

# 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 30 October 2025

## Mother Nature turns it on for Dargalong!

The sun was shining on the Waranga Catchment Landcare event at the Dargalong Grassland on 18 October as enthusiastic nature-lovers poured into the gate of the Murchison Golf Course.

Guest presenters covered all aspects of grassland life and management.

Visitors heard about how the area had been protected over twenty years ago by the Goulburn Valley Environment Group who was able to fence the two hectare site and highlight its importance.

The grassland, even more precious now than it was then, has had a regular team of volunteers maintaining and caring for its threatened orchids and other wildflowers through weed management, seed collection and plant identification.

Participants at the event learned about pollinators and took a guided tour of the site, making a not-so-straight beeline towards the endangered leek orchids which were still flowering despite the dry conditions.

After a good look at the site, everyone enjoyed a sausage sizzle and slice, (provided by the Murchison Men's Shed and Neighbourhood House), while milling around Kirsty Ramadan and her amazing collection of native reptiles and animals and John Laing's 'Mini Beasts'.


WCLC's Lou Costa thanks everyone who came along to look and learn about this endangered grassland, and a special thanks to guest presenters - Uncle Vincent Peters, Clancy Lester, Kirsty Ramadan, Sally Mann and John Laing-the Murchison Golf Course, Recreation Reserve Committee and all the fantastic volunteers, saying "between us, we make community better".

For details on how you can be part of this team - protecting and reviving threatened species - contact Lou on 0437153203



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





**YOU'RE INVITED**


**Rushworth & District Financial Services Limited**

# Annual General Meeting

Rushworth & District Financial Services Limited the company that operates Community Bank Rushworth would like to invite our shareholders, customers and community members to our 2025 Annual General Meeting.

When	Thursday 27 November 2025
Time	6.00pm - 7.00pm
Where	Rushworth Senior Citizens Centre 34 Esmonde Street, Rushworth

Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

**Bendigo Bank**

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# POTTERY CLASSES STARTING IN RUSHWORTH

Commencing on Saturday  
8 November 10am to 1pm



Learn to work with clay at your pace!

Learn wheel and hand building techniques, decorating, glazing and firing with Angie Russi in a supportive 4-week class series.

**\$300 for four sessions, all materials included.**

Bookings Online  
<https://angierussi.com.au/product/pottery-classes-4-weeks-series-november-2025/>  
or  
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# RUSHWORTH CRICKET CLUB

# MELBOURNE CUP

# CALCUTTA

**Rushworth Cricket/Football Rooms**  
**Melbourne Cup Eve November 3rd**  
**BBQ tea starting at 6:30 for \$5 each**  
**Calcutta starts at 8 pm**  
**Drinks at Bar Prices**  
  
**\$5.00 per ticket available from Senior Players**



**GOOD SPORTS**





# Leasing opportunity emerging at Colbo store

The Colbinabbin Community Store may be approaching a new phase of its life after a special meeting of shareholders last week voted on a proposal from the elected board of management. The meeting agreed to amend the constitution of the community co-operative body created in 2020 on the basis of shareholder investment.

As a result of the vote the store, which was rescued from likely closure five years ago, may now become available on a leasing arrangement to a commercial enterprise.

The co-operative's shareholders will retain ownership of the store, which offers a range of household items, lunch snacks, coffee, newspapers and the ever-popular cool drinks and ice-creams. The produce of arty and crafty local people is also for sale and the shop includes the Colbinabbin Post Office.

The store, which is well-placed to serve the needs of district residents, is also a welcome sight for the growing number of visitors coming to view the impressive giant artwork on the old grain silos and for truck-drivers and other motorists taking the most direct and busy route between Bendigo and Shepparton.

The new opportunity for private enterprise may have appeal to people attracted to the small-town lifestyle and the active sporting culture. The popular Colbinabbin Hotel, West's Agricultural Supplies store and the well-regarded primary school are other key components of the community. The bus-stop at the front of the store is another positive element of opportunity for a store operator.

## Local community cooperative

The Colbinabbin Community Store Co-operative is chaired by Jenni Weaver, backed by six board members who live locally or have strong local connections. The board



Colbinabbin General Store - ready for its next chapter.


plans to invite expressions of interest, before negotiating appropriate lease conditions. The board agreed to include emphasis on the capability and store experience of the current staff in all discussions with interested parties. It is hoped that the pattern of employment of locals, well-recognised since 2020, will continue.

For a town which looked likely to lose its store not so many years ago, the possibility


to bring new ideas and energy into the shop marks a very positive development.

Once the closing date and other details around expressions of interest are confirmed, the information will be reported in Waranga News. When word circulates that the store operation is available, it may be wise for anyone interested to be quick-off-the-mark!


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# Victoria’s fire season officially begins

This year’s Victorian fire season has officially begun with fire restrictions commencing in some parts of the state this week.

CFA has declared the first Fire Danger Period (FDP) for the 2025-26 fire season, commencing at 1am on Monday, 27 October for municipalities in the northwest and southeast of the state while the Shire of Campaspe restrictions will come into force next week on 3 November.

Current forecasts suggest Victorians can expect a hotter and drier summer this year. CFA advises that communities should be preparing their properties and creating a Bushfire Plan.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said with Victoria experiencing low rainfall for most of the spring season there is an increase in fuel, such as dead plant material and vegetation, which has the potential to support significant bushfire potential.

“We need Victorians to play their part and

ensure their properties are ready and they have a plan in place,” he said.

“It is going to be a challenging fire season and with the commencement of fire danger periods, it is a good reminder to ensure those last bits of preparation get done.”

Those conducting burn-offs must notify authorities online at the Fire Permits Victoria website ([www.firepermits.vic.gov.au](http://www.firepermits.vic.gov.au)), or by calling 1800 668 511.

By registering your burn-off online, you allow emergency call takers to allocate more of their time taking calls from people who need emergency assistance immediately.

No burning off is permitted during the FDP without a Permit to Burn, which can be applied for through the Fire Permits Victoria website.



Cleaning gutters is an essential task leading into summer.

## CFA calls on carers to be Fire Ready

During the recent National Carers Week (12 – 18 October), the Country Fire Authority (CFA) reminded carers across Victoria to be prepared for the upcoming fire season.

Carers play a vital role in supporting family members, friends, or neighbours who are elderly, ill, or living with a disability — and this responsibility can become even more challenging during emergencies such as bushfires. The CFA urged carers to take the time now to plan ahead, ensuring both their own safety and that of the people they care for.

CFA Acting Chief Officer Garry Cook said that preparation saves lives and reduces stress when fire danger days arrive. “Carers often have additional considerations, such as mobility issues or special medical needs. Having a clear, practised plan can make all the difference,” he said. The CFA encouraged carers to know their local fire risk, monitor emergency warnings, and have a detailed evacuation plan that includes transport arrangements, essential medications, medical equipment, and important documents.

The authority also suggested that carers register with community alert systems, prepare a “go bag,” and identify safe places they could relocate to on high-risk days. Talking with family members and care recipients about what to do in an emergency helps ensure everyone understands the plan.

CFA emphasised that leaving early — well before a fire threatens — is always the safest option, particularly for people who may need extra time to move to safety. By planning ahead, carers can reduce anxiety and avoid last-minute decisions that can put lives at risk.

As Carers Week celebrates the compassion and commitment of carers, CFA’s message was clear: being prepared is an act of care in itself. A well-thought-out fire plan protects both carers and those they look after when disaster strikes.

### Fire Danger Period information

A written permit is required to burn off grass, undergrowth, weeds or other vegetation during the FDP. You can apply for a permit at [firepermits.vic.gov.au](http://firepermits.vic.gov.au).

Lighting fires in the open without a permit can bring a penalty of more than \$21,800 and/or 12 months imprisonment. For a full list of conditions, visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/can](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/can)

Farmers can find legal guidelines and practical advice at [cfa.vic.gov.au/farms](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/farms)

More information about FDPs is available online at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod) or call VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.



## We are recruiting

- Meet new friends and make connections
- Give something back to your local community
- Family friendly (or something just for you!)
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Use the QR code to learn more about Volunteering with CFA



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A blue lightbulb icon with a yellow glow inside.

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# Angie Russi offers ‘Working with Clay’

Acclaimed local artist Angie Russi reopened her studio in High Street Rushworth four years ago and now is back in full time studio practice after an extensive career in the region’s community art, education and project management.

As well as her well stocked gallery shop Angie also offers classes for people with a passion for working with clay. At this stage the classes have been limited to a couple of participants at a time due to the available space.

Angie has now renovated the back area of her studio to extend the working space dedicated to running workshops, with two pottery wheels and ample space to accommodate six people in a class.

The first class offering will be a short course of one day a week (3 hours) for four weeks. This allows participants to work on something of their choice, either a particular skill or all the processes to complete their own project, for example, practising on the wheel or hand building a sculpture.

Angie has worked with clay professionally as an artist for over 45 years. She trained at RMIT in Melbourne in Fine Arts and really enjoys being back in full time studio practice. She is loving the opportunity to work with individuals to develop their clay working skills in a relaxed, informal setting.

Next year there will be a full program and Angie will also offer day and weekend workshops.



Angie at work in her studio - a space ready to inspire creativity in a new wave of aspiring sculptors and potters!

# The search for local gold goes on

It may have something to do with the recent soaring in the price of gold.

A company based at East Maitland, NSW has made application to explore below an area near the intersection of the Tait Hamilton Road and Nine wMile Road, south of Rushworth.

The interest is just the latest in the long line of planned ventures, all hoping to strike it rich, since the excitement of the 1853-1880 period when Rushworth, Whroo and nearby areas like Waranga, the Buffalo, the White Hills and Fontainebleu all gave up impressive quantities of gold.

Long after the Balaclava mine was at its peak, groups of people have pooled resources to dig deeper. In the 1930s, a shareholder group tried again in the shafts of the big open cut at Whroo. There was little to show for the effort and investment.

In the 1950s, the Phoenix Mine Syndicate attracted shareholder money to try again in a deep shaft on the edge of the forest to the north-west of Rushworth. Results were disappointing and the venture folded. The poppet head and crushing machine were removed and the Mines Department filled in the shaft, such that even locals with long memories now struggle to find where the Phoenix mine operated.

As recently as 2022, an exploration lease was granted to a company which probed under the Balaclava with drilling equipment operating from near the junction of Rushworth-Nagambie Road and Reedy Lake Road. Based on the inactivity since, it is assumed

that insufficient payable gold was found.

This latest proposal near the old Nine Mile diggings is the subject of public announcement, with a statutory requirement to invite any public comment or objections. There is no guarantee that a licence will be granted to allow even the exploration

to proceed. If approved, there would be substantial time lapse between any assessment, and, if favourable, the start of serious digging.

Twenty-one days are available from the final day of advertising of the plan for online comment, at <https://ram-vic.gov.my.site.com/ObjectionSubmission>

## Stanhope Community Market

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# Rushworth SES busy in weather conditions



SES members have been kept very busy right across Victoria in the last week with floods, trees down, building damage and car accidents; 1062 callouts to trees down and 320 to building damages across the state.

Our local Rushworth unit were active with three call outs for trees down and building damage and three road crash rescues (RCRs) two off road into trees.

Some accidents can be prevented by slowing down and concentrating. One woman was airlifted after an accident in the Merrigum are, a rollover at the Rushworth Speedway saw a man airlifted to Melbourne and another walked away from his rolled over

vehicle in Baileston in a lucky escape.

It is a prime time to remind people in these erratic weather conditions to clean out guttering to prevent overflow under eaves into houses, to be mindful of not parking near trees in windy conditions and be even more vigilant of driving to the road conditions considering the wind and rain.

Such events like aquaplaning, where a vehicles tyres loses contact with the road and

skims over a layer of water leading to a loss of steering and braking control happens when the tyres cannot displace this water fast enough causing them to lift off the road surface. Reduce speed in these conditions to ensure sufficient tread depth and correct pressure. Avoid puddles and do not drive with your 'auto-pilot', 'driver assist' or cruise control 'ON' in these conditions. Be safe.

## VICSES Murchison Unit responding

New Murchison volunteers have undergone important emergency response training in recent months to bring them back online.

Mere months after low volunteer numbers threatened the future of Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) Murchison Unit, a new cohort of volunteers passed a major milestone bringing the unit back online for the first time in over a year.

Volunteers, staff and senior VICSES leaders gathered in Murchison early October to celebrate the unit's successful rebound from the brink of collapse after a volunteer shortage in 2024 left only a single volunteer registered at the unit in January.

With Murchison often impacted during Goulburn River flooding events, failure to revive the unit's membership would have seen locals rely on emergency response from VICSES Rushworth, Seymour, Benalla and Euroa units, each 15- 30 minutes away.

Following an extensive recruitment campaign earlier this year supported by VICSES Co-Principal partner AAMI, locals showcased their commitment to their community and banded together to undertake vital emergency response training to ensure a sustainable return to service for the local unit.

Initial training culminated in volunteers receiving their Crew Member Level 2 (CM2) accreditation, allowing them to respond to storm, flood and other emergencies while leaning on neighbouring units for incidents requiring more specialist skillsets.

More than ten volunteers are now actively registered at VICSES Murchison Unit and are prepared to assist their community during emergencies throughout the spring high-risk weather season and beyond.

A host of specialist training opportunities will also be made available to volunteers going forward, allowing them the chance to develop important chainsaw and 4WD proficiency and other valuable rescue skills.

VICSES Murchison unit volunteers have been kept busy responding to more than twenty requests for assistance (RFAs) in each of the last three financial years, including a particularly active 2022/23 which saw volunteers called to 70 RFAs, more than twenty of which related to flooding and water rescues.

Operational and non-operational volunteers are still being sought to strengthen the unit's long-term outlook.

For more information on the variety of roles available within VICSES, visit [www.ses.vic.gov.au/join-us/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/join-us/volunteer-opportunities).



