

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 27 November 2025

Changes ahead at Rushworth Kinder

Rushworth Kindergarten and Childcare is set for a new management era, following approval at a special general meeting to come under the wing of the Goulburn Region Preschool Association (GRPSA).

The change is scheduled to take effect on December 27, bringing GRPSA's total managed services to twenty across Moira, Strathbogie, Greater Shepparton and Campaspe local government areas.

President of Rushworth Kindergarten and Childcare Tracey Rogers said "Following strong community support for the proposal put forward at our Special General Meeting, the committee agreed to transition from the Committee of Management Model to an Early Years Management model."

"This will help streamline operations, improve governance and compliance, and align the service with sector best practices in early childhood education. The timing works well with the Best Start, Best Life reform and introduction of Pre-Prep," Tracey added.

GRPSA is a not-for-profit, Early Years Management approved provider for rural and regional early childhood services operating across Moira, Strathbogie, Greater Shepparton and Campaspe Shires.

CEO Ronni Druitt said the association was excited to have Rushworth on board.

"We believe we have a similar philosophy and as we already are the approved provider for Colbinabbin and Murchison kindergartens, the location is ideal for our management team to support the service," she said.



Rushworth Kinder kids were excited to have a 'ginormous' fire truck visit recently. They were able to climb up into the back seat of the cab and have a look around at the bright yellow roll bars and all the knobs and buttons. Even better - they could climb up into the back of the truck and pretend to spray the educators! Fireies Dean and Deb (Nanny) gave out some pretty cool show bags and then drove off with the siren sounding - it was really loud!



Waranga News Christmas edition

The next edition of the Waranga News will be the last one for 2025 and once again it will be a bumper sized full-colour extravaganza!

Our volunteers will be working overtime over the next couple of weeks to bring you this Christmas edition which will be out on Thursday 11 December.

As always we would love to receive all your colourful festive season photos, advertising and greetings to include, but PLEASE be sure to get them to us by the 5 December deadline - even earlier if you can! (Or if your event is on that weekend please make contact to let us know your pics are coming.)



Santa

Free BBQ

Free Jumping Castle

Join us at

McEwen Place Stanhope

6pm Friday 12th December 2025
Stanhope & St Mary's School Children & Stanhope Kinder Children will be singing
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Time to book in for Christmas Lunch!

The festive season is fast approaching and with it comes plans for one of the most universal traditions — the festive meal!

This year in Rushworth your planning may have been taken care of. The inaugural free Rushworth Community Christmas lunch will take place in the former Senior Citizens rooms on Christmas Day, with festivities commencing at 11am.

This wonderful free Christmas lunch is proudly presented by the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club Australia Chapter 14, made possible thanks to the generous support of the Shire of Campaspe and Community Bank Rushworth.

Guests will be treated to a delightful five-course Christmas meal, complete with festive decorations and all the joyful trimmings that make this day so special. It's a chance to share great food, warm company, and the true spirit of Christmas with others in our community.

Nothing will go to waste either — any leftovers will be thoughtfully packaged and distributed through the Foodbank, ensuring

the Christmas goodwill continues to spread.

Colin from the Red Knights emphasises that everyone is welcome. There are no criteria, no costs, and no barriers — just an open invitation to enjoy Christmas Day surrounded by community.

However, for catering purposes, it's important to book your place. Organisers are encouraging people to register as soon as possible. Bookings can be made through the Op Shop, the Foodbank, or the Rushworth Community Bank.

The Red Knights — a motorcycle club made up of firefighters — are well known for their social, charitable, and educational contributions, and continue to be a vital pillar of community spirit across Rushworth and the broader Campaspe region.

So don't miss out — book in today and come share the joy, warmth, and togetherness of Christmas in Rushworth!



Truck fire sparks Council warning on proper battery, e-waste disposal

Campaspe Shire Council is calling on residents to dispose of electronic waste (e-waste) — including batteries — responsibly following five waste truck fires in the past eighteen months caused by batteries in kerbside bins.

These incidents are not only dangerous and expensive, but they can also force waste crews to dump smouldering loads on the roadside to prevent injury. Such situations often result in the total loss of a waste truck and pose a serious fire risk, especially under current high-danger and windy conditions.

Residents can dispose of batteries and e-waste free of charge at any of the Shire's Resource Recovery Centres. E-waste includes anything with a plug, battery or power cord, such as kitchen appliances, electronic devices, video game consoles, musical instruments, radios, LED lights, lamps, batteries and cables.

Campaspe Shire Council Mayor Daniel Mackrell stressed the importance of understanding how and why e-waste must be disposed of correctly. E-waste is

growing three times faster than standard waste and contains hazardous materials that do not belong in landfill. Because of this, the Victorian Government has banned e-waste from landfill, meaning it cannot be placed in any of Campaspe's three kerbside bins.

Proper disposal at a Resource Recovery Centre helps protect the environment and allows valuable materials to be recovered for reuse or up-cycling. Lithium batteries are a particular concern as they are known to ignite in bins, trucks and landfill. The community is strongly encouraged to use the free drop-off points at Council centres to reduce these risks.

The Mayor also noted the broader consequences of truck fires. Each incident puts drivers, emergency services and the community in harm's way, while also costing

thousands in repairs and causing disruptions to waste collection services. Correct e-waste disposal plays a vital role in preventing these dangerous events and reducing avoidable costs.

Once collected, e-waste is transported to a recycling facility where items are dismantled, hazardous materials are safely removed and valuable components are recovered for use in new products, helping support a circular economy.

For information about waste disposal and the locations and operating hours of Council's Resource Recovery Centres, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/RRC.

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Sam BIRRELL MP

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THE NATIONALS
for Regional Australia

Common Sense to Canberra

In the past few weeks, we've seen two big wins for common sense and they only happened because Australians, especially in the regions, stood up and pushed back.

The **first** was the proposal to drop country road speed limits to 70km/h. It was a plan cooked up in Canberra without any understanding of how regional communities actually live, work and travel. It ignored the realities of regional life - long distances, freight, farm work, emergency services, and families who simply can't afford to lose more time on the road.

Instead of reducing the speed limit the Government must invest money to repair and maintain our roads! Locals are fed up dodging potholes, repairing busted wheels and slowing down at roadworks only to see them washed out after a couple of months.

The **second** backflip came on Labor's attempt to weaken the integrity of the Defence honours and awards appeals system. Veterans in our region contacted me early worried, frustrated, and feeling overlooked. Their concerns were repeatedly raised by the Nationals, particularly my colleague and Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs Darren Chester, because the Bill was wrong. It stripped rights away from the very people who have served our nation. The government has now been forced into retreat after its own Senators refused to back it. That tells you everything. I'll keep fighting to make sure this legislation doesn't come back.

These episodes speak to a broader pattern of misplaced priorities. While pushing flawed policies, the Albanese Government continues to waste money like the Bureau of Meteorology, where millions have been poured into rebranding and bureaucracy instead of what matters: improving forecasting so farmers and regional communities can plan with confidence. When families are cutting back, government agencies should be doing the same not spending taxpayers' money on vanity projects. I'll keep working every day to call that out and to deliver practical, sensible outcomes for our communities.

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

426 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630 5821 5371

sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au sambirrell.com.au SamBirrellMP

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

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Join the walk against family violence

Campaspe residents are invited to join the Walk Against Family Violence on 4 December – an initiative taking place as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence between 25 November and 10 December.

In partnership with Echuca Regional Health, the Centre for Non-violence, and Safe + Equal, Council invites you to walk in solidarity with victim-survivors and take a visible stand against family violence in all its forms. Together, all can work (and walk!) towards creating a community where everyone feels safe, valued, and respected.

The Walk Against Family Violence is part of a global United Nations initiative held annually from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day). The walk will bring residents together to promote equality, respect and safety for women and girls across the Campaspe Shire region.

Beginning in Echuca's Hopwood Gardens at 10am on 4 December with a Welcome to Country, attendees will hear from a guest speaker from Centre for Non-violence before walking from the gardens to Echuca Library where there will be interactive activities, displays, information material and a morning tea.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr Daniel Mackell applauded the initiative and invites the wider community to join the show of support for those in the community who have experienced family violence.

"This project is a reminder that preventing family violence and promoting gender equality requires all of us to stand up and work together," he said.

"When community members speak out and take action, we send a powerful message that family violence has no place here. Together, we can create a culture of respect, equality and safety for everyone."

In addition to the walk, during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence, Council's Echuca headquarters will be illuminated in orange, the official colour of the campaign, as a powerful symbol representing hope and a future free from gender-based violence.

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, 4 December 2025

Time: 10am – 12noon

Location: From Hopwood Gardens to Echuca Library

Stanhope Community Market

7 DEC

8am till 1pm
BBQ
Music

Birdwood Ave
Stanhope
1st Sunday of each month

Fruit & Veg
Arts & Crafts
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For More Information
Ph: 03 58572866 or
Stanhope Community Market Facebook page

ALL WELCOME

STANHOPE & DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Campaspe's Christmas cheer commences

Christmas decorations and activities will be lighting up towns across the region throughout December. This year Campaspe's featured Illumination Stations include giant reindeer Twinklehoof in Rochester, Jolly Santa with his 'Aussie sleigh' and the giant glowing gift box in Echuca, and a large Christmas Tree in Kyabram.

Alongside the dazzling Illumination Stations, towns across Campaspe are hosting a wide variety of Christmas events, offering something for all ages to enjoy – from carols and craft markets to storytime sessions and art installations.

Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Daniel Mackrell said "There's something festive happening in every corner of Campaspe, including the Christmas sound walk in Girgarre to the decorated bell tower in Rushworth, Santa's sleigh in Lockington, and the Colbo Pub Choir carol trail in Colbinabbin.

"Every town has added its own flavour to the season, and it's well worth taking the time to explore and enjoy the atmosphere," Cr added.

Cr Mackrell shared his appreciation for the many community groups who have been busy organising events and activities across Campaspe in recent months.

"Our towns feel alive this time of year, and that's thanks to the passionate locals who put in the hard yards behind the scenes.

"It's all helping to build a festive atmosphere and giving families, especially

those visiting for the holidays, a chance to make some really special memories together."

A "Christmas in Campaspe" booklet is available as a go-to guide for festive events and decorations around the shire. Copies are available at Council service centres and libraries, as well as via Council's website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/trails.

Christmas Events close by

Colbinabbin

- Colbo Pub Choir Christmas carol trail
- Christmas tree photo station at silos

Girgarre

- Christmas sound walk in Progress Park
- Girgarre Cottage Christmas fete a Progress Park – Saturday, **6 December** at 5:30pm

Rushworth

- Decorated bell tower and community trees
- Mistletoe kissing booth
- Elf yourself selfie stations
- Reindeer and sleigh in High St
- Rushworth Christmas Arts and Craft Market at the Shire Hall – Saturday, **29 November**

• Santa's Grotto at Rushworth Band Stand – Saturday, **20 December** 10am-12noon

• Christmas Toddler Rhyme Time at Rushworth Library – Monday, **1 December** at 10:30am

• Christmas Storytime at Rushworth Library Tuesday, **16 December** at 10:30am

Stanhope

• Christmas Cave and reindeer photo booth at Station Park Arts Space

• Stanhope Community Christmas Market – Sunday, **7 December** from 8:30am -1pm

Kyabram

• Santa's Cave at Kyabram Town Hall – **13-21 December** from 11am – 5pm. \$15 per family or \$5 per person

• Allan St Wonderland yarn bombing

• Nativity Scene at Living Waters Church

• Christmas Storytime at Kyabram Library – Tuesday, **9 December** at 10:30am

• Christmas Baby Rhyme Time at Kyabram library – Tuesday, **16 December** at 10:30am

• Christmas After School Session at Kyabram Library – Wednesday, **17 December** at 3:30pm

Red Knights Motorcycle Club Toy Run - spreading Christmas cheer across the region

The Red Knights Motorcycle Club will hold its annual Toy Run on Saturday, **6 December**, bringing festive spirit and community support to families in need.

The event will commence in Echuca with a community breakfast, followed by a Welcome to Country and a smoking ceremony to send riders off at 9.30 am.

This year's Toy Run route will take participants through Tongala, Kyabram and Rushworth where riders will stop for a lunch provided by Rushworth SES – and there will be an opportunity for residents of Rushworth to donate toys or cash. The participants will then continue on through Colbinabbin and Elmore, finishing in Rochester.

The aim of the ride is to collect toys and cash donations to bring some Christmas joy to families who need a helping hand this festive season. All donations gathered throughout the ride will

be presented to the Rochester Salvation Army, who will distribute them to local families in need.

Last year, the Red Knights raised around \$6000 in cash and collected \$2000 worth of toys. In addition, the club put together \$2000 worth of food parcels, ensuring even more families received support during the Christmas period.

Red Knights riders from Rushworth will meet outside the bakery on the morning of the event, riding together to Echuca to join fellow members as they set out on the 2025 Toy Run.

The Red Knights Motorcycle Club invites the community to come along, donate if they can, and help make Christmas brighter for families doing it tough.



CHRISTMAS 2025 IS NOT FAR AWAY

Book your Christmas advertising
in the Waranga News **NOW**

[email wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)

Have your say!

