

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

Print Post Approved PP1000007000

FREE FOR CHRISTMAS

A community newspaper
staffed by volunteers

Thursday 11 December 2025

Ready and waiting for the big day



Well-prepared – Angus, Moira, Clancy and Honnie McEvoy were making sure they got their nativity scene up in time for Christmas.

A Christmas Message from your community newspaper

The editorial and production team, together with the Committee and volunteers of the Waranga News, wish all our readers, contributors and advertisers a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas and New Year. As a gesture of our sincere appreciation for everyone's wonderful support throughout the year, and with thanks to a generous contribution from **Community Bank Rushworth & District**, we are delighted to once again offer you our bumper, full-colour Christmas edition of the Waranga News – FREE. *We hope you enjoy your gift!*

Waranga News is in recess and will resume publication on Thursday 5 February 2026.



Merry Christmas

BOLTON ESTATE AGENTS

0413 092 698



Opening Hours for Christmas and New Year

PLEASE NOTE: This is not meant to be a comprehensive guide to all local businesses and services. Check shop-front notices.	
POLICE	Normal service provided by ringing 5856 1000 (Rushworth); 5857 2507 (Stanhope); 5826 2222 (Murchison). If attendance is required call 000.
DOCTOR	Murchison Medical Clinic: Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan. Rushworth Medical Centre: Closed Thursday 25 Dec re-open Mon 5 Jan. Tatura Medical Centre: Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan. Waranga Medical Centre: Closed Thursday 25 Dec re-open Mon 5 Jan.
WARANGA HEALTH AUSTRALIA POST	Normal hours except for public holidays. District Nursing: Normal hours BUT no service on Christmas Day and limited services on public holidays. Rushworth: Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan. Stanhope: Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
BAKERY	Rushworth: Open Wed 24 Dec 6.30am to 3pm. Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan. Wed 31 Dec 6.30am to 3pm.
BANK	Rushworth & District Community Bank: Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
BUTCHER	Perry's: Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
CAFE	Golden Nugget: Closed 25 Dec. Motofinish Cafe: Closed from Tue 31 December. Gus and Ollies: Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
COMMUNITY	Rushworth Community House: Refer to advert page 12 Stanhope Business Centre: Closing Wed 24 Dec and reopen Mon 5 Jan. Stanhope Mens Shed: Closed Mon 25 Dec.
FOODBANK	Foodbank: Closing after Wed 24, and reopening Wed 7 Jan. Balloons & Stuff: Closed Christmas Day and reopen 1 Jan.
HAIRDRESSER	Hairzone: Closed from Tuesday 15 Dec and reopen Tuesday 13 Jan.
HARDWARE	Rushworth Hardware Emporium: Closed Wed 24 Dec and re-open Mon 5 Jan.
HOTELS	Colbinabbin Hotel: Closed Christmas Day 25 Dec and Boxing Day 26 Dec. Rushworth Hotel: Taking bookings for Christmas Day Lunch if numbers are sufficient.
ICE CREAM	Cottage Ice Cream Shoppe: Closed Christmas Day only
OP SHOP	Number 9 Op Shop: Closed Fri 26 Dec only. Open usual Mon, Wed, Fri 9-2 and Sat 9-12.
PHARMACY	Rushworth Pharmacy: Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
PLUMBERS	Lipshut Plumbing: Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
SERVICE STATIONS	Colbinabbin Fuel Depot: Self Service available 24/7. Rushworth Metro: Open 7 days. Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day 7am-7pm. Normal Hours Mon - Fri 6.30am - 7.30pm. Sat & Sun 7am - 7pm. Murchison: Closing 12pm Wed 24 Dec, reopen Mon 5 Jan. Stanhope Fuels: Open all days, normal hours. 7am - 7pm Motor Mobile: Closed from 25 Dec, reopen 5 Jan Hotwire: Closed 25 Dec and reopen Mon 5 Jan Natrad: Close Lunchtime 24 Dec and reopens Monday 5 Jan.
SHIRE OFFICE	Rushworth Service Centre: Closes Tue 23 December reopens Mon 5 Jan
SOLICITORS	Dawes & Vary Riordan: Close from 3pm Tue 23 Dec - reopen on Wed 7 Jan 8.30am. Lipshut Law: Will continue to be available over the break on 0427 134 929
SUPERMARKET	Colbinabbin: Australia Post closed Christmas day, Boxing day & New Year day. Rushworth: Closed 25 Dec. Open 26 Dec: 9am - 5pm. Jan 1 Closed. Otherwise normal hrs.
VET	Farriervet: Closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan. (unless emergency).
WARANGA NEWS	Office closing Friday 19 December, re-opening Monday 19 January. Next copy deadline is 30 January for 5 February edition.

Stanhope Art Space lights up for Christmas

Stanhope Art Space set the tone for the festive season with a delightful evening celebrating the opening of its Bake House-themed Christmas Market display.

The event showcased the creative talents of Brett and Rick, who once again curated a magical, intricately designed exhibition that captivated everyone who attended.

The launch began with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony conducted by Grantley and Judy West, marking the official opening of the festive display. Guests were invited to wander through

the charming installation at their leisure, taking in the artistry and detail before gathering to enjoy a light supper featuring nibbles, sandwiches, and refreshing drinks.

Brett and Rick extend their heartfelt thanks to all who joined them and warmly wish the entire community a Merry Christmas and a safe, joyful New Year.



Stanhope’s creative team, Brett and Rick, have wowed the community once again with their amazing Christmas installation.

Pictured after the ribbon-cutting are Brett Ould, Rick Landsown, Judy and Grantley West.



MAT LANGLEY
ELECTRICAL & REFRIGERATION
WTA AUSTRALIA INC. REG. 20002 PTY LTD

Ph: (03) 5824 2317

Rushworth Market

Village Green High st, Rushworth

Saturday 20 December - 8.30am - 1pm

*Trash 'n' Treasure *Soaps *Plants *Dog treats *Tools
*Crafts /Metal work *Fruit & Veg *Clothing *Knitted items

NEW STALLHOLDERS WELCOME E: rushworthmarket@gmail.com P: 0459 520 843

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Lipshut Law.

Thank you for your support throughout the year.

We will continue to be available for you over the break on 0417 134 929 and geoff@lipshutlaw.com.au

With thanks, Geoff, Robyn, Lucy, Carmel, Helen, and Geraldine



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

Santa is coming to town

On **Wednesday 17 December**, Santa will be in the SES truck driving around the town to speak to the children who have been ‘good’ this year. He will have some sweets to give away.

All you have to do is send Santa a message through the SES FB page with your address and wait for him to arrive.

He will be going to the Hostel at 5pm and then driving around town starting at 6pm.

Look out for the SES truck in your street!



Rushworth pub reunion



It has been four years since previous owners of the Bottom Pub, Maz and Andy sold up and moved out of town.

They spent fourteen years serving the community and employing a number of local people to cook, bar tend and wait on tables.

So Maz decided it was time for a reunion. On 7 December all the old friends gathered for drinks and nibbles to celebrate the fourteen years they spent in the town.

Stanhope leads the Christmas Market season

The Stanhope Christmas Community Market was held in Birdwood Avenue, Stanhope, on Sunday 7 December, bringing plenty of festive cheer to the town.

Stallholders had an abundance of Christmas gift ideas on offer, with many embracing the spirit of the season by decorating their stalls and dressing up for the

occasion, adding to the cheerful atmosphere.

The popular monthly market will take a short break, with no January market planned, as many stallholders and visitors will still be enjoying the holiday season.

Pictured is Melissa McMahon, who joined in the fun by dressing up as Mrs Clause.



Rushworth and District Concert Band

presents

2025 Christmas performances

- * Stanhope Christmas Carols Friday 12 December 6pm
McEwen Place, Stanhope
- * Rushworth Street Carols Monday 15 December 7pm
Rotunda, High Street, Rushworth
- * Kyabram Churches Christmas Carols
Thursday 18 December from 5pm - carols 7pm
Memorial Gardens, Kyabram

For more information contact the band:
<https://www.facebook.com/RushworthBand/>
Email: rushworthcb@outlook.com

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Mon & Thu: 11am-9pm; Tue 11am-7pm; Closed Wed; F: 11am-10pm
Sat: 10am-10pm; Sun: 10am-9pm

We wish you a very festive Christmas and New Year
Closed Christmas Day

Bob & Floss Holschier awarded Life Membership for outstanding community service

At the recent Stanhope & District Development Committee Christmas party, Bob and Floss Holschier were proudly presented with Life Membership in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the community.

Bob and Floss have been dedicated members since the committee's inception in 2002 and only recently retired after many years of tireless work and commitment. Bob served as the inaugural President, helping to shape the committee's early direction and purpose, while both he and Floss supported countless projects, events, and community initiatives over more than two decades.

The committee extended its sincere thanks to Bob and Floss for their long-standing service and the positive impact they have made on Stanhope and the wider district.

Pictured (right) are Floss and Bob proudly displaying their certificates presented to them by Glenda Cowie and Chris Dicketts on behalf of the Stanhope & District Development Committee.



Community Christmas Lunch at Stanhope

The Stanhope community Christmas lunch was held recently, and what a wonderful day it was!

Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal of turkey, ham, fresh salads and, for dessert, a yummy Panna Cotta. Around 50 people attended, making it a fantastic afternoon of food, friendship and festive cheer.

Several birthdays in the 90s were also celebrated among the guests, and everyone joined in for a rousing happy birthday. A massive thank-you went to the amazing volunteers who prepared and served such a beautiful meal — they are truly appreciated.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season.





Stuck for a gift?
Give a Waranga News!
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wnews@iinet.net.au



8 Birdwood Ave STANHOPE
Ph. 5857 2264
Melinda would like to thank clients for their patronage throughout the year and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year
GIFT VOUCHERS & GIFT PACKS AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS





**Sam
BIRRELL MP**
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NICHOLLS

Merry Christmas

to all readers of the Waranga News! 🎄

As we head into the festive season, I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy New Year.

I hope you get the chance to slow down, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy all the little moments that make this time of year special.

It's been a big year for our communities across the electorate, and I'm constantly inspired by the resilience, generosity, and spirit of everyone who calls this region home.

Whether it's supporting local businesses, volunteering, or simply looking out for one another, our community continues to shine.

Spread some cheer this festive season by shopping local and picking Australian-made gifts and produce wherever you can .

As we celebrate, don't forget that my 2026 calendars are available for collection! You can pick up your free copy from my Shepparton office or from the Waranga News office.

The calendar features beautiful local photos, showcasing the incredible landscapes and life in our region - a perfect way to reflect on the year and plan for the next.

From my family to yours, I wish you a joyful festive season, a relaxing break, and all the very best for 2026.



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

Art, craft and festive cheer at the Christmas Market

The Rushworth Shire Hall was buzzing last Saturday with the annual Christmas Art and Craft Market. There was something for everyone and most of our visitors ended up buying a gift or two for a lucky person (or for themselves).

We would like to thank all of our stall-holders and all of those who have supported us throughout the year. Special thanks also go to Rushworth Kindergarten and Childcare Group who once again provided a great choice of food and snacks for our happy shoppers.

For anyone who missed out, many of our stallholders will be at our next market in High Street on 20 December - our last market for the year. Come along to finish off your Christmas shopping. Thank you one and all.

*Peter Reade
Rushworth Easter Heritage
Festival Committee*



Beautiful Christmas decor from the Arts and Craft Market will boost the festive spirit in some homes this year.

Australia Day 2026 in Rushworth

Location: Village Green (opposite the Library)
Time: 10.00 am start
Awards presentations
- 2026 Citizen of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
Free food
Live music(True Country)
Closes: 12 noon



Rudolph at Colbo

Community Bank Rushworth celebrates community giving at AGM

Rushworth & District Financial Services Limited, the company that owns and operates Community Bank Rushworth held its Annual General Meeting at Rushworth Shire Hall on Thursday, 27 November 2025.

The evening featured the presentation of grants and sponsorships, showcasing the bank's continued commitment to supporting the region. During the 2025 financial year, Community Bank Rushworth proudly reinvested \$97,313 back into our local community.

A highlight of the night was hearing from Rushworth P-12 College students Emily McLean and Tilda Brew, who spoke about their experience attending the Magic Moments Youth Summit in Sydney earlier this year. Their attendance was made possible through a fully funded Scholarship from Community Bank Rushworth and both students shared how valuable the opportunity had been and are looking forward to attending the graduate program next year.



The Community Bank AGM was a night of celebration, reflecting the strong partnership between the bank and the community it serves.



Merry Christmas

Wishing you a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas, and a bright year ahead.