Instruction on supporting a branch during storm conditions.

Lifting with airbags





# Have your say on Campaspe Visitor strategy by 2 November

Campaspe Shire Council has invited community members, tourism operators and regional stakeholders to provide feedback on the newly developed Campaspe Region Visitor Servicing Strategy 2030.

The Strategy is a new five-year plan designed to improve the visitor experience and boost tourism in the region. It focuses on a “dynamic, customer-led approach” that combines modern digital tools with traditional visitor information centres to increase repeat visitation, regional spending and strengthen industry collaboration.

Over the past year, the strategy development process has included in-person workshops, digital experience reviews, Visitor Information Centre experience audits and a stakeholder survey with over 45 responses.

Consultation has involved local tourism operators, community groups, First Nations representatives and regional partners.

The document is now available for public review, and feedback is welcome to ensure the strategy reflects the needs and aspirations of the wider community.

Visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-council/Now-open/Visitor-Servicing-Strategy](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-council/Now-open/Visitor-Servicing-Strategy) to read the strategy and submit your feedback by Sunday, 2 November.

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# Welcome Back, Lucy Knight!

The Community Bank Rushworth team is delighted to welcome back a familiar face — Lucy Knight!

Lucy completed her schooling at Rushworth P–12 College before first joining the Rushworth team in 2009 and 2010. After relocating to Queensland, she continued her career with Community Bank Browns Plains. Upon returning to Victoria, she gained further experience with Community Bank Sunshine, and more recently with Community Bank Elmore, Lockington and Rochester.

With over fifteen years of experience in banking and finance, Lucy has already made a positive impact on both the team and customers.

Lucy will be working at the branch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. When she’s not at work, she’s busy running around after her young family.

The team is thrilled to have Lucy back on board!



Lucy Knight - back to serve Rushworth banking community.

# Free green waste disposal in lead up to fire danger period

The weather is warming up, and the 2025-26 fire danger period will soon be upon us. With this fact in mind, Campaspe Shire Council is urging residents to take the opportunity to prepare for the fire danger season now.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell said dry vegetation in drought-affected areas across Victoria meant an increased fire risk, and residents should be thinking ahead now and taking all precautions available to them.

“We don’t want tragedy to strike our shire, so we’re asking residents to make sure they have a fire plan, and their families, homes and properties are prepared in case fire looms.

“There are a number of steps you can take, and one of those is to reduce the fire risk around your home by removing garden waste from your property – and Council can help with that.”

To support residents in their clean-up efforts, Campaspe Shire Council is offering free green waste disposal from Monday, 20 October to close of business on Sunday, 2 November at the Resource Recovery Centres at Colbinabbin, Echuca, Gunbower, Mt

Scobie, (Kyabram), Lockington, Rochester and Rushworth.

Residents can drop off up to three cubic metres of non-contaminated garden waste – including leaves, branches, grass clippings and other garden organics – free of charge.

General rubbish, commercial quantities of green waste, and green waste that is contaminated with other waste including plastic, glass and metal, and will not be accepted for free disposal.

For more information about green waste disposal, including Campaspe Shire Council’s Resource Recovery Centres’ locations and opening hours, visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/RRC](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/RRC)

The 2025-26 Fire Danger Period for Campaspe Shire will begin on 3 November. For more information, visit <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions>

COLBINABBIN

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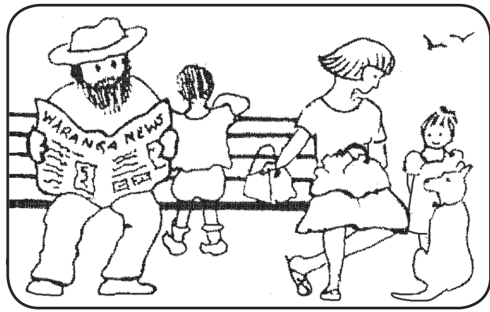
BREAD DELIVERY: Mon - Wed - Fri

FRUIT & VEG DELIVERY: Wed - Fri

MEAT DELIVERIES: Fri order by 3pm Thu



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



Around Rushworth

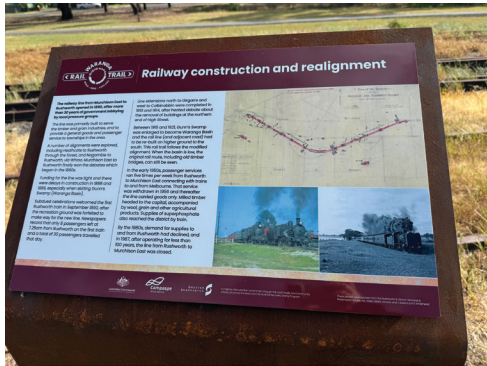
Valé Stewie

This week Rushworth was sad to farewell long-time Rushworth Band member and one of the town’s popular identities, Stewie Nurse. Stewie and the late ‘Duffy’ Collard, were well known as the trumpeters who contributed moving renditions of the Last Post at Anzac and Remembrance Day services over many years.

Our sympathy to Lyn and the family.

Railway memories

Residents with long memories will recall the times recorded on the new Rail Trail information board outlining the history of our local railway. Whether it’s memories of waiting on the station for the old ‘Tiger’ rail car coming up from Murch East, or even in the much later years when the grain loco rolled through weekly on the way to Colbo (perhaps even more exciting for the kids as the trips became less frequent), it was a sad day when the trains stopped for good.



Does anyone remember the Country Education Project’s Arts Train? In the late 1970s (perhaps) the train arrived at the Rushworth station and stayed about a week. Each carriage was set up for classes in a particular art or craft - the pottery carriage was even equipped with a wheel and kiln!

Movement at the station

There appears to be a lot of ‘coming and going’ around town at the moment. We hear on the grapevine that the service station is changing hands . . . and we hear that the Rushworth Hotel is on the verge of a rebirth. As with most grapevine news, we hear lots, but unfortunately we hear many versions that all appear to be different! When we have verified accounts to hand we’ll be sure to let you know.

Two more chainsaw qualified members

Two members of the Rushworth SES Unit, Mickey McPherson and Nebbie Popovic have recently completed a two day chainsaw course in Ashborne, Victoria.

Nebbie joined the SES after a tree came down on his house in Waranga Shores last year. The Rushworth unit attended and he was very impressed with the work that was done to remove the large branches and help with repairs on the night. He is now an enthusiastic member of the unit, driving up from Melbourne on Wednesday night for training and driving home again that night for work the next day.

Mickey is already a qualified Road Crash Rescue member and is eager to advance her skills. After completing the chainsaw course she is keen to nominate for other courses coming up.

(Right) Mickey and Nebbie are happy to be updating skills that are invaluable to SES work in the community.



Spooky Halloween fun

New group Regrow Rushworth is gearing up for a new style Halloween celebration on Friday on the town green in High St. Expect a night of ghostly fun with music, a spooky cave, lolly bags and prizes for best costume and best zombie dance. There will be a prize for Best Decorated Display - and the SES will be there with their famous sausage sizzle expertise!



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# Red Knights Christmas Toy Run coming in December

Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club will be holding their annual Toy Run on 6 December. All funds raised go to the Rochester Salvation Army.

The Run starts at the Port of Echuca with a breakfast at 8am and a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony to send the riders on their way to Tongala.

After Tongala the riders head to Kyabram and then to Rushworth for a barbeque lunch cooked by the Rushworth SES Unit members.

After a feed the bikers head to Colbinabbin, Elmore and finally arrive at Rochester. Rochester Hotel will have some great prizes to be won in their raffle.

Enquiries about the day to Colin, 0497 863 878.

# Free Community Christmas lunch

Rushworth's Red Knights are going to be especially busy in December, as they will also be offering a FREE Community Christmas lunch on 25 December from 11am to 3pm.

On offer will be a filling five-course meal and lots of convivial company!

The event is sponsored by the Rushworth Op Shop, Rushworth Foodbank and Community Bank Rushworth.

Bookings are invited - so think about

## Solutions from last edition

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# Rushworth Band Room offers space for community use

The Rushworth Band Room (formerly the Senior Citizens room), administered by the Rushworth Band, is back in operation after being refurbished by the Shire of Campaspe.

At present there are nine regular users of the facilities who pay a yearly subscription for the use of the room throughout the year. Some of the groups use it weekly and others on a monthly basis or just when the need arises.

The Rushworth Band has recently received a grant from the Community Bank Rushworth to purchase another refrigerator, adding further improvements to the facilities.

For those wishing to hire the rooms for a function or a meeting contact Helen Harcoan, 0409 561 478. Functions are \$80 plus \$40 bond and \$25 for meetings.

The band rehearses Monday nights at 7:30pm and would welcome new members.



The Rushworth Art Depot is one of the occupiers of the newly refurbished rooms.

coming along for Christmas lunch with friends - especially if you are planning Christmas alone!



## Helen Truran

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

Mental Health First Aid course for volunteers

It has been a very busy time for both the Foodbank and the Op Shop as the end of the year fastly approaches.

The Op Shop has been blessed by our wonderful community with some truly unique and wonderful donations that we have had the pleasure of putting out in our shop and shed.

The Op Shop has begun bringing Christmas to life in our shop. We have just about everything you need from wrapping paper, decorations, Christmas Stocking, clothing and some lovely gifts.

Specials that we have for the next two weeks in the shop are:

Children’s and adults book 3 for \$1.00.

DVD’s and CD’s 3 for \$2.00.

All flat and fitted sheets \$1.00 per piece.

We are also in need for more volunteers to help both in the Shop and green Shed. Even if it’s an hour at a time, we would be most grateful.

Behind the scenes volunteers from the the Foodbank and Op Shop have the opportunity to take part in a two day course for ‘Mental Health First Aider’.

We look forward to bringing you more about this in our next edition.

As Heather famously says, ‘Until next time may you have a full bellies and a happy smile’.

Sam



The Op Shop and Foodbank volunteers attending the Mental Health First Aid course



**Are you being served?**  
Talk to Hugh in his green shed,  
If you need a chair or bed.  
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Hugh will hold a watching brief.  
Hugh has help from Trev and Wendy.  
They can find you something trendy.  
Perhaps a door with solid hinges  
Or two bedside lamps with fringes.  
Then there’s Margaret and Claire.  
They’re the helpful Monday pair.  
They’ll find you a garlic grater  
Or a near-new coffee maker.  
Mavis is a pocket sprite.  
She’ll ensure the price is right  
On some cheerful coffee mugs  
Or a set of matching jugs.  
Then we know the famous Heather.  
She’s a Rushworth Living Treasure.  
She greets you with a cheerful smile  
That makes you want to stay a while.  
Wednesday there’s George and Anne.  
Do you need a frying pan?  
They’ll find one that will suffice  
At a quite amazing price.  
Then there’s Janis, Ester too.  
They’re the busy backroom crew  
Unpacking, sorting, pricing too  
There is such a lot to do.  
Overall is gracious Sam  
Keeping everything to plan.  
Do pop in and see them all.  
You’ll be glad you made the call.

Liz Buzza

**Opening times**

**Rushworth Food Bank:**  
Mon, Wed and Fri  
10am-12pm

**#9 Op-Shop:**  
Mon, Wed and Fri - 9am - 2pm  
Sat 9am to 12pm

**Little Green Shed:**  
Mon and Fri  
9.30am - 2pm  
Sat 9.30am to 12pm







# Colbo Tit Bits

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## Cornella Care - 40 years!

Here's a date some might want to circle in their diaries: Wednesday 26 November. It's the day set aside to celebrate forty years since the birth of Cornella Care. Past and present members and friends are invited to join the celebrations at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel at 12 noon. Just ring Julie at CCH to book in by Monday 24 November.

## Rain

Here's hoping that downpour we had last Sunday (22mm in our Colbo rain gauge) will help finish the crops nicely - the ones that haven't been mown for hay. Gardeners are, no doubt delighted that they can take a break from watering their precious plants

## Tennis tournament

A junior doubles tournament is being held at Rochester on Sunday 9 November. Round Robin: Div 1, 2 and 3. \$15 per player. No partner? No problem! Ph 0497 320 005 or rochesterlrc@gmail.com

## Fire danger period


The fire danger period has been declared for Campaspe Shire: Monday 3 November to 1 May 2026. See full list and maps at: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod)

## Silo art calendar

Colbo's silos are featured in this year's silo art calendar - we're on the month of September - \$25 available now in Colbo.

**LIBRARY**

Wed 5 Nov Pam Nihill  
Wed 12 Nov Pauline Wilson



**FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER**

Nov 2 Graeme Reid, Bill West  
Nov 9 Ramon Rathjen, Darryl Rathjen  
*If unable to attend for duty, call Chris or Leo.*

Siren, radio and test pager at 9am. Crew member should ensure the siren and radio tests are carried out. Vehicles should be checked for fuel and taken for a road test.

**Cemetery Trust**

**Mowing Roster** (lawn section only)  
October - Barrie Borger  
November - Robert Brown

**Colbo Diary**

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

**NOVEMBER**

Sun 16 Neil Young's 80th Birthday 3pm @ CCH  
Wed 26 Cornella Care's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

## Lots of joy in Joy's Colbinabbin garden



Some of the Colbo Coffee and Cakers took time off to browse through Joy and Bryan Ellis's garden - and what a sight it was! With the alstroemeria in glorious bloom surrounding the circular driveway and the garden beds chock full of various flowers and shrubs, it was a wonderful stroll taking it all in. (L-R) Marge West, Trish Pepperell, Joy Ellis, Maxine Ryan, Glen Avard, Claire and Leonie Lewington. (The group also visited Robyn and Shane Ryan's wedding-ready garden the week before - just beautiful)

## Look who dropped by at the local!

Colbinabbin community had a special visit from Peter Hudson AM. From the moment Peter arrived at Hawthorn Football Club in 1967, the goal kicking champion from New Norfolk Tasmania captured the attention of the football community; the number of goals he kicked is legendary.