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

Remembrance Day thanks

A big thank you to many:

First, our wonderful service personnel who gave so much to allow us to live in such a beautiful free country.

The Community of Rushworth and Colbinabbin, such a giving lot of wonderful folk.

On the week leading up to 11 November, Remembrance Day, the selling of poppies and badges . . . and talking of poppies, thank you Kylie for knitting eighty-odd poppies for sale - top job mate!

Thank you so much to the folks who helped selling during the week - Sharon and Kelly Perry, Margaret Raglus, Terrie and Wayne Robertson, Claire and Garrick Campbell, Roberts and Isobel Ralph, Ian Riley and I guess my wife Barb for putting up with me.

Thank you Sharon for the beautiful photos on the day and thank you to our P12 students for being there : the laying of the wreaths, the raising of the flag and a Remembrance Day

reading, all done by the students. Your presence and conduct on the morning was an added beauty to a wonderful service. You are no longer children but young adults and our future. To you all - take care and all the best in life's journey.

Thank you Kerrie and P12 staff also and our musicians, David Barton on the accordian, and Raymond Rathjen on the bagpipes. This all made it a beautiful service conducted by President, Bill Barlow,

Thank you Mary Beck for organising Buffy (Paul) for putting out the poppies on the lawn and Mark Bartlett for putting up the 100 Year Legacy Plaque at the Memorial.

There is a lot of good in the world and I saw it on Remembrance Day. A bit of rain and sunshine, some clouds and lots of wonderful people. Thank you ALL.

*Lest We Forget
Rogie
Rushworth*

Christmas Cards

Christmas is the time when greeting cards relating to the season are readily available and those of us who still send cards to friends and family are thinking about how many to purchase.

Over the years, most lists have perhaps become shorter due to the loss of dear friends and family who have passed away. Email Christmas letters or elaborate electronic cards now being sent have replaced a card arriving in the mail as well. It can though, be a good way to catch up with people who have had a part to play in our lives and perhaps we no longer see as we now live far apart. When we receive a card, it is rather nice to have that person represented in a tangible item that can be popped on a mantelpiece or shelf and perhaps serve as a reminder of happy days and times spent together each time we look at the card.

It is quite surprising that snow, snowmen, sleds and snowflakes representing Christmas time in cold climates still seem to dominate choices in the shops and less reflect the Australian scene at this time of year or the true meaning of Christmas, Christ's birthday and a time of peace and goodwill.

Bush Church Aid Society are one organisation that sell Christmas cards (available on line) that reflect the true meaning of Christmas and with true Australian themes.

Postal services are very variable too as there is still a huge increase due to the number of parcels and cards sent through the post. An item is sometimes surprisingly fast to arrive - within two or three days, but I have heard accounts of people receiving Christmas cards three months late! Overseas delivery times vary greatly and it pays to have sent those

items well before now!

These notices were in an 1869 copy of the Waranga Chronicle and Goulburn Advertiser listing the times to expect the mail delivery and convey a confidence that this is when the mail will arrive in Murchison and Rushworth.

Hope your mail arrives in time for Christmas 2025!!

*Kay Ball,
Murchison*

RUSHWORTH POST OFFICE.

The times appointed for the arrival and departure of mails are as under :—

From Melbourne and Sandhurst every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 5.30 p.m. Closing for despatch every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 12 noon.

From Melbourne, Heathcote, Costerfield, Redcastle, and Spring Creek every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 12 noon. Closing for despatch every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 7 a.m.

From Murchison and Whroo every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 12 noon. Closing for despatch every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 5 p.m.

From Rushworth to Whroo every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 7 a.m.

Post Office open daily (Sundays excepted) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., for delivery of letters and sale of postage stamps.

Money Orders issued and paid daily, from 10 to 3 p.m.

Post Office Savings' Bank open from 10 to 3 daily, and on Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m. for deposits only.

It is requested that registered letters and newspapers be posted one hour prior to the times appointed for the closing of mails, and before 4 p.m.

J. H. ROBERTS.
Postmaster.

THE WARANGA CHRONICLE AND GOULBURN ADVERTISER.

Postal Service Rushworth

Christmas assistance

As Christmas approaches, I know many families across our region are feeling the squeeze. What should be a joyful time can quickly become stressful when household budgets are already stretched and the pressure to make ends meet grows heavier.

I want locals to know that you are not on your own. Right across the Euroa electorate, community groups are quietly and generously stepping in to help people through the season.

Neighbourhood Houses, the Salvos, St Vincent de Paul, church groups and volunteer-run community pantries are offering food hampers, toy drives, meal packs, bill assistance and emergency support. These programs exist because our community cares deeply and no one should ever feel embarrassed to reach out.

If you or someone you know needs a hand, please make contact with these services and if you are unsure where to start, my Benalla office is always here to point you in the right direction.

I also want to thank the volunteers and donors who put in countless hours at this time of year. Your kindness brings relief to families who are doing it tough and shows the true spirit of our communities.

Christmas can be a tough time, but when we look out for one another, it becomes a whole lot brighter.

*Annabelle Cleeland MP,
The Nationals Member for Euroa*

ROYAL MAIL LINE OF COACHES.

THESE Coaches, leave Phillips's Criterion Hotel, Rushworth, at 7.15 a.m. every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, for Whroo, Graytown, Costerfield, and Heathcote; returning from the Heathcote Hotel, Heathcote, at 5.30 a.m., every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, for Costerfield, Graytown, Whroo, and Rushworth.

R. WILSON,
Proprietor.

TELEGRAPH LINE OF COACHES.

A COACH leaves Thorne's Commercial Hotel, Murchison, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 10 a.m., arriving in Rushworth at 12 noon; at Runnymede 5 p.m., in time for the 5.40 p.m. train to Sandhurst and Melbourne.

Returning on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from Leake's Hotel, Runnymede, at 12.45 p.m.; arriving at Phillips's Criterion Hotel, Rushworth, at 5.30 p.m.; Murchison, 7.30 p.m.

A coach leaves Waterson's London Tavern, Coy's diggings, at 9.45 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, passing through Whroo at 11 a.m.; arriving in Rushworth at 12 noon, and returning on alternate days at 5.30 p.m.

ROBERTSON & CO.,
Proprietors.

Royal Mail Murchison.

Deaths near Rushworth, 1853-1861

Part two of a two-part series by Alan McLean

In a previous edition of Waranga News, we summarised a record of deaths in the earliest days of the gold-rush in this district. It is reasonably assumed that some of the people were buried in Rushworth's first graveyard, in the forest just south of the town. This week we continue the list, starting with a common cause of death. The mines were hazardous and the work was dangerous.

Walter James Scott, died 23 November, 1860, son of George Scott and Isabella Wilmot, after a mining accident at Specimen Hill near Rushworth. He was being hauled up from a shaft after complaining of bad air, when he lost his grip on the rope. His painful death followed shortly after the resulting fall to the bottom of the mine.

Thomas Reese Lloyd, died 10 December, 1860, at Rushworth, aged just 38 years.

Eliza Courtney Mousley, born London, died at Rushworth in 1860, aged 35 years. Multiple generations of the Bell family (Charlie and Dick), formerly active in mining around Nuggety Gully, are descended from Eliza Mousley. Locals Christine Borger and gold-seeker Peter Toohey are just two of those descendants, and family information passed down referred to Eliza's burial at the "old graveyard".

Henry Herbert Francis was born 25 September and died 11 October, 1860, at Rushworth, the infant son of Henry and Grace (nee Harvey) Francis.

Adolphus Amos Coath, born Rushworth 1861, son of Richard and Selina (nee Whicker) Coath, and died aged two days.

James Barr, born at Glasgow, died aged 35, circa 20 January 1861, having been found after an absence of three weeks and a search near Waranga. Death was assumed to have been due to malnourishment and exhaustion.

An elderly Irishman "who has been for some time residing in Dr Scott's house at Rushworth, was killed by being thrown out of a spring cart between the Five-Mile Creek [near Moora] and Rushworth on Saturday afternoon." So said the McIvor News, of 1 February, 1861.

A George Booth, died 2 February, 1861, at Rushworth. Incomplete records of the Rushworth cemetery list a George Booth, but in a grave numbered far higher than the earliest graves dug in 1861. This George Booth, passing in that year, may well rest in the old burial ground, not in the formal cemetery.

George Park's death was very interesting, with an element of mystery. The Waranga Chronicle of 16 July, 1874, related events going back to 1854.

"A few months ago, inquiries were made for one George Park, who was supposed to have been drowned in the Waranga lagoon some twenty years ago. The settlement of a large amount of property in Scotland was in



Members of the Rushworth Historical Society (l-r) Nick Buzzza, Alan McLean and Peter Reade visit the monument marking the first Rushworth Cemetery,

suspense, and the matter was placed in the hands of Mr. Otto Berliner, of Melbourne, who placed himself in communication with the Police Department.

"Ultimately the matter was referred to Sergeant Wilkinson, who, by examining the old records at the Court House, Rushworth, was able to afford valuable information, which will be sent home [to the UK] next mail. It appears that a person, name unknown, was drowned in the Waranga swamp or lagoon in 1854, and that his description tallied with that of the missing George Park.

"Sergeant Halliday, of the Rushworth [police] Depot, who was at that time stationed on the Waranga goldfields, had also been referred to, and his recollection of the matter leads up to the belief that the man drowned in 1854 was the person inquired for. We are glad to learn that Sergeant Halliday and Sergeant Wilkinson have each been presented with a gratuity of two guineas for their exertions in the matter."

Whether the mystery man was Mr Park or someone else in 1854, it is quite likely that he

was buried in the original graveyard.

The reference to Ah Yea's death (in Part 1 of this series) is important as it is likely that more Chinese, names not known to many, and whose deaths were unlikely to make the newspapers or be reported to the Deaths Register in Melbourne, are buried in the original small reserve south of the Anglican church.

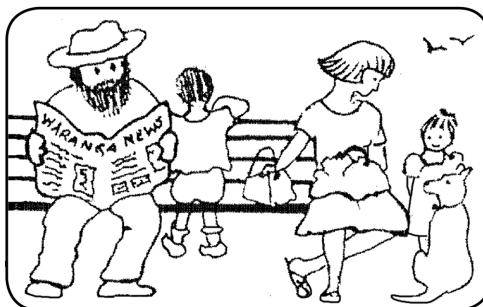
An unknown number of infants or stillborn children may also be buried there, with the information not sent to Melbourne for the central records.

The burial place of the 27 people named in this two-part series will never be officially known. Dying as they did in the first few years of European and Chinese settlement at Rushworth, they were laid to rest between 1853 and 1861, when Rushworth's first graveyard was in active use.

It is interesting to note that deaths at Whroo were followed by burials in Whroo's own cemetery, only occasionally at Rushworth. Where else in Victoria are two burial locations just eight kilometres apart?

Alan McLean

Around our towns Around our towns



Around Rushworth

Rushworth SES Renos

The Rushworth SES building is getting a facelift, inside and out. Older facilities and infrastructure are being updated and made compliant, while the building is getting a spruce up outside as well.

The renovations have started but the interruptions are minimal to any of the Unit's usual activities.



The latest area to be completed is the new flooring in the truck bay.

'Good food' award

Well that's probably a simplification! - we hear on the grapevine that the Food Services team at Waranga Health has achieved GV Health's Award for Excellence in Consumer Participation in Quality Improvement. It was noted that the team includes residents in decision-making about menu choices and options for seasonal meals and celebrations. Agency in food choice is certainly an important bonus for residents - we all like to have a say in what we like to eat (and especially what we don't!).

Congratulation Food Services Team!

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A 50th birthday - Karaoke with the boss!

Celebrations with family and friends is not all you need on your birthday. Apparently you need karaoke as well!

Renowned for her love of karaoke, Rushworth resident Mickey McPherson celebrated her 50th birthday at the Colbinabbin Hotel with a night of karaoke songs and dance.

Even publican Julie found time to accompany Mickey in song. The local children attending the Hotel on the night found a song to sing and a dance to be had. The 'pub' was rocking!



And Kat Ogden celebrates with family



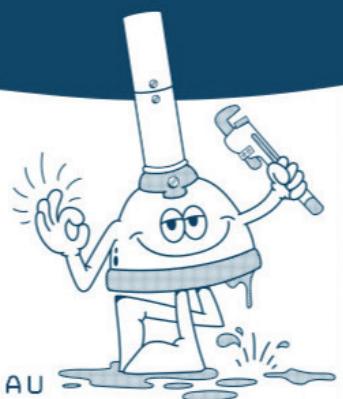
Kat Ogden and family enjoyed a birthday night at the Colbinabbin Hotel.

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

Christmas Market to showcase arts and crafts

Experience the best of the Christmas season at the upcoming Rushworth Art and Craft Market, to be held at the Shire Hall this Saturday.

The event will feature a wide range of handcrafted items created by talented local artisans, offering shoppers an opportunity to find unique Christmas gifts—or to purchase something special for themselves.

The market will operate from 8.30 am to 1.00 pm, with the Rushworth Kinder providing morning tea for visitors and their friends throughout the morning.

The committee looks forward to seeing everyone at this festive event to celebrate the creativity of the region's 'makers'.



