T FNC

Coach - Brett Foley - Murch/Tool'ba FNC

Reserves Best & Fairest

Elden Wade Medal

Brad Canny - Stanhope FNC

U18s Best & Fairest

Jim Inch Medal

Max Elder - Murchison-Toolamba FNC

Under 15 Best & Fairest

KDL Medal - Koby Ross - Violet Town

Junior Football Coach of the Year

Ryan Raglus - Rushworth FNC

Senior Football Coach of the Year

Brett Foley - Murchison-Toolamba FNC

Junior Netball Coach of the Year

Megan Bamford - Violet Town FNC

Kymerleigh Rowlands - Nagambie FNC

Senior Netball Coach of the Year

Sheree Starling - Rushworth FNC

300 KDL games

in Open-age football and netball:

Kristie Day – Girgarre FNC

Felicity Hall – Stanhope FNC

Madison Brett –Tallygaroopna FNC

Sharni Lloyd – Nagambie FNC

Tyrone Muir – Nagambie FNC

2025 Netball A Grade Team of the Year

Rolling subs:

Allana Adams - Girgarre FNC

Fiona Down - Tallygaroopna FNC(Official)

Kate Durling - Shepparton East FNC

Leanna Valentin - Undera FNC

Kelsey McDonald - Murch/-Toolamba FNC

GS - Jacqui Gahan - Girgarre

GA - Rylee Alderton - Nagambie FNC

WA - Greta Small - Nagambie FNC

C - Holly Nelson - Girgarre FNC

WD - Sarah Maskell - Shepparton East FNC

GD - Lauren James - Shepparton East FNC

GK - Ashlyn Materne - Rushworth FNC Inc

Vice Captain - Greta Small

Captain - Jacqui Gahan

Coach - Sheree Starling - Rushworth FNC

A Grade Best and Fairest

Rita Warren Medal

Allana Adams - Girgarre FNC

B Grade Best and Fairest

Keith Whitford Medal

Jorja Tranter - Merrigum FNC

C Grade Best & Fairest

Denise McCormack Medal winner

Sarah Bloomfield - Girgarre FNC

C Reserve Best & Fairest

Kelli Halden Medal

Sarah Sanderson - Nagambie FNC

17 Under Best & Fairest

Gail Glover Medal

Ashela Antonis - Violet Town FNC

15 Under Best & Fairest

Pip Scoble Medal

Lexie Pearce - Tallygaroopna FNC

Kade Starling - Rushworth FNC

13 Under Best & Fairest

Leanne Good Medal

Emelia D’Andrea - Nagambie FNC

11 Under Netball

The juniors had a great time developing skills throughout the season. KDL acknowledged these teams with one player from each participating club attending the Grand Final to present the A Grade Premiership players with their winning medals.



Leading Goal Kickers

Under 15s - Koby Ross

- Violet Town FNC 45 goals

Under 18s - Archie Harrison

- Nagambie FNC 85 goals

Reserves - Michael Amadei - Tally FNC

Daniel Burness Tally FNC 53 goals

Seniors - James Lloyd - Murch 97 goals



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KANANGRA

ACCOMMODATION

A story of family, friends and Premiers!

This story deserves a special mention in amongst all the Premiership celebrations.

Sue Kerlin (Harcoan) and Jen McIntyre’s close friendship originated from growing up in Rushworth and spending their secondary school life together during the 1980s.

Sue and Jen both played netball for Rushworth; however, their netball pathways eventually took them in separate directions. Sue moving to Colbinabbin after marriage, quickly became involved as a player and active member at Colbo whilst Jen’s netball progressed to regional and state level travelling all around Victoria as both a talented player and then coach. Their friendship continued to stay close over the years whilst raising their families.

Jen decided on playing a stint at Colbo in early 1990s for a couple of years and then again in 2000, which whilst successful, a premiership alluded the team.