Annabelle Cleeland MP
annabelle.cleeland@parliament.vic.gov.au
25 Bridge Street East, Benalla

Member for Euroa
annabellecleeland.com.au
03 5762 1600

We're closed!
My office will be closed for the Christmas break from 24 December 2025, re-opening on 8 January 2026.

Annabelle4Euroa
Annabelle4Euroa

Live music!

UPCOMING GIGS AT SHIRAZ REPUBLIC

SAT 13 DEC	DAN DINNEN	FROM 1PM - 3PM EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
SUN 14 DEC	MICHAEL MEEKING DUO	
SAT 20 DEC	DAN DUGGAN	
SUN 21 DEC	SONS OF THE BLUES	

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Christmas trading hours

Monday 22 December	9.30am to 4.00pm
Tuesday 23 December	9.30am to 4.00pm
Wednesday 24 December	9.30am to 4.00pm
Thursday 25 December	Closed
Friday 26 December	Closed
Saturday 27 December	Closed
Sunday 28 December	Closed
Monday 29 December	9.30am to 4.00pm
Tuesday 30 December	9.30am to 4.00pm
Wednesday 31 December	9.30am to 4.00pm
Thursday 1 January	Closed
Friday 2 January	Closed

Bendigo Bank

Community Bank
Rushworth & District

Lots of action at a peaceful Whroo location

Despite being officially closed for new burials, the beautiful Whroo cemetery reserve continues to attract visitors, drawn by the bush location and its history within the former gold-field township.

The cemetery is overseen and managed by a group of ten volunteers, not all of whom have ancestors buried within the reserve. The Whroo Cemetery Trust has commenced a project to position stones around the perimeter of graves presently shown only by mounds of earth. This improvement in the overall appearance is based on hundred-year-old photos of decorative stones fitted to graves in years past, and has been well received by recent visitors.

The Trust is very pleased to have completed the official Whroo Cemetery Trust website, making detailed information available to any remote internet location, not just to Whroo visitors. Featured on the site are over 100 obituaries extracted from early newspapers, detailing the lives and deaths of some of those laid to rest in the cemetery.

The website may be visited at whroocemeterytrust.org and was designed and created by Dr Alison Baird and Ms Lauren

Baird, as their voluntary and valued contribution to the work of the Trust.

The display of website details was helped by the recent discovery of copies of additional early cemetery records, receipts issued after graves were purchased, some over 150 years ago. The Trust hopes that anyone holding originals of cemetery data will allow those documents to be scanned and returned, a straightforward and common practice in 2025.

The Trust has long welcomed interest from people hoping to place a new memorial tribute to an ancestor in the cemetery. A special area has been set aside for placement of plaques if a confirmed burial lacks the specific number and location of the grave. Incomplete records mean that many graves cannot be matched to specific names.

An approach must be made to the Trust, for consideration and approval of the design of the tribute. Under Victorian law,

only qualified and registered stonemasons are permitted to perform this type of work, and the Trust can suggest names for the descendants to approach.

Unfortunately, a breach of the law occurred in mid-2025, when an unauthorised memorial was erected on an unmarked grave. The Trust remains interested to speak with descendants of Mr John Papachanzie, who was buried in March 1871.

The Trust has affirmed that in the event of any further breach, there will be no option but to have the memorial removed for return to the family, at descendant cost.

The recent Annual General Meeting re-elected Alan McLean as Trust Chair, Graham Pettifer as Deputy Chair, and Christine Norris as Secretary-Treasurer for 2026.

Responsible and respectful visitors are always welcome at the cemetery. Newcomers to the district are especially encouraged to visit this peaceful heritage location.



Noel Lloyd working at the Whroo cemetery recently.
(Below) Grave enhancing.



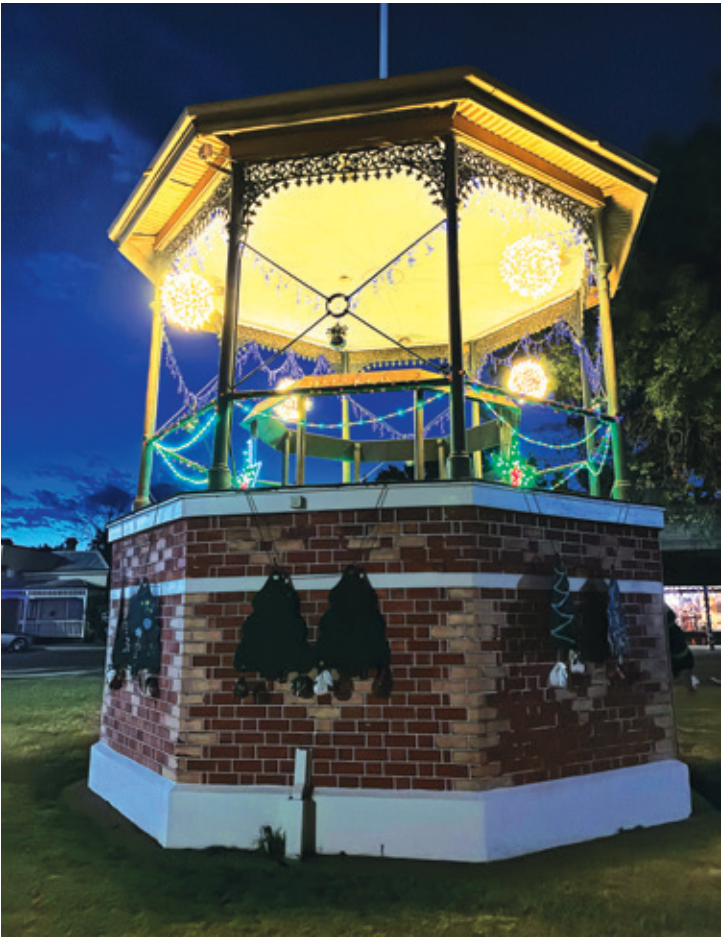
Alan McLean

Angie Russi wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year



Angie’s Studio and Gallery is open 49 High Street Rushworth each Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10am-3pm (Closed Christmas and Boxing Day)

Heartfelt thanks to my customers, workshop participants, and supporters—your continued support lets me do what I love!



Rushworth’s Band Rotunda lights up the night.

Local boy secures 7th place at Brisbane Pokémon regional event

The energy was electric on Melbourne Cup weekend as hundreds of Pokémon enthusiasts gathered for the 2025 Brisbane Regional TCG Championships. Among the standout performers was Rushworth local Patrick Williams, who achieved an impressive 7th place out of 81 players in the senior section, for players aged between twelve to sixteen.

Fourteen year-old Patrick's consistent performance across eleven rounds over the two day event earned him a coveted spot in the Top 8.

"It was really tough, but also a lot of fun," Patrick said after the event. "Every match teaches you something new. I just wanted to do my best."

Pokemon TCG is a strategic 50 minute battle between two

players, each using a 60-card deck made up of Pokémon, Energy, and Trainer cards. It is a blend of probability, planning, and tactical adaptation and the game rewards both creativity and consistency—traits Patrick demonstrated throughout the event.

Patrick credits the support from his friends and family, his local Pokemon league at Gamers

Resort Shepparton and his online coach in Canada, for helping him refine his deck-building skills and in-game strategy.

He travels regularly to Melbourne, Bendigo and Ballarat to compete in local tournaments and has competed in many other large regional events in Brisbane, Perth and Sydney over the last years, and was lucky enough to travel to London to play at an international tournament earlier this year.



What's Next for the Young Trainer?

With this Top 8 finish, Patrick Williams moves forward with valuable championship points and newfound attention from the Pokemon community. His next focus is preparing for the regional events in New Zealand, Sydney and Melbourne next year, with the goal to qualify for

the world championships located in America in August 2026. He is currently ranked 6th in Australia and New Zealand and needs to remain in the top 12 to qualify.

As the season progresses, all eyes will be on the young Rushworth talent whose strategic mind and passion for the Pokémon TCG continues to impress.

Patrick in action at the Brisbane Championships.

Happy Christmas and all the best wishes for the New year.
From Donelle.

Campbell-Smith & Associates
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and reopen Monday 5 January.

45kg Gas bottle deliveries still available.



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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

Health and Wellbeing

New immunisation provider in Campaspe

Campaspe Shire Council has announced that it has appointed Kernow Environmental Services to deliver its immunisation program.

Kernow brings extensive experience in public health and working in Local Government settings and is committed to supporting families and individuals across the shire.

Acting Director Communities Janelle Wheatley said she welcomed the appointment which supports a smooth transition, prioritising continuity of care for the community.

“We are delighted with the outcome of the tender and want to reinforce that the Campaspe community will still be able to enjoy accessing Council’s immunisation service in their local area, ensuring equity of access no matter where in our shire you live,” Ms Wheatley said.

The first immunisation session under Kernow’s management will take place on Monday 15 December 2025, from 4.30pm to 6.30pm at the Echuca Library. Council will publish the 2026 half-year immunisation schedule in the coming weeks.

Appointments can be made by following this booking link: <https://kernow.book.vitavo.com.au/available-appointments>

Further information and booking link is also available at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations

Stay protected this Mosquito season – prepare early

The Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit (GVPHU) is urging residents and visitors across northern Victoria to take simple steps to protect themselves from mosquito borne diseases.

Recent mosquito seasons have seen cases of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) acquired along the Goulburn-Murray River system. Japanese Encephalitis is spread through the bite of infected mosquitoes and, while rare, can cause serious illness.

“Keeping our community safe from mosquito-borne illnesses is something we can all work towards,” says Dr Will Cross, Clinical Director at GVPHU.

“Simple actions like using insect repellent and wearing protective clothing can make a big difference. For those who are eligible, getting vaccinated against Japanese Encephalitis adds another important layer of protection.”

How to protect yourself this mosquito season:

- Mosquitoes can bite through tight clothing. Cover up – wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing
- Use mosquito repellents containing active ingredients like DEET or Picaridin. Apply evenly to all exposed skin and clothing
- Limit outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about
- Remove stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed around your home or campsite

- On holidays, make sure your accommodation is fitted with mosquito netting or screens
- Use 'knockdown' fly spray, mosquito coils or plug-in repellent where you gather to sit or eat outdoors

- Don't forget the kids – always check the insect repellent label. On babies, you might need to spray or rub repellent on their clothes instead of their skin. Avoid applying repellent to the hands of babies or young children

• Get vaccinated against JE if eligible: Free vaccination is available to people living or working in high-risk areas in northern Victoria. Check eligibility at the Department of Health’s website. Vaccines can be accessed through participating councils, GPs and pharmacies (consultation fees may apply)

For more information visit Better Health Channel: <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/protect-yourself-mosquito-borne-disease>

“By taking these simple precautions, we can reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illness in our community. Your actions protect not just you, but your family, friends and neighbours,” Dr Cross adds.



MUD HUT YOGA
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Seasons Greetings
We invite you to join us for classes in 2026.



sue@mudhutyoga.com.au
0438 523 415
www.mudhutyoga.com.au

Every time we try to eat healthy along comes Christmas, Easter, summer, Friday (or Tuesday) and ruins it for us!

Season’s Greetings from the
FRIENDS OF THE HOSTEL
‘Waranga Health’ Rushworth.



Thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

mediconsul pharmacy
YOUR HEALTH. OUR CARE.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

The team at Rushworth Pharmacy would like to thank all of our customers and health care professionals for their support over the past 12 months. We wish you a joyous holiday season and a safe, healthy 2026.

11 High Street, RUSHWORTH, 3612
Phone 03 5856 1402
Lawrence Nguyen (Proprietor)
Monday to Friday: 8.30am - 5.00pm



Rushworth

COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

Phone (03) 5856 1295

Email:
admin@rushcomhouse.org.au

Website:
www.rushcomhouse.org.au

Facebook:
Rushworth Community-House

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



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Centrelink and other
Australian
Government services.**

Anita's Xmas Message

Community House Manager Anita Pirie is pleased with the diversity of activities that have occurred over the past twelve months. Speaking recently, she issued a heartfelt “thank you” to our Community Bank for their support after major termite damage at 67 High Street, then continued:

“A huge thank you to the members of our Committee of Management, who oversee, guide and direct happenings at the House.

“Secondly, I must thank our staff - Prue who oversees the administration of the House, Craig who looks after our transport and Raylene who keeps our books balanced.

“Finally, to our volunteers who are a crucial part of what make a Community House run; without them a lot of our activities would be curtailed or worse - not possible!

“Planning has already begun for activities early in 2026, and you will shortly find our Term Guide in your letter boxes.

“The Community House will hold its Annual General Meeting during March, 2026. The AGM will be open to members of the public, and will be an opportunity for the House to consolidate and share its achievements during 2025, to advise the Community of its future plans and elect a new Committee of Management team to manage the House for the ensuing twelve months.