Lyn Reade displays some of the many decorative Christmas items at last year's market.

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NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.

Hi everyone, not long until Christmas now. Don't forget to check out the Op Shop for presents and clothing before you travel elsewhere as you might be surprised at what you find. Not only will purchases be easier on your pocket but you also provide funding for our local Rushworth Foodbank. Heaven knows, there are enough people at the moment who need help and the Foodbank volunteers always try to make sure there is something special around Christmas. If you feel you would like to donate money or goods to the Foodbank please visit them when they are open. Any contributions are very welcome.

I'm finding it hard to get into the Christmas spirit this year. However, I did decorate the Op Shop Community Tree which will be on display in the centre of town soon. It's surprising what a bit of fabric and some ingenuity can do. I'm looking forward to seeing what everyone else creates.

In the Little Green Shed is the most amazing extendable dining table. Made of some kind of New Zealand wood, it is very solid and seats six when it is closed up, but twelve when extended. Priced at \$100 it's a real bargain. The Shed also has LOTS of pictures to suit all houses. Absolutely no excuse to sit around with plain white walls in your house. The more colour around you the better I think!



From a six to a twelve seater.



Amazingly in the Op Shop we have two wedding dresses. The one pictured is a size 16 and has a stiff petticoat and little circlet of flowers for the hair. It is only \$60. The other dress is 2XL and only \$40. If you also wanted a bridesmaid dress have a look at the one which would fit an 8-10 year old. It is brand new, white lace and \$20. Can you believe it. It could also be a confirmation dress or party dress.

We have a number of dinner sets which take up a lot of room, so this fortnight we are reducing them to half price. The sets are different sizes so come down and check them out.

I have been asked to remind you that all our clothes racks are regularly refreshed. So check out the racks regularly and if you see something, grab it as it may not be there next time!

Lastly, a word of warning. A son of one of our volunteers had two snakes come into his shed last week and he only lives on the edge of town. The Joe Blakes are definitely out and about and wriggling around - so be careful.

Next edition Liz Buzzza is writing our last poem of the year, so I am looking forward to that. Meanwhile, may you have full bellies and a happy smile.

Heather



THE CHRISTMAS TABLE

We have a lovely table that will go from six to twelve
To seat my Christmas guests into my
mind I'll delve
Jenny's fat and Jimmy's thin
Next to one another they'll fit in.
Brother-in-law's a pompous bore,
Granny's deaf – won't hear his roar.
Now where to sit my sister Sue?
After wine she'll need the loo,
But certainly she'll be right merry
So I'll sit her next to cousin Cherry.
Baby Rose has her own high chair
So I'll squash her in anywhere.
Maybe next to Uncle Fred
With bright blue eyes and nose bright
red.
A sulky teenager at the end
(should I invite his frowning friend?).
Dad and Uncle Tom together
They'll spend the whole time talking
weather.
Auntie Jean's a bag of nerves
So lots of sherry she'll be
served
And if she's next to Cousin John
She won't notice his awful pong.
That's all done I can see.
But, botheration, I've forgotten ME!!

Heather





Colbo Tit Bits

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Colbo pool

The Colbo pool will open on 29 November and it's free - with thanks to the Campaspe Shire Council! And what's more, the weather is even heating up enough to dip a tentative toe in the water.

Children's Advent Blessing

There will be a special Advent Blessing for Children at Cornella's 9am Mass on Sunday 7 December. We're expecting Santa to call past after Mass and a cuppa will be served in case Santa is running late. Ring Maree (0413 029 012) to let her know how many children might be coming.

Advent ecumenical group

The Colbo Advent Ecumenical group will continue meeting on each Monday in December at 1.30pm at John and Glen Avard's. You're welcome to join us or to ring for more info 0429 329 215.

Business opportunity

Waranga News edition of 30 October brought news of the leasing opportunity at the Community Co-op General Store. We promised to keep readers informed.

Co-op directors, headed by Jenni Weaver, have now engaged Ray White's Rochester agency to take enquiries. Stuart Wilson is the man to ask for on 0404 550 429.

LIBRARY

Wed 3 Dec Pam Nihill
 Wed 10 Dec Pauline Wilson



FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

Nov 30 Paul Tait, Oliver Rathjen

Dec 7 Leo McEvoy, Tim Hill

If unable to attend for duty, call Chris or Leo.

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

Cemetery Trust

Mowing Roster (lawn section only)
 November - Robert Brown
 December - Laura Tuohey

Colbo Diary

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

NOVEMBER

Sat 29 Colbo Pool opens - and it's free!
 Sun 30 St Mary's Parish lunch OPM

DECEMBER

Mon 1 Advent Group 1.30pm @ Avard's
 Sun 7 Advent blessing & Santa @ Cornella
 Mon 8 Advent Group 1.30pm @ Avard's

Two sets of long-time friends



A chance meeting of two sets of friends was cause for conversation and excitement recently at the Colbo Pub. From the left Wil Hamilton (née Vickers) and Helen Gadsden (née Wright) have been friends since they were ten, and are now in their mid 70s. Carmen Troy of Colbo, recently welcomed her friend Elaine (from Gippsland) for an extended stay. The pair have been friends since they were thirteen and are now well into their 80s. So much to talk about!

Happy Halloween just for you!



Kevin McTaggart wasn't really expecting this for dinner at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel. Chef Clare dished up a very life-like severed arm for Kev's Halloween dinner, which wasn't all that lovingly received!

Any news for the News?
 email: wnews@iinet.net.au
 or ring
 5856 1120

Well done, Heather

Heather Woodman (St Brendan's PS, Shepparton) received a highly commendable mention in the Literacy Leader award of Catholic Education Sandhurst's awards.

Denise Nihill (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Elmore) received a highly commendable mention in the Leadership Award.



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**HEATHER
WOODMAN**



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Mindful Mayhem at P-12

Rushworth Community House recently joined in *Mindful Mayhem Day* at Rushworth P-12 College. The occasion was held to contribute to the College's program to raise money for Food Bank Victoria, and was deemed a roaring success!

The Community House provided calico sheets and paints for students to express their thoughts about where they live and the wider community as a whole.

Probably best seen in the full-colour online edition of the *Waranga News*, here is one of the student contributions:



“Keep Our Doors Open” campaign

In the last edition of the *Waranga News*, we featured a pictorial survey of some of the many activities conducted at Rushworth Community House (*photo below*). Neighbourhood and Community Houses perform similar functions across Victoria, offering services and activities that make a real contribution to the lives of people in the communities they serve.



Neighbourhood Houses Victoria is currently seeking additional annual funding of \$11.7M from the State Government to avoid the closure of up to two hundred neighbourhood and community houses across Victoria.

Neighbourhood Houses CEO Keir Paterson recently noted that rising costs, growing community demand and eroded core funding are forcing houses across the state to cut hours, staff and programs.

“Years of underfunding has pushed almost half into deficit, leaving them at risk of closure,” he said.

Each week, more than 185,000 Victorians access community support and local services through the 400+ neighbourhood houses in the state. Many neighbourhood houses and community centres are grappling with increased community need due to cost of living pressures, while having to deal with cost increases themselves.

“Without urgent action, communities risk losing the safe, inclusive spaces thousands of Victorians rely on every week.

Rushworth Community House invites local residents to call in and fill out one of the support cards that are spear-heading the campaign.

Studying cheeses at the Community House

Cheese making is an artform practised by humans for more than seven thousand years one that has evolved into one of mankind's greatest manufacturing activities.

However, despite the range of commercial products available today, there is still something special about making your own cheeses.

In mid-November, the Community House conducted a special two day cheese-making event using the Shire Hall kitchen, starting with a Friday demonstration session followed by two practical sessions on the following day.

During the Saturday morning session, students learned how to make Camembert, Danish Blue and Danish Feta cheeses.

Saturday afternoon saw the students make Halloumi, Cheddar, Cottage Cheese and some Mozzarella.

The event proved to be extremely popular and new classes may be run during 2026

Free health checks today

Students from La Trobe University will be conducting free health checks in Max's Maze on Thursday 27 November (today).

The students will assess each person for critical factors including blood pressure, heart health and blood glucose levels.

Do yourself a favour and get checked!



Community support is critical to the success of the campaign, and House Manager Anita Pirie is keen to see that it succeeds locally.

“If the House was forced to reduce its transport, carer support and other activities due to a funding shortfall, many local people would be adversely affected”, she said.



Christmas closure dates

Rushworth Community House will be closed from Monday 22 December 2025 until Friday 9 January 2026.

The House will reopen on Monday, 12 January 2026. The Container Deposit Scheme will reopen on Tuesday, 13 January 2026.

For updates, see our Facebook page.

Arts & Tourism

Mosaics by Belinda Merrick at Tatura Community House

Be sure to pop in and see the current exhibition of stunning mosaics by local artist Belinda Merrick (*pictured right*)— a sparkling and meaningful display you won't want to miss.

While you're there, browse the range of Tatura merchandise — including tea towels, greeting cards, "I Love Tatura" badges, and hats. They make wonderful Christmas gifts and every purchase supports your local community house and its programs.

The Harvest Table is always open for sharing! If you have excess fruit, vegetables, herbs or preserves, please drop them off so others can enjoy them. They deeply appreciate any donations that help keep this community initiative thriving — it's a simple way of giving back and helping reduce food waste.

They're also on the lookout for volunteers to help create and maintain a beautiful outdoor area at the house. Whether you have

a green thumb or simply like being outside, this could be a rewarding year-round project. It's a great way to connect with others and make a lasting difference in our shared space.

And finally, take a moment to read the article about the Neighbourhood Houses campaign — a statewide effort calling for increased State Government funding to Neighbourhood Houses like theirs to provide learning, connection and support for thousands of Victorians, but stronger investment is essential to keep that going.

Come by, get involved, and see what's happening at Tatura Community House — where community grows!

Visit : 12–16 Casey Street, Tatura | Open Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm

To book a program, join a group, or ask a question, call us on 5824 1315 or visit www.tatcom.vic.edu.au.

Come and be part of something wonderful this term—we'd love to see you!

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Green Folly Garden in Castlemaine

This is not just any garden but a whole experience with a very nice restaurant, gift shop and nursery all in one. If you order in the restaurant you can choose to dine inside or pick one of the beautifully appointed tables throughout the garden.



The Green Folly shop (back entrance seen here) was originally the Wesleyan Church (the first church in Castlemaine). It is located at 120 Duke Street and well worth a visit if you are in the area.



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

Cooks Corner

Learning to cheat

The older I get, the more I love time-saving, labour-saving ideas for cooking.

I've been lured into the world of frozen vegetables and marvelling at how quick it makes meal preparation and how little waste it produces. No more wilting or soggy vegetables in the drawer of my fridge. I hope our worms in the compost heap won't get hungry now I'm not feeding them as much.

Mind you, I still can't resist buying a bunch of fresh buk choi (Chinese cabbage) and as soon as sugar peas drop in price, I have to have a few handfuls of those. I ALWAYS have frozen peas as an absolute necessity for a quick wok of fried rice. My husband always has bags of No Name mixed vegetables to make up his dog's Roo, Rice and Vegie meals. I've found I can sneak some of those mixed vegetables into a pot of winter time soup, or to add to a white sauce to go with lamb shanks or some salmon steaks. One of my daughters swears by the frozen green beans which she uses for a Chinese dish comprised of minced pork or beef stir-fried in a hot wok so that the beans actually get

a slight char to them.

There are several varieties of Asian stir-fry vegetables but at the moment I'm loving the ones labelled 'Thai' because they have water chestnuts, baby corn and sugar peas in amongst the mix.

I've also bought ready-made coleslaw (just the shredded vegetable mix - no dressing on it) and used it the other day to make a quick Vietnamese-type salad. Because we were eating the salad with pork, I added some grated apple to the mix. (The compost worms would've loved the apple cores to munch on).

INGREDIENTS for a Vietnamese-style dressing

2 tbsp lime juice
2 tbsp rice vinegar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup fish sauce
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup peanut oil
1 tbsp white sugar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup hot water
1 large garlic clove, finely chopped
1 red chilli, deseeded then very finely minced

To top the salad off ...

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup peanuts, roasted unsalted chopped
bunch of roughly torn coriander and mint

Glen



Vietnamese-style salad dressing. Nuoc Cham (good dipping sauce for dumplings)

Handy Hints - from Lyn Rumble

Hi there,

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

In this issue - I'm starting my Christmas Preparations early - so here goes the Christmas prompters for you too - hope it helps to alleviate the last minute panic!

* **How about the 1st order of Christmas is to think of others not so fortunate as us all.** Donate to the Op Shop those never worn trousers, shoes or shirts, donate to the Food Bank a few grocery items that might mean perhaps a decent meal for someone, or if you know someone yourself - why not treat them to a morning tea at the local café especially for Christmas. I'd love to hear of some of your ways that you can make it really special for someone at Christmas!

* **Storing wrapping paper long term** - Save some of your used toilet rolls and get some aluminium foil from the kitchen drawer, and cut yourself off a one and half times square of foil. Cut a slit down the length of the toilet roll, and wrap the foil around the outside of the toilet roll and fold over the ends inside of the roll. Sellotape the edges inside the roll to ensure they stay secure. Now you have a decorative holder to just clip around your roll of wrapping paper, and will keep it nice and secure.