Sue and Jen’s netball was reunited through their daughters. Sue’s teenage daughter Ella was developing into a talented

netballer, progressing to senior ranks. An opportunity for Jen’s sporting daughters Matilda and Grace to join Ella at Colbo arose and it was hoped that the girls might enjoy the opportunity of playing for a small country football netball club compared to playing in metropolitan competitions.

It is fair to say the girls settled in well with the team and club! So much so, Sue thought it might be best to complete the package by inviting Jen to coach A Grade in 2023. The urge to win that allusive premiership was enough to secure the deal.

On Saturday 13 September after three years Jen, Sue and their daughters were all a part of the highly talented Colbo team who won the A Grade netball premiership, defeating Mount Pleasant 72-41. The team were champions, as they were undefeated all season.

A champion premiership to remember!



Sue and Jen with their daughters Ella, Matilda and Grace

Rushworth Golf Club - Annual Presentation Night

A well attended season wind-up and presentation was enjoyed by all attendees. Hot pizzas and the finest Whistling Eagle wines were provided for the members and their guests.



Sponsors and volunteers were thanked for their valuable contributions. We all understand that without these unselfish people our club would simply not be sustainable.

Our course was well presented and provided a fair challenge to the players even though low rainfall persisted all season. The club reported a successful season of weekly competition as well as a well supported annual tournament.

Our members travelled to other district clubs with some success. We were also represented in the final of the GMDGA Summer Pennant Final, unfortunately losing a close final to Hill Top on their home course.

Club Champion
Tony Geisler was Club Champion defeating Kelly Cheong in the final.

B Grade Champion
Ian Rathjen was our B Grade Champion defeating Dean Pontin in a close final.

Golfer of the year
Golfer of the year went to a very consistent Dean Pontin whose acceptance speech was one of the year’s highlights!

End of season trip

The club is planning an end of season trip soon, check out our Facebook page for more info.



Left, Club Champion Tony Geisler and (right) holding the cup is Golfer of the Year, Dean Pontin.



B Grade Champion, Bomber Rathjen.

KANANGRA

ACCOMMODATION

Colbinabbin Bed and Breakfast

53 Mitchell Street Colbinabbin

Phone: 0408 602 841

Email: julie.prince59@bigpond.com

Community Bank Grant for wetlands

Rushworth Field and Game are recipients of a grant from the Community Bank Rushworth and District.

Conservation officer Graeme Wall says the grant and community support is helping to improve breeding habitat and with the branch's advocating for wetland improvement and improved management things are moving in the right direction.

The Community Bank Rushworth and District are big supporters of community organisations and projects and this donation will assist with the refurbishment of the hen houses that the branch already has out in wetlands.

Students from the Rushworth P12 Hope Program assisted our members to bring the hen houses back to the clubhouse last week.

There is a new coconut fibre lining initiative being rolled out by Field and Game Australia and Rushworth are keen to support the initiative. This donation will enable the club to upgrade their present hen houses and look toward manufacturing more hen houses in Rushworth.

Breeding birds are very susceptible to predation by foxes and feral cats especially those that are ground nesting and the hen houses are elevated providing much needed protection. Crows can still be a problem and alternative ways are being trialled to help stop crows from raiding nests and taking eggs.

Rushworth Field and Game members

have been busy meeting with representatives of other environmentally focussed agencies in the Corop wetlands. Already there has been remedial work done in one wetland and there are further discussions planned and hopes that this joint approach will prove beneficial.

There was a clear indication from the attendees that there was a shared enthusiasm for finding and applying practical solutions

Branch members have completed parrot box and sugar glider box installations on the Campaspe Shire section of the Waranga Rail trail and are nearing completion of the Greater Shepparton section of the rail trail.

Graeme Wall



Rushworth Community Bank Manager Alek Stokes congratulates Graeme Wall and members on the community project. (l-r) Charlie Cerchi, Kevin McLeod, Alek Stokes, Graeme Wall, Geoff Hawking, Sharon Perry, Neville Barker.

(Photos by Sharon and Alan Perry)



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Celebrate Stanhope

Food & Wine Festival

Sunday October 5, 2025 11am - 4pm
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JB & Me

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