“Everyone at the Community House would like to wish readers and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy new year. We look forward to seeing you in 2026, with both current and new activities and events.”

Community House farewells 2025

The year is winding down at Rushworth Community House and one of the highlights of December 2025 was the Christmas Lunch hosted by the House in partnership with Goulburn Valley Health to acknowledge and thank Rushworth's wonderful carers.



(Below) The House also recently partnered with La Trobe University and Kyabram Community Learning Centre to conduct health checks at a pop-up clinic in Max's Maze. Health care students assessed the blood pressure, blood sugar levels and other vital signs from more than forty locals who played “guinea pigs” during the clinic.



(Below) Another of the House's partners in 2025 has been Rushworth P-12 College. Students from the school regularly visited the House, learning and practising gardening skills, and mastering barrista technology and techniques at our Open Morning Tea sessions. Students also recently visited the 3RW studios at the House's Community Hub.



Container Deposit Scheme

Members of the Rushworth community have recycled more than 320,000 containers so far this year.

At ten cents for each container, more than \$32,000 has been returned for use within the community. The House thanks everyone who has participated, and especially our CDS volunteers for their efforts throughout the year.

Christmas closure dates

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

The House will reopen with normal hours on Monday, 12 January 2026.

The Container Deposit Scheme will reopen at the Hub on Tuesday, 13 January 2026.

For updates, please see our Facebook page.

Battery man powers towards \$1 Million for children’s health

For 16 years, Paul Archer from Rushworth has been turning discarded lead-based batteries into vital funding for sick children in the Goulburn Valley.

Through his recycling initiative, Paul has raised an incredible \$880,000 for GV Health’s Child and Adolescent Unit. Each battery collected helps fund equipment, programs and spaces that support children during their hospital stay.

Now Paul is on a mission to reach the \$1 million milestone and he’s asking the community to help finish what he started. After suffering a heart attack last year, Paul can no longer travel across the region as he once did. Instead, he’s inviting community

members to drop off their old lead batteries at his business, Natrad Shepparton (20 Campbell Street). He is also seeking volunteers to help load the batteries for recycling.

Across the Goulburn Valley, thousands of unused batteries sit in garages, sheds, and farm yards. Together, they could be transformed into vital support for children in hospital. Whether it’s one car battery or a ute-load, every donation brings Paul closer to the million-dollar mark.



Paul Archer with GV Health Unit Manager, Child and Adolescent Unit, Paula Holland.

Red Knights Motorcycle Run for the Kids

Red Knights Motorcycle Riders held their Annual Toy Run on Saturday 6 December to help support families in need.

The event commenced at Echuca then progressed to Tongala, Kyabram and on to Rushworth where the Rushworth SES provided lunch for the riders. They continued on to Colbinabbin, Elmore and finished in Rochester.

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. Stay tuned for the total of this year's ride!



How to Get Involved:

- Drop off lead batteries at Natrad Shepparton, 20 Campbell Street
- Drop off to 1 Hall Street, Rushworth
- Volunteer to help load batteries for recycling



Colin Consiglio thanks the riders at the Rushworth CFA.



Merry Christmas

The staff, volunteers and Committee of Management would like to wish our community all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

We would also like to sincerely thank everyone who supported us in 2025.



Rushworth
COMMUNITY HOUSE INC

Pic sources: kulwee.com, Ai & pngtree.com

Cornella Care celebrates 40th anniversary @ CCH

Fr Adi Indra, the supervising priest of St Mary's Parish, who lives and serves in Shepparton, attended the celebratory lunch at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel.

In the background (L-R) Bernice Parry (inaugural Treasurer), Ann Stewart (President, Pam Nihill (Treasurer and her daughter Suzanne.



Judy Phelan and Judith Ryan (right) inaugural members of Cornella Care were invited to cut the celebratory cake with Nan Jessup overseeing!

What Price a drink in Singapore?



Shane and Robyn Ryan were in Singapore recently with time to catch up with Stevie and Lucy Price (and their parents, David and Hannah) for a spot of lunch and a sociable drink or two.

Colbinabbin Country Hotel



We wish all locals and visitors a safe and joyful Festive Season, as well as a happy 2024.

HOLIDAY HOURS:

- Sunday 21 December Carols by Barrels 5pm (Roast Meat and Gravy Rolls \$10).
- Thursday CHRISTMAS DAY - CLOSED
- Friday BOXING DAY - CLOSED
- Thursday New Year's Day - Open from 4pm

Lunch and Dinner 7 days

Every other day open from 10am for coffee, cake, lunch and dinner

Booking appreciated.

18 Mitchell Street Colbinabbin
Phone: 5432 9230 or 0408 602 841
Find updates on facebook or instagram
@colbinabbincountryhotel

Need a party hat?

There will be a school holiday activity at the Colbinabbin Library Depot on Wednesday 21 January, 10-11.30am to teach you how to make party hats. Sounds like fun! You can book by ringing 5481 2400 or online to the Shire of Campaspe.

SELF-SERVE

MORGAN FUEL

OPEN 24/7

Colbinabbin



Maree Stewart and Glen Avard check in with Santa after the Children's Advent blessing at Cornella.



Colbo Tit Bits

Proudly Sponsored by

REID
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Performance

Santa dropped by early at Cornella to catch up



Rosie McIntosh was kept busy buttering and jamming pikelets . . . and even supplied some take-aways!



Santa spent time catching up with children and adults at Cornella. (L–R) Moira, Clancy, Honnie, Finn, Angus, Tom and Matilda. We think Santa enjoyed meeting up with so many as he lingered on chatting to all the congregation after Mass even when he’d finished his Santa duties.



Cornella Caring

Clockwise round the table: Trish Pepperell, Cate Furphy, Helen (Wright), Pat Kennedy, Maryanne (Wright) and Jenny (Wright). Clare (Wright) was at work in the kitchen. Maureen Wright, the inaugural President of Cornella Care was well-represented by her daughters!



Ramon Rathjen had his jeep in readiness to deliver Santa to Cornella and to drive him home again. Many thanks to Santa and his chauffeur for dropping by and putting a smile on everyone’s faces while they enjoyed a cuppa.

DIARY

Dec 21

Carols by Barrels 5pm @ CCH

Dec 22

Colbo Carols 8pm at hall

Dec 24

- Uniting Church 10pm

Dec 25

- Cornella 9am

Dec 25

- St Peter’s Elmore 9am

Cemetery Trust

Mowing Roster (lawn section only)

December

- Laura Tuohey

January

- Ben McEvoy

February

- Andrew Branson

FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

Dec 14

Christopher Ryan, Steve Tuoehy

Dec 21

Bill Johnson, Gerard Stewart

Dec 28

Matt Ryan, Martin Borger

Jan 4

Ray McEvoy, Pat Tuoehy

Jan 11

Graeme Reid, Bill West

Jan 18

Ramon Rathjen, Darryl Rathjen

Jan 25

Peter Morgan, Trevor Brown

If unable to attend for duty, call Chris/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.



Have seen the reindeers around Colbo?

LIBRARY

Dec 17

Janice Tait

Dec 24


Closed

Dec 31

Closed

Jan 7

Library reopens



Fifty years ago in our district....

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



10 deaths in tragic

weekend on district roads

There was a horror weekend on roads within a 60-kilometre radius of Rushworth. Peter Bray of Gigarre died after his motorcycle collided with a semi-trailer on the notorious intersection of Midland Highway and McEwen Road.

Mrs Bonita Campbell of Elmore died after a collision with a sportscar, with a passenger in that second car also killed, and several teenagers injured. Other fatal smashes were near Wyuna and Nagambie, taking the total killed in the district that weekend to a truly shocking ten.

Politics

Local Federal Member for Murray, Bruce Lloyd, was easily re-elected in his seat with a big win for the Coalition in the election that followed the sacking of the Whitlam Labor government.

Waranga Council announced a reduction in rates for properties including farms, but Rushworth residents faced a 33% rise in their water rates. Receipt of flood grants and indexation to regulate wage rises were said to have enabled the Shire to make the cuts. In a separate and independent decision, Rushworth Water Trust announced the big lift in water rates.

Cr John Hammond of Murchison resigned from Council as he was moving to Woodend.

Court

A driver picked up by Sergeant Durston blew 0.248% blood alcohol, the equivalent of 16 7-ounce glasses of beer. The man said he had drunk half a bottle of perfume, his defence calling up a chemist to say perfume was 80% alcohol. A soft magistrate fined the man only \$150 with loss of licence for three months, after accepting the beer version ahead of the perfume story.

Schools

With additional staff appointed to Rushworth High School for 1976, an urgent call went out for more houses for teacher rental in Rushworth, nearby towns or vacant houses on farm properties.

Community

Singer Bill McCormack was the star attraction at the annual Apex Club Christmas lunch in the Shire Hall. Club President Ralph Barlow guided his elderly grandmother Bessie, the oldest Senior Citizen, for the cutting of the cake.

Rushworth Lions welcomed District Governor Geoff Burrell to their regular meeting at the Criterion Hotel.

Local swimming pool roster for December

included Peg Taylor, Howard Hawking, Ron Ristrom, Jenny Baldwin, Helen Clarke, Bev Hitchcock and Marj Morgan.

Colbinabbin Fire Brigade roster for December listed Tom McEvoy, P. Stewart, D. Brown, Len Purvis, John Morgan, Brian Eliis, Frank West, Joey Ellis and J. Mason.

People

The other Alan McLean and Lynette Perry were married on 6 December in Rushworth's Anglican church. Counting the flower-girl, 11 people made up the wedding party.

Lionel Johnson and Frances (nee Kennedy) added son Graeme to Matthew in Shepparton. Eddie and Isobel Gleeson welcomed two grandsons on 2 December, Marcus for Linton and Lynette Gleeson, Haig for Neville and Wendy Varcoe.

Another Haig, Poulson of Rushworth, became engaged to Mary-Lou Reilly of Numurkah.

Former Rushworth dry cleaner Ron Pengelly died at Castlemaine, and Waranga Memorial Hospital's Matron Cole resigned to take a role at Kyabram.

Within a major family squabble, a Wanalta man used a public notice to disassociate himself from his four named sisters, three of them living locally.

Carl Williams, Rushworth jeweller, published a notice headed "Compliments of the Season", beneath which it read "To one and all thanking you for your support over the past 50 years."

Other local traders extending greetings included Ampol Service Station (Peter and Colleen Draper), Hilders' Garage (Eric and Ray) and Muirs' Motor Engineering Works (Greg and Denise). *(Bardy McLeod was also selling bowser petrol, making four service stations, with at least five others in Rushworth selling by the 44-gallon drum.)*

A big Saturday night was looming for one unnamed couple. "Wanted. Child Minder, for Saturday night. Phone Rushworth 132". Which family, and who were the kids?

Cricket

Rushworth A-grade 60 runs (C. Hageman 16 G. Hageman 11), Tongala 4/94, with Rushworth saved from outright embarrassment by a washed-out second day.

Rushworth B-grade were in trouble against Ky Fire Brigade (R. Hageman 3/18) but that match was also washed out. (Some of the Hagemans were pretty handy cricketers!)

Stars for Rushworth juniors were bowler Danny Forte, and batsmen Peter Schade (37 runs), Don Potter (30), Gary Hitchcock (23) and Craig Beck (14) in an easy win over Tongala. Against Kyabram, Craig took five wickets for 44. Craig, Peter and Don were

selected to represent Kyabram Cricket in Junior Country Week in January 1976.

Star greyhound Sidanna

Sidanna, bred and raced by Ralph Barlow of Wanalta and trained by Ray Pyle of Mooroopna, had 19 races for 11 wins, three seconds, and the thirds, to be named one of Victoria's best greyhounds.

Auto Club

President Arthur Garvey won a District C-class perpetual shield, after success in a number of races on tracks across the Goulburn Valley.

Waranga Boat Club

Locals were getting into the sailing habit, Max Richards (Shire engineer) joined by Terry Larkins (Shire secretary), Tony Crosbie (Lands Department) and Alan Mackinder (Primary School headmaster).

Bowls

Rushworth Associates Nell Pardy, Lucy Munsey and Florence Perry won trophies in early December, but pennant teams had mixed fortunes. Saturdays were wet apparently, as the men were again washed out. The club's annual tournament was planned for 3-5 January, 1976.

Murchison Gold v Murchison Green had a big build-up of excitement. Washed out! Don Polkinghorne, W. Winnell and E. Jackson won a club competition one dry evening.