* **Chocolate anyone!** Cakes and desserts look better with chocolate on top! I could not agree more - but making it look pretty is not that easy. Just get your favourite bar of chocolate, and a sturdy potato peeler, and scrape off shavings from the edge of the bar into a dish. Place the shavings on or around your dessert for decoration.

* **Buying gifts well in advance is a terrific idea as well as taking opportunity for sales well before Christmas** - but hiding from prying eyes is always an issue! If you have a garage and on the top of your shelves you have some old storage boxes - from old appliances that you keep just in case - that makes an ideal place! Too high for young kids, and who would look in a grotty old cardboard box for a new present!

* **If you're planning on going out for dinner with friends to the local (or special) restaurant** - book ahead in plenty of time to avoid disappointment for the day and time you wanted. An absolute must by end of November - then no-one gets embarrassed to say they had forgot!

Garden Hints & Tips

Dry Climate Gardening

The BOM hasn't been covering itself with glory in recent months, not just because of its controversial new website, but for some seemingly erratic weather predictions. After our dry winter we were promised a wetter than average spring, and then maybe not, and then maybe it will come later. To be fair, we could debate whether the problem is erratic forecasting or erratic weather - not surprising with El Ninos, La Ninas and Indian Ocean Dipoles thrown into the mix together with climate change effects. But despite the episodes of 'wetter than average' we do know that there's a high probability we will often experience long periods of dryness in this country, being the driest inhabited continent on the planet.

Gardening in dry climates requires a blend of ecological awareness and practical design. We might remember during the millennium drought in 2001-2010 it became fashionable to design gardens of succulents and pebbles, achieving the goal of water reduction but doing little for a flourishing ecosystem or habitat for wildlife. As global temperatures rise and drought cycles intensify, gardeners must turn to techniques that reduce water use while also being conscious of broader environmental wellbeing.

In many ways dry climate gardening shares a common foundation with regenerative or rewilding practices, in that it works with natural processes rather than against them. The goal is to achieve resilience, conserve resources and promote healthier ecosystems capable of thriving under arid conditions.

A key principle of dry climate gardening is the strategic use of drought-tolerant plants - species adapted to survive on minimal moisture through deep root systems, waxy or silver foliage, and efficient transpiration controls. Native plants are especially well suited, especially regionally appropriate species, having evolved over millennia to match local rainfall patterns, soils, and temperature extremes. Importantly, they reduce

the need for irrigation, fertilisers, and pest control. Mulching with gravel, bark, or organic matter further suppresses evaporation, improving the soil's ability to retain what little water it receives.

Clearly best practice for water conservation in the garden is to encourage natural vegetation to reassert itself. But, of course, being gardeners who sometimes like the challenge of growing things in less than ideal conditions, many of us still set our sights on some thirstier specimens - especially if they offer us a spectacular flower or foliage. In these cases thoughtful placement, such as grouping plants by water needs and creating shade with other shrubs or climbing plants on pergolas, will maximise water efficiency as well as creating attractive, layered landscapes.

Another important factor in retaining moisture in your garden, whichever garden type you opt for, is soil restoration, since healthy soil acts as a sponge, storing water and supporting microbial life essential for plant resilience. Allowing leaf litter and fallen branches to decompose in place enriches the soil and encourages a diverse web of insects, birds, and small mammals.

It's not surprising that the garden is the first place to suffer water restrictions during a prolonged dry period and for many people the response is to just turn off the taps and conserve water for the 'important' things. But we should remember it's the green stuff that gives off oxygen and enhances our wellbeing both physically and mentally. Planning how to keep it alive and healthy in a hot dry summer is as important as ensuring our aircon is working to keep us cool and refreshed!



Shiny Everlasting (Xerochrysum viscosum) is well-suited to our dry climate.

Health and Wellbeing

Community invited to Mental Health Matters information night at Cricket Club rooms

Waranga Community Health, in partnership with the Rushworth Cricket Club, is pleased to invite community members to Mental Health Matters, a relaxed and informative evening focused on supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, 11 December 2025

Time: 6.45 pm

Location: Rushworth Cricket Clubrooms, Coyle Street, Rushworth

Guest speakers

Tim Lacey, Beyond Blue Speaker Program, who will share his personal experience of living with a mental health condition.

Jack O'Sullivan, Red Gum Reflections Specialist Counselling Service, who will discuss common mental health concerns for men and offer insights into how to support someone seeking help.

This free community event aims to foster understanding, encourage conversation, and provide practical information in a supportive environment. Light catering will be provided.

While entry is free, bookings are essential for catering purposes.

RSVP: Please contact Tamara on 0429 626 086 to secure your place.

Waranga Health residents pampered

The residents at the Hostel have been enjoying a little pampering lately with lavender scents, soothing music, warm foot spas, and relaxing hand and foot massages. A perfect way to unwind and enjoy the spa experience with the wonderful lifestyle team at Waranga Health.



Residents enjoying a cuppa and a soak.



Casey Barlow with Rhonda who is enjoying a relaxing soak.



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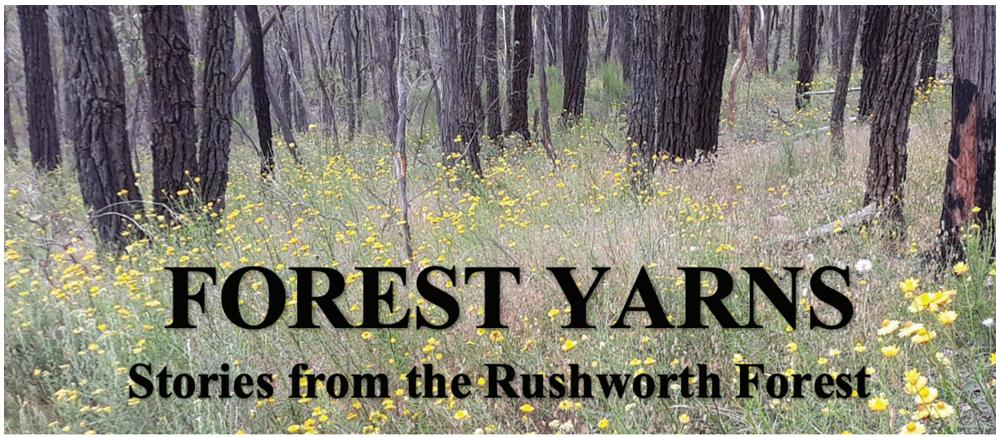
Lawrence Nguyen (Proprietor)

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FOREST YARNS

Stories from the Rushworth Forest

Fire in the forest

Over the years, the Rushworth forest has thankfully been spared from a major conflagration. One of the reasons might be that box ironbark forests are less susceptible to big fires than other forest types. The main species of trees do not shed their bark each year, leading to a build-up of fuel that can be found in other areas. The understorey of box-ironbark forests is also limited, compared to other forest types.

Evidence suggests that most wildfires on public land across the box-ironbark forests are small. "For example, between 1980/81 and 1995/96, almost 80% of the 800 wildfires recorded on public land across the Box-Ironbark region were less than 5 ha in size, and only around 15 exceeded 100 ha."¹

However, there is no room for complacency. It would seem that the danger is increasing in the local area due to the hotter weather conditions that have been experienced in recent decades.

1939 Fire Season

Not much seems to have been documented about the history of fires in the Rushworth forest until the advent of Forests Commission Victoria (FCV) meant that more records were prepared. The 1938-9 fire season was one of the worst on record. The seriousness of these fires prompted the FCV to get its staff in each region of Victoria to prepare a report on what had happened locally. Nicholas Power was the responsible officer for the Rushworth area, and his report is held by the Public Records Office.²

Power reported on three small fires in Whroo and Moora in December 1938, including one on Christmas Day, but none of these burnt more than 3 acres (1.2 ha). Some of the staff who attended these fires included Foreman J J Hageman and Leading Hand R Pettifer. There were ominous signs when a larger fire broke out near Moora, in the parish of Whroo, a week before Christmas. The area had been thinned by FCV staff just three years earlier, but it still burned strongly. It turned out to be the largest local forest fire that summer, at 33.5 acres (14 hectares).

Black Friday

13 January 1939 became known in Victoria as Black Friday. It is often likened to the dramatic fires of 1983 and 2009 which devastated large parts of the state. FCV Officer Power reported the weather was

extreme – the day was "the worst in history" for fire danger, with temperatures of 113 degrees Fahrenheit (45 degrees Celsius) with the wind blowing 60 miles per hour (100 kph). A fire started at Bailieston in the parish of Wirrate, with the cause unknown. The FCV were notified by a sleeper hewer working in the area at the time. You would have to question why someone would be working cutting sleepers in those conditions!

Power suspected that the fire may have started from a smouldering underground root still alight from burning off operations in September 1938. You would think a fire would be unstoppable given the weather conditions, but the seven brave FCV staff managed to contain the fire to 16 acres (6.5 ha). The rest of the state was not so lucky. Two million hectares (4.9 m acres) were burnt, 71 people died and 650 structures were destroyed.

In the wake of the 1939 fires, no money was available for work in the Rushworth forest as all available funds were directed towards the restoration of large areas of Gippsland forests.

Humans at fault

Sadly, Power's reports indicate that few, if any, of the fires were the result of natural causes. He postulated that the causes included deliberate lighting of some of the fires, and carelessness in other cases. The Christmas Day fire near Whroo appeared to be one of the former, and Power initiated extra patrols by his men to try to stop the practice in its tracks. There had been other suspicious fires in the locality. The suspected culprit in that case was a Whroo resident who had recently been released from a mental institution but he was later exonerated.

In 1941 Power was a prosecution witness in a case where the defendant was fined 20 pounds (\$40) for deliberately lighting two fires south of Whroo. Shortly beforehand, Power had denied one George Mason a licence to cut sleepers in the forest. The fires were lit, perhaps in retribution, as the defendant was riding his bicycle south to Bailieston after consuming 25-30 pots (his own estimate) at Rushworth hotels. It was a wonder he could ride at all, let alone commit arson.

References: 1 DSE Ecological Burning in Box-Ironbark Forests – Phase 1 Literature Review (2007); 2 PROV, FCV File No 38/3576

A Name from the Past

John Kennedy (senr.) died at 93

In the previous edition we noted the death of John Kennedy junior in 1914 at just 53 years. John Kennedy senior was to live to 93, with his death reported precisely 100 years ago.

Noting that Kennedy Road and Egan's Bridge Road run towards Cornella, south of Colbo, these names are linked to pioneer settlers Kennedy and Egan, mentioned in this report from the Rushworth Chronicle of 2 October, 1925.

"One of the oldest residents of the Colbinabbin district, in the person of Mr John Kennedy, passed away at his residence, Phillips Street, Rushworth, on Wednesday, 23rd September, at the age of 93 years, after being in ill-health for some time past.

He had a remarkably strong constitution and never had a day's sickness until about five years ago, when the death of his son affected his health, and he had been in ill-health ever since.

The late Mr Kennedy was born in Tipperary, Ireland, and came to Victoria in the early fifties, and spent some time in Melbourne and Donnybrook. He then moved to Tallarook. After residing there for some years, in company with the late Messrs Egan and Healy, selected adjoining blocks on what then formed part of the Colbinabbin Estate in 1875, where he resided until eighteen months ago, when owing to failing health, he removed to Rushworth.

The late Mr Kennedy was very much esteemed and respected and although he had lived more than the average span of life, his death is deeply regretted.

He leaves a family of five sons and two daughters, one being married (Mrs J. Howe), also 25 grandchildren and great grandchildren, two sons having predeceased him.

The remains were interred in the Colbinabbin Cemetery on Friday last week, the Rev. Father Tehan officiating at the graveside. The coffin was borne to its last resting place by his six grandsons (John, Thomas, Gerald, J.C. and T. Kennedy, and J. Howe)."

The Colbinabbin Estate refers to a large parcel of land once occupied for grazing by squatters, and subsequently broken up with blocks available to selectors, including Mr Kennedy.

Alan McLean

ON THE BRINK

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

Australia has a large number of frog species and, as previously mentioned in this column, many are threatened or endangered due to a variety of factors such as habitat loss, disease (especially chytridiomycosis), invasive species, climate change and extreme weather events. Australia is doing a lot of scientific and on-the-ground conservation work to protect its endangered frog species, including the following research and practical action project at La Trobe University's extensive wetlands sanctuary in Bundoora:

Bringing an iconic species back from the brink

With a call like a revving motorbike, the Growling Grass Frog was once a loud and proud Darebin local, and a vital part of our wetland ecosystem.

Today, he's silent.

Across Victoria, Growling Grass Frogs, affectionately called Growlers, are disappearing. They've already vanished from more than half of the places they once called home. And like many of our native species, their absence exposes a deeper issue.

Their silence signals the breakdown of fragile ecosystems that support not just frogs, but countless plants and animals. This damage also affects the health of our local environment – and ultimately, our community too.