Peter and his wife Steph visited Colbinabbin, enjoying wineries and the Colbinabbin Hotel. There they were pleased to do their own interpretation of "drip tray" from the Front Bar. They caught up with Ben McEvoy and met local football legend Toot Morgan.

For the first time in their lives Peter and Steph visited a real farm and had breakfast with Chris and Wendy Morgan,

Peter, on meeting local Hawthorn supporter Ian Gonsal, discovered that Ian had witnessed every goal he had ever kicked. Peter was delighted; never in his career had anyone ever told him that!

*(When I was a teenager - lots of years ago - I used to walk past the Immaculate Conception*



(L-R) Peter Hudson, Toot Morgan and Ben McEvoy enjoyed a beer at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel.

*church in Hawthorn on my way to college. It had an official church noticeboard out the front that read: What would you do if Jesus Christ came to Hawthorn?*

*Someone had added: Move Peter Hudson to centre-half-forward. GA)*





## Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

**Phone (03) 5856 1295**

Email:

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

Website:

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

Facebook:

**[Rushworth Community-House](https://www.facebook.com/Rushworth-Community-House)**

Office Hours:

**Mon, Tues Thurs : 9.00am to 3.00pm**

**Wed, Fri : 9.00am to 1.00pm**



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## Free Health Checks in Rushworth

La Trobe University is running free health checks in Rushworth again this year. As part of the *HealthyKy* initiative, students from the University will be offering free health screenings to support people in the lead-up to the silly season while gaining real-world experience in rural healthcare.

The students will be at Max's Maze (outside the Bakery) on Thursday, 27 November. Their "real-world" exposure aims to help them refine their skills while making a meaningful impact on the community.

In partnership with Kyabram Community Learning Centre and Kyabram District Health Service, this initiative tackles the challenge of preparing university students for rural healthcare, where hands-on experience and community connections are often limited.

## Bye-bye Windows 10

Rushworth Community House has bade farewell to Windows 10 with the removal from service of the last machine still using the venerable operating system.

Win10 was introduced to the House in 2016, a year after its initial worldwide release. It has undergone numerous updates, but has now run its course and is unable to meet the requirements imposed by artificial intelligence, system security and modern program execution and display speeds.

Windows 11 is now installed on all current computers in the House, and is regularly updated to ensure correct, secure operation.

## Volunteer drivers needed urgently

Rushworth Community Transport Service (RCTS) is a mission critical service that has been run by the Community House for more than a decade. The service primarily provides transport for people to medical and other appointments in regional towns and cities.

The service is currently seeking volunteer drivers who can use their own vehicles (with compensation) to transport people to and from medical appointments in Shepparton, Echuca, Kyabram and Bendigo.

Pickups are in Rushworth and surrounding towns, and drivers are especially needed for trips on Wednesdays through to Fridays.

Volunteer drivers who use their own vehicle are reimbursed at the Australian Taxation Office approved rate of 0.88c per kilometre. Thus, a return trip from Rushworth to Shepparton (approx. 100km) will be reimbursed at \$88.

All vehicles must be neat, clean, roadworthy, registered and comprehensively insured.

Due to access and mobility limitations, it is not possible to use low- or high-clearance vehicles for the service. Call Craig at the Community House for more eligibility details.

### A driver's observations

Harry Ashton (*pictured above with House Administrator Prue Keating*) was a volunteer driver for the Rushworth Community House for more than a decade.

Carer commitments at home recently saw him step down from his volunteer driving role, one that he always thoroughly enjoyed.

"You get more out of it than you give, you really do", Harry observed during an interview for the Community Transport Service in 2022.



**Harry Ashton with House Administrator Prue Keating.**

"Volunteering is one of the best things in the world because it makes you feel so good. It's not that you're something special - you're not, but people you help make you feel really good about yourself and what you're doing."

"The money you get for fuel, tyre wear and maintenance on the vehicle certainly helps, but its the enjoyment of spending time with people that I get to know and all those people who know me - I enjoy their company and in most cases we've become friends."

"Besides, a lot of them are on their own now and may be stuck in a house or out in the middle of nowhere. Social contact with the driver can really be important for them."

"You look after the people. That's what we're all here for."

To become a valued volunteer driver for the RCTS, contact Craig on 58561295. And if you don't have a car, don't worry. The service's Community Car may be used instead.

## November card making workshop

Lyn Rumble is one of Rushworth's preeminent artists, someone whose personal level of creativity seems almost boundless. Lyn is also a wonderful instructor and mentor whose students have reaped the benefits of her expertise for many years.

On Sunday 9 November, Lyn will be conducting a Card-making Workshop at the Community House. Starting at 10am, the class will run through till 3.30pm.

The workshop will be a great opportunity for people to learn how to make unique, beautiful cards to delight their family and friends at Christmas, on birthdays or other special occasions.

Each person attending the workshop will receive a comprehensive kit of materials to create cards on the day of the workshop. The kit will also include additional materials to help them make their own cards after the workshop.

The session will feature instruction on paper crafting, together with insights into the worlds of colour and adhesive wizardry.

If you would like to attend the workshop, please call the Community House no later than Monday, 3 November, to allow time for the



**One of Lyn's earliest card-making workshops in 2016. The 2025 event should be just as popular.**

assembly of individual material kits.

When booking, please select either a General Kit or a Christmas Kit as your preference.

The cost of the Card-making Workshop is just \$40 per person and includes all of the materials in your personal kit.



# Arts & Tourism

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## Australia Wide Nine presented at Kyabram Town Hall Gallery

Kyabram Town Hall Gallery is pleased to present Australia Wide Nine, a touring exhibition showcasing the textile artwork of Ozquilt Network members from across Australia and overseas.

The exhibition features 35 works, each 40x40cm, chosen by a panel made up of artists Bernardine Hine and Edwina Cherry and curator Jacquie Nichols Reeves.

The exhibition demonstrates the scope and variety of stitched and layered textiles. Materials used range from cotton and silk to paper and cardboard and even shoelaces! Techniques include: hand and machine stitching, digital printing, needle felting, gelatine printing, plant dyeing, collage and painting. The works address many different themes with diverse interpretations and styles.

Australia Wide Nine is an initiative of Ozquilt Network Inc. Their mission is to raise the status and profile of art quilters, art quilts and art quilt making in Australia.



Blue Devils by Linden Lancaster of Picola is striking, yet tough, a wonder of our local wildflower spring pageant. The ultramarine clusters of Blue Devil (*Eryngium ovinum*) may put you in mind of sea urchins or a mine-laden sea, commonly known as Blue Devils.

Still Searching by Zara Zannettino of Highbury, South Australia who says “I never tire of searching for sea urchin skeletons on the shoreline after storms. Once found, their delicate and intricate beauty is finally revealed from their former mysterious depths.

Botanical Symphony by Tania Tanti of Altona Meadows, Victoria Sunset by Jill Rumble of Erina, New South Wales says “On rare occasions we have brilliant colours in our sunsets to enjoy.”

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Henrietta Rose 2022 available online and being served at Colbinabbin Country Hotel.



## Cooks Corner

### Chocolate Pound Cake with duck eggs:

This is an American recipe, so I have used a conversion chart to get the weights calculated. The cake is made in a "Bundt" tin, a hole in the middle. A large springform would work too.

#### Instructions:

Pre heat oven to 160 C  
Thoroughly grease a Bundt tin and set aside.

#### Ingredients:

170 gms softened butter  
340 gms caster sugar  
3x Duck eggs (3xlarge hen eggs)  
140 gms self raising flour  
75 gms cocoa powder  
1 tsp cinnamon powder  
1/2 tsp baking powder

1 tsp coffee powder  
55 gms Greek yoghurt  
55 gms milk  
1 tsp vanilla extract

Combine and sift together all dry ingredients and set aside.

Mix together yoghurt, milk, vanilla and coffee powder and set aside.

Mix butter and sugar on medium until light and fluffy. Add duck eggs one at a time until combined into batter.

Alternate the flour and yoghurt mix into batter until fully combined.

Pour batter into Bundt tin, bake 55 minutes, or until skewer comes out clear.

*Bon Appetit  
Pauline*



Chocolate cake with duck eggs.

## Garden Hints & Tips

### Exciting times at Goulburn Valley Tree Group Native Nursery

We have started seeding and our tiny seeds are popping their heads up through the soil to greet our Spring weather and start a life as a tree, plant, grass or groundcover.

It still amazes me that something as tiny as a grain of sand can end up being a huge canopy of shade reaching for the sky and becoming home to birds, insects such as bees and lots of other wildlife.

Many of the varieties we have had will be the same as other years but there is always a few surprises along the way.

When our babies grow a little bigger this is when they are gently placed into tubes. This is a busy time for us and we welcome volunteers who would like to pop along and help us out with potting up or as we call it "pricking out". There are always interesting conversations and lots of laughter while we pot around the table then enjoy a friendly morning tea together. Our work is complete before midday as we leave with a great sense of achievement.

When our tubes are filled they are placed in a sheltered area and regularly watered.

When Autumn arrives our plants are then placed in the open to grow on and harden up so they are better able to cope with our extreme weather conditions.

Sales commence usually around Easter and this is when you have the best choice of varieties available.

Most of our seed is sourced locally so these plants should do well in our local environment. When they are placed in the open prior to sales time they toughen up and are much more adapted to the conditions they will be growing in.

We are very proud of what we achieve as we are all volunteers which means we are able to provide strong healthy and very affordable plants to you.

If you would like a 2026 plant list please



Paul Kerrins with a tray of sprouting seedlings.

provide us with your email address to: [goulburnvalleytreegroup@gmail.com](mailto:goulburnvalleytreegroup@gmail.com)

Or pop in and see us at 6 Kerferd Street Tatura.

We are open Tuesday mornings.

You are then welcome to place your order so you have the option of having the best choices and not miss out.

Not only are you making a difference by growing native species on your land; some of our species are rare varieties which ensures we keep the biodiversity that is being lost and this is another way where we can all make a difference.

*Goulburn Valley Tree Group  
Native Nursery Tatura*

### Handy Hints - from Lyn Rumble

*Hi there,  
Repurposing or Re-using everyday items - or quick and easy solutions to general household issues that maybe have not even occurred to you - this is what I like to do. Of course saving a bit of cash on the grocery bill always helps too!  
In this issue - there's a little bit of everything for everyone - hope it helps!*

- Saving your cooking oil after frying - by lining a sieve with a basket style coffee filter. This will remove food residue left over and any impurities, and then you can store for your next frying meal.
- Work clothes and children's buttons need sewing back on - try sewing them back on with a double thread in the needle - this will make it more secure and sturdy and less likely to break easily.
- Cut away the feet from clean old socks - can have several uses: On toddlers learning to crawl this will protect their knees and on adults, these 'tubes' make great ankle warmers if the socks are bulky. For your animals - great temporary bandages for injuries on paws to stop your pet licking their wounds.
- Losing your pierced earrings? - You can keep your stock of earrings together by threading them through a nice piece of thick ribbon in their pair sets and hanging the ribbon in your bedroom by your mirror.
- Storing bracelets and necklaces - a metal antique kitchen mug tree frame looks fantastic draped with your necklaces and bracelets, and keeps them all-together untangled. These look lovely also displayed on your dressing table. So keep a look out at your local Op Shop for some great display opportunities!



# Health and Wellbeing

## Reset your pantry, Reset your health

Australians are being urged to break free from the ultra-processed food cycle and reboot their pantries with fresh groceries and pantry items.

Box Divvy is a community-driven grocery co-op/collective in Australia, focused on connecting households with freshly harvested produce and pantry groceries from local farmers and ethical suppliers at prices averaging 30% cheaper than supermarkets.

It's structured via local "Hubs" — neighbours, community centres or garages where orders are packed and picked up. The idea is to reduce food waste, cut out some of the typical su-permarket overheads (storage, long supply chains, heavy packaging) and pass savings onto members.

The idea is to reset in spring and those changes can carry you right through summer.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, discretionary foods — those high in sugar, salt and saturated fats — now make up 38.6% of the total dietary energy available to Australians.

Research reported by the ABC highlights that shifts in the consumption of fruit means Australians are on track to eat less fruit and vegetables and more junk food by 2030, with significant health consequence. Fruit and veg are consistently cheaper and fresher when purchased in peak supply saving families money.

### Do a spring clean:

- Bin anything expired, donate unopened packets
- Stock a fresh foundation - fruit, veg, meat and dairy as the base for meals.
- Upgrade your staples - swap white rice/pasta for wholegrains; add beans, lentils and tinned tomatoes for flexibility.
- Snack smarter
- Cook once, eat twice - roast a tray of veggies or cook extra protein - tomorrow's lunch or dinner is sorted.



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## October is Breast Cancer Awareness month



Waranga Health staff place tributes in the garden. (Below) Glen and Ross.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a time to focus on the impact of breast cancer and raise awareness about the importance of prevention and routine screening for the early diagnosis of breast cancer, now the second most commonly diagnosed cancer globally.

Waranga Health staff and residents have paid tribute with heartfelt messages of support for those affected by breast cancer. Community members are also invited to take part and are welcome to write their own tribute and plant a pink lady silhouette in honour of someone special.

Simply speak with Waranga Health admin team at reception to get involved:  
 Waranga Campus Rushworth  
 Phone 58518000  
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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.*

## Birds!

Bird specialists are a bit of a rarity in the wildlife caring world. Many carers will look after common bird species such as magpies, parrots or tawny frogmouths and kookaburras or even specialise in a particular field of birds such as waterbirds or raptors but most carers are by definition, mammal carers. I get it.

Mammals, particularly our beautiful Australian marsupials are cute and cuddly. The point is, you can cuddle them. Small mammals thrive on being close to their human carers while they are developing.

Although I have been guilty of cuddling a scared duckling to ease its fears and some small chicks do like that comfort, in general, our wild birds are just not cuddly critters. Little naked chicks often appear ugly to people and don't conjure the same adoration as a fluffy mammal babe.