Tennis

Rushworth B-grade lined up against Murchison Gold, with Neville Thompson, Colin Barlow, Chris Geisler, Rob Raglus, Doreen Wall, Pauline Wootton, Wendy Meagher and Catherine Poulson. The result was not published.

Football

I should not mention football in December. Despite a well-attended meeting of members having just voted for Rushworth to leave the Heathcote League, the elected committee voted to remain! Apparently Stanhope joining the league, and the return of Tooborac, making seven teams in all, had brought a change in committee thinking.

Greetings

Like Carl Williams 50 years ago, I extend season's greetings to all Waranga News readers, and to the team who put this fine little community newspaper together. Thank you to readers who sent me messages of appreciation. And even those who had a crack at me about something on this page deserve a safe and happy festive season!





Serving The Community

Those who worked in the forest industries in and around Rushworth have had a long history of serving their communities. As a group, they would often provide their labour and equipment free of charge to support some worthwhile cause. This was often done by providing wood directly to a person or organisation in need. Alternatively, the wood might be supplied for a community event where it was auctioned off with the proceeds going to a particular cause.

Early in World War 1, the wood cutters and carters of Rushworth combined to bring in 35 loads of firewood, which were auctioned off. The resulting cash went to a fund for wounded Australian soldiers, who at the time were still engaged in the Gallipoli campaign. According to the local paper, "this speaks well for our local wood men, and shows what can be accomplished by concerted action." Two local saw millers, Colliver and Anderson, and William Curtis cut up the wood free of charge. There was a community event with a procession of the vehicles loaded with wood, led by the town band, from the Masonic Hall up High Street to the band rotunda, where the band played, and the auction took place.¹

Wood Day Carnival

Rushworth's Wood Day Carnival commenced in 1916 or 1917, ostensibly to raise funds for the Mooroopna hospital. The

hospital dated back to the 1870s and later became known as the Goulburn Valley Base Hospital. Many patients from Rushworth spent time in this regional medical facility. One of those was a young Ron Risstrom, who was there for a lengthy stay when he had polio.

In 1925 it was claimed that the amount raised for the hospital in Rushworth was the largest amount raised by any town in the Goulburn Valley for that year – 550 pounds, or over \$55,000 in 2024 money.²

In 1926, a member of the hospital board, Mr Brown, summed up the magnificent Rushworth contribution to the hospital over ten years. He stated that "In Rushworth, every man taking part in the wood day effort undertook to perform a certain task and carried it out according to promise, some cutting the wood, others carting it and so on. In Rushworth, they never met any trouble with their wood day."³

There was a committee which ran the carnival. In 1930, the office bearers were J Howe, President, James Wall, Secretary and J Connelly, Treasurer.⁴ The following year it was noted that since its inception, the Rushworth Wood Day Carnival had raised a total of 4195 pounds (over \$400,000 in 2024 \$A) for the hospital.

Colbinabbin also got into the act. In 1929, the people of Colbinabbin combined to cut, load and transport 25 dray loads and two

truckloads of firewood, which was auctioned off for 80 pounds. Proceeds were sent to the hospital.⁵

Wood Supply

Apart from the fund raising at the carnival, sometimes Rushworth people assisted in directly supplying wood to the hospital, which used large quantities of firewood. In 1942, local Forest Commission staff, timber workers and saw millers cut and stacked 700 tons of firewood, then co-operated with fruit growers from the Shepparton area to transport the wood to the hospital by truck. Apparently, this constituted about four months' supply for the hospital.⁶ They followed up the effort in December that year with another 500 tons.

A year earlier, they had also co-operated with the fruit growers to deliver 215 tons of firewood to the SPC factory in Shepparton, an important industry during the time of the second world war.⁷

In 1951, when Dhurringile mansion was being set up as a home for orphaned Scottish boys, the Rushworth community cut and transported a large amount of firewood to the mansion as a measure of support for the new institution.⁸

Today

It is gratifying to see that in the present day, the tradition of the Wood Days has been re-born. For many years, the Lions Club ran an auction of donated wood as part of the Rushworth Easter Festival until the demise of the club. Proceeds were distributed to various worthy community groups and causes. Now the mantle has been taken up by the amazing group that has for many years been raising funds to support and try to find a cure for cancer for young children, Shearing for Kids with Cancer. What a wonderful legacy of something that had its origins over 100 years earlier.

References: 1 *Murchison Advertiser* 22/10/1915; 2 *Weekly Times* 20/6/1925; 3 *Kyabram Free Press* 3/8/1926; 4 *The Age* 17/3/1930; 5 *The Age* 6/5/1929; 6 *Shepparton Advertiser* 17/4/42; 7 *Shepparton Advertiser* 18/6/1941; 8 *Shepparton Advertiser* 1/6/1951



(Left) Wood Day 1928

Cooks Corner`



...tis the season to eat what is in season!

Enjoy the following recipes and I wish you all a happy and safe time over the Christmas festivities with family and friends, neighbours and community.

Warm regards from the Seasonal Kitchen x

Corn on the Cob with Lime Butter

100g of soft butter, 1 large chilli deseeded and finely chopped, 2 tablespoons of chopped fresh coriander and 1 teaspoon of grated lime rind.

Couscous & Feta Stuffing

1/3 cup couscous soaked in 1/2 cup of boiling water for about 5 -10 minutes

Fluff up the couscous with a fork and add 80g of feta cheese, 1/4 cup of shredded fresh basil and 2 teaspoons of grated lemon rind, season with cracked pepper.

(Delicious stuffing for pork or chicken.)

Easy Lemon Squeezy Tiramisu Dessert for 4 adults

You will need 1 cup of lemon curd for this dessert (recipe below).

Lemon syrup – combine juice of a lemon with 1/3 cup caster sugar with 2 tablespoons of water, heat until sugar has dissolved and it has a syrup consistency, then cool.

In a bowl add 250g of mascarpone with 100mls of limoncello and whisk until combined

Cut 250g of sponge cake into small squares, store bought or homemade.

Divide half the cake into 4 glasses, drizzle

with half the syrup and top with half the lemon curd and a dollop of the mascarpone mix. Repeat the process and refrigerate for 30 minutes to set.

Lemon Curd

4 egg yolks, 2/3 cup caster sugar, whisk well together until combined but not frothy. Pour into a clean saucepan and add 60 g of butter, 2 teaspoons grated lemon rind and 100mls of strained lemon juice. Stir constantly and bring to a simmer over medium heat. As soon as bubbles appear remove from the heat and keep stirring for a few minutes. Cool before using.

Garden Hints & Tips

A Foreign Flower Adventure

We have just returned from Singapore where, like most tourists, we visited the famous Gardens By The Bay. What a delight to explore for everyone, especially garden lovers! They feature both natural and architectural marvels where innovative thought continues to keep the Gardens sustainable. With plants from all over the world, there is always something blooming! There are several areas that are free to visit and others require paid admission.

We began at The Cloud Forest, featuring a Jurassic World Experience. Within this massive cooled conservatory (the heat outside can be quite stifling!) over 72,000 plants thrive and more than 50 species have lineages that can be traced back to the Jurassic period, such as ferns, cycads and conifers. These plants once thrived alongside dinosaurs and often served as food for them. This conservatory is a massive glass dome, housing extremely high aerial walkways, massive mechanical dinosaurs and one of the world's tallest indoor waterfalls.

Of course Singapore is famous for its orchids and they were spectacular here amongst the lush greenery. Huge tree ferns, beautiful pink and orange Angel's Trumpet, gorgeous begonias, heuchera, impatiens and fuchsia, all flowering in gorgeous colours to compliment the spectacular foliage, a magnificent Kauri Pine, easily 20 feet tall! Amazing azaleas trained as pillars, which I

had never seen before.

Philodendron Giganteum leaves which certainly were gigantic! Miniature orchids had a magnifying panel in some areas so one could see nature's tiny creations in detail.

From this spectacular



experience we moved across to The Flower Dome. This enormous cooled conservatory holds the Guinness World Record for the largest greenhouse! (the dome's volume is equivalent to 75 Olympic-sized swimming pools!) The roof is fitted with specially selected glass that allows optimal light for plants while minimising solar heat. The Flower Dome features gardens from around the world: Australia, South Africa, South America, California, The Mediterranean, a Succulent Garden, an Olive Grove and The Baobabs with very interesting but unobtrusive sculptures featured amongst the planting.



In the centre was the Flower Field which has changing displays of temporary flower beds to reflect different seasons and festivals. The current feature was a massive colourful Christmas display of poinsettias amongst cyclamen, gloriously scented stocks, humble geraniums with fabulous blooms, daisies, hydrangeas, azaleas and more; sun and shade lovers flowering profusely side by side. I spied some very unusual geraniums that I hadn't seen before with pointy leaves and flowers. Then the special Christmas feature of a massive model railway linking



miniature copies of famous cities of the world decked out for the festive season.

Finally we walked some of the outdoor areas and viewed Singapore's famous Supertrees, eighteen towering vertical garden structures designed to look like



giant trees, ranging from 25 to 50 metres in height.

They have solar panels for energy, rain water collection for irrigation and serve as a habitat for various plants including ferns, vines and orchids. There is a nightly light and sound show plus an aerial walkway. These iconic structures provide sustainable energy while simultaneously providing the infrastructure supporting the site's enormous climate controlled conservatories.

Gardens by the Bay are a "must see" for all visitors to beautiful Singapore!

Baby Boomer

Christmas Handy Hints

- from Lyn Rumble

Hi there,
Re-purposing or re-using everyday items or finding easy solutions to general household issues is what I like to do! I hope that you have benefited from some of the 115 odd hints and tips from 2025.
From my home to yours – I wish you all a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas spent in whatever way is you! Please stay safe, don't forget the 'slip-slop-slap', and if you need to drive, then drive carefully.
A very Happy Christmas to you all and a safe and prosperous New Year for 2026.

*** Xmas – Hanging lights on a large tree can be a hassle but if you plan a bit like this, it will be easy! –** Get a rubber backed bath mat (rubber side up) or bath towel doubled over, (so fairly thick) and place under the base of your tree. As you start to decorate your tree you can 'turn' your tree by swivelling the bath towel with tree above (very carefully) until you can complete the required decorating. Placing the tree lights can be achieved the same way, either before or after decorating and once completed to your satisfaction, the lights can then be plugged in for light-up. The mat or towel can be covered with a tree-skirt and no-one except you would know the difference!

*** Xmas – Want some tree ornament hooks but can't find any?** Get some plastic colour-coated paper clips and bend one end to loop through the ornament hoop and hang on the tree as desired.

*** Xmas – Nothing more frustrating than broken lights so a bit of preparation pays dividends.** Make sure you get the decorations out way in advance (including the tree lights) and test them thoroughly. At least if anything is wrong you can amend / repair or even replace in time for that special Christmas party event, or for when the kids open their pressies on Christmas morning!

*** Xmas - decorations galore? –** When you get your decorations out and you're thinking 'oh dear they look a bit drab!' our local Op Shop could come to your rescue. They have an abundance of fantastic coloured baubles, decorations and bits and pieces that you could very cost-effectively decorate with. Be inventive, try unusual things and think outside the square. Try placing your lights 'inside' the central branches of your tree, make a central table decoration with branches and pretty baubles, make your own garlands, glitter up some baubles, cover some small boxes with xmas paper and place under the tree for a 'fake' full look - just be creative and have fun!

*** Xmas – Whilst pressies, food and entertainment are probably high on the priority list this Christmas, the changing weather climate, hot weather, heat stroke and sunburn is a real threat possibility for all ages.** If organising a gathering for family and friends, please consider all these factors and ensure high quality suntan creams, cold water, soft drinks and plenty of shade options for outdoor activities. This will ensure your event will be a successful and memorable one where everyone will be able to welcome in 2026.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



Celebrating Christmas around our towns

Rushworth lights up for the festive season



The Waranga News window spring display has now made way for a spectacular 'Christmas Around the World' panorama.



Last year's Best-dressed Window award winner No 7 High St is dressed to impress once again.



Colbo has reindeer

Shepparton might have their cows, but Colbo has reindeer - thanks to the Community Men's Shed who built three reindeer to graze on the channel bank. Unfortunately one fell out of the ute on the journey and had to go back to hospital for repairs. It's hoped it will have recovered in time for Christmas. But Honnie McEvoy enjoyed having a ride while cousin, Finn Rathjen, kept a close eye on her.

Next Waranga News out on
February 5th, 2026
Happy hols TO YOU AND US!

NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.



Well, here we are folks, getting close to the end of 2025 – where did it go? I hope there was some joy in the year for you and any disappointments were overcome. For my family 2025 included a wedding, some serious health problems, a joyous holiday and some creative steps forward. So this is a time to reflect on the past and set goals for the future.