At La Trobe University's Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary, staff and researchers are listening – and taking action. Using proven conservation methods, they're preparing to restore wetland habitats and give endangered species a fighting chance. But they can't do it alone. The Sanctuary plans to launch Stage One of the Growling Grass Frog Reintroduction Project in early 2026. Community support will play a crucial role in bringing this work to life, with every dollar going directly to the frogs' reintroduction and habitat restoration.

To welcome Growlers back to Nangak Tamboree, the team will create special rocky "frog beaches" – warm, sunlit spaces where the frogs can defend against chytrid fungus, a deadly disease wiping out frogs worldwide. They'll also plant a rich mix of native aquatic vegetation to support breeding and provide safe shelter, while expanding disease monitoring programs to protect the health of every frog reintroduced to the wetlands.

These are the first crucial steps in a long-term rewilding effort that will offer a safe haven for native animals and strengthen



biodiversity in Melbourne's north.

Nangak Tamboree isn't just a sanctuary. It's part of a living, biodiverse waterway that connects La Trobe University with Darebin Creek and beyond. Working alongside the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Rangers, the team is combining traditional and contemporary land management to care for Country – creating a future that's both ecologically strong and culturally grounded.

This project will benefit more than frogs. It's a first step toward reintroducing other threatened species, including the Eastern Barred Bandicoot and the Fattailed Dunnart. The Sanctuary's predator-free environment, protected under a Trust for Nature Covenant, ensures these animals have a secure future here.

When we listen to what nature is telling us – and act together with care and urgency – we can create lasting change.

The Growling Grass Frog can't ask for help. But you can answer the call.

You can help Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary restore vital habitat, plant native species, build nesting places, and ensure it remains a thriving home for the native animals that depend on it. Donate before Friday 19 December 2025 to help restore their habitat, revive the wetlands, and bring this iconic species back from the brink.

(<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/philanthropy/stories-of-impact/answering-the-call-to-protect>)



Birds of a Feather

Australian Boobook



The Australian Boobook is Australia's smallest owl and can be found throughout the Australian mainland where there are suitable trees for it to use to roost and nest. A different species is found in Tasmania, the Tasmanian Boobook which is more closely related to the New Zealand species – the Morepork.

Our Boobook is more often heard than seen. It's double tone call with the second note a little lower can be often heard in the evening or early morning. Early settlers thought that it sounded a little like the European cuckoo and the name boobook is of course derived from its call. It is also called the Mopoke which is a similar name to the Morepork – perhaps that bird's name reflecting the New Zealand accent !

Even though the Boobook is a night bird it can sometimes be seen in the daytime where it may be harassed by other birds, particularly honeyeaters. Recently I saw one in a street tree surrounded by some very loud blue-faced honeyeaters but the boobook ignored them and eventually the honeyeaters moved away and allowed the owl to sleep.

Boobooks have a varied diet of small invertebrates such as beetles and moths but their main diet is small birds, rats and mice. Even though boobooks are only about the size of a crested pigeon they can take birds such as starlings and also ring-tailed possums and rabbits. Boobooks and other owls which eat rats and mice are threatened by the use of second generation rodenticides – rat poisons – and there is a campaign to have these chemicals removed from the shelves of hardware stores. Owls that eat dead poisoned rats will also die from the poison.

Boobooks nest in tree hollows, often in the same hollow for a number of years. They have even been known to evict galahs! The male will line the nest and the female will incubate the eggs and look after the small chicks, seldom leaving the nest as the male will bring the food for her and the chicks.

Please be careful when using rat poisons as we want to look after our natural rat killers which give us an evocative sound of the bush at night.

Fifty years ago in our district....

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



Officials from the Mines Department, the Lands Department and the Shire of Waranga met to seek common ground to achieve the preservation of the Balaclava Mine at Whroo. Mr Les Garraway from Echuca, on behalf of the Tourism Department, addressed the meeting enthusiastically about preservation, in stark contrast to a report a few years earlier from the Mines Department which had declared "the mine should be blown up". Mr Garraway planned to meet with the Forests Commission and the Land Conservation Council, to seek an overall State Government view on preservation. (*Sounds like a case of too many departments spoiling the mine.*)

Shire of Waranga

After an approach from the Murchison Public Hall Committee, the Shire decided to seek grants or subsidy to build a pre-school at Murchison. Rather optimistically, it was hoped that Goulburn and Rodney Shires might contribute, as well as other community organisations in Murchison.

Community

Service clubs were in collecting mode, with Rushworth Apex gathering empty beer bottles placed on footpaths, and Rushworth Lions collecting 1150 bales of hay.

Stanhope Apex contacted the Shire, offering to assist in construction of a proposed children's playground in Railway Street.

Youth Club President Ted Whitehead was concerned that with the long-discussed community centre for Rushworth having failed, the club was still in the derelict RSL Hall. He proposed that the Shire should consider some fittings and equipment to be positioned in the Shire Hall, on a temporary basis.

The Anglican Ladies Guild at Murchison held a big fete and extended thanks to their counterparts from Rushworth who had donated, attended and patronised the neighbouring event.

Excitement over the opening of the new rooms for Rushworth - Colbinabbin Senior Citizens had continued after opening celebrations were marred by wet weather. Donations were appreciated, with some confusion over whether an old piano had come from the High School or the now defunct Choral Society in the town, or possibly both! Meals-on-Wheels service was growing thanks to a band of volunteer drivers distributing meals prepared at the new centre.

Murchison Senior Citizens discussed the prospect of buying a set of indoor bowls, while anticipating the forthcoming Christmas luncheon at the Murchison East Motel. Ian Hammond addressed the meeting on first aid for the elderly.

AGM of Rushworth Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary elected Marj Morgan as President,

Nancy Cruz as vice-president, D. Lloyd as secretary and E. Hawking treasurer. (Marj and Nancy will enjoy reading this.)

People

Greg and Denise Muir announced the purchase of Caygill Motor Engineering Works from Charlie and Lucy Caygill. (*The business was on the property now occupied by the service station.*)

Miriam Poulson of Rushworth and David Fisher of Ocean Grove, together with the four parents, announced their engagement.

Mrs Constance Heily, 87, had died in her sleep at Rushworth. She was the widow of Bruce Heily, who was a son of the prominent Dr. John Vickers Heily, who had served the whole district for over forty years in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Noel "Hoppy" Merryfull was photographed at the Criterion Hotel, trying to find a tune on bagpipes belonging to Jack Wylie. Apparently he did not have enough wind.

A kitchen tea was announced for Miss Lynette Perry, ahead of her marriage to the other Alan McLean.

Football

At Elmore, a meeting of the Heathcote District Football League welcomed delegates from Stanhope Football Club who delivered a letter seeking affiliation with the league, subject to gaining release from the Goulburn Valley League. The meeting also learned that Tooborac expected to be able to field three teams in 1976, which would make a seven-team league if Rushworth continued to play. This put Rushworth delegates in an awkward position, having to report a club decision of "eight teams or go elsewhere in 1976".

Cricket

Batting by Rushworth A-grade was described as "pathetic", making just 54 in reply to Lancaster's modest 106. One unnamed player made it to double figures. Bowling a second time cousins Graeme Hageman (2/3) and Chris Hageman (2/7) did well to have Lancaster 7 wickets for 63, but Rushworth's batsmen cost them the match.

In junior cricket, Rushworth's 65 runs were no match for Tatura's 97. Craig Beck made 33, half the score for the Tigers, G. Pearce (Graeme or Geoff?) adding nine. Best bowling came from Paul Gleeson 3/26, Pearce 2/4 and Donald Potter 2/12.

Tennis

Just after the end of World War II, Rushworth Tennis Club had held an annual Easter tournament, with great success and many visiting participants, despite the absence of changing rooms and showers. A club meeting decided that it would not hold a tournament in Easter 1976. Rain in the 1975

spring meant that the replacement of one bank of courts had not been successful, and they would not be up to scratch by Easter.

Over the Christmas - New Year period, there were to be tournaments and coaching class opportunities at Kyabram and Shepparton.

Bowls

Associate A3 team at Rushworth lost to Hill Top, though Elsie Laurie, Mabel Boundy, Joan Whitehead and Carrie Johansen formed a winning rink. Peg Jell, Vera Pettifer, Mary Bradley, Lucy Munsey, Jean Branson, Doris Barlow, Linda Duke and Jean Laurie were not quite so successful. (*Miss Munsey is Mrs Harper and lives in Tatura, and is a keen reader of Waranga News.*)

Stanhope men were not bowling well enough to beat Tatura Gold in A1 pennant, though Aub Downing's rink and Norm Hadfield's four had finished ahead of their opponents.

Stanhope A2 had a narrow 101 to 100 victory over Murchison Gold, with only John Stokes's rink successful. The margin of that rink covered the losses of the other three.

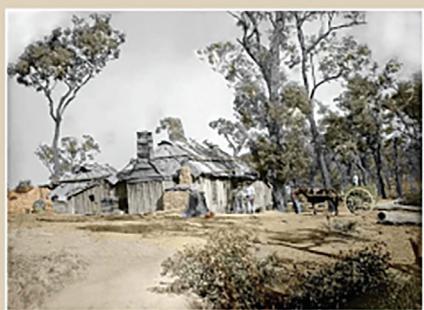
Mixed social bowls at Stanhope were won by A. Vaughan, I. Junge, M. Flanagan and E. Milthorpe.

Auto Club

Arthur Garvey and Peter Davidson backed off their criticism of Rushworth traders for failure to support the Auto Club. Their complaints were revised to say "some" traders, acknowledging that support had been received. (*And no doubt some earlier criticism of his initial remarks.*)

The club announced an Old Time Dance in the Shire Hall, with music by Emms Orchestra, entry \$1.

Rushing to Whroo, 1853 to 1880



\$25

Alan McLean

0412 143 660

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Waranga News office and General Store Rushworth

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

St Mary's years 3/4 Camp at Billabong Ranch

Last week, St Mary's Year 3/4 students and staff attended their 2025 camp at Billabong Ranch, just outside Echuca.

The students demonstrated outstanding respect, participation and manners throughout the experience, and school staff provided exceptional care and leadership.

A heartfelt thank-you to the teachers who spent two nights away from their own families to make this memorable camp possible.



Indy L and Alyssa N with one of the horses



Students participating in camp activities at Billabong Ranch

P-12 students support Colbinabbin Landcare Day

On Tuesday 11 November Mr Daff, Ms McCloy and four very enthusiastic Year 7 students attended the Colbinabbin Primary School Landcare Day. It was exceptionally good. Our P-12 College students assisted with the workshops where they could, being particularly helpful in the prep and kinder classes. Amelia overcame her spider phobia during the spider session. Thanks for helping, Amelia A, Ruby G, Zara S and Stella B from 7/8A.



Looks like Amelia liked getting closer to the spiders than Ruby did.

Wriggly Worms Incursion for P-12 Prep to Year 3

On Tuesday 12 November, the Year Prep to 3 students had a very engaging workshop about worms in the garden and the importance of composting for the good of our gardens and to reduce the methane in our environment. The students are now looking forward to adding their lunch scraps to our school worm farm and can tell you lots of fun facts about worms. Thanks to Aga and Grassroots sustainably for providing the informative and engaging workshop.



Lily didn't mind handling the wriggly worms during the recent visit from Grassroots sustainability, where students learnt the importance of worms in the garden.

Around our schools Around our schools

St Marys' academic excellence shines at in-augural Sandhurst Awards

by Vin Ryan (Principal)

A small contingent of staff, students and families travelled to The All Seasons in Bendigo on Thursday 20 November for the inaugural Sandhurst Awards. The Sandhurst Awards is a day to recognise the achievements of individuals throughout the diocese.

Mason received his 'Inspirational Student Learner' award for the effort that he puts into all aspects of his learning. He has a go at all tasks assigned to him and is making amazing progress.

Alia received her 'Spirit of Sandhurst' award for her interactions with others within our school. Alia is kind, friendly and welcoming toward all of her peers and demonstrates a positive mind-set toward all elements of her learning.

Mrs Fiske-Kealy received the 'Curriculum Teaching Excellence' award (of which there were 19 nominations within the 51 primary schools). Ange's problem-solving persistence has allowed her to plan and implement exceptional quality teaching (especially in InitiaLit literacy and Ochre numeracy) into her F/1/2 composite. There is not a minute to spare in her classroom, with all learners engaged and making amazing progress!

We could not be prouder of our award recipients. Well-done St Mary's Rushworth for dedication to academic and wellbeing excellence and learner growth!

St Mary's Fete

Last Friday, the amazing Parents and Friends Committee hosted the annual St Mary's Fete, drawing strong attendance from across the community. Festivities included a raffle wheel, student-run stalls, a jumping castle, go-karts, dunk the Principal and colour run.

The event not only celebrated community spirit but also raised funds that will directly support camp and excursion opportunities ensuring Rushworth students have access to the same enriching experiences available to children in larger regional centres.



Proud parents, teachers and students - Shannon, Mason, Angela, Vin, Kellie and Alia.

Together for Humanity

St Mary's welcomed renowned artist Emma Stenhouse to the school last week as part of an artist-in-residence program. Over the course of the week, Emma used art as an engaging platform to promote inclusion and cultural understanding. Staff, families, parish members and students all took part in a series of meaningful learning experiences that enriched our community and deepened our shared appreciation of diversity.