In my eyes, there is nothing more remarkable than a fresh hatched altricial chick, eyes bulbous and closed, usually naked or sporting sparse wispy down, sitting in the cleverly crafted nest one or both parents have put together for them. Apart from the warmth of parents sitting on the nest and diligent feeding regimes, they are so vulnerable. Exposed to so many more risks than being tucked away in Mum's pouch or hidden deep inside a burrow or den until more developed, baby birds do really have a challenge to survive right from the day their mother laid the egg they have hatched from.

Precocial chicks, (those that hatch a lot more developed than altricial chicks), emerge from the egg all fluffy with thick down. They are capable of walking, running and feeding within hours and are still extremely vulnerable until grown

and capable of flight.

In species such as our native ducks, if you hatch a day late, it is enough of a set back to find yourself in a hollow by yourself, your siblings and parents having already vacated, future instantly grim as an orphan with no parental protection and warmth.

Birds have always fascinated and filled me with awe. The ability to fly without any aid but your own wings has always been the epitome of freedom to me. Imagine how one must feel soaring high above your surroundings, the sky a part of your home. We can only get an inkling of this when we hang glide, sky dive or engage in other flying contraptions. Even in flight, we are not truly free as a bird is in their flight.

Another attraction for me about birds is their sheer diversity. Even mammal carers will agree with me that if you are capable of caring for the pouched young of an Eastern Grey Kangaroo joey, then you are capable of caring for a wallaby babe.

Different species of mammals certainly require different care regimes but when they are small, still in pouch, the regimes revolve around the correct milks, correct feeding times and developmental milestones such as gaining hair or fur, first time out of pouch and in the case of our wombats here in care at Bohollow, our first wombat walks.

Birds are so diverse and can be so extremely different in the care requirements for each different species. I tend to thrive on challenge and also detest monotony so I think birds are perfect for me.

Being a shelter which specialises in all bird species we need to have all the appropriate care requirements to cover a large diversity of species. Our freezers are full of fish for pelicans,

rats and mice for raptors and carnivores, our feed bins are full of multiple seed types, we keep various hand raising products for seed eaters to carnivores and everything in between, we always have live food such as crickets and meal worms at the ready, meat mixes for omnivores, nectar mixes for nectar feeders, the list goes on.

The pros of being a bird specialist....birds grow and develop fast. Lots of our small native insectivores and nectar feeders grow from hatching to flying in two weeks! They literally grow before your eyes. I love that day by day difference, you can actually see their feathers sprouting and growing before your eyes.

Birds reach independence quicker than mammals as a general rule, there are always some exceptions.

There are so many species of Australian native birds that you never get bored or stop learning.

Cons....baby birds require extremely intense feeding regimes. They have higher metabolisms than mammals and feed much more frequently, in the case of a tiny insectivore or nectar feeder, every fifteen to twenty minutes!

Diversity means more different types of food items and care regimes. Some of which are a lot more difficult to source than mammal products.

## Summary...

I love birds.

I always have been one to support the underdog.





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# ON THE BRINK

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna

## Do we care if mosquitoes become extinct?

Yes – we know - mosquitoes are part of the delicate balance of nature. Still, would the ecosystem really collapse if they disappeared? Do we care if mosquitoes become extinct?

Of course, in principle yes — biodiversity matters. Every species, no matter how irritating, plays a role in the grand web of life. But in practice, when we’re scratching away at bites on ankles and cursing through a cloud of citronella candle smoke, the moral compass gets a bit wobbly. In fact if we’re being honest, some of us would gladly fund the wholesale eradication of mosquitoes ourselves. Just imagine a world where summer evenings weren’t accompanied by slaps, welts, and frantic sprays of repellent!

It’s not just about the first world woes of disrupting the enjoyment of a gin and tonic on the verandah. A world without mosquitoes has a lot of appeal on a number of more serious fronts. From a human health perspective, the extinction of mosquitoes, specifically the species that transmit disease, would be overwhelmingly positive. Mosquitoes are the deadliest animal on Earth, spreading life-threatening illnesses such as malaria, dengue fever, Zika virus and yellow fever. The eradication of malaria-carrying mosquitoes alone could save hundreds of thousands of lives each year. A world without mosquitoes would also mean the money and effort spent on fighting such disease outbreaks (and on developing repellents and sprays) could be put to much better use in the global health system.

However, while the benefits to human health are clear, it seems the ecological impact of a total mosquito extinction is more uncertain and could carry significant risks, depending on which of the 3,500



species disappeared. **Some ecological risks of mosquito extinction:**

- **Disruption of food webs:** Mosquito larvae are a food source for fish, amphibians, and other aquatic insects, while adults feed birds, bats, dragonflies, and spiders. In the Arctic tundra, for example, massive swarms of mosquitoes are a major food source for migratory birds. Their disappearance could cause a steep drop in bird populations. While some predators would likely adapt, specialized feeders might struggle.
- **Uncertain ripple effects:** Many ecosystems have evolved with mosquitoes over millions of years. A sudden loss of biomass could have unpredictable, cascading effects throughout the food chain. As some scientists warn, “You cannot un-genocide a species once you find you are wrong”.
- **Pollination loss:** Adult mosquitoes, especially males, feed on nectar and act as pollinators for many plants. While other insects would fill most of this niche, a few specialized plants, such as certain orchids, rely on mosquitoes for pollination and could be driven to extinction.
- **A “worse” replacement:** Some ecologists suggest that another, possibly more harmful, insect could fill the empty ecological niche left by mosquitoes. This replacement could be an even more efficient disease vector or pest.
- **Ecosystem protection:** Some researchers have suggested mosquitoes have served a valuable role in keeping humans away from sensitive tropical ecosystems, thereby protecting biodiversity!

### The case for targeted eradication

A complete, worldwide mosquito extinction is unlikely to happen, but a more balanced approach could be a targeted eradication of the species that pose a threat to human health, such as those carrying malaria. Or, even better, could we keep just the nice mosquitoes — the ones that pollinate flowers — and retire the bloodsuckers?

# Birds of a Feather

## Welcome Swallow

Is the Welcome Swallow always welcome?



The name was coined by early sailors who recognized that the return of this swallow was a sign of the start of spring. This must have been in Tasmania or colder parts of Australia as in our district the swallows can usually be seen all year round and only in colder districts do they go north for the winter.

Welcome Swallows can be found in most parts of Australia which are close to water as they need mud to build their nests. It’s their nest building which sometimes makes them less welcome! Swallows like to build their nests in full shade and so use caves, mines and cliffs but they have found that the walls underneath verandahs work just as well or are even better. In Rushworth a pair can often be seen on power lines or flying under a verandah to a nest. I have seen one pair feeding young in High Street at this time – early October.

The swallows build their nest out of mud and straw and line it with feathers and other soft material with both male and female working together. The female lays about four eggs and is the sole incubator. When the eggs hatch both parents feed the young which will fledge after only three weeks. It is when the young are being fed that swallows are less welcome because of their whitewashing of the area below their nest.

Swallows feed on insects and spend a lot of time and energy catching them while flying, often flying in circles or figure eights. With all that flying they can get dry and need to drink often which they can do by swooping over water and picking up some water without landing – often getting aquatic insects as well.

Male and female swallows look alike although the female is a little smaller. They have rusty orange feathers on the forehead and under the chin. When seen close up you can appreciate their shiny blue black back. They can be identified in flight by their long forked tail with steamers - a swallow tail - and so they should not be so easily confused with their close relatives, the martins, who have a square tail and a white or off-white rump whereas the Welcome Swallow has a dark rump.

As spring warms up and flying insects start to annoy us we should welcome the activities of these flying helpers.

*The Rushy Birder*

# TACKLING WASTE FOR A GREENER PLANET

- Reducing waste is vital to protect our planet
- Recycling, reusing materials, cutting single-use plastics lowers pollution and conserves resources
- Composting organic waste enriches soil and reduces landfill impact.
- Every conscious choice—using less, choosing sustainable products, and managing waste responsibly—helps build a cleaner, healthier Earth for all



# Fifty years ago in our district....

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



## Lively football discussion continued in October 1975

The well-attended Annual General Meeting of Rushworth Football Club at the former fire station (next to the Presbyterian church) came to a unanimous decision, rare in most footy clubs. Unless the Heathcote District League confirmed eight clubs for season 1976, the Tigers would seek to join another league.

Re-elected as President for 1976, Don Perry had Ray Cheatley and Doug Poulson as vice-presidents, Matt Kennedy as secretary-treasurer. Speakers for a move to another league included Rob Betson, Maurice Clarke, Les Hoyling and John Bianco. Don and Eddie Gleeson were appointed club delegates to take this bad news to the league.

The following edition of the Chronicle issued a correction. The decision had not been unanimous after all. Failing to vote one way or the other were Alf Raglus, Chief Perry and Eddie Gleeson, and Ray Cheatley was apparently out of the room when the vote was taken.

## Shire of Waranga

Shire Engineer Max Richards told Council that the new drainage system fitted in Stanhope at a cost of \$130,000 had coped well with recent rainfall, as had the newly-created stormwater storage dam. A pump had been installed near the Midland Highway corner with the Rushworth Road.

Enlargement of a drain outside Hawkings' Self Service Grocery store in Rushworth (*now the bakery*) had also proved useful, tested severely by recent downpours.

## Schools

The High School held a big fete, despite heavy rain on the Friday afternoon. The frog race was won by Johnathon Branson, racing a frog trained by Biddy Pearce. The Iron-Man eating contest was awarded to Ian Sheers. Other prizes went to Roy Barrett, proud winner of a jar of lollies. Robert Kaldor-Bull (a doll), Wendy Stokes (baking scones), Kerrie Brown (biscuits), Jenny Burrows (sponge), Mrs Nancy Wilson (pendant), and Wendy Jones (a sheep!)

A darts competition was won by David Francis, the hookey by Wesley Draper, mini-golf by David Wood, and a navigational mystery tour was won by Ron Hawking, who died in May this year.

## Community

Stanhope Lions Club's Bob Gregory, Bruce Spiby and Bernie Dreher led club members in creating a massive bonfire at the recreation reserve, in recognition of Guy Fawkes Night (though few may have known that Guy Fawkes was a terrorist who prepared

a plot to blow up the British parliament in 1605).

Rushworth Lions, headed by President Geoff Durston, took on a project taking schoolchildren to a special clinic in Shepparton, to be assessed for a condition known as Lazy Eye. Lions also travelled to Shepparton to donate at the Red Cross blood bank.

Postmaster Bruce Carrotte got busy with a spade outside the Post Office, bringing an end to the career of a 5-foot brown snake resting in the gutter. The Chronicle had a photo of Post Office employee John Raglus holding the dead reptile by the tail.

Rushworth and Colbinabbin Senior Citizens Club members were preparing to welcome Mr Peter Ross-Edwards, Member for Shepparton, coming to town to open the new clubrooms; the finalisation of a three-year project initiated by the Apex Club. Mentioned was a donation to the club from the High School - an old piano.

## People

Leslie Phillip Francis, known to all as Joe, died in late October. His wife was Gladys and they had seven children, including today's local residents Les Jnr. and David Francis.

Pat Lorenz of Girgarre advertised his photographic services, offering to take family photos in people's homes. Wedding photo service was also available, phone Girgarre 133.

## Tennis

Serving it up in B-grade tennis were Gerard McArdle, Chris Geisler, Geoff Burge and Rob Raglus, joined by Doreen Wall, Margaret Jones, Pauline Wooton and Margaret Hoelter.

Junior tennis teams of six continued to have four girls and only two boys, one of the girls competing against a boy in opposing teams.

## Bowls

Non-residents were active in Rushworth bowls pennant teams. The B2 team was Ron Risstrom, Laurie Tuohey, Jim Service, Ken McIntyre, Jim Hamilton, John "Tacky" Borger, Sam Jessup, Charlie Jackson, Ian Anderson, Jim Phelan, Ern Faravoni and Jack Laurie. Three of the first five pennant matches were all abandoned due to heavy rain.

Associate bowlers had a pennant round washed out on a Tuesday. On a dry Tuesday, Rushworth associates were beaten 84 - 54 by Kyabram, despite the efforts of Adele Home, Lottie Kennedy, Jean Jessup, Florence Perry, Mary Furphy, Jean Laurie, Audrey Clarke, Val McArdle, Dot Aitken, Anne Pearce, Kath Heath and Mary Beck, the sole surviving member of that team.

Murchison Gold bowls pennant team had

players Vic Hammond, Ern Hammond and Jim Hammond. Green team only had Bill Hammond.

## Football

The Heathcote Football League held its Annual General Meeting at the Brolga reception centre at Lake Eppalock, surprising Tom Morgan (Colbinabbin) and Eddie Gleeson (Rushworth) with Life Memberships, for various contributions to the operation of the league over long periods of time. In attendance were delegates from the Tooborac club which had not fielded a team in 1975. Was the club about to be re-activated for 1976? The story has scarcely started as yet.

## Rushworth Auto Club

The Auto Club was struggling. Office-bearers and Chronicle editor Peter Davidson (a motoring man) all pointed out that club events benefitted local cafes, hotels, service stations and caravan parks, bringing visitors to the town. The club wanted more active involvement from local people. Peter wrote that if the club folded "it would be just another nail in Rushworth's coffin". (Cheap shot. Rushworth wasn't even dead!)

## Waranga Boat Club

A regatta involving 120 yachts on the Basin must have been quite a sight, but of course not all yachts were in action at once. The Victorian State Championships for the Fireball class was a feature event. With the Basin full of water, club races were held for boats in each particular class. Colin Walker of Stanhope had more success in the Mosquito class, with his cleverly-named yacht Repellem.

Races were held most Sundays when yachtsmen came from Kyabram, Shepparton, Echuca, Tongala, Wyuna and further afield.