Food bank closure over Christmas/ New Year. Last day food bank is open is Wednesday 24 December – re-opening Wednesday 7 January 2026. The 24/7 Pantry will be re-stocked with essentials over this period. Leading up to Christmas there will be extra Christmas food, a limited range of gifts, cards, wrapping paper and decorations.

In the Op Shop we have Christmas gift bags at five bags for \$1 and Christmas clothing at \$3 an item. We also have bags of tree decorations at very cheap prices. Our other special is five Cookbooks for \$1!!! If you are lucky enough to have a family of cooks, you could buy the five cookbooks, five Christmas bags, put them together and you have five presents for 40 cents each present. Now THAT'S economical!

Also to help with the Christmas festivities, serving platters are on special for 50% off marked price. Even if you only have the old vegemite sandwiches, cut the crust off, cut into triangles (very posh) and serve on a beautiful glass/ceramic serving dish decorated with a sprig of mint. Wow! I'm full of brilliant ideas today, must be the Christmas wine I am sampling!

I saw the most beautiful lamp in the Op Shop yesterday. More expensive than normal but just a stunning thing. It is \$40 but wouldn't look out of place in a Home and Garden magazine. I also saw a gorgeous Chinese silk jacket, size 12, that is \$7. Paired

with a simple black dress or good jeans and white shirt, it would look very classy.

Op shop closure – Friday 26 December. Op Shop will be open on all its usual days over Christmas/New Year, (Mon, Wed, Fri 9am-2pm Sat 9am-12 noon) apart from Boxing Day when it will be closed. We have a dedicated band of volunteers so, hopefully, all shifts will be covered.

To finish off this year we have a wonderful poem by Liz Buzza called Christmas Catastrophes – and I can tell you I have experienced a few of those. So many thanks to Liz for her help in the poetry department.

All that remains is for me to thank all our wonderful volunteers who keep the Food Bank and Op Shop and Green Shed operating, all our customers who buy our enormous array of 'stuff' to fund the Food Bank and the community of Rushworth and district who are so generous with their donations.

Have an enjoyable Christmas, safe travels and return refreshed and relaxed to start the New Year.

Merry Christmas, and God bless us everyone (with apologies to Charles Dickens!)

Heather

CATASTROPHES

By Liz Buzza

Christmas is upon us soon
And as far as I can tell
Compared to many years gone by
I'm not doing very well

The Christmas lights along the fence
We thought would be a winner.
Someone might even notice them
If the trees and shrubs were thinner.

The ham was bought a week ago
But it seems to have quite vanished.
All they've left me is the bone.
I think someone was famished.

The Christmas tree looked rather sparse
When I took it from its cover.
I put more branches on the front
So of course, the tree fell over!

The Christmas cake fell rather flat,
I should have cooked it longer.
The winds blew down the Christmas
wreath

The hook should have been stronger.
The gifts are bought and parcelled up
As hints were dropped all year.
But it seems they bought them for
themselves
When summer sales were here.

I wrote a note to Santa
I said I had been good
All year: well now and then: well once!
I hope he understood.

But all in all, we'll muddle through
As the seasons wax and wane.
So here's to twenty-twenty six
When we do it all again!



Arts & Tourism

Places to stay, things to do and see in our district

This page is proudly sponsored by:



www.kennedyvintners.com.au

Summer Exhibition at the Echuca Foundry Art Space opening

The Summer Exhibition at the Foundry Art Space in Echuca was opened on Friday 5 December showcasing the work of twenty-two artist members who are the people keeping the venue open throughout the year by volunteering.

The Art Space is open daily 10 to 4 (closed Tuesdays) until 26 January and is a great source of gift buying leading up to Christmas.



Left: Colourful artworks by Dianne Giddings.

Above: Judi Lawler, President of the Foundry Art Space opening the exhibition.

Right: a variety of the artworks for sale, Isobelle Kawai Vincent, Kodamoji Artist.

(Below) be sure to catch Santa's Cave at the Kyabram Town Hall Gallery.



Kennedy Vintners

KENNEDY RANGE -

Shiraz 2023

Cambria Reserve 2021

Pink Hills Rosé 2023

HENRIETTA RANGE -

Shiraz 2021

Tempranillo 2023

Rosé 2023

All available online and being served at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel and the Wallenjoie Hotel Stanhope.

Phone: 5484 8293

info@kennedyvintners.com.au

ADMISSION \$5 PER PERSON
\$15 a family (up to 4 Children)

KYABRAM TOWN HALL	
DECEMBER 2025	
13 th Saturday	11am-5pm
14 th Sunday	11am-5pm
15 th Monday	11am-5pm
16 th Tuesday	11am-5pm
17 th Wednesday	11am-5pm
18 th Thursday	11am-5pm
19 th Friday	11am-5pm
20 th Saturday	11am-5pm
21 st Sunday	11am-5pm

Kennedy Range: Shiraz 2023, Cambria (Reserve) 2021, Pink Hills Rosé 2023. Henrietta Range: Shiraz 2021, Tempranillo 2023 Rosé 2023 all available online and being served at Colbinabbin Country Hotel and the Wallenjoie Hotel Stanhope.

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LOCAL CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

As the holiday rush begins and our in-boxes and social media overflow with online deals, it's easy to forget that some of the best gifts are available - and even created - right here in our own neighbourhoods. At Christmas, choosing to shop locally isn't just a feel good gesture; it's an investment in the people, businesses, and traditions that make our towns thrive.

Perry's Butchers Christmas fare

Perry's Butchers has all your Christmas fare covered this festive season, with fresh seafood available to order ahead, including Australian oysters, cooked king prawns, raw prawn tails and a selection of fresh fish. You'll also find a full range of hams, turkeys, chickens, pork and pickled pork, along with barbecue favourites, fresh salads and free-range eggs.



Gift vouchers are available from \$10, and the shelves are stocked with Lions Christmas cakes plus a delicious variety of locally and regionally made condiments, sauces, chutneys and oils—perfect for gifting or entertaining.



Cool down at the Ice Cream Shoppe

Michelle and Stewart are ready to make the hot summer days more bearable with their twenty-four ice cream flavours, slushies and soft serves.

They also stock local and American hot sauces for your barbecue and a great array of sweets in their Lolly Shop for Christmas. Don't forget that they have take-home packs of their delicious ice creams when you fancy a change from the trifle and plum pudding.



Christmas cheer from Kennedys Vintners

"Christmas dinner without a good wine is like a present without a bow."

And in this region there is no excuse! Kennedy Vintners is one of our highly-recommended local wineries and they extend warm wishes for a very Happy Christmas and heartfelt thanks to customers for their support throughout the year.

The team encourages everyone to visit their website for special Christmas offers. Orders placed by 16 December will arrive in time for Christmas.



No time to bake for Christmas? Motofinish to the rescue!

Need some help with Christmas baking? See Fiona and the crew - especially for their carrot cake and Christmas shortbread. This year, Fiona plans to offer a pavlova swiss roll, a new take on an old favourite. Run by Fiona with help from Brandon, Trudy and Helen, this great restaurant produces delicious food, all home made, including a full roast meal available every day.



The Variety Store for all things 'Christmassy'

There is no need to drive to the bigger towns this year to gather all your Christmas decorating needs. At her corner shop, Kelly has everything that you need, from pretty Christmas cushions, a large selection of Christmas lights, tinsel and cards, gorgeous Christmas bows and an array of shining Christmas balls to rival any of the big retailers.



Shop local. Celebrate local. Strengthen community.

FOR CHRISTMAS – THE BEST GIFTS

As the holiday rush begins and our in-boxes and social media overflow with online deals, it's easy to forget that some of the best gifts are available - and even created - right here in our own neighbourhoods. At Christmas, choosing to shop locally isn't just a feel good gesture; it's an investment in the people, businesses, and traditions that make our towns thrive.



Rushworth Pharmacy for gifts and good health

The staff at Rushworth Pharmacy would like to wish the whole of the Rushworth and District community a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year. Pop in for all your medication needs and don't forget their giftware this Christmas. They have beautiful soaps and gorgeous perfume diffusers among many lovely and unusual gifts. Remember they will be closed Thursday 25th and Friday 26th of December 2025 and Thursday 1st of January, 2026

Christmas baking ticked off!

The famous Rushworth Bakery, open seven days a week, is renowned throughout the district. This Christmas to help with the catering, they have cakes, mince tarts and Christmas puddings as well as their usual delicious pies and cakes. Call and see Linda, Grace, Clara, Jamie, Nicky and Taya for great service and good food.



Sun and snacks at Gus & Ollies

At the G & O Café (or Gus and Ollies) Sharon and her daughter Mel and their staff are ready with their excellent toasties in several varieties and their cabinet of sweet treats to make cooking a little less stressful this year. Why not order a toastie and coffee and sit in their sunny courtyard to enjoy them.



A Christmas Wonderland to see in Girgarre

Judy Buzza's All Solar-Lit Secret Christmas Garden in Girgarre East transforms two acres of farmland into a snowy, winter-themed Christmas village. Towering over a metre high, the handmade scenes are crafted entirely from farm remnants and everyday household items. By repurposing old "stuff," Judy has created a charming, budget-friendly celebration of the season.



The Rushworth Hotel aka Bottom Pub

It's back again and the town is pleased. The Bottom Pub is up and running with a second freshly decorated dining room and this Christmas they are taking bookings for lunch on Christmas day - depending on numbers. They have an exciting weekly programme in place with Curry Nights on Wednesday alternating with Steak Nights.



Thursdays are Pots and Parmas, Friday is a meat raffle and Happy Hour between 4pm and 6pm and Joker Poker. Saturday there is Karaoke and a pool competition. The meals are really good and the staff delightful. Welcome back.



Stuck for a gift?
Give a Waranga News!
Online subscription just \$30.00.
wnews@iinet.net.au



Shop local.
Celebrate local.
Strengthen community.



ARE FOUND CLOSE TO HOME

In an era of next-day delivery and endless online choice, the charm of local shopping offers something that algorithms can't replicate: genuine connection.

Stuck for a gift? Solved at the Colbo Pub! The General Store has something special for everyone

Colbinabbin Country Hotel prides itself on choosing local products! They have an amazing range of local wines: reds, whites and rosé for sale. Gift Vouchers are available for that hard-to-buy-for person! They can also be used for meals, drinks, coffee, cake or local honey. At the moment there's also a range of spectacular local artwork for sale too, so come and check it out!



This beautiful store is just the place to find something special for Christmas. This Christmas Jasmin is highlighting Etikette candles, made and owned by a group of women from South Australia and Jasmin has customized a candle perfume specially for Rushworth called "Cactus Flower". Also check out the lovely tea light cottages, just perfect for a Christmas display.



Angie Russi Ceramics – the gift of artistry

If you're looking for a unique, handcrafted Christmas gift, you need look no further than Angie's delightful studio in High St Rushworth. Every piece is carefully created and shows a true artist's touch. From practical (but beautiful!) mugs and bowls to one-of-a-kind quirky decorative pieces, Angie's work will bring originality and personality to any home.

Shopping local is a win-win – it ensures your gift is unique and it's extra special as it supports a talented artisan in our community.



Balloons & Stuff for a unique Aussie gift

Gwen and Bruce have a large range of "Hat World" Australian wool felt hats in a multitude of colours, just perfect for the warmer days. They also sell moccasins, Ugg boots, umbrellas, Roogenic teas and tin toys.



Portrait of your pet

An exciting new addition to the shop are acrylic and canvas bird paintings by Ballarat artist Monica Hardy, who paints under "Hardy by Design". She will be in the shop on 20 December so if you would like a lively portrait of your pet, come and see her and bring a photo.



So much to see around our towns

A local holiday activity

Do you fancy a trip down memory lane this Christmas? How about a visit to the Rushworth Museum to remember how things used to be. The knowledgeable staff can tell you the stories behind the exhibits, including a particularly lovely wedding dress with it's veil and parasol.

Could you spare a little time in mid-January to help with a check of inventory in the museum? Possibly half a day is required and remember, many hands make light work.



Glasgow House Gallery

A gift for the collector in your life? Go no further than the Glasgow Gallery where proprietor Damian Batton has amassed a vast collection of vintage wares to choose from. Check out the dogs watching Santa come down the chimney!



Rosie's Recycle

Owner: Sue

For something unique and affordable to wear this Christmas, Rosie's Recycle is your one stop shop for designer fashion, bags, shoes and accessories. Since starting her pre-loved fashion shop seven and a half years ago, Sue has steadily gained returning customers from near and far.

With prices as low as \$5 and no higher than \$50 and gift cards available from \$10, designer label fashion is within reach for us all.