Words could not be as effective as the big smile on Siena Chillingsworth's face to describe the popularity of St Mary's breakfast pancakes!

Enrolments remain Open

Enrolments for all Year levels remain open for 2025, 2026 and beyond. Please contact our admin for further information including our transition program 'Building Foundations' which is currently running.

Around our schools Around our schools

Canberra Camp for Stanhope Primary School

by Micaela Rosenberg

While students and staff joined with members of the Stanhope RSL Sub-Branch and Stanhope community to honour those who paid the supreme sacrifice for this year's Remembrance Day Service, our Grade 5 and 6 students were paying their respects at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Students and staff from our Small Schools' Cluster (Stanhope, Girgarre, Lancaster and Merrigum Primary Schools) were fortunate to travel to Canberra where they were immersed in history, science, sports and politics.

Among the highlights were: a self-guided tour of ANZAC Parade; attending the Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial; a tour of Parliament House; an exploration of Questacon; a visit to the Australian Institute of Sport; a guided tour of the Royal Australian Mint.

The students were privileged to attend the Last Post Ceremony, where our Grade 6 student Bonni laid a wreath at the Pool of Reflection. This ceremony is held and live-streamed each day to honour the life of a member of the armed services. You may view these online via YouTube by searching for Flight Sergeant Sidney Arthur Brown 12/11/2025.

Amid their busy four-day schedule, students also had time for mini-golf! A trip up to the Mount Ainslie lookout was able to provide a bird's eye view of Canberra's



Kale, Cooper and Cass strong-arm coinage at the Royal Australian Mint.



Bonni and Xyla 'sitting' in the Senate.



Senior students from our Small Schools' Cluster at Lake Burley Griffin.

layout and all the places that were visited. This rich experience provided a broad range of learning topics in our Nation's Capital.



Xyla, Cass, Cooper, Bonni and Kale at Parliament House.
11 November 2025 2:12 pm

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Around our schools Around our schools

P-12 Graduation marks end of school for Year 12s

The stage was set for the Year 12 students and their families to celebrate graduation at the Moama Bowling Club last Wednesday night.

The Class of 2025 looked resplendent in their formal attire and were surrounded by proud family members and close friends.

The College's new Captains, Emily McLean and Tildy Brew, were warmly received as emcees for the evening.

Principal Jamie Daff congratulated the cohort, acknowledging that they had begun their secondary education during a global pandemic, faced interruptions caused by the 2022 floods, and navigated ongoing staffing changes within a small rural school. He noted that these challenges had only strengthened their determination to succeed, and succeed they had—each in their own individual way.

Following a delicious main course, VCE

Coordinator Taylah Carmichael presented the Awards of Excellence.

Award winners

Congratulations were extended to the following students:

Teaghan Robertson – English, Maths, Technology, Science (Psychology), Health & Physical Education

Grace Barlow – Science (Ag/Hort)

Jemma Albrey – Technology

Ella Johnstone – VCE VM Excellence

Endeavour Awards were presented to Rachelle Rodwell, Jackie Jones, Ella Johnstone, Jack Patrick, Michael Fung, and Phillip Fung.

The ADF Long Tan Leadership & Teamwork

Award was presented to Rachelle Rodwell, and the ADF Future Innovators Award was presented to Jemma Albrey.

The Class of 2025 then delivered heartfelt speeches to the teachers who had made a significant impact during their schooling.

Jamie Daff and Peter Bovell concluded the formalities by presenting each student with a graduation certificate and a gift from the P-12 College.

Overall, it was a wonderful celebration of a remarkable group of young adults. The College extended its best wishes to them for their future endeavours.



Excellence Award and multiple other awards listed above
Teaghan Robertson



Excellence in Science (Agriculture) Grace Barlow



Excellence in Technology and ADF Future Innovators Award
Jemma Albrey



VCE VM Excellence Award
Ella Johnstone



ADF Long Tan Leadership & Teamwork Award Rachelle Rodwell



(*Above right*) Endeavour Awards were presented to Rachelle Rodwell, Jackie Jones, Ella Johnstone, Jack Patrick, Michael Fung, and Phillip Fung.

(*Right*) The whole Year 12 Class of 2025.

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

Mindful Mayhem on World Kindness Day

On World Kindness Day the college celebrated what was to have been a National Mental Health Week event – Mindful Mayhem.

It was a wonderful community collaboration with support received from Rushworth Community House, Waranga Community Health, Headspace (Shepparton), Njernda (Echuca) and the local Rushworth CFA and SES.

The College also took this event as an opportunity to give back to an organisation that supports us a lot, and that is Foodbank Victoria. We did this through the Food Bank Food Fight, and as a college we are very proud of the \$3,227.00 we raised. This amount will enable Foodbank Victoria to provide Victorian families with over 6,000 meals. The Food ROCKs program at the College relies heavily on its support to offer the breakfast, recess and lunch program that we do.

Thanks to Its Party Time, Shepparton, Rushworth Community House, Headspace and Njernda students from Year Prep to 12 had plenty of fun activities to participate in. Students then enjoyed a lovely BBQ cooked by the Rushworth SES.

Whilst this was happening some of the best fundraisers got the opportunity to ‘slime’ the teachers – Mr Bovell, Jo James and Grant Mitchell all volunteered!!

Then it was time to assemble the tubs of slime, cordial and sponge ‘fruit’ for the Foodbank Food Fight – in which no actual



food was harmed.

Students then enjoyed the messiest fun we have seen in a long time! A huge thank you to the Rushworth CFA who came along to ‘clean off’ the students before they got on the buses.

As a college we want to acknowledge there may have been some confusion locally about whether the funds were going to our own Rushworth Foodbank, but in this case it wasn’t. FoodBank Food Fights are held very regularly in schools around Australia. As a College we want to acknowledge the support we do get from our own Rushworth Foodbank and have been happy to run projects to support it in the past and hope to continue this in the future.

(Above) The axe throw was a popular activity



Huddy enjoyed sliming everyone.

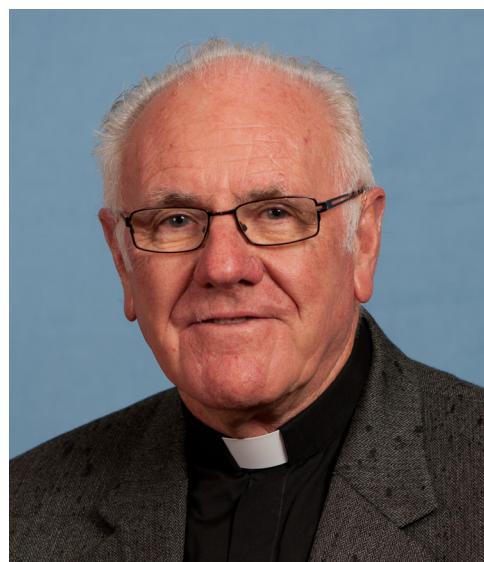


(Above) Mikayala McM, Stella and Zara enjoyed the colour of the Food Fight.

(Left) Headspace had a range of activities and encouraged social participation through outdoor games – all good things for a positive mental health.

Mons Frank Marriott ~ 18 January 1938 - 24 November 2025

The Diocese of Sandhurst mourns death of a 'giant of the Diocese'. Monsignor Francis 'Frank' Marriott OAM, beloved Bendigo-born Catholic priest and community leader who died peacefully on Sunday, 24 November 2025, after sixty-three years of priestly ministry and a lifetime of service to the Church and the wider community he loved.



For more than six decades, Monsignor Frank's influence reached far beyond parish walls. He made an enormous contribution to central Victoria, strengthening local institutions, championing social cohesion, supporting families, engaging in grassroots activism and offering pastoral care to people from every background and walk of life. His leadership in education, interfaith relations, civic advocacy, social justice and community wellbeing made him a respected and unifying presence across the region.

Raised in Elmore after his early years in Bendigo, he remained deeply connected to local life and, just as passionately, connected to the Collingwood Magpies. After boarding at Assumption College, Kilmore, he entered the seminary in 1956 and was ordained at Sacred

Heart Cathedral on 29 June 1962.

Throughout his career, Mons. Marriott served in thirteen parishes (including St Mary's Rushworth where he made his mark on the field playing with the Rushworth Football Club).

He held key leadership roles, including Vicar General, Chancellor, Administrator of Sacred Heart Cathedral and Diocesan Administrator. But his contribution extended far beyond ecclesial titles.

As a young priest, he joined the Young Christian Workers (YCW), calling it 'the greatest learning experience of my life'; and attributed its 'See, Judge, Act' approach to shaping his lifelong commitment to empowering ordinary people.

He helped establish TEAMS of Our Lady in Sandhurst to support marriages and families and acted as Chaplain to various groups and communities throughout the Diocese.

Innovation and courage marked his ministry. In the 1970s, as Parish Priest of Heathcote, he appointed the Diocese's first lay school principal and created its first Lay School Board, securing the future of Holy Rosary Primary School. He later co-founded and chaired the Heathcote Citizens Action Committee, which successfully opposed the State Government's proposal for a toxic liquid-waste dump at Dargile Forest, a defining community victory.

Mons Marriott was also active in the national arena; serving as Chair of the National Council of Priests 1976-1982 and was an inaugural board member of the St Peter's Centre for the Renewal of Priests in Canberra.

In 2014, amid heated anti-mosque protests in Bendigo, Mons Marriott again stepped forward for the common good, co-founding and chairing

the Bendigo Interfaith Council to promote understanding and cooperation across diverse faiths. For Monsignor Marriott, it was all about focusing on the commonalities. 'Spirituality – a fundamental process of a human having contact with the non-Human, with God,' he once said.

Even after retirement, his commitment never wavered. He ministered in Loddon and Middleton prisons, served on the boards of the Sandhurst Priests' Retirement Foundation and the Sandhurst Solidarity Fund, and continued to accompany people in need with characteristic humility and humour.

His service was widely recognised. In 2012, he was named a Protonotary Apostolic — one of only six Australians to hold the honour at the time. In 2022, he received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to the Catholic Church and the community.

Many will remember Mons Marriott for his sharp mind, his love of history, his deep curiosity and his unmistakable sense of humour. His advice to future priests captured his spirit:

"Have a great love for history – and bring a good sense of humour."

Monsignor Frank Marriott was, in every sense, a man for all – a steadfast priest, a principled community advocate and a generous presence in the lives of thousands across central Victoria. He will be profoundly missed. May he rest in peace.

A *Requiem Mass* in memory of Monsignor Frank will be held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 25 November at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

His *Funeral Mass* will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 1pm on Wednesday 3 December 2025.

District Church Times and Contacts

Anglican

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

Presbyterian

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

Catholic

St Mary's Parish. 1st and 3rd Sundays: Cornella 9am; Stanhope 10.30am. 2nd and 4th Sundays: Rushworth 9am; Murchison 10.30am.
5th Sunday: One Parish Mass - Rushworth 10.30am followed by a cuppa in the parish house. Contact a team member on the parish mobile phone: 0459 898 925. .

Shine Church, Stanhope

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

Living Waters Rushworth:

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

Generations Church, Tatura

5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

Salvation Army: 5852 3875

Uniting Church

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

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

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

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

The link for the Zoom service can be found on our website warangaunitingchurches.net.au 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.
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"The Wind Is Driving Me Mad"

November is a notoriously windy month in our part of the world. You can hear it in the small talk.

We might mention how much rain we've had, or how hot it's been, but lately the wind is the main character in every conversation. It knocks over bins, rips pegs off the clothesline, ruins carefully planned picnics, and turns a pleasant game of bowls or golf into a day of frustration. Out on the farms it plays with nerves and livelihoods; flattening crops that were looking promising a week earlier, snapping branches, and testing the iron on the sheds.

Last weekend, as we grumbled about the wind, people in Darwin and across the Northern Territory were on cyclone watch. The very same thing we find irritating is, just a few thousand kilometres away, a serious threat. Here, the wind is a nuisance. There, it's something you track on the radar with a knot in your stomach.

Maybe a name will tame it

We give the wind names, as if that might tame it a little: Tracy, Yasi, Debbie. In Victoria, Total Fire Ban days usually come with the words "hot northerly winds," and suddenly a breeze isn't just a breeze; it's fuel for fear. Someone who has been badly frightened is said to have "had the wind put up them." On certain days the whole town seems a little more irritable, restless, and tired. Windy weather gets into our heads as well as our hair.

Wind is an invisible force that can sustain us, comfort us, inspire us, annoy us—and sometimes destroy us. We never actually see the wind itself. We only see what it does. The trees lean sideways, the dust lifts off the paddocks, the clouds race each other across the sky. The wind is invisible, but its effects aren't. The same wind that rattles our windows also fills the sails of ships, turns wind turbines, cools us on a hot night, and carries the rain we pray for.

We respond

There's an ancient saying that "the wind blows where it wants to; you hear the sound of it, but you don't know where it comes from or where it's going" (John 3:8). Long before weather apps and satellite images, people knew this: the wind is one of those things we live with but don't control. We can't switch it off, only respond to it.



And respond we do. We build windbreaks and plant rows of trees. We learn which parts of the house rattle most and stuff an old towel under the door. We move the barbecue to the more sheltered corner of the yard. Farmers change their harvesting plans; firefighters watch forecasts; event organisers reluctantly decide to "call it off and try again next week."