## Rushing to Whroo,

1853 to 1880



\$25

Alan McLean

0412 143 660

Books available:

Waranga News office and General Store Rushworth





## Telegraph poles

One of the early products coming out of the Rushworth forest was telegraph poles. Electric telegraph was introduced into the new colony of Victoria in 1854. For the first time, it was possible to send a message almost instantaneously rather than wait for what was then a relatively unreliable postal service. At the time, the telegraph was a startling innovation, probably about the equivalent to the introduction of email in recent decades.

The Rushworth Post Office was established in September 1857. At the same time telegraph lines were set up from Melbourne to Bendigo, but Rushworth did not get the telegraph until December 1874. By then, telegraph lines were being established all over Victoria. The branch line to Rushworth came off the main northeast line at Mangalore, reaching the town five years before it got to Shepparton.

Poles were required to carry the telegraph lines. With the later advent of the telephone (first introduced in Rushworth with nine subscribers in 1908) and electricity (to Rushworth in 1914), there was an ongoing market for poles.

## Tenders

Because the telegraph and telephone poles were all required by government departments, tenders were called for by government department such as the State Forests Department, the Victorian Railways and the Postmaster General's Department (PMG) in the Victorian and Commonwealth government gazettes. This also applied to power poles when the State Electricity Commission was set up by a 1918 act of parliament. The specifications were usually made available at places like the Rushworth railway station, so local contractors had a chance to submit tenders.

For instance, the McDonald Bros of Rushworth successfully tendered for several contracts with the PMG in 1911, for nearly 1250 telegraph poles.<sup>1</sup> The poles, which in these contracts ranged between 25 and 40 feet long (7.6 – 12.2 metres), had to meet rigid specifications. There were two categories – “stout” and “ordinary”. The timber was to be red ironbark, white ironbark or grey box. All up, the contracts yielded over 1800 pounds (about \$120,000 in 2024 \$A) for the contractors.

The poles mostly ended up in northern and north-central Victoria, although one contract of 290 poles went to the Warrnambool district of south-western Victoria.<sup>1</sup> Earlier, it had been stated that “the poles used in electric lighting in Bendigo came from the Heathcote and Rushworth reserves...as well as 997 telegraph

poles.”<sup>2</sup> Poles for the first electric lighting in Kyabram also came from the Rushworth forest.<sup>3</sup>

## Number of poles

The poles that were sourced by the contractors had to be long and straight, so they had to go through the forest and be very selective about which trees were taken.

How many poles came out of the forest? The evidence is sketchy, apart from the period from 1917-42. During that period, the forest officers in Rushworth maintained records of forest output which are held in the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV). In that 25-year period, about 38,000 poles were sourced from the forest.<sup>4</sup>

Prior to 1917, there were occasional mentions of the output, including a statement at a 1910 forest inquiry which claimed that 5000 poles had been despatched from Rushworth in one year.<sup>5</sup> The output for the 1953 year was 9000 poles.<sup>6</sup>

## Transport

Timber jinkers were used to bring the poles out of the forest. These were long-framed trailers, which could accommodate the poles up to more than twelve metres, set on wheels. They were originally drawn by a team of horses, and later by traction engines and then trucks. Some of the early jinkers had wooden wheels, such as the one that can be seen on display near the wharf in Echuca.

## PMG pole depot

In later years, the PMG had a depot off the Rushworth-Whroo Road for poles that had been sourced out of the forest. This was known locally as the creosote works. A product called creosote was derived from the tar from various raw materials such as wood, coal or charcoal and used as a preservative for the poles. The creosote helped increase the longevity of the poles by being an active ingredient in the control of pests such as termites and fungus.

There is a downside to the use of creosote in pole preservation. It has been classified as a Category B carcinogen in Europe and moves are afoot to further control its use. As a result, many European countries have already banned the use of creosote<sup>7</sup>. If you have access to old poles and are thinking of using them as firewood, it is probably best to have a rethink, particularly if the creosote used is coal-tar based.

**References:** 1. *Government Gazettes* 1911; 2. *Bendigo Independent* 21/1/1904; 3. *Kyabram Free Press* 7/7/1912; 4. PROV, *State Forests Output Books* (Rushworth 1916-29 and 1929-42); 5. *Bendigo Advertiser* 29/9/1910; 6. *Kyabram Free Press* 17/6/1954; 7. polesaver.com/blog

## A Name from the Past Thomas and Jean Brown of Wanalta

Thomas and Jean Brown established a farm known as “Bushy Park” at Wanalta a little before 1878, and descendants are still active in the wider district today.

A relatively short tribute was paid to Thomas in the Waranga Chronicle of 28 September, 1878.

“It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Mr Thomas Brown, farmer, of Wanalta.

The deceased was an old resident of the Kyneton district, and for many years a member of the Newham Shire Council.

Although he only lately came amongst us, he had, since his arrival, been foremost in assisting in every undertaking that was for the advancement of the portion of the district in which he resided, and his loss will be much felt.

He died at his residence on Tuesday, the 17th inst, [of this month, September] from congestion of the lungs.

The deceased was interred in the Rushworth Cemetery on Thursday last, and the large number of persons, from all quarters, that followed his remains to their last resting place, showed the respect in which he had been held.”

Wife Jean outlived Thomas by 22 years, her death noted by the Rushworth Chronicle of 27 December, 1900, with a family notice and a shorter report.

“BROWN. — On the 22nd December, at the residence of her youngest daughter (Mrs Weppner, Bridgewater), Jean, wife of the late Thomas Brown, of “Bushy Park,” Wanalta. Aged 72 years. A colonist of 47 years. Fell asleep in Jesus.

Mrs Brown, a very old resident of Wanalta, died at Serpentine, at the residence of one of her daughters, on Saturday last.

The remains were brought to Rushworth and interred in the family grave on Monday, the following being a very large one.

The deceased lady was of a most amiable disposition, and made friends of all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance.”

Being a “colonist of 47 years” indicates that Janet was born outside Australia. She must have arrived here when she was 25.

Weppner, Brown and Hoelter are just some of the names connected through Thomas and Janet Brown.

*Alan McLean*



*Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our*  
**Year 12 Farewell Assembly at P-12**

Last week we said ‘farewell’ to our Year 12 students, as they now prepare for their exams and life beyond school. It was an emotionally charged assembly with some laughter and some tears. A big thank you to those family and friends who came along to support the near graduates.



2025 year 12 students ready for life beyond school.



**Thank you Rushworth IGA Supermarket**

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of our local IGA Supermarket, who visited last week to donate \$535 for our Food ROCKS program, along with a donation of some herbs and spices that Sarah can put to good use in the Food ROCKS kitchen. Thank you, Josh and Kyle for their support of the College.



**Junior Park Rangers program at Kyabram**

We have been very fortunate to take part in the Junior Park Rangers program this year at the Kyabram Fauna Park. A group of students from Years 5-8 spend their Monday afternoons taking part in a range of activities at the zoo.

Visiting with the Meerkats would be a favourite, but also undertaking the tasks required of them has been fun too. The program will come to an end on the 17 November with a celebration day.

Thanks must go to the Campaspe Cohuna LLEN and Kyabram Fauna Park for such a good opportunity. Thanks also to the Rushworth Community House for the use of the community transport to get there each week.



Kaelee, Godfree, Antavia, Sophia, Jack listening for their instructions on what to do next.



Godfree is busy watering new plants.



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

# P12 College Junior Summer Sports Carnival

A warm and sunny morning on Wednesday 15 October saw three sports teams head over to Shepparton to compete in the GMDSSV Junior Summer Sports carnival.

Our Year 7 and 8 students fielded a girls tennis team, a boys cricket team and a mixed group of clay target shooters. All students competed well and represented the College proudly, with lots of sportsmanship and teamwork on show.

Our cricket team had a quick first game, which they won comfortably thanks to a good all-round team effort and some wonderful captaincy shown by Heath. Unfortunately, the second game was a loss, but demonstrated some great bowling and was highlighted by an outfield catch by Xander.

The third game was a win against Numurkah, which thankfully finished

before a pitch invader slowly slithered from one end of the oval to the other. The finals saw the boys playing off for third place, unfortunately finishing early due to the bus arriving.... but let's say it was a win.

All round, the boys showed great sportsmanship and made sure everyone was included and were on their best behaviour to represent the school with pride. Our tennis players competed exceptionally well, coming away with some fantastic wins in their sets and playing hard all day. Well-done girls!

And finally, our clay target shooters competed exceptionally well with Dusty Roberts coming second overall in his competition.

Amanda Kelly,  
Sports Coordinator



Dusty put in a good performance on the day.



Students get some great mentoring from the Sporting Shooters Association at these events.



Students enjoyed getting a taste of the Clay Target shooting.

## Students taste success at Regional Athletics

We are so proud of Tamikah Clark and Stella Balmer who both represented the College proudly at the Hume Region athletics on Thursday 9 October in Albury.

Tamikah qualified for the 18-20 year old 200m and 400m events, coming in second in both.

Stella qualified for the 12-13 year old 100m and 400 metre events, coming fifth and fourth respectively.

Congratulations to both girls on your amazing efforts!



Congratulations to Stella Balmer on her performance at the Regional athletics.



Tamikah Clark performed well in her events.



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

# Busy start to new term at St Mary’s

## Grade One phonics success

It is with great pride that we share the outstanding progress of our Grade One students. Recently, all students participated in the Victorian Government recommended Year 1 Phonics Screening Check\*, which provides valuable insight into each child’s reading development and understanding of phonics.

We are delighted to announce that every Grade One student achieved results classified as “Fluent Decoding Readers.” This means that our students are confidently recognising sounds, blending them together, and applying phonetic rules to decode both familiar and unfamiliar words, essential foundations for strong reading and writing development.

Congratulations to our Grade One learners! Your hard work, persistence, and love of learning are truly shining through.

*\* The Phonics Screening Check is designed to help teachers identify students who may need more help in learning to read.*

## Grades 3/4 create Australian landscapes

During art we have been focusing on some of the elements of art such as colour, line, texture and shape. The grade 3/4 class have done an excellent job at creating semi abstract art pieces inspired by artists Moira Hazel and Grotti Lotti. Each student selected an Australian landscape to create their art piece.

*by Bianca Brook,  
Classroom teacher*



Uluru by Brylee.



Snowy Mountains by Conor.



Murray River by Isaac.

# Grandparents and special friends day



The highlight of the week was the wonderful Grandparents Day and liturgy. It was such a pleasure to have so many familier and new faces at our school for afternoon tea. The activity and liturgy were led by the F/1/2’s.  
“A very special afternoon. Beautiful afternoon tea prepared by the 5/6 children, an interactive special time in the classroom followed by a prayerful liturgy. Thank you to all who helped make this such a special occasion for us... Grandparents.”



**Basketball court makeover**  
This week our basketball court has been buzzing with excitement. We have had the court resurfaced and it looks brilliant. Students helped with the colour choices and design which makes this refreshed space extra special.



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

# Success all around at Stanhope Primary School

Contributed by Micah Rosenberg

Students have had a productive and engaging week in their classroom!

In Literacy, Grade 3-6 students have been inspired by the mentor text *Hey, Little Ant*. They’ve used the story as a springboard for persuasive, informative, explanatory, and narrative writing — all centred around the theme of the ant. In Maths, students explored tangram puzzles and spatial reasoning before moving into grid references, coordinates, and the Cartesian plane (including all four quadrants).

In Grade P-2 class Literacy lessons, students have been focusing on writing recounts and responding to narrative photo prompts. Grade 2s have been exploring how to write simple paragraphs, while all students have been working hard on improving their letter formation and transferring these skills into their written work. In Maths, students have been investigating data by asking each other questions and graphing the results. They have also begun revisiting 2D shapes and exploring their features.

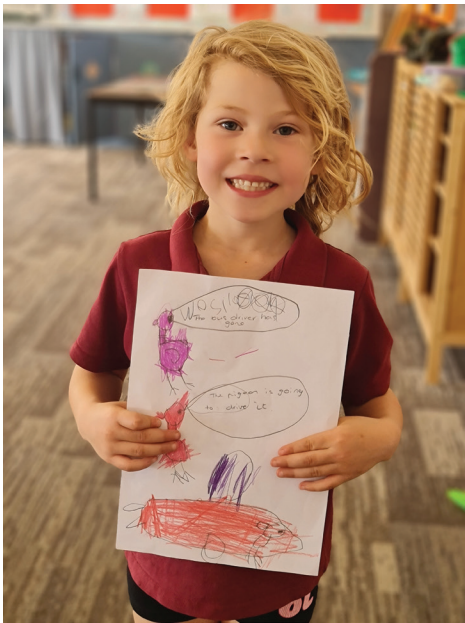
Across the school, ‘Inquiry’ this week has taken on a creative twist! Students have been participating in a special art project led by Mrs Foley, combining imagination, design, and hands-on creativity.



Grade Prep-2 students won first prize at the Kyabram Show for their beautifully decorated umbrella.



Cass and Cooper explore the strategies of chess.  
(Right) Leon works on his tangram puzzle for Maths.



Jemma-Grace and Willow are proud of their stories and artwork.



## Stanhope Community Market

2 NOV

8am till 1pm  
BBQ  
Music

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

Birdwood Ave  
Stanhope  
1st Sunday of each month

ALL WELCOME

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

### Education empowers change

- start small,
- dream big,
- stay curious always.



# Archbishop Shane Mackinlay ordained in Brisbane



**Archbishop Shane Mackinlay was installed as the eighth Bishop and seventh Archbishop of Brisbane at St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane, on Thursday 11 September 2025.**

In his homily that day he said, 'While I come from somewhere else, I don't come as an outsider . . . Whenever we gather as Christians, we gather as part of the one Church of Jesus Christ, as parts of His body into which each of us has been baptised and to which we have together been entrusted with His Mission'.