So thanks to Rosie's Recycling we can all look absolutely fabulous this Christmas.



Xmas dinner from IGA

Rushworth IGA will have a range of smoked hams and assorted Christmas decorations. They have an amazing range of various toys and nick-nacks for that last minute present. Coming into Christmas there will be great deals on some amazing chocolates. The staff look forward to greeting you in the store - make sure the children push Santa's button for a 'Christmassy' song! Stay safe and Merry Christmas.



Rushworth Post Office

Well, Rushworth PO is a really busy shop, especially now with the lead up to Christmas.

Manager Arran is ably assisted by Samara, Christie, Dana and Gianna. With the combination of camera shyness and being under-the-pump, there is no photo of them.

However, if you are looking for an unusual and quirky gift to give for Christmas, look no further - greeting cards, jewellery, perfume, sewing machines, pillows, quilts, wallets, ceramics, mug sets, bags and more.

All your Christmas shopping can be affordable at your local PO.



Forty years! Murchison celebrates!

By Kay Ball

And that’s what we did! Sunday 30 November was a very happy day celebrating what Murchison Historical Society has achieved since it formed forty years ago.

In October 1985, the local Primary School held a ‘back-to’ event. For this occasion, a book written by Derek Pearson, Bill Stewart and Keith Gregory (about the school history over 125 years as well as an overview of the history of the town) called From Protectorate to Smaller Premier Town, was published.

Stimulated by the book, memorabilia, photos and stories shared on the day, a strong interest in forming an Historical Society grew. By December the first meeting of the Murchison and District Historical Society was held and a Committee of Management elected.

Warwick Finlay became President, a position he held for twenty-eight years and Keith Gregory was elected Vice President holding that office for seventeen years.

By the end of 1986 Bryan and Loel Thomson generously opened Noorilim for a whole week staging ‘An Edwardian Christmas’ which was very successful and provided initial funds for the Society.

Meetings in the early years were held in the RSL rooms. Guest speakers sharing local history stories and building up a library all added to the knowledge of local history for the 45+ membership. The aim to acquire a home for the Society was always on the agenda. Various sites in Murchison were assessed but none were suitable.

Then in 1995 the Society leased the vacant Infant Welfare building in the River Bank Gardens. It ticked all the boxes; prominent position, in good condition, room for expansion, plenty of parking and, as it was a Council owned building, we received great support.

The Thomson’s again invited the public to their beautiful home Noorilim, for ‘An Edwardian Evening’, this time for tendays. Hundreds of visitors flocked there to experience the mansion set up with models about to enjoy a social evening in the Edwardian period. Profit from this wonderful gesture provided \$43,000.00 and with other accumulated funds we set about adding the gallery area to the rear of the building.

The gallery gave us a large display area but we lacked meeting space and facilities to host group visits in the original rooms to the front of the building. Another extension and remodelling were undertaken to that area and officially opened in Feb 2015. This gave us all abilities access, larger foyer with shop-front for display, wheelchair toilet, suitable kitchen, meeting room and the best view of the River Bank Gardens in Murchison!

Our latest display showcases the achievements and activities of the last forty yrs; listing our exhibitions and events, our awards, books published, interpretive signage installed, weekend and day trips to historic places, and fundraising efforts.

Faithful volunteers have brought the Historical Society to where we are today through their dedication and energy, giving their time voluntarily and sharing their talents. Membership consistently stands at 34 - 38, contributing by taking a turn on the roster, maintaining the Centre and caring for the collection, thus ensuring the Historical Society is a success and the Heritage Centre a great town asset, where we can continue to preserve, promote and present our significant history.



Councillor Paul Wickham and Kay Ball cut the cake!

Wishing everyone a safe and joyful Christmas, and may 2026 bring you health and happiness.

*Kay Ball,
President,
Murchison and
District Historical Society*



From this (1995).....



..... to this (2025)

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

St Mary's Grade 6 Graduation class celebrated at end of year Mass

Submitted by Katherine Jamieson

St Mary's End of Year Graduation Mass was a wonderful occasion for our whole school community to come together in celebration. It was a special moment to reflect on the year, honour our students, and acknowledge the journey of our graduating class.

Congratulations to all of our award recipients! We are incredibly proud of your achievements and the dedication you have shown throughout the year.



St Mary MacKillop Medal (5/6) - Lil Rose



St Mary MacKillop Medal (F/1/2) - Ella Jarrett



St Mary MacKillop Medal (3/4) - Brylee Harvey



St Vincent de Paul Society "Social Justice Initiatives Award" (Awarded to a Grade 5 student) - Alia Spence

Congratulations and farewell to Grade 6 graduates



Grade 6 Class of 2025: (Rear) Vince, Taya, Tannah and Sophie (Front) Mia, Lil.

A special congratulations to our Grade 6 graduates. This year's group has shown tremendous growth, resilience and leadership, and they have brought so much energy and spirit to our school community. We are grateful for the way they have supported one another, embraced new challenges and acted as positive role models for our younger students. As they step into secondary school, we are confident they will continue to shine, follow their passions and make their mark in new and exciting ways. Well done, Grade 6—we are incredibly proud of you!



Kindness Awards (3/4): Liam Jarrett



Kindness Awards (F/1/2): Ollie Gillie

Advent Liturgies

Our Advent season has begun with meaningful and reflective liturgies led by our students. In Week 1, Years 3/4 guided the school community through a thoughtful reflection and on Monday, F1/2 hosted our Week 2 liturgy.

These special gatherings give students the opportunity to come together as a community, reflect on the true meaning of Advent and prepare their hearts for the celebration of Christmas. It's wonderful to see our students actively participating, sharing their voices and helping to create a sense of hope and joy throughout the school.



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

SAC Presentation

The School Advisory Council (SAC) presented a farewell gift to the Principal Mr Ryan who is leaving the school.

As a school community, we farewelled him with deep gratitude for the strength, kindness and genuine care he brought to our school.

Throughout his time with us, Mr Ryan provided steady leadership, thoughtful guidance and a grounded presence that supported students, staff and families alike.

His vision and dedication have shaped our school in meaningful ways, leaving a legacy that will be remembered and appreciated for years to come. We thank Mr Ryan for all he has given to St Mary's and wish him every success and happiness in the next chapter of his journey.



North Melbourne football players visit

On Wednesday, we welcomed players and staff from the North Melbourne Football Club to our School. Callum Coleman-Jones, Nick Larkey, Jacob Konstanty and River Stevens hosted a Q and A session and then joined in for a skills activity. What a great morning at St Mary's.



Social Media Restrictions explained for reflection

We were fortunate to welcome Leading Senior Constable Shane Roberts to St Mary's recently. He had a thoughtful and engaging conversation with our students about the new social media regulations for children under sixteen, highlighting both the opportunities and responsibilities that come with using technology.

Students were encouraged to reflect on safe and respectful online behaviours, the importance of protecting personal information and how to make positive choices in digital spaces. It was a valuable discussion that reinforced our commitment to helping students navigate the online world safely and responsibly.



Flags

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Campaspe Shire Council for their generous grant, which enabled our school to install three new flagpoles. This wonderful addition has allowed our Year 6 students to raise our new Torres Strait Islander flag for the very first time—a special moment made possible with thanks to Sam Birrell MP for providing the flag.

This milestone not only celebrates the rich culture and heritage of the Torres Strait Islander community but also reinforces our school's commitment to inclusion, respect and recognition of all cultures within our community. We are proud to provide our students with opportunities to engage in meaningful and respectful ways to honour Australia's First Nations peoples.



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

Student Leaders for 2026 announced

The College are proud to announce the 2026 College Captains to the community.

After a highly competitive application and selection process, these students have demonstrated exceptional leadership, integrity and commitment to our school community.

They have shown a genuine passion for supporting their peers and driving positive change within the college.

This year we have been lucky enough to offer three main roles for student leadership including College Captain, Vice-Captain and Sport Captain.

Congratulations to our 2026 College Co-Captains:

- Emily McLean and Tildy Brew

Congratulations to our 2026 College Co-Vice Captains:

- Amelia Woodfine and Chloe Johnstone

Congratulations to our 2026 Co-College Co-Sport Captains:

- Tamikah Clark and Charlie McLean

We look forward to the enthusiasm, initiative and responsibility they will bring to their roles throughout the year. Our new Captains will represent the student body at school events, lead student voice initiatives and help build a strong, inclusive culture across the college.

Please join us in congratulating and supporting them as they step into this important leadership opportunity. Well done to our 2026 College Captains!

*Taylah Carmichael
VCE Coordinator*



College Co-Captains Emily McLean and Tildy Brew



College Co-Vice Captains Chloe Johnstone and Amelia Woodfine



Co-College Co-Sport Captains Charlie McLean and Tamikah Clark

Design Technology showcased

The Design Technology room has been a hive of activity in recent weeks with students completing their end user products after months of working on design briefs, models

and reviewing plans. Congratulations to the Year 9-12 students who have worked so hard on their products.

Annemaree Klinberg



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

VCE VM Industry Immersion

The VCE Vocational Major students were involved in an immersion excursion of industries in the area during Step Up week. They visited Greenham's, in Tongala, Byford's in Moama and O'Connors in Echuca. This tour, put together by the Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning and Employment Network (CCLLEN) introduced students to various opportunities and employment pathways. The visits will be used as part of their Work-Related Skills studies and hopefully aid some in to Structured Workplace Learning. Greenham's gave students a closer look into the beef industry. Byford's, design and build tanker trailers and silos for the milk and wine industry and O'Connors is the dealer and authorised repairer for Case tractors. Big thank you to all businesses involved and a huge thank you to Jane, Jacq and Cath at the CCLLEN for all the adventures you have organised for the VCE VM and HOPE students this year. We look forward to 2026.

*Dan Walsh
VCE VM Teacher*



Police chat about Social Media ban

We had the pleasure of welcoming Leading Senior Constable Shane Roberts, the Youth Specialist Officer in Echuca to the College. Shane delivered two presentations to our P-10 students, covering cyber and road safety but most importantly the upcoming social media ban (from 10.12.25) and what that means for our students under the age of sixteen. Families can visit the eSafety Commissioner website for more information.

Secondary students also watched a video outlining a very important reason for the upcoming changes, which outlined the tragic story of Carly Ryan and the work her mother, Sonya, is doing to make the online world safe for young people - <https://www.carlyryanfoundation.com/>

We thank Shane for his continued support and willingness to come to the College and speak to our students.

*Keely, Sarah, Arly
Wellbeing Team*





All about wildlife

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

And just like that, we are coming to the end of another year....

It has been a year of hard work, attending copious calls for wildlife needing help and caring for numerous native lives who find themselves at one of our two Bohollow Shelters. For my family and I at our founding Bohollow Wildlife Shelter at Bunbartha, it's been a year of extra hard work repairing flood damage and attempting to find our feet again after a few very difficult years. We still have a long way to go before everything is totally back to normal, but we are making progress.

We are at the halfway mark for the chaotic baby bird season. Deb has taken on a few of the baby birds this season to lessen our load here a little but home at the moment is awaking to the incessant calls of nestling and fledgling birds, all demanding they be the first fed. There are no mornings of lazily easing into the day at this time of year!

As always, our year has been full of many highs and lows as the never ending roller coaster ride of wildlife care and rescue marches on. The amount of wildlife who find themselves in trouble and need a helping hand never seems to dwindle and as the wildlife

caring fraternity is currently very short in numbers on the ground, we get called further and further afield, pushing our resources even further beyond our limit.

If you require our assistance and we cannot attend immediately, please be patient. Little things like being able to transport to us and following advice on what you can do until one of us can get there or a critter can get to the shelter, can make a massive difference to both us and the animal concerned.

If we sound tired, it is because we are more than tired, we are downright fatigued and your call may be one of many we have tended to that day. If you cannot get a critter to us, fear not, we will get to you, but if it takes hours, please don't get impatient with us, or worse, treat us with contempt. We live, breathe and walk the walk of being a 24/7 rescue and care service for wildlife. Our hearts hurt more than most when we cannot attend immediately for whatever reason or if a rescue goes wrong or if the kindest thing we can do for an animal is humanely end their pain.

Wildlife rescue is a team effort and begins with you, the general public. For every one

of you who choose to stop for that injured bird or roo on a roadside, for everyone of you who finds a fallen nest in your garden, a bird hanging up a tree entangled in fishing line at a remote camp-site, creek or river, for each and every one of you who care enough about the living creatures who have been walking this land well before we were, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Keeping up with the financial expense of what we do is always a struggle. To the kind hearted people who reach into their pockets each year to donate and contribute to the costs of our wildlife work, we and all the critters who pass through Bohollow's care, are eternally grateful. Without your donations and help, we could not keep our doors open.