A lot of life feels like that too

There are "winds" that blow through our lives that we can't see, only feel: a sudden change at work, a diagnosis, a family falling out, the mood of the nation, the constant stream of news and social media outrage. None of these are visible in the way a fallen branch is, but they bend us all the same. Sometimes the wind is exhilarating; a cool southerly after a scorching day, a new idea that brings hope. At other times it's just plain wearing, roaring in our ears at three in the morning, refusing to let us rest. Our thoughts can feel like that; restless, circling, noisy.

So what helps when "the wind is driving me mad"?

We can remember that wind is seasonal. November is windy around here. In the same way, sometimes we're just in a blustery, unsettled patch of life. Naming that can help. Instead of thinking "this is how it will always be," we can say, "this is just the season I'm in."

Look for shelter

We can look for shelter. On wild days, a simple thing like sitting in the lee of a shed makes a difference. In life, our "shelters" might be a trusted friend, a quiet walk, a good book, a favourite piece of music, or the routine of turning up to the same community week after week.

We can also make sure the important things are tied down. In a storm, you secure what you don't want to lose. In a busy, windy season, that might mean protecting time with the people who matter most, keeping small rituals like shared meals, or holding onto the values you don't want blown away—kindness, honesty, generosity—even when everything else is swirling.

But for people of faith there is one more

thing.

There's another old story about wind and fear. Jesus and his friends are out on the lake when a sudden storm blows up. The waves crash over the boat. The seasoned fishermen panic. Jesus, somehow, is asleep in the stern. When they finally shake him awake, he speaks a few words and the wind dies down. The disciples are left asking, "Who is this, that even the wind and the waves obey him?" (Mark 4: 41)

We're not alone

Most of us don't get that kind of instant miracle. The storms still blow, both in the sky and in our lives. But the heart of the story is this: we are not alone in the boat. God does not always spare us the wild weather, but God is with us in it—steadier than our fear, closer than the air in our lungs.

So if the November wind is driving you mad, you're not just a grumpy local complaining about the breeze. You're a human being living in a windy world, where unseen forces are always swirling around us. May you find shelter when you need it, courage when the gusts pick up, and the quiet assurance that, whatever the weather, God is with you in the storm and will not let you go.

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

*Brian Spencer, Minister
Waranga Uniting Churches*

Pre-loved Christmas

New research from Vinnies Victoria reveals nine in ten Aussies are open to receiving a pre-loved gift this Christmas

Australians are gift-wrapping up a new kind of Christmas this year, with new research revealing three in four (76%) are open to buying op-shop gifts this festive season and nearly nine in ten (89%) open to receiving a pre-loved pressie.

Pre-loved gifts offer three in one; it's a gift for your wallet, a gift for your loved one, and a gift for the planet and community. Vinnies Victoria operates over 120 shops across Victoria, generating a retail turnover of more than \$60 million. The network continues to grow, with twelve new stores opened in the past twelve months, including four PopUP by Vinnies locations. Through their purchases, Vinnies shoppers have helped fund \$9.5 million food vouchers, 800,000 meals, and \$6.4 million in cost-of-living support – a remarkable contribution made possible by thousands of dedicated volunteers.

For more information, please visit: www.vinnies.org.au/vic/vinnies-shops/gift-good

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Phone: 5852 1061 Mobile: 0409 935 375

WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

BEREAVEMENT THANKS

LAURIE, Ian

Thank You

Wendy and the family of the late Ian Laurie, who passed away on 27 October 2025, wish to express their heartfelt thanks for the kindness shown during our recent loss. Beloved husband of Wendy, cherished dad to Jamie and Fee, Sarah, Jess and Steve, and proud Poppy to nine treasured grandchildren. We are deeply grateful for all the visits, flowers, food, and the unwavering support from our wonderful community and friends. Your compassion has brought great comfort at a very difficult time.

Ian / Dad was a quiet and kind man
—forever missed, forever loved.

LLOYD, Lily Lorraine (nee Shipp)

Thank you to everyone for the cards, flowers and kind support on the passing of our beautiful Mum. *Forever in our hearts.*

From April and family.

Advertising Rates

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

Black and White Display Ads: \$5.40 per column centimetre

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.

Phone: 5856 1120

or email wnews@iinet.net.au

FOR SALE

Small bales of lucerne hay

Second cut. Off irrigation. Good colour.

Small lots OK. Kyabram area.

Phone 0427 056 065

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 24 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.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Helen Truran

**Marriage
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Mobile: 0419 529 155

Phone: (03) 5826 2001

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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

NOVEMBER

Sat 29 Rushworth Christmas & Art & Craft market - Shire Hall

DECEMBER

Thu 4	Walk Against Family Violence, Hopwood Gardens, Echuca
Sat 6	Red Knights, Toy Run 9.30am Echuca to Rushworth
Sun 7	Stanhope Community Market from 8am
Thu 11	Waranga News Colour Christmas Edition out
Sat 20	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
Thu 25	Community Christmas Lunch - 11am -3pm - five course lunch free entry for all - By Red Knights Aus14. Book at:

Meetings & Activities - around the district

- Alcoholics Anonymous(AA) meetings, Thursdays 7pm 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, 1st and 4th 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.

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 Health5851 8000
Nurse on call..... 1300 606 024

HELP:
Lifeline.....13 1114
Kids Helpline.....1800 551 800

POLICE:
Rushworth.....5856 1000
Murchison.....5826 2222
Colbinabbin.....5856 1000

SUPPORT SERVICE:
St Vincent de Paul.....0417 597 468

WARANGA NEWS OFFICE.....5856 1120

DEFIB LOCATIONS

Waranga Health 14 High St, Rushworth
CFA 20-24 Murchison Rd, Rushworth
Community House 67 High St, Rushworth
Recreation reserve 2 Coyle St, Rushworth

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

FOR NEXT EDITION - 11 December

Display Ads: Friday, 5 December

Classified: Monday, 8 December

wnews@iinet.net.au

Waranga News



A Voluntary Community Newspaper

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Posted \$65.00 (inc cost of postage)

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

Your Council News

Coming Up

Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 9 December 2025 | Echuca Civic Centre
Meetings can be streamed live: www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming

 @CampaspeShireCouncil
 #campaspeshire
 P: 1300 666 535 | 03 5481 2200
 E: shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au
www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

Project update

Drainage works are in progress along South Boundary Road, Kyabram, and are expected to be completed by the end of November.



Immunisation sessions

By appointment only.

Campaspe Shire Council has appointed Kernow Environmental Services as its new immunisation provider following a competitive tender process. Kernow brings strong public health expertise and experience working with local governments, ensuring safe and reliable services for the community. The first session under Kernow's management will be held on Monday, 15 December 2025, from 4.30pm to 6.30pm at Echuca Library. Council will release the 2026 half-year immunisation schedule shortly. Appointments can be booked online via Kernow's portal.

Register via:
<https://kernow.book.vitavo.com.au/available-appointments>.

Careers #campaspecareers

Visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/careers or call 1300 666 535.

- Child care, various positions
- Animal Pound Coordinator (closes 30 November)
- Saleyards Supervisor (closes 30 November)
- Waste Education Officer (closes 30 November)
- Manager Governance and Corporate Performance (closes 7 December)

Tenders

Campaspe Shire Council is seeking submissions from suitably experienced providers for the following tenders:

C25043 2022 Flood Recovery - CE-002
Echuca Nanneella Rd Segment Rehabilitation

C25044 2022 Flood Recovery - CE-004 Panoo Rd Segment Rehabilitation

C25045 2022 Flood Recovery - CE-005

Headworks Rd Segment Rehabilitation

C25046 2022 Flood Recovery - CE-005 Singer Rd Segment Rehabilitation

A copy of the documents can be downloaded from Council's website. Tender submissions must be uploaded to the eProcure tender portal on Council's website no later than 2pm on Thursday, 11 December 2025. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Now Open

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

Rural Tree Scheme

Are you a rural landowner who'd like more indigenous plants on your property? Council's Rural Tree Scheme gives rural ratepayers access to subsidised indigenous plants. Orders are open until Monday, 1 December (unless fully subscribed earlier).

Managing Livestock Losses After an Emergency: What rural landowners need to know

This practical workshop for rural landowners will cover managing livestock losses during flood recovery, including disposal options and support services.

Date: Thursday, 11 December.

Time: 10am-1pm.

Location: Echuca & District Livestock Exchange, 520 McKenzie Road, Echuca.

Cost: Free, includes morning tea and light lunch.



Centre for
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violence



Campaspe
Shire Council

Workshop bookings:
Required via the QR code (right) or the Now Open section on our website. Spots are limited, so book now!



2026 #myCampaspe calendars are FREE and available now!

The 2026 #MyCampaspe calendar is available to pick up from Council Customer Service Centres and Libraries. The calendar is free to all residents and features the best photos from our local amateur photographers. For centre locations and hours, please visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/contactus

Promote your community group or event on our website!

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

Readers' Corner

- interesting things to know and do!

BOOK IT IN

Once Upon a Time

The Story of Princess Grace, Prince Ranier and their Family by J. Randy Taraborrelli (Sidgwick & Jackson 2003)

When Grace Kelly left the fame of the movie world and Hollywood to marry Prince Ranier of Monaco, we all thought what a fairy-tale life she was stepping into. That illusion hid the sometimes harsh reality of a difficult marriage, a difficult husband and a difficult family and the end of her successful career as an award winning actress.

Born into a handsome American family with social-climbing parents and an autocratic father whom she always felt considered her as second-best, Grace almost certainly felt that to become a royal princess would redeem her in the eyes of her father, but she barely knew Ranier or the people and culture of his country. Unfortunately Ranier was an autocrat like her father and his people were extremely conservative and Grace, who had become an independent woman accustomed to making important decisions about her own life, butted up against these attitudes and was often lost and unhappy.

Some members of Ranier's family always considered her to be an interloper and she was far away in Monaco from her friends and family. Her daughters were both difficult, making unsuitable marriages or liaisons with unsuitable men although Albert, her only son, was sensible and responsible.

Ranier saw that she was unhappy and suggested, much to her joy, that she could return to Hollywood now and again to make suitable movies but the people of Monaco vetoed that decision almost unanimously. Bitterly disappointed, and realizing that she was trapped, Grace decided not to succumb to regret but to accept her situation and build a life in her adopted country with Ranier and her children and she did this for twenty-six years until her untimely death in a car accident in September 1982.

It was not a fairy-tale. She made choices, faced the consequences, overcame her regrets and found acceptance, not as a princess but very much as a woman. This biography tells us so much more about her life than we ever imagined when we first saw her looking so serene and beautiful at her wedding. Often we are quite unaware of the truth until we read books such as this.

The Bookster

Did you know?

1. White is considered the safest color for a car.

This is because white cars typically stand out against the black roads. Statistics state that white cars are 12% less likely to get into an accident compared to black cars.

2. The most sensitive finger is the index finger.

The index finger is the second finger on your hand and it is also called the forefinger. This finger also possesses the highest dexterity among any other finger.

Sudoku and Crossword puzzle

Lovatts
www.lovattspuzzles.com

HOW TO PLAY

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

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

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

Across

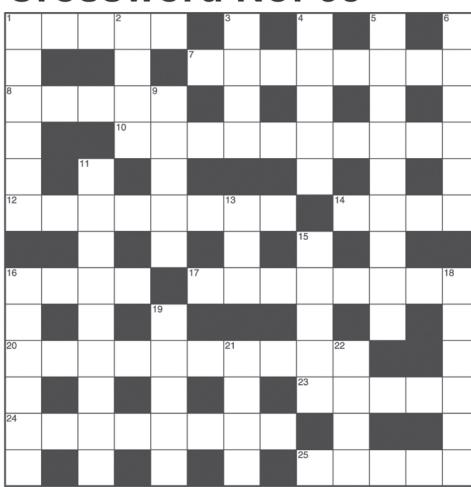
- Oyster gem
- Bird hunted for sport
- Overweight
- Workmanship
- Slaughterhouse
- Hairless
- Lash
- Assaulted
- Cave deposit
- Damascus is there
- Rubbing with nose
- Reserve, set ...

Down

- Anxiety disorder
- Impulsive
- Garden hut
- Tennis game
- Pleasant tasting
- Declared
- Third planet
- VIP cameramen
- Belonging to that
- Breathes hard
- Melding (of bone)
- Give (to charity)
- Unhappily
- Repair
- Storm centres

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

Crossword No: 65



V is for Vegetables



A zucchini zoomed by on a sled,
With a cabbage balanced on its head.

V is for...



van

V is also for van, vase, violin, voice, violets, vote, vine, vultures and volcanoes. Australia has all of those - except the last two (vultures and volcanoes!).

There are numerous old, non-active volcanoes on the mainland of Australia - the last eruption occurred 5000 years ago.

As for vultures in Australia? They died out about 50,000 years ago!

I asked Chat GPT to write me some vegetable verses ... and this was the best of a pretty bad lot. I think I should stick to trying to write my own.

It yelled, "TO THE MOON!"
(Though it launched too soon)
Now it's stuck in a tree instead.