## From Sandhurst . . .

In his Farewell Mass homily in September, Bishop Shane reflected on his ministry in Sandhurst, expressing his gratitude for the people and communities who had shared a diversity of experiences with him. With a familiar touch of humour, he remarked that just as he had learnt to navigate Sandhurst

Diocese without a GPS, he was ironically called to Brisbane!

He said, 'As we look back in thanksgiving today and acknowledge the sadness of this time of farewell, I invite you to join me in looking forward with hope and confidence in the God who continues to call us along his paths and to shape us as his people.'

**CATCH THE FLAME**  
*A podcast for the young people of Sandhurst*  
'Catch The Flame' is hosted by Fr Junray Rayna, Claire Spinelli and Jessan Tano.  
Tune in on Spotify or Apple Podcast.

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.



**Very Rev Dr Brian Boyle (Administrator of the Bendigo Cathedral Cluster of Parishes) was elected Administrator of the Diocese until the ninth Bishop of Sandhurst is appointed.**

## Diocesan formation

**More than 120 Catholics gathered at Notre Dame College, Shepparton, from across Sandhurst Diocese and were asked why are community and belonging important in the mission of the Church today and what can a parish do to grow the sense of belonging among its parishioners.**

Keynote presenter, Dr Paul Sharkey, asked those present to think of 'What can we do to pass down faith from one generation to the next?', and 'Can we learn new ways to welcome people?'

Participants shared their experiences from their own parishes of building the Kingdom of God here and now by creating communities where people can belong and believe.

## District Church Times and Contacts

### Anglican

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

### Shine Church, Stanhope

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

### Catholic

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

### Presbyterian

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

### Generations Church, Tatura

5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

### Salvation Army: 5852 3875

### Uniting Church

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

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

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

You are welcome to join us in person or from your lounge room via Zoom.  
The link for the Zoom service can be found on our website [warangaunitingchurches.net.au](http://warangaunitingchurches.net.au) or can be emailed to you each week.

## AN EVENING PRAYER FOR CHILDREN



Thank you, God  
for rain that nourishes our earth  
and provides food for us to eat.  
AMEN

## CLIVE COVENTRY FUNERALS

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# living the GOOD LIFE

## When we're sure we're right

It's been one of those weeks when the headlines make you shake your head and mutter, "What on earth are they thinking?"

Our Prime Minister finally had his long-awaited meeting with President Trump. There was some delicate diplomacy, a handshake over rare earth minerals, and if we're honest, a quiet sigh of relief that things didn't go off the rails. And yet, even in the glow of international statesmanship, there's always some awkward moment to remind us how fragile political egos can be.

Meanwhile in Rome, King Charles and Pope Francis prayed together at the Vatican; something that hasn't happened since Henry VIII broke England away from Rome. It was a truly historic step toward reconciliation, a healing of centuries-old wounds. But again, someone else's scandal stole the spotlight, because our world has a talent for distraction.

Closer to home, Barnaby Joyce has decided not to re-contest his seat. Ange Postecoglou was sacked after just thirty-nine days at Nottingham Forest: proof that in professional football you're only ever as good as your last match. And in Japan, Sanae Takaichi has become the nation's first female Prime Minister, a hopeful development in a country where ancient systems are slow to change.

All week, the wind howled across our paddocks, tossing dust and leaves. Rain was forecast, but the clouds mostly made promises they didn't keep, until Sunday morning.

Halfway through our church service, the sound of rain on the roof brought forth a spontaneous "Hallelujah!" from one corner of the congregation. By afternoon, I tipped out 30ml from the rain gauge. Not drought-breaking, but deeply welcome. Now we wait to see whether the rain came in time to fill the heads of wheat.

As I listened to the rain, and the little cheer that accompanied it, I was struck again by how often we live between hope and frustration, longing for what is needed, but having no control over when or how it will come. That emotional space is where much of our social life happens too.

Every community, every family, every workplace, every church has its points of tension. And when we feel threatened or powerless, one instinct rises above all others: the need to be right.



## They . . .

They are the problem.

They have caused the trouble.

They need to change.

There is never a shortage of "they."

In today's world it has become easier than ever to surround ourselves with people who reassure us that the problem lies out there somewhere: in someone else's foolishness, short-sightedness, or stubborn refusal to agree with us.

We live in what's often called an 'echo chamber'. We hear our own opinions returned to us, louder and more certain than we personally expressed them, through curated News feeds, social media bubbles, Talk Shows that cater to "our side", and friendship groups who think alike.

## We . . .

The longer we listen, the more we become convinced that:

We are the reasonable ones.

We are the clear thinkers.

We are on the right track.

Certainty becomes comfort.

Disagreement becomes threat.

Slowly, almost invisibly, we begin believing the most seductive lie of all:

"The problem is them."

This isn't a new scenario. Jesus once told a story about two men praying. One was a respected religious leader, who thanked God that he wasn't like other people, especially not like the tax collector behind him.

The tax collector, meanwhile, could barely lift his head. He beat his breast and whispered the same prayer many of us have prayed in our darkest moments: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

And Jesus says the second man, the one who knew he needed mercy, was the one whose prayer God heard.

Jesus doesn't condemn goodness.

He challenges the kind of goodness that thinks it doesn't need help.

It is possible to be morally correct, spiritually active, socially responsible, and yet still miss the experience of grace, because grace comes only to the open hand, not the clenched fist.

I suspect that if Jesus told the story of the two men praying today, the Pharisee might not be standing in a temple. He might be on a Panel Show or speaking into a Podcast microphone. He might say, "I'm just telling it like it is." He might be confident that he's the voice of sanity, while shaking his head at the foolishness of others.

We all know someone like that.

Some of us are someone like that.

The world will not be healed by winners and losers in a war of opinions. It will be healed by humility, by people willing to say, "I may not have this all right." and, "Forgive me where I've been part of the problem."

## Humility is not humiliation

It is a clearing of the soil so hope can take root.

Which brings us back to the rain.

We did nothing to earn Sunday's showers.

We couldn't demand them, or determine their timing.

We just waited, sometimes anxiously, sometimes impatiently, and received.

Grace is like rain.

It arrives, not when we deserve it, but when we finally stop pretending we don't need it. Maybe the healing of our communities and our country won't begin when 'they' change, but when we do.

When we break out of the 'echo chamber'.

When we speak less and listen more.

When we let mercy soften our certainty.

When we remember that every person we disagree with is loved by God.

Rain refreshes the earth.

Grace refreshes the soul.

And we need both.

Here's hoping for more of each in the days ahead.

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

*Brian Spencer, Minister  
Waranga Uniting Churches*

## Heard any Good News lately?

*Keep your church in the News  
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## VALLEY FUNERALS

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Elva Moody is our Rushworth Representative

Phone: 0428 859 593

119 Albion Street, Kyabram 3620

Phone: 5852 1061 Mobile: 0409 935 375



# Deaths near Rushworth, 1853-1861

Part one of a two-part series by Alan McLean

The original bush graveyard at Rushworth now has an information board listing people probably buried there. Probably is the correct term, as no records for this site have ever been found, and may never have been kept.

After July 1853, the district was invaded by enthusiastic gold-seekers, some of whom died locally. One of the earliest known deaths was that of Charles Whitefoord Smith, on 30 September, 1853. The Argus newspaper reported him as the “son of the former commandant of Flinders Island”, possibly father, son or both leaving the island in the rush to search for gold.

Ann Munroe, the daughter of a Sydney policeman, died at Rushworth on 14 January 1854, according to a Sydney newspaper.

Hannah Alcock, born at Beechworth, died in 1854 at the nearby Waranga goldfield, aged two months, daughter of William Alcock and Catherine McNamara.

Elizabeth Andrew, died 3 November 1854 at Rushworth, daughter of James and Susannah (nee Larbey) Andrew, though not recorded in Victoria’s Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

No evidence has been found of local deaths in the years 1855 and 1856, which seems strange. There were no doctors reported locally, so injury and illness would have been constant threats, with fatal consequences never far away.

Samuel Baldwin died at Rushworth in October 1857 after a fight, following which a man named Symonds was acquitted of manslaughter after a short trial in Melbourne, reported in that city’s newspapers.

Benjamin Jenkins, born in Sussex in the U.K., died after a fall of earth in a mine at Diamond Gully, Rushworth, on 13 July, 1858.

James Morgan, born at Rushworth, died aged one day, in 1858, son of James and Catherine (nee Devlin or Delvin) Morgan.

Catherine Simpson died in October, 1858, shortly after giving birth to a boy named William, who died aged between two and three months.



Alan McLean with Chris Borger and Nick Buzza at the unveiling of the cemetery information board.

Ah Yea died at Waranga in 1858, of heart disease according to one source, a mine cave-in by another.

A document in the Public Records Office of Victoria lists a Matthias Manuel dying at Rushworth in 1858, but with no other details.

Catherine Thompson died “on 28th October 1859, at Rushworth, of diphtheria, the beloved daughter of Henry and Catherine Thompson, aged two years and eight months”, a direct quote from The Age of 4 November, 1859.

A hand-written entry from 1859 in a family bible passed through successive generations shows that Catherine was born and buried at Rushworth. Henry and Catherine moved to Fontainbleu, near Whroo, then had twins Edward and a second Catherine, in March 1866. Catherine lived just eight days, and Edward died three days later, buried together on the family property at Fontainbleu. Three

tragic losses for the family.

James Martin Madden, born at Liverpool, England, died of a fractured skull at age 22, certified at a Rushworth inquest held 16 December, 1859.

A Mrs Miller, possibly Susan Miller (nee Black), died at Shellback Gully, Rushworth, aged 32. Her death was followed by an inquest at Waranga in 1859, deciding the cause as heart disease, in such a young woman.

James Miller died at Rushworth on 4 April 1860, his occupation given as storekeeper, according to The Argus newspaper. Any relationship to the Mrs Miller above is not known.

Eliza Whitnell (nee Sykes) died 14 June, 1860, aged 30, in childbirth or shortly thereafter. Eliza had twins Henry and Annie (or Fannie) Whitnell who both died on 7 November, 1860, aged just short of five months.

Edward Laurence was also born at Liverpool. A miner, he died at Rushworth 25 August, 1860, aged 30, of pulmonary apoplexy, which is severe bleeding in the lungs.

*To be continued next edition.*



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# Goldfields and guided tours: Bob’s recollections

By Lana Epshteyn  
World Heritage Engagement  
Officer,  
City of Ballarat

Recently, members of the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage team had the pleasure of sitting down with Bob Holschier at the Wallenjoe Hotel in Stanhope. Fiona, the owner of the pub graciously allowed us to film on-site, creating a warm and welcoming environment for our conversation, complemented by a delightful lunch.

Bob began by sharing a bit about his background, including where he grew up and what drew him to the Stanhope area. His deep connection to the region is evident, as he reflected on his time and the experiences that shaped his passion for local history and tour guiding.

When asked about his interest in the gold history of the area, particularly Rushworth and Whroo, Bob expressed a fascination with the stories and heritage that define these locations. His enthusiasm for uncovering the past has played a significant role in his work in the tourism industry.

Bob’s journey into tourism began in 1987 with the establishment of “Guided Tours of Victoria.” He shared the motivation behind this venture, highlighting the challenges he faced in the early years,



Lana Epshteyn, World Heritage Engagement Officer, City of Ballarat with Bob Holschier.  
(Photo by Ilana Ros.)

including building a clientele and navigating the evolving tourism landscape.

As a founding member of the Victorian Tourism Operators Association in 1990, Bob helped influence the tourism industry in Victoria. He discussed how this role and tour guiding provided him with valuable insights and networking opportunities, leading to collaborative efforts that benefitted local operators.

Bob also described the creation of the “Discover Victoria” website in 1995, which

played a pivotal role in promoting tourism in the region. The website opened new avenues for outreach and marketing, helping to attract visitors to Victoria’s unique offerings.

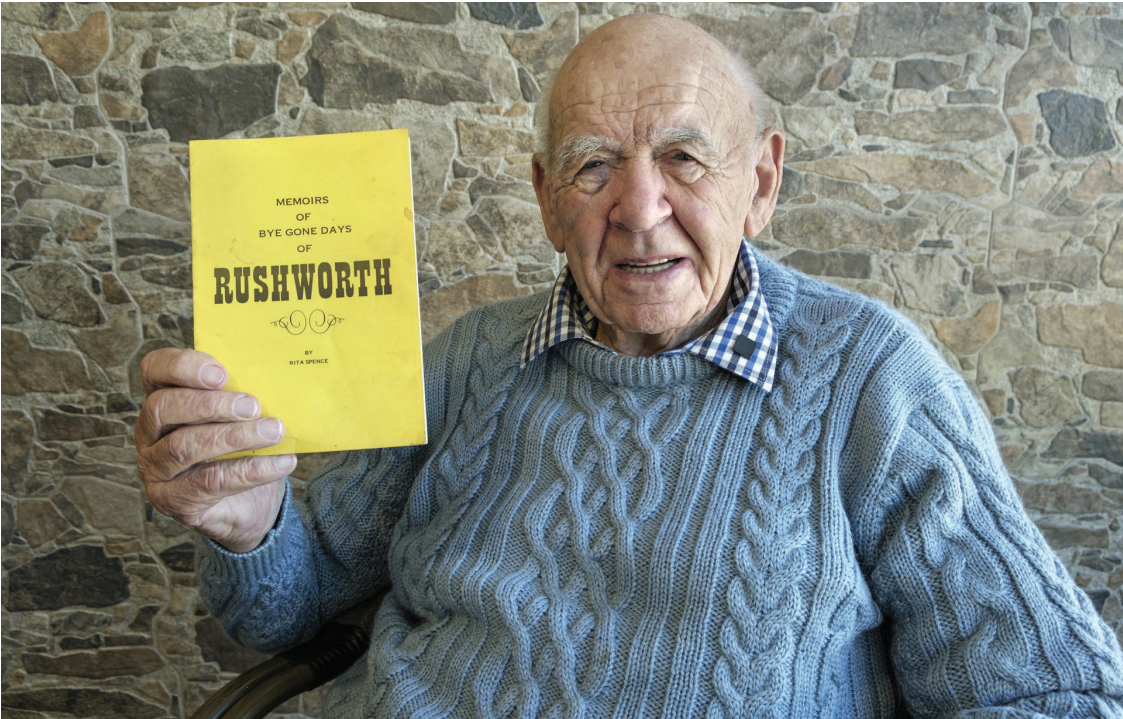
During his tenure as President of the Goulburn Regional Tourism Association, Bob implemented several initiatives that significantly enhanced the region’s tourism appeal. His focus on using local guides and collaboration with local businesses helped foster a thriving tourism environment.