Deb, myself and all of our extended Bohollow family who work diligently both out in public and behind the scenes, all wish you a peaceful and happy Christmas/New Year period and we will be back in 2026 with more Bohollow stories and updates to share.

Until then, may your bird baths remain full and your hearts continue to care.

Kirsty

Bohollow calendars 2026 supporting wildlife rescue
~ All proceeds go to maintaining the Bohollow shelter and rescue work ~



The popular Bohollow calendars featuring Kirsty's superb wildlife photography are again available for 2026. These can be purchased for \$25 at a number of the region's veterinary clinics, including FarrierVet, Shepparton Veterinary Clinic, Kialla Veterinary Clinic, Mooroopna Veterinary Clinic, G.V. Vets, Echuca Veterinary Clinic, Kyabram Veterinary Clinic, Euroa Central Veterinary Clinic.



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

ON THE BRINK

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

In this column we have often referred to the importance of biodiversity in maintaining a well-functioning ecosystem. It's increasingly recognised that the scarcity or extinction of any flora or fauna will upset the balance of nature and we have ecologists and natural resource managers working to identify and address potential losses, many of which (but not all) are consequences of human activity. In more recent times the value of Indigenous land and sea management has been recognised, its success being acknowledged as largely due to a deep and different connection to the land. While the mainstream tradition has been to research, classify and 'manage' aspects of the ecosystem from outside, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people connected to Country see that they are part of the ecological system and manage it from within. Plants, animals and landscapes are foundations of identity and are essential to a person's sense of self, family and place.

As species of plants and animals and their relationships are the focus of Aboriginal identity and spirituality, the impacts of plant and animal loss we have been describing take on another dimension. The decline of certain species affects not only ecosystem functions, but also cultural knowledge, food systems, language, ceremony and Country.

Below are two accounts of how the decline of certain plant species can affect not only ecosystem functions, but also cultural knowledge, food systems, language, ceremony and Country.

Note: These are broad, representative examples, publicly shared (not restricted knowledge). It should also be noted that Indigenous Knowledge Systems vary widely, and it's important not to assume

that everyone holds the same understanding of concepts, traditions, or information

1. River Red Gums – (Murray–Darling Basin Nations)

For many First Nations along the Murray–Darling Basin (e.g., Yorta Yorta, Ngarrindjeri, Barkandji), the river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) is a cultural keystone species. Red gums are seen as living ancestors connected to story, songlines, and obligations of care for the river system. Their decline from altered flooding isn't just ecological; it represents a break in the cultural relationship with the river, which depends on healthy floodplains.

Impacts

- Loss of habitat for species that are totems or culturally significant (fish, waterbirds)
- Loss of bark suitable for traditional canoes, coolamons, and scar-tree practices
- Decline in river health that disrupts cultural fishing practices and ceremonies tied to water

2. Bushfoods & Wildflower Species – (Southwest WA Noongar Nation)

The Noongar peoples describe many flowering plants (e.g., *Banksia*, *Macrozamia*, *Quandong*, yams) as part of a seasonal knowledge system (Noongar six seasons). The flowering of certain plants signal when animals can be hunted, when certain foods are ready, or when fires should be lit. Declines caused by dieback (*Phytophthora*), land clearing, and warming lead to breakdown of seasonal indicators.

Impacts

- Reduced availability of key bushfoods used in teaching and ceremony
- Weakened intergenerational transmission of women's knowledge, because specific plants are tied to gathering, cooking, and teaching roles
- Erosion of language: many plant names encode ecological knowledge (growth patterns, uses, timing).

Sourced from: <https://soe.dcceew.gov.au/heritage/environment/indigenous-heritage>

Birds of a Feather

Lorikeets

With some of the ironbarks flowering in Rushworth at the moment we have seen large numbers of lorikeets noisily feeding on the blossom, but which species of lorikeets are they? Most people are familiar with the rainbow lorikeet with its beautiful bright colours and its harsh call but there are very few around Rushworth. They are one of the larger lorikeets (about 28cm) and are very aggressive towards other birds so where they have built up in large numbers they can become a nuisance. In some ways we are lucky that there are so few locally despite their beauty.

It is the musk lorikeet which is in large numbers around town feeding on the flowering ironbarks and making quite a racket. They are mostly green (about 22 cm) and can be identified by the red on their forehead and cheek and a yellow patch on their belly under their wings. Although they make a lot of noise when feeding they don't have the harsh call of the rainbow lorikeets.

There are two other lorikeets that you may see feeding as well. These are the purple-crowned lorikeet and the little lorikeet. Both are small (about 15 cm) and we are one of the few locations where the two can be found together. The purple-crowned lorikeet has a range from WA across SA to central Victoria while the little lorikeet has a range from Queensland down to Victoria so here the two species overlap.

The purple-crowned lorikeet usually feeds at the top of trees and has a distinctive high pitched tsit tsit call when flying. They are green on the back, have a pale blue belly and can be identified by their purple crown and yellow patch on their cheek. The little lorikeet is mostly green but their distinguishing feature is their red marking above and below their beak. Their call is also high pitched but without the 'buzz' of the purple crowned lorikeet.

Lorikeets have brush tongues which have elongated papillae or hooks which enable them to collect pollen and nectar from eucalypts. Although they are mostly seen on flowering eucalypts they also feed on fruit and insects and visit other flowering plants.

Lorikeets in our area nest in the spring with a nest in tree hollows, mostly in gum trees, so the many birds actively feeding at the moment are probably feeding their young as well. If you check out some of the lorikeets in the flowering gums you may be able to work out which species are there.

The Rushy Birder



Rainbow lorikeet



Musk lorikeet



Little lorikeet



Purple crowned lorikeet

Lament: memorial by Kat Parker at SAM

The devastating effect of Australia's animal extinction is highlighted in an exhibition currently showing at Shepparton Art Museum.

Kat Parker's first solo exhibition, *Lament* – A Memorial of Australian Extinction features a collection of meticulously constructed, life-sized sculptures of extinct species that memorialise their existence whilst lamenting their loss.



Visitor to the Rushworth Field and Game

Erica Cseko-Nolasco, Science Research officer for the Corop Wetlands Cultural Landscape Project, recently visited Rushworth Field and Game to discuss future.

During an afternoon tour with Graeme Wall, they discussed the project and ongoing conservation initiatives. Erica also participated on a Wednesday working bee inspecting nest boxes and hen houses including those fitted with the Rushworth designed crow stopper. Erica shared her enthusiasm with the Rushworth P12 students who were present.

This will be an ongoing project, and Erica has been meeting with locals and other stakeholders with an interest in the Corop wetlands.



Avoid fire risks when decorating for Christmas

As Victorians once again unbox their Christmas tree and untangle decorations, fire authorities are encouraging everyone to take steps to avoid Santa’s naughty list and stay safe this festive season. Fire Rescue Victoria and CFA are urging Victorians to celebrate this festive season safely by checking Christmas lights before switching them on.

Damaged or faulty lights, combined with tinsel and plastic decorations can significantly increase the risk of fire in the home.

Last December, firefighters were called to a house fire in Glen Waverley after Christmas decorations sparked a blaze that destroyed a family of four’s home.

Father, George, was home with his two children when his smoke alarm went off alerting him to his Christmas tree on fire.

George tried to put the fire out himself but the blaze spread too quickly, leaving him only moments to flee with his daughters.

Stark reminder

Incident Controller FRV Commander Julian Bisbal said it’s a stark reminder to check lights are in good working order before decorating trees and homes.

“Inspect lights for missing bulbs and frayed cords, and make sure you turn lights off when not in the room,” he said.

“It’s also an important reminder to never delay calling Triple Zero (000). When it comes to fire, minutes matter. The sooner you call Triple Zero (000), the sooner firefighters can help.”

The past financial year, FRV and CFA responded to numerous fires caused by Christmas decorations.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said it’s also important to not overload powerboards and to avoid using double adaptors.

“Taking a few minutes to ensure everything is safe could save your home and those you love,” he said.

“Christmas should be a time for

celebration and doing things like untangling cords, not running them under mats or rugs, and turning lights off before you go to sleep can ensure it stays a happy time and not a catastrophic one.”

Safety list

See FRV and CFA’s safety list, and remember to check it twice:

- Check Christmas lights meet Australian Safety Standards
- Inspect Christmas lights for damage and signs of wear and tear
- Don’t use light sets with exposed wiring or missing bulbs
- Never overload power boards, and avoid using double adaptors

- Untangle electrical cords and check they’re not under rugs or mats
- If decorating the outside of your home, choose lights and fittings for external use
- Check you have a safety switch in your meter box, or have a qualified electrician install one
- Place your tree as far as possible from any heat source, curtains or furnishings.
- Maintain water in the base of natural Christmas trees to stop them drying out and remove lights once they show signs of drying
- Have working smoke alarms in all bedrooms, living areas and hallways

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Things to do on a relaxing holiday break!

Relax with some mindful colouring exercise

Mindful colouring calms the mind, reduces stress and anxiety and improves concentration by shifting attention to the sensory experience of applying colour, a bit like meditation but more fun! (Outlines created by Noah Saltmarsh from Rushworth P-12).

BOOK IT IN

(Some light entertainment from The Bookster) from the book "The Lure of the Limerick" edited by W.S. Baring-Gould (with some local tweaking).

A certain young gourmet from Shepparton,
Took some pate and pickles and spread it on
A chocolate biscuit
Then murmured "I'll risk it"
His tomb bears the date that he said it on.

There was a young man of Ky Valley
Whose accounts, when reviewed, didn't tally.
His boss smelled a rat
For he'd furnished a flat
And was seen every night at the ballet.

There was a young girl from Australia
Who went to a dance as a dahlia.
When the petals unfurled
They revealed to the world
That as clothing the dress was a failure.

There was an op-shopper from Tat
Who just wandered in for a chat.
She said with a sigh,
"There is so much to buy
I'll have to come back with a sack".



School Holidays
At Rushworth Library



Activity	Detail	Date & time	Age	Booking
Sand Castles	Construct a sandcastle and decorate using your imagination. <i>Please bring a 2 litre ice cream container.</i>	Monday, 5 Jan 10.30am	All ages	Please book
Movie Morning	BYO nibbles and drinks and enjoy a family movie together. Family Fun	Thursday, 8 Jan 10.30am	All ages	Please book
NGV Party Hats	In this activity, children are invited to decorate a party hat with stickers. .	Monday, 12 Jan 10.30am	All ages	Please book
Movie Morning	BYO nibbles and drinks and enjoy a family movie together. Family Fun.	Thursday, 15 Jan 10.30am	All ages	Please book
Big Summer Read Tea Party	Some fun crafts and a celebration Tea Party. The Lucky Spot winner will be announced and there will be games to play with some prizes.	Monday, 19 Jan 10.30am	All ages	Please book
All Day LEGO® & Games	Choose a game to play or build an amazing LEGO® structure. Free play.	Thursday, 22 Jan	All ages	All Welcome

GVHealth

Waranga Health News

December 2025



SEASONS GREETING FROM THE DIRECTOR OF NURSING

"As we wrap up another year, I would like to mention our valued residents who assist in making our aged care services a lovely place to live and for our staff to work in. I would also like to thank our community and acute patients that have used our services this year. It is a pleasure to support your health and wellbeing. Lastly, a big thankyou to our local community and surrounding areas, for your continued trust and incredible support of our vital services. From all of the staff at Waranga Health, we wish you a peaceful Christmas and a new year full of new opportunities." – Nadiene Jerram, Waranga Health Director of Nursing.



DEMENTIA SUPPORT COACHING



Last month Dementia Support Australia Support Coach Gina Melmore travelled to Rushworth from Queensland to provide Waranga Health staff with specialised dementia support coaching. Gina led observational support walks and delivered training sessions for both clinical and non-clinical staff, offering expertise, insights and compassion to help us to continue improving the care and support needed for residents living with dementia.

CANCER INFORMATION SESSION



Members of the Stanhope Men's Shed recently hosted GV Health's specialist cancer support nurses for an informative and engaging Cancer Information Session. The session focused on bowel, prostate and lung cancer, highlighting the importance of screening, early diagnosis, lifestyle choices and the range of supports available for people and their carers. It was a relaxed and interactive morning with plenty of questions and conversation, followed by a delicious BBQ lunch. For more information about cancer support services, contact the GV Health Peter Copulos Cancer & Wellness Centre on 5832 3777.