RFNC - Rushworth pre-season signing up for 2026

The pre-season conversation has been and gone and signing and moving forward into a new stronger 2026 is happening at the Ironbark Stadium. The old and new have gathered to promote a strong club where goals are met and attitudes are positive!

Football 2026

Signing - Danny Brock

The RFNC announce the signing of Danny Brock for season 2026. The club are building something really special and testament to this is the signing of Danny. He wants to play for a club like ours where respect, love and care for our people is first and foremost.

We are extremely excited to see what Danny can bring to our club and team. He is deadly in front of goals and an electric turn of pace. He will also bring energy and enthusiasm to the entire club!

Signing - Brad Cann

The club is thrilled to announce the signing of Brad Cann. Coming off a career-best season, Brad took out the League Best and Fairest, Premiership and Best on ground in the Grand Final. We are super excited to see Brad sign on to play at Ironbark Stadium.

He brings with him great experience, a combative style of play and an outstanding attitude towards team and club success!

The club welcomes Brad, his partner Laura and daughters Addison and Bobbi for season 2026.

Re-signing - Ryan Beale

The club is thrilled to announce the re-signing of Ryan Beale for season 2026. The "Rhino" had a stellar season for the Tigers taking out joint winner of Runner-up Best and Fairest.

In his first full year of Senior footy, Rhino gave the team an ability to have different players play multiple roles. Whether it be in the forward line clunking contested marks, or playing in the ruck giving the mids first use of the ball, Rhino has been an awesome contributor for the club. He is a great person with a great attitude, which is something we hold in very high regard at Tigerland.

The club can't wait to see the growth in Ryan both individually as a person and as a player, but also having him take another step forward in his career! Welcome back Ryan for a second year.

Re-signing - Nick Collins

Nick Collins has re-signed for season 2026. Collo came to Rushy mid season and set Ironbark Stadium alight. His competitiveness and attention to detail in becoming a great player for the club is something to behold.

Taking out the Best-Finals-Player this year is testament to how highly the club rates Nick. He plays big or small and played on some of the biggest names in the competition and beat them. We are extremely excited to watch what will unfold for the upcoming season.

Signing - Josh Francis

The RFNC is extremely excited to announce the signing of Josh Francis for season 2026!

Josh comes to us after playing his junior career at the strong Kyabram Football Club. He is no stranger to Ironbark Stadium but now we get to see him showcase his talents on the field. Josh will bring high energy and enthusiasm to our program, with a contest-based mindset and is looking forward to starting his Senior career at the Tigers. Welcome Josh for season 2026.

Signing - Matt Ludbrook

The RFNC is thrilled to announce the signing of Matt Ludbrook for season 2026!

"Ludders" brings a wealth of experience and also a hard-nosed edge to his game. This will improve the teams style even further. Matt was super impressive during interviews and will fit seamlessly into our Tiger culture! A great person and contributor both on and off the field. We can't wait to see Ludders in action at Ironbark in 2026

Netball 2026

Signing - Lauren Parker

We're thrilled to welcome Lauren Parker as U13 coach for 2026.

Lauren and her family have already been part of the Rushworth community, with her kids Byron and Zanna playing in the U15s this season and they loved the atmosphere and hospitality at Rushworth.

Lauren brings a wealth of experience from her involvement with the Kyabram and Shepparton Netball Associations, including several coaching roles. Friendly, passionate, and community-minded, she'll be an amazing addition to the clubs coaching team.

Lauren will also step into the role of Junior Netball Coordinator and join our

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BH: 5824 1428
motormobile@bigpond.com

Netball Committee. Welcome aboard, Lauren

Re-signed - Sheree Starling

Rushworth FNC is excited to announce Sheree Starling will be leading the Under 15's again for season 2026.

After taking the team to the Grand Final in 2025 the club is eager to see what she can deliver in 2026.

Re-signing - Emma and Zahley

RFNC are excited to announce Emma and Zahley Francis as our Under 11 coaches for season 2026.

Signing - Montana Mylon

Rushworth club are pleased to announce Montana Mylon as their 2026 B Grade Netball Coach.

After coaching the C Grade team last year Montana's passion and leadership make her a fantastic fit to step into the B Grade role. The club looks forward to seeing her continue to make a strong impact around the club in 2026.

Rushworth Football Netball Club Pre-season Football

Wednesday 26 November

Wednesday 3 December

Wednesday 10 December

Wednesday 17 December

Start time 6 pm at the Ironbark Stadium, bring runners and boots.

Netball

Netball trials have been and gone. After great numbers at trials we look forward to exciting times ahead for the club, with new and old faces showing up and battling it out on the court.

If you have any questions or are unable to attend please contact Sheree on 0439566810

Congratulations to Jac and Shanae Barrett on the safe arrival of Spencer Barrett.

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Ph. 5856 1905

Rushworth Field and Game receives Fosterville Gold mine Community Grant

Rushworth Field and Game were pleased to accept a grant of \$4570 from the Fosterville Gold Mine at a recent presentation along with other recipients of grants.

Conservation officer Graeme Wall, along with Grant Mitchell, Aiden Porter and Lucas Jones were invited along to the presentation and morning tea by Leigh Byrne the Fosterville Mine Community Officer.

After a brief presentation about the mine and its story and plans, Leigh Krois and Lance Faulkner made the presentations to Grant recipients.

Leigh Byrne was impressed with the Field and Game submission and plans are underway for the mine community and environmental teams to visit Rushworth.

The environmental team are continually doing rehabilitation work and are keen to see the various boxes being designed and made at Rushworth as they are about to start installing boxes around the mine site.

This will give a chance to share knowledge of what works and what doesn't and hopefully greater success for both organizations.

New hen house design shows excellent results

The hen houses installed on the storm water wetlands on the east and west end of Rushworth town are already producing safe nest sites.

As people make their way along the rail trail, they will notice the hen houses. One has eight eggs in it (*photo below*) and the hen is sitting on the eggs and will continue to do so until they hatch around twenty-eight days.

As you would imagine, the Rushworth P12 students are enjoying the results. Building the hen houses is a bit mundane - erecting them is somewhat more enthralling and checking on their progress and finding eggs and a hen sitting on the eggs is out of expectations.

For the safety of the nesting birds, admirers are asked to keep their distance. The team is also considering the installation of trail cameras to capture more images of the nesting activity, which can be shared with the community in the future.



Fosterville Gold Mine Community Grant Presentation to Rushworth Field and Game.

Regional All Abilities Participation Grants now open

The Nationals' Member for Euroa, Annabelle Cleland, has welcomed the opening of the Regional All Abilities Participation Grants, encouraging local sporting clubs and community groups to apply.

Unlike many other programs, these grants are open for direct applications by local sporting clubs and community-based not-for-profit organisations, rather than through councils.

They help organisations purchase specialised equipment, recruit and support people with disability, and expand programs that are inclusive and accessible.

The grants are offered across three categories, with up to \$25,000 available in each:

Category 1: Equipment and Travel

- Purchase modified equipment, assistive technology, adaptive clothing, or environmental aids
- Reduce travel costs for participants with disability, including players, officials, and support personnel

Category 2: Inclusion Workforce

- Employ a specialised workforce to support the needs of people with disability
- Recruit, mentor, and retain a person with disability in a paid or voluntary role

Category 3: Programs and Disability-led Initiatives

- Deliver ongoing sport or active recreation programs for people with disability
- Run projects led by or involving people with disability in decision-making

Last year, Seymour's Riding for the Disabled Association received funding through the program, helping them expand opportunities for participants in the region.

"These grants are not just about equipment or programs – they're about giving everyone

the chance to participate, feel included, and be part of their local sporting community," Ms Cleland said.

"We know how important sporting clubs are to our regional communities, and any funding to ensure more people in our towns can participate will be undeniably positive.

"I look forward to seeing our local clubs participate through this program and will be happy to support those as they submit applications."

Applications for the 2025 grants are open now and close on 19 November 2025.

For more information on eligibility and the application process, visit Regional All Abilities Participation Grants.

Rushworth Junior Cricket

Wednesday 12 November Under 13's

Rushworth hosted Echuca South Cricket Club. Echuca batted first and scored 2/109 (cc) and were defeated by Rushworth 8/112 (cc). There were four players on camp, so the rest of the team stood up showing they are capable of winning.

Best bowlers: Josh Hawking taking 1/8 from his 2 overs, the other wicket to fall was a run out thrown by Noah Castle.

Best batter: Sophie Garvey who

had made 20 but came back in along with Josh Hawking hitting the winning runs.

Player of the match: Sophie Garvey

Wednesday 19 November Under 13's

Rushworth played Rochester at Rochester Secondary College and unfortunately Rushworth were defeated. The Rochester iPad wasn't working so was unable to give the scores, best batsmen or bowlers for the match.

Player of the match: Issac Perry



Sophie Garvey, player of the match, 12 November.



Josh Hawking one of the best bowlers and helping to hit the winning runs with Sophie on 12 November.



Issac Perry, player of the match 19 November.

Rushworth Senior Cricket

Saturday 15 November

B Grade

Rushworth played at Moama. Moama scored 9/199 cc and defeated Rushworth, all out for 75.

Best bowler: Josh Newton taking 4/44 from his 8 overs, Shannon Jarrett 2/41 from his 8 overs, Ahmad Karamat 1/20 from 4 overs and Kade Dearing 1/24 from 6 overs.

Best batters: Ahmad Karamat with 14 and Tommy Stevens with 13.

D Grade

Rushworth played Stanhope at Ironbark Stadium. Rushworth batted first and scored 6/130 (cc) but were defeated by Stanhope 1/133.

Best batsmen: 13-year-old Heath Ogden retiring not out after making his first 50 in senior cricket, batting

for some of that with his 68-year-old 'Pop', Peter Raglus making 27.

Best bowler: Declan Hawking taking the only wicket to fall 1/16 from his 6 overs.

Saturday 22 November

B Grade - Bye

D Grade

Rushworth 3/230(cc) defeated Colbinabbin 28 at Ironbark Stadium. Colbinabbin won the toss and elected to bowl first.

Best batsmen: Peter Raglus retired 51 (no), Heath Ogden retired 50 (no), Shannon Jarrett 50 (no), and Josh Maudsley 38.

Best bowlers: Declan Hawking taking his first senior 6/7 from his 5.4 overs, and amazing effort from him, Heath Ogden 3/4 from 6 overs and Thomas Ogden 1/9 from his 3 overs.



Peter Raglus (77) batted with grandson Heath Ogden (making his first 50 in senior cricket) on 15 November. On 22 November Peter, Heath and Shannon Jarrett made 50 runs in their match against Colbo.

Sports Report

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Colbinabbin Football Netball Club with the stars

An impromptu training session was enjoyed by the players when a few Hawthorn stars appeared at the Colbinabbin club.



Lloyd Meek, Connor Nash and Harry Morrison put the Colbo boys through their paces with a high-energy run-through and plenty of tips along the way. A big thanks to Benny McEvoy for organising the session and getting the boys down to MJ Morgan Oval.

First five Warramunda bowls award winners

The idea of raising awareness about the new 'Aged Care Acts Support at home Program' which came into effect on 1 November, aims to celebrate bowlers who excel on and off the green.

Winners

Five lawn bowlers have been named as the first winners of the \$10,000 Warramunda Community Care Bowlers of the Year Award, headlined by a recovering heart surgery patient, an 18-time Club Champion from Echuca and a Kyabram teenager who made his Division One debut earlier this month.

There were almost forty nominations in the first month of the Award, (October).

Rod Phillips from Castlemaine Bowling Club the Bendigo playing area award winner, having just returned to bowls after major heart surgery, continuing a forty year association with the sport.

Philip Thorn Echuca Champion, was the Campaspe winner.

Barry Cann Dunolly Bowling Club President, was the Goldfields winner.

Alan "Jack" Dell from Numurkah Golf and Bowls Club picked up the Murray Award.

Mark Ryan Tallygaroopna greenkeeper was the Goulburn winner.

Runners-up

The runners-up were Barry Ellis (Campbells Creek), Liam McInnes (Kyabram), Frank Mifsud (Maryborough Highland), Naomi Cartwright (Wunghnu), and Dianne Downie (Tatura Hill Top).

The Award will recognise ten bowlers every month of the season for outstanding contributions to the sport across the Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields and Goulburn Murray regions.

Each of the five playing areas has a monthly winner and runner-up. Each playing areas winner will receive \$200 cash, courtesy of Warramunda Community Care, while runners-up receive a \$100 Moama Bowling Club voucher.

At season's end, two \$500 Bowler of the Year Awards, one from each region, will honour the most outstanding contributors.

Nominations

Nominations for the November Awards are now open. Anyone can nominate, and bowlers can be nominated more than once. Submit entries at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N2TYWMH>. Entries close Sunday, 30 November.

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Metro Tunnel opens early December

With construction now complete, get ready to explore five new stations and enjoy direct train access for the first time to Melbourne's major hospitals, universities and St Kilda Road.

To celebrate, enjoy free public transport across Victoria every weekend in December and January.

With more services arriving in February, the new Metro Tunnel gives you more ways to move.

more ways to move

Find out more at bigbuild.vic.gov.au

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