Reflecting on his career, Bob noted a lot of changes in the tourism industry from the time he started to retirement in 2003. He observed shifts in consumer preferences and advancements in technology that transformed how tourism operators engage with visitors.

Looking ahead, Bob sees numerous opportunities for the region’s tourism industry, particularly with the potential for a Victorian Goldfields World Heritage listing. He believes such recognition could elevate the area’s profile, help people stay in the area, attracting more visitors and encouraging sustainable tourism and economic growth.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Astrid O’Farrell , Economic Development Manager, Campaspe Shire Council for the introduction and Fiona of the Wallenjoe Hotel for her generosity and hospitality, making this interview not only possible but truly enjoyable.

To find more information about the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage bid visit <https://goldfieldsworldheritage.com.au/>







# Your Council News

**f** @CampaspeShireCouncil  
**@** #campaspehire  
P: 1300 666 535 | 03 5481 2200  
E: [shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au)  
[www.campaspe.vic.gov.au](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au)

## Project update

Works are under way at the Victoria Park boat ramp area and include replacement of the remaining timber retaining walls, removal of the rock armour and replacement with additional retaining walls, and landscaping. The worksite will be fenced however all amenities will still be accessible with no impact to the use of the boat ramp or car park.



### Coming Up

**Council meeting** | 6pm Tuesday, 18 November 2025 | Echuca Civic Centre  
Meetings can be streamed live: [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming)

### Immunisation sessions

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

**Thursday, 6 November**

- 9-10.30am | Echuca Library
- 11:30am-12 noon | Rochester Service Centre

**Wednesday, 19 November**

- 9-10:30am | Kyabram Senior Citizens' Centre

**Thursday, 20 November**

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

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

### Careers

**#campaspecareers**

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

- Library Shelving Assistant (closes 30 October)
- Trainee IT Support Officer (closes 2 November)
- Senior Infrastructure Engineer (closes 2 November)
- Environment Coordinator (closes 5 November)
- Early Childhood Educator Room Leader (closes 9 November)

### Now Open

For open projects and applications, visit: [campaspe.vic.gov.au/nowopen](http://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. Nominations are open for Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Community Group of the Year. Visit the Now Open page for details on the nomination process. Nominations close Sunday, 2 November.

**Street Tree Applications**

Council is finalising orders for next year's Street Tree Planting program. Trees are scheduled to be planted between May and August 2026 in streets, parks and gardens across the shire. To obtain a street tree, lodge an online request or contact our Customer Service team for help. Applications close 31 October.

**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 is made from green waste that is shredded onsite. For a limited time, Council is offering discounted delivery of mulch loads of seven cubic metres (7m3) and over. To seek a

quote for discounted delivery, visit the Now Open section on our website.

**Free Glow Up Disco tickets**

The 2025 Youth Glow Up Disco is a drug-free, alcohol-free, vape-free and smoke-free event for ages 12-17 years, supervised by youth workers to ensure a safe environment. It's on Friday, 14 November, from 6.30-9.30pm at Fuzion Café, 258 Pakenham Street, Echuca. No pass-outs will be allowed. To book tickets, head to [www.trybooking.com/DFWKB](http://www.trybooking.com/DFWKB)

**SPARK your creativity**

SPARK arts and cultural grants applications are now open. Individual artists, creatives, cultural practitioners, arts groups or community organisations can apply for this funding opportunity, which offers grants of between \$5000 and \$10,000 to support creative projects, practice and new ideas. Applications close 7 November at 5pm.

**Free green waste disposal**

Campaspe Shire Council is urging residents to clean up garden waste around their properties ahead of the fire danger season, and is offering free green waste disposal until close of business on Sunday, 2 November at any of the following Resource Recovery Centres:

- Colbinabbin
- Echuca

- Gunbower
- Mt Scobie (Kyabram)
- Lockington
- Rochester
- Rushworth

Residents can drop off up to three cubic metres of non-contaminated garden waste free of charge.

**Visitor Servicing Strategy**

Council is seeking community input on the Campaspe Region Visitor Servicing Strategy 2030. This is a new, forward-looking plan to enhance how we welcome and support visitors across the region. Submissions close Wednesday, 12 November.

**Echuca East levee design**

Council is inviting residents and stakeholders to review and provide feedback on the final draft functional design for the levee to protect Echuca East from future flooding. This final draft incorporates revisions following earlier community consultation. Feedback can be submitted online, via email, by post, or in person at Echuca Service Centre. Submissions close Monday, 17 November.

**Community grants**

Round 4 of the Community Events and Tourism, Equipment, and Inclusive Community grants will open on November 1 and close on November 22.

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

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



**Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns**

# Annual service at The Ossario in Murchison

by Kay Ball,  
Murchison & District  
Historical Society

A unique feature of Murchison is the Italian Ossario, located to the rear of the town Cemetery in Willoughby Street. It is one of three foreign war grave cemeteries in Australia – the others being Tatura (German) and Cowra (Japanese). A memorial service is held at the Ossario annually.

The Italian word ‘ossario’ (old bones) is a place of final rest for human remains that have initially been buried elsewhere. The building has an attractive Mediterranean appearance and is built of Castlemaine stone and roofed with Roman tiles. An altar of white Italian marble with a wooden cross suspended above it and an ornate copper lamp hanging from the ceiling are located in the sanctuary. Memorials are located on either side of the forecourt. The Ossario has been listed on the Victorian Heritage Register since 2020.

This unique building is the last resting place of 130 Italian POWs and internees who died while in detention camps in this country during World War II. Their names are recorded on bronze plaques in the sanctuary. Listed are 36 civilian internees, 73 privates, 2 sergeants, 1 sergeant-major, 3 corporals, 3 lieutenants, 2 majors, 3 corporal majors, 2 captains, 3 marshals and 2 seamen. One of the internees is a woman, and there is also an eight-day-old baby boy.

Some of the Italians in the Ossario died from wounds, some from natural causes and suicides, but most from drowning. One was killed in a road accident near Nagambie and one being transferred from South Australia to Murchison jumped under the train at Seymour and Carmelo Caraccioli was murdered by a compatriot.

After Italian migration to Australia commenced in the post-war years, the Murchison Cemetery began to be a place of pilgrimage as it was where a number of Italians from nearby detention camps were buried. Mass was celebrated annually,

out in the open, before a temporary altar draped with the flags of Australia and Italy. Then the idea of an Ossario evolved.

Mr Luigi Gigliotti of Kyabram proposed that the bodies of all Italian Prisoners of War and Internees, who died during their incarceration in Australia during the War, should be brought to the one burial place and set about raising the needed funds. Murchison was the site chosen for the Ossario and bodies were exhumed from Kerang, Murchison, Tatura and Sale in Victoria; Albury, Bathurst, Bourke, Hay and Mudgee in New South Wales and from Bridgetown, Corrigan, Harvey, Karakatta, Katanning, Kondinin, Narembeen, Narrogin, Northam, Three Springs and Wyalkatchem in Western Australia. Costing £25,000 the Ossario building was completed and dedicated in 1961.

This year the annual service will be held on 9 November, the official procession commencing at 11.30am. All are welcome to this moving event and it is wise to bring a chair and arrive about 11am.

Murchison Historical Society will have a table at the cemetery gate with bunches of flowers available from Avonlea Flowers, and information about the Ossario. Due to the diligent work by researcher Joanne Tapiolas, the details of each of the Italians who are resting in the Ossario can be obtained from the Society.





# Readers' Corner

- interesting things to know  
and do!

## BOOK IT IN

## The Covenant of Water

**by Abraham Verghese**

This impressive book is not to be approached lightly - definitely not an ‘aeroplane’ read – but well worth the challenge. *The Covenant of Water* is an expansive (700-plus pages!), deeply moving novel that spans nearly eight decades, set in the lush landscape of Kerala in India. The story traces three generations of a family bound by a mysterious “condition” — members who, for reasons unknown, drown despite being surrounded by water all their lives. Verghese weaves this central enigma into an exploration of love, loss, faith, and the unbreakable ties of family.

Abraham Verghese is not a prolific writer. He had earlier written a couple of memoirs, but didn't publish his first novel *Cutting for Stone* (another favourite) until 2009. *The Covenant of Water* was his next, but not published until 2023. (Possibly not surprising considering the length of the journey – both in years and pages.)

Central to the whole story is Big Ammachi, who marries at the tender age of twelve and grows into the moral and emotional anchor of the novel. Through her eyes and those of her descendants, we witness the transformation of India—from colonial rule to independence—and the evolving roles of medicine, tradition, and community. The author is himself a physician and infuses the narrative with medical insight, turning illness and healing into metaphors for human resilience and connection.

The prose is rich and lyrical, filled with evocative descriptions of Kerala's backwaters and vivid portrayals of rural life. While the novel's length and seemingly unrelated sub-plots at times can be a little overwhelming, the reader's patience is rewarded when it all eventually converges, revealing the intricate "covenant" that binds generations.

Themes of water—its power to give and take life—flow through the narrative, symbolizing both destiny and renewal. The characters' faith, both in God and in one another, becomes a quiet act of defiance against tragedy.

Ultimately, *The Covenant of Water* is not just a family saga but a thought-provoking reflection on what it means to endure. Verghese delivers with compassion and insight a novel that is as immersive, challenging but also as renewing as its central element - water.

## KIDS' QUIZ

1. What is the largest ocean on Earth?
2. Mount Everest is part of which mountain range?
3. Which country has the shape of a boot?
4. What is the longest river in the world?
5. In which continent would you find the Sahara Desert?
6. Which U.S. state is known as "The Sunshine State"?
7. What is the coldest place on Earth?
8. What are the two main languages spoken in Canada?

## Last edition's Kids Quiz answers

1. Circumference 2. True. 3. A googol. 4. 63. 5. False (2 sides are equal).  
6. 143. 7. True. 8. 2.

## 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*

Each of the nine  
3 x 3 boxes

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

### ACROSS

1. From Beirut
5. Deck over water
7. Lacking sensation
8. Untrained dabblers
9. Actor, ... De Niro
12. Stranded on sand
15. Floor show
19. Whinnies
21. Emerged from depths
22. Pagan statue
23. Electoral list
24. Range of colours

## DOWN

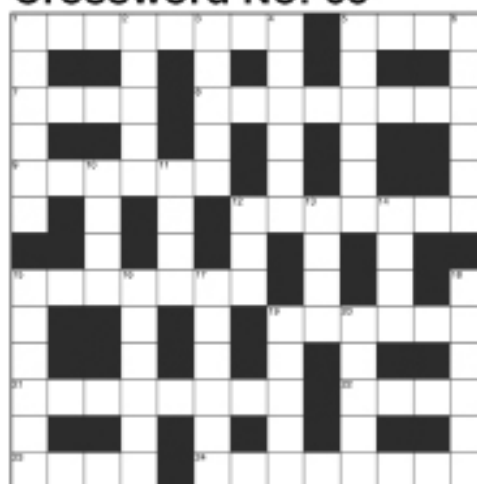
1. Cruise ships
2. Saunter
3. Bring into force
4. Go by (of time)
5. Fitting punishment, ... justice
6. Corroded
10. Betray secret
11. Lion's call
12. However
13. Dull throb
14. Put up (painting)
15. Movie classifier
16. Wily
17. Enforces (payment)
18. Political refuge
19. Poke
20. Ignoramus

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

**Crossword No: 63**



# T is for tiger

**Tt** is for Tiger



Fortunately, the only place we can see tigers in Australia is at a zoo. Many years ago, a travelling circus got permission to 'rest and repair' at the Colbinabbin football ground for a couple of weels and I tell you what: it was quite spooky at night to hear the roar of the big cats right here in Colbo!

**T** is also for **t**eapot, **t**rain,  
**t**eacher, **t**urtle, **t**ree, **t**offee

and tomatoes. Want to make a tasty tomato snack? Tomato Bruschetta. Dice a ripe tomato into small pieces, put it in a bowl with chopped up fresh basil, toss it with a good splash of virgin olive oil, salt and pepper and let stand for 5-10 minutes for the flavours to mix through. Put spoonfuls on slices of toasted French stick and . . . yum . . . you'll be everybody's

T is for...



tomato

favourite  
 person! To  
 make it even  
 tastier, rub  
 the toast with  
 a garlic clove.  
 You'll be King  
 of the taste  
 treats.

**Tt** is for...



Tractor



DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

NOVEMBER

Sun 2	Stanhope Community Market from 8am
Mon 3	Rushworth Cricket Calcutta 6.30pm Rushworth Reserve clubrooms
Sat 15	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
Sat 15	Showdown at the Soundshell - Gargarro Botanic Gardens
Sat 29	Rushworth Christmas Art & Craft market - Shire Hall, 8.30am-1pm

DECEMBER

Sun 7	Stanhope Community Market from 8am
Sat 20	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
Thu 25	Community Christmas Lunch - 11am -3pm 5 course Lunch free entry for all - By Red Knights Aus 14 Book at:

Meetings & Activities - around the district

- Alcoholics Anonymous(AA) meetings, Thursdays 7pm from 6 Nov, Old Seniors Citz,
- 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 Historical Society - meet 1st Wednesday bi monthly (even months)
- Rushworth Band practice: 7.30pm every Monday night
- Rushworth Market: 3rd Saturday of month - 8.30am to 1pm
- Rushworth ART Depot (RAD) - every Market day - Sat 10am -1pm
- Rushworth Museum: every Saturday 10am-12 noon, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11am - 1pm
- Rushworth & District Community Bank Board: meets 1st Tuesday monthly, at 6pm
- Rushworth Events Inc: meets bi-monthly, fourth Tuesday at 7pm at Community space
- Rushworth Community Walking Group: Thur 8 - 9am meet at front of Waranga Health
- Rushworth: Chris's exercises at Rushworth Community House Mondays 1 - 2pm
- Rushworth Garden Lovers Club meet 3rd Thursday Month 1.30pm at old Senior Citizen's building
- Stanhope Walking Group: Tuesdays at 9.30am at McEwen Place
- Stanhope Community Garden: Wednesdays 8.30am to 9.30am
- Stanhope Mens Shed: Mon - Wed - Fri 9am - 12 noon
- Stanhope: Chris's exercises at Seniors: Mondays 10.45am
- Stanhope Community Market 1st Sunday of month from 8am

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

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

LOCAL SERVICE  
PHONE NUMBERS

**POLICE or FIRE.....Emergency.....000**  
Non-emergency 13 1444  
**AMBULANCE.....Emergency.....000**  
Non-emergency...13 3009  
SES: (storm & flood)..... 13 2500  
**DOCTORS:**  
Murchison Medical Centre.....5826 2575  
Rushworth Medical Centre..... 5856 1329  
Stanhope Telecare Medical Centre  
4800 5291  
Waranga Medical Centre..... 5851 8400  
**HEALTH:**  
Stanhope Health.....5857 0451  
Waranga Health .....5851 8000  
Nurse on call..... 1300 606 024  
**HELP:**  
Lifeline.....13 1114  
Kids Helpline.....1800 551 800  
**POLICE:**  
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CFA 20-24 Murchison Rd, Rushworth  
Community House 67 High St, Rushworth  
Recreation reserve 2 Coyle St, Rushworth

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**Display Ads: Friday, 7 November**  
**Classified: Monday, 10 November**  
wnews@iinet.net.au

CNAV

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

MEMBER 2025

LINA

Local & Independent News Association

A Voluntary Community Newspaper

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# WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

## DEATH

**Henry Stewart ‘Stewie’ Nurse**  
**08/05/1938 – 19/10/2025**  
Passed away peacefully at Goulburn Valley Health Shepparton after a short illness.  
Loved son of Henry (Harry) Nurse and Myra Nurse (nee Stewart) (both Dec.)  
Cherished and loved husband of Lyn of 63 years.  
Adored father of Sherry, Darren, father-in-law of Kerri-Anne and grandpa of Teagan and Tyson.  
*Interred at Rushworth Lawn Cemetery.*

**NURSE, Henry Stewart**  
**8/5/38 - 19/10/25**  
Love you Dad  
A smile for all a heart of gold.  
One of the best this world could hold.  
Never selfish, always kind.  
A beautiful memory left behind.  
Sherry

**NURSE, Henry Stewart**  
**8/5/38 - 19/10/25**  
‘He asked so little, but gave so very much!’  
Rest in Peace Dad/Stewie.  
Love always, Darren and Kez  
  
‘You have more odds of winning the lotto than you do of getting the privilege of having a grandfather like our grandpa.’  
Rest peacefully, Grandpa. Your love and wisdom will stay with us.  
Teagan and Tyson

## BEREAVEMENT THANKS

**NURSE, Henry Stewart**  
Lyn and family would like to thank everyone for their concern and support during the last month.  
We appreciate the flowers, cards, phone calls and visits from so many caring people.

## Advertising Rates

**Classifieds: \$2.75 per line (Minimum \$11)**

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**Colour Ads: \$6.00 per column centimetre**

**The deadline for display advertising copy is the Friday before publication. The deadline for classified line ads is the Monday before publication.**

*Early booking of colour ads is strongly advised as space is limited.*

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## FOR SALE

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Rushworth RSL  
Sub-Branch General  
Meeting**  
The next Meeting of the RSL is to be held on  
**Friday 31st October 2025  
commencing at 10am**  
at the “Cottage” 1 Murchison Road.  
All members are requested to attend as this is the only meeting prior to Remembrance Day.  
Apologies to Secretary on either:  
0408 664 607 (Mobile).

**Colbinabbin Football  
Netball Club  
AGM**  
**Friday 7 November at 6pm  
at the Colbinabbin Bowls Pavilion.**  
Everyone is welcome to attend and if you are interested in joining our committee please contact one of our members or email [colbofnc@gmail.com](mailto:colbofnc@gmail.com)

**Rushworth Kindergarten  
& Childcare Inc.**  
**ABN 13 231 252 680**  
**Annual General Meeting  
7.00 pm**  
**Thursday 6 November 2025**  
Meeting will be held at  
Rushworth Community House  
67 High St, Rushworth  
All positions are open and nominations are now being accepted  
Families and other members of the local community are cordially invited.

**Friends of the Hostel  
(Waranga Health)  
Annual General Meeting  
17 November  
at 1.30 pm**  
in the Hospital Multi-Purpose Room  
New-comers to join the committee supporting the hostel will be very welcome.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**TEMPORARY ROAD  
CLOSURE**  
**TREWIN ROAD,  
BURRAMBOOT.**  
  
Trewin Road will be closed to traffic between Branson Rd and Heathcote - Rochester Rd for repair works from 17 November until mid-December.  
  
Road users are to follow detours and signage in place, with access maintained for local residents. We apologise for any inconvenience during these works.  
  
If you have any concerns regarding the works or would like any further details, please contact 0419 881 487.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING  
Murchison Retirement  
Village Inc  
“Wybalena”**  
**ABN 29 140 412 893**  
**25-27 Impey Street,  
Murchison, 3610.**  
**Correspondence to:  
PO Box 29, Murchison, 3610**  
**Email:  
[wyalena25@gmail.com](mailto:wyalena25@gmail.com)**

The Annual General Meeting of Members of Murchison Retirement Village will be held on Wednesday 26 November, 2025 at 5.30pm in the Community Room at the Retirement Village.  
AGENDA:  
1. To confirm the minutes of the AGM held on 24 October 2024.  
2. President’s Report  
3. Treasurer’s Report  
4. Election of Committee of Management  
5. Appointment of Auditor  
6. Any other business which has been received in writing at least 5 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.  
Nominations for the Committee of Management must be in writing and received by the Secretary at least three days prior to the AGM. (Nomination forms available from the Secretary.)  
**Margaret McMaster**  
Hon. Secretary  
0417 262 213

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# Sports Report

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## Rushworth Speedway a hive on first meeting

On the first meeting of the season, Saturday 18 October, there were a couple of roll-overs. The nasty one caused a delay to racing while the driver was airlifted out of the grounds. SES and CFA were in attendance. The supporters and club members wish the driver all the best for a speedy recovery.

### From the track

Rushworth Speedway roared back to life on 18 October as drivers and fans packed into the track for the first meeting of the season! The pits were buzzing with excitement as cars hit the clay and returning drivers picked up right where they left off.

The night delivered everything fans love about speedway — tight racing, big battles, and plenty of thrills across all divisions. From the juniors showing great promise early to the seniors putting on a spectacular display of skill and speed; the action was non-stop.

As always the GV classes put on a great show as well as some exciting close racing.

Amcas put on a great show as always and ensured the crowd got their moneys worth. GP Midgets held their Championship round and they did not disappoint with their fast paced racing and close finishing.

Compact Speedcars held some speedy paced racing and even though there was an unfortunate accident the night finished on a positive.

JSPA juniors put on a great show too. Well done to McKenzie Dixon who rolled her car but is doing ok. You're a tough cookie.

Track conditions held up beautifully. It providing a fast and racy surface which made for some classic Rushworth entertainment. The crowd was treated to door-to-door racing and some heart-stopping finishes as drivers fought hard for those early-season bragging rights.

A huge thanks goes out to all the volunteers, officials, and supporters who make these nights possible — your efforts and dedication keep the sport alive.

## 2025-26 SEASON

OCT  
18

AMCAS  
COMPACT SPEEDCARS  
GP MIDGETS  
GV MODS  
GV PRODS  
GV LADIES  
VSC STANDARD JUNIORS

NOV  
8

SPORT SEDANS  
FEATURE \$2500  
1200 JUNIORS  
VSC UNLIMITEDS  
GV MODS  
GV PRODS  
GV LADIES  
VSC STANDARD JUNIORS

DEC  
6

SDAV HOTRODS LEGENDS  
CUP & THUNDERDOWN  
UNDER SERIES  
V8 DIRT MODS  
GV MODS  
GV PRODS  
GV LADIES  
VSC STANDARD JUNIORS

FEB  
21

SDAV HOTRODS SERIES  
RND  
GOSA COLIN YOUNG  
MEMORIAL RND 1  
GV MODS  
GV PRODS  
GV LADIES

MAR  
14

GV MODS FEATURE  
COMPACT SPEEDCARS  
VSC UNLIMITED SERIES  
RND  
GV PRODS  
GV LADIES  
VSC STANDARD JUNIORS

GET THE  
RUSHWORTH  
9 MILE ROAD

## Do you know this Rushworth cricketer?

The Rushworth Cricket Club updated and reproduced some of their old photos in their clubroom some time ago. The club made sure the originals found their way back to their rightful owners.

One still remains, does anyone know any family members of the late Geoff White, Country Week Representative KDCA and century maker at the club, 1961-62, that would like his photo? If anyone would like the original photo please contact Vicki at Waranga News if you have any information to enable the photo to go back to a relative, please let us know.



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# Rushworth U13s cricketers enjoy new season

## U13s

**Round 1 - Wed 15 Oct**  
Under 13's had their first game of the season on Wednesday 15 October against Stanhope.

Stanhope batted and scored 2/125 for their 20 overs. Rushworth managed 2/75 from 20.

**Best bowlers:** Archie Chillingsworth 2/9 from his 2 overs and Liam Jarrett 1/13 from his 2 overs.

**Best batsmen:** Thomas Ogden (20) and Liam Jarrett (14).

**Man of the match:** Liam Jarrett (photo)

**Round 2 - Wed 22 Oct**  
Under 13's game at Ironbark Stadium against the Moama CC was postponed due to the weather conditions.

**Liam Jarrett won Man of the match winning a packet of Skittles!**



## B Grade Rushworth cricketers at their top

### B Grade

#### Round 1 - Sat 18 October

Rushworth is tied on points with Moama after their game against Colbinabbin. Rushworth welcomed Josh Maudsley to the club. Josh and Thomas Ogden played their first game in B Grade. After losing the toss Rushworth were sent in to bowl.

**Scores:** Rushworth (3/82) had a 7 wicket win defeating Colbinabbin (81).

**Best bowlers:** Heath Ogden with 5/20 from his 8 overs, Ahmad Karamat and Shannon Jarrett both took 2 wickets each.

**Best batsmen:** Michael Enrico not out on 35 and Daniel Newton not out on 33.

#### Round 2 - Sat 25 October

B Grade hosted BLU at Ironbark Stadium. This was a close game which came down to the last ball.

Rushworth lost the toss and were asked to bat first.

**Scores:** Rushworth scored 8/207 off 40 overs where BLU were 9/208 after 40 overs.

**Best batsmen:** Tommy Stevens 72 (no), Mick Enrico 36, Declan Baldwin 24 and Jake Perry 21.

**Best bowlers:** Shannon Jarrett took 6 wickets for 32 runs from 8 overs, one wicket each went to Ahmad Karamat, Heath Ogden, and Tommy Stevens.

### D Grade

#### Round 1 - Sat 25 Oct

Rushworth was hosted by Girgarre Cricket Club at Girgarre Recreational Reserve Oval No 2. After a lot of phone calls, Rushworth was able to rustle up nine players for the game. Their ages ranged from 10 to 67 years. A few of the volunteers hadn't played the game in a while and a couple of the Under 13's boys stood up for the challenge.

**Score:** Girgarre won the toss choosing to bat. They scored 7/196 (cc) while the Rushy gallant players managed to make 8/36.

**Best bowlers:** Newcomer to the game and club, Shannon Scorse took 3/28 from his 6 overs, Thomas Ogden (U13 player) took 2/28

from 6 overs and Tim Northausen took 1/49 from 8 overs. NB - Declan Hawking starting his senior career and bowled well without being rewarded with a wicket as did Josh Hawking (another U13 player).

**Best batsman:** Brendan Hawking with 15.



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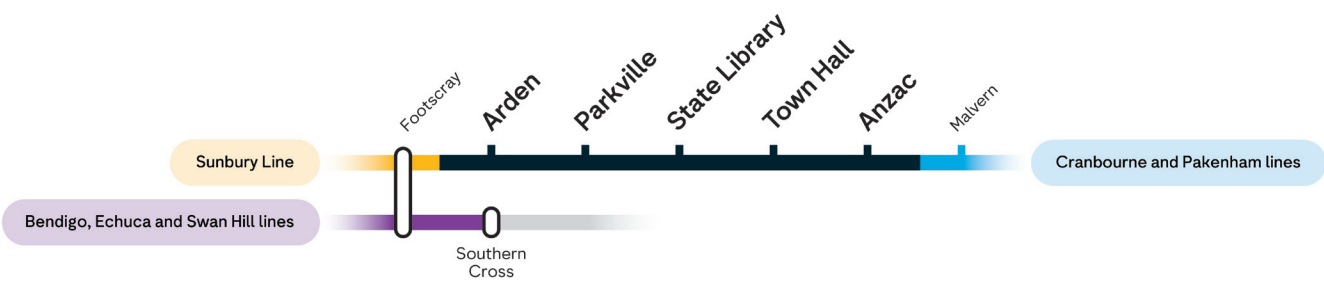
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