RESIDENT UPDATE



In recent weeks Waranga Health residents have been loving a little pampering with lavender scents, soothing music, warm foot spas, and relaxing hand and foot massages. In the garden, our resident Alywyn has been enjoying the fruit of his labour with homegrown strawberries. Alywyn thoroughly enjoys tending to his patch of strawberries in the residents' garden.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS INFORMATION NIGHT

Waranga Community Health and Rushworth Cricket Club invite community members to join us for a relaxed and informal mental health information night at the Rushworth Cricket Club Rooms, 6.45pm tonight. Tim Lacey from Beyond Blue will share his personal experience of living with a mental health condition. Jack O'Sullivan from Red Gum Reflections Specialist Counselling Service will discuss common mental health concerns for men and his approach to supporting someone seeking help. Please phone 0429 626 086 to RSVP.

NOTICEBOARD

- Mental Health Matters Information Night**
When: Thursday 11 December 2025
Where: Rushworth Cricket Club Rooms
Time: 6.45pm
No cost
Phone 0429 626 086 to RSVP
- Women's Health Clinic**
When: Wednesday 18 February 2026
Where: Waranga Health
Time: 2pm - 5pm
No cost
Phone 5851 8000 to book an appointment
- Community Walking Group**
When: Thursdays
Where: Meet in front of Waranga Health, 14 High Street, Rushworth
Time: 8am - 9am
All abilities welcome
- Rushworth AA group**
When: Thursdays
Where: Waranga Health
Time: 7pm
Cost: No cost
Contact Jenny 0430 103 145 for more information
- Carer Support Group**
When: Thursday 5 February 2026
Time: 2pm - 4pm
Where: Rushworth Community House
New members welcome
Phone 5851 8026 for more information.

WARANGA HEALTH - COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE

PHONE (03) 5851 8000 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alcoholics Anonymous | Exercise Physiologist | Women's Health / Sexual Health |
| Country Hearing Care | Podiatry | Nurse |
| District Nursing | QUIT Educator | |
- Waranga Campus Rushworth | P: (03) 5851 8000
E: waranga.admin@gvhealth.org.au | www.gvhealth.org.au

You can keep up to date with what's happening at Waranga Health on Facebook. Like our page at [facebook.com/warangahealth](https://www.facebook.com/warangahealth)



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Wishing everyone a safe and
Merry Christmas and I look
forward to serving you in 2026.

Stanhope & District Men's Shed Inc.



*Would like to wish all of our district
community a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.*

Open Mon, Wed & Fri - 9 to 12 noon.

Closed 25th Dec only.

Challenge Taxation & Accounting Services



PHONE: 5824 2588

*Rex and staff would like to wish everyone a
wonderful Christmas and best wishes for the
New Year!*

126 Hogan Street, TATURA, VIC, 3612.

DAWES & VARY RIORDAN

LAWYERS 146 Hogan Street, Tatura

*The directors and staff of Dawes and Vary Riordan wish you
the compliments of the season and advise that our office will close
at 3pm on Tuesday 23 December 2025 and re-open on
Wednesday 7 January 2026 at 8.30am.*

For wise personalised legal advice,
please phone our office to discuss.

146 Hogan Street, Tatura | 03 5820 0200

info@dvrlawyers.com.au

www.dvrlawyers.com.au



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5857 2866

Email:

stanhopebc@gmail.com



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Centrelink Photocopying
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Container Deposit Scheme

Stanhope Library Depot



*Best wishes for Christmas and a safe and happy New Year from
the Stanhope and District Development Committee.*

*We welcome you to drop in to the Business Centre and experience
the services we have to offer or even volunteer some of your time.*

A Stanhope & District Development Committee Inc Project

Festive season struggles

A new survey commissioned by the St Vincent de Paul Society reveals that cost-of-living pressures are threatening to turn the festive season into a time of stress rather than celebration, with more than half (53 percent) of Victorians feeling financial stress leading into Christmas.

Across the country, 62 percent of Australians say that cost-of-living pressures are making it difficult to plan or think about festive season celebrations. Alarmingly, almost half (49 percent) of Australian families with children under 18 were concerned about just being able to put food on the table this Christmas.

The findings come as the St Vincent de Paul Society launches its annual Vinnies Christmas Appeal, calling on Australians to help bring hope, comfort and dignity to families facing a difficult Christmas.

In Victoria, the situation reflects the national trend, with more than a third (37 percent) of households worried about providing food this Christmas.

Dr Jennifer Fitzgerald AM, Group CEO St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria said, “As we approach the Christmas season, more and more families across Victoria are feeling the impact of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, struggling to cover essentials like food, rent and utilities. What should be a time of celebration has

become a time of real hardship for many.”

But it’s not only Christmastime when people are hurting; almost one in three (32 percent) Australians admit they’ve skipped meals or gone without food in the past 12 months to afford other essentials, such as rent or electricity.

“Sadly, this survey confirms what our members, volunteers and employees are seeing every day. Over the past year, we’ve witnessed a staggering increase in requests for support, with families who have never asked for help before are suddenly finding themselves stretched to the limit and needing the basics just to get by.” Dr Fitzgerald said.

“‘This year, we’re calling on Victorians who can afford it, to donate to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal and help us provide nutritious meals, and vital assistance to local families who need a helping hand this Christmas.”

“Every dollar raised will help vulnerable Victorians find hope and relief during what should be the happiest time of the year. Your generosity could be your greatest gift this Christmas.” Dr Fitzgerald said.

Donations of \$2 and over are tax-deductible, and every dollar stays local to support people in need in Victoria. To donate, visit: Vinnies Christmas Appeal.



Judy Phelan and Judith Ryan had a good catch up after Cornella’s traditional Advent ‘Santa visit’ Mass.



Maree Stewart (right) and Shell Rathjen stress how good they’ve been all year.

District Church Times and Contacts

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

Shine Church, Stanhope

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

- Catholic**

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

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

Generations Church, Tatura

5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

- Salvation Army: 5852 3875**
- Uniting Church**

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

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



GRACE BEFORE MEALS

May the hungry be filled with good things, and may our table and home be blessed. Amen.

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GOOD LIFE

The Chain That Held Together

A friend gave me an old chain the other day. He'd found it while helping a retired farmer clean up a shed. Nothing special at first glance; just a length of rusted iron, but when I laid it out, I saw it told a story.

At one end, a heavy S-hook, hand-forged by a blacksmith generations ago. From there, the chain turns unexpectedly modern; smooth oval links, machine-made and welded by the roll. Midway along, a split repair link joins it to something older: a section of hand-wrought chain, each link slightly misshapen and narrowed in the middle, hammered and fire-welded. Three sections. Three eras. One working life.

Someone, somewhere, had chosen to fix it rather than throw it away. When part of it wore thin, they added something new. When another broke, they found a way to keep it useful. It's the sort of quiet ingenuity that has kept farms and families going for generations; always mending, adapting, keeping things connected.

That chain has stayed on my mind because it captures something bigger about life, faith and the stories we inherit. Around here, there are farms with names on the mailbox that go back a century or more. Families where one generation hands on the next season of work to another, sometimes smoothly, sometimes painfully.

Succession planning, whether on the farm or in business, is rarely straightforward. One generation wants to hand on a legacy; the next wants to make it their own. Somewhere between those desires lies the art of joining new links to old without breaking what holds them together. This is the art of renewal.

Our church cluster has been asking similar questions as we work through our five-year plan. How do small congregations with long histories find a sustainable future? How do we make sure we're adding new links, not just polishing the old ones?

The story of that chain, and perhaps the story of Christmas too, offers a clue.

There's a moment in the Bible when God looks at a world gone wrong and decides to start again. The story of Noah's Ark is in some ways, the story of throwing it all away and beginning anew. It's a mixture of judgment, mercy and grief: mercy tinged with sorrow, a heartbreaking restart. God lets the waters wash away what's broken, yet shelters a

remnant, refusing to give up on creation.

But the story doesn't end there. By the time we reach Christmas, we see a different approach. This time God doesn't destroy and rebuild; he enters and redeems. Instead of throwing away the old world he joins himself to it: flesh, bone and rust. The incarnation is repair work of the most extraordinary kind.

And that I think, is the difference between human impatience and divine love. We're often tempted to start over; a new plan, a new property, a new life. But God keeps finding ways to mend what's already here. To reconnect the broken links, to add grace where wear and tear have done their worst.

When Paul wrote to Timothy, he reminded him of the faith that first lived in his grandmother Lois and in his mother Eunice, "and now lives in you also.", (2 Timothy 1: 1-14) That's a chain of faith, link to link, generation to generation. It's not perfect. Some parts may be rusty or repaired, but it still holds.

Christmas, at heart, is about continuity; the joining of heaven and earth, past and future, human and divine. The genealogy in Matthew's Gospel is like a long chain itself, each name another link in God's promise, stretching through the centuries to a manger in Bethlehem.

When I look at that old chain now hanging in my shed, I see a kind of gospel truth written in iron. The blacksmith's hook, the machine-made section, the



old handmade links; each one necessary, each one carrying the marks of its time. It's not polished or perfect, but it's strong because it's been mended.

That's the image I hold onto as we plan for the next season; for our farms, our families, our churches. We don't need to throw everything out and start from scratch. We just need to find where the break is, add a new link, and keep the chain useful.

Maybe the good life isn't about everything being new. Maybe it's about keeping faith with what's already been given and being brave enough to add something of our own.

As Psalm 145 says, "One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." This Christmas, may we give thanks for those who forged the first links, for those who repaired what was worn and for the God who still chooses restoration over replacement.

Because in the end, that's what love does. It doesn't throw things away. It finds a way to hold them together.

This is the gospel and it's good news.

*Brian Spencer, Minister,
Waranga Uniting Churches*

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CHRISTMAS
day

DEC
25
AT 10.00 AM

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Phone: 5852 1061 Mobile: 0409 935 375

WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

IN MEMORIAM

THORNE, Sandy: 7/2/1948 - 30/12/2009
Hi my darling, another year has passed, 16 years all told. Miss you and think of you every day. Love always Bryanne.
THORNE, Sandy:
Sandy, hi Dad we all miss you. Love from Chris, Jeni, Karen, Owen, Michelle, Dannielle and grandkids.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Rushworth Medical Centre
Festive Season Hours
SURGERY WILL BE CLOSED
Public holidays:
25 and 26 December & 1 January
Dr Singh and staff wish you all a very Happy Festive Season.
Please attend the Goulburn Valley Hospital Shepparton or contact 000, in the event of an emergency.

Rushworth Post Office
We wish all our customers a safe season
Ph. 5856 1201



Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival Committee

Wishes our stallholders and all who have supported our markets a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We hope to see you at our 2026 markets
Last Market for 2025 – Saturday 20th December
First Market for 2026 – Saturday 17th January
Easter Festival – Saturday 4th April, 2026

Proudly Sponsored by:



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Merry Christmas

Wishing all readers of the Waranga News a very Merry Christmas and a safe and relaxing New Year!

Season's Greetings from Coghlan's IGA

Dave, Li & Staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe, Happy New Year.

HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS:
Tuesday 23 8.30am - 6pm
Wednesday 24 Christmas Eve 8.30am - 6pm
Thursday 25 Christmas Day CLOSED
Friday 26 Boxing Day 9am - 5pm
Normal hours 27 - 30 December
Wednesday 31 New Year's Eve 8.30am - 6pm
Thursday 1 New Year's Day Closed
Home Delivery - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

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INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

December	
Fri 12	Stanhope Christmas Carols 6pm
Mon 15	Rushworth Street Carols at Rotunda 7pm
Thu 18	Kyabram Churches Christmas Carols 5pm
Sat 20	Rushworth Market - 8am - 1pm
Sun 21	Carols by barrels 5pm Colbinabbin Hotel
Mon 22	Colbinabbin ecumenical Carol service, Memorial Hall - 8pm
Wed 24	Rushworth Fire Brigade Christmas Eve Fete 5pm
Thu 25	Christmas Day - Merry Christmas

January

Sun 26	Australia Day - 10am-12pm Presentations, free food, The Green
--------	---

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.

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

EMERGENCY 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 - 5 February

Display Ads: Friday, 30 January
Classified: Monday, 2 February

Rushworth Radio Station

3RW - 87.6 fm
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0413 531 733

Waranga News



A Voluntary Community Newspaper
Printed by Maxam Printing, Shepparton
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Project update

Installation of the dust suppression sprinkler system at Echuca and District Livestock Exchange was completed in October, just in time for the warmer, dustier months. Close to 1km of poly pipe and more than 300 sprinklers were installed in the laneways at the saleyards.



Coming Up

Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 17 February 2026 | Echuca Civic Centre
Meetings can be streamed live: www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming

Immunisation sessions

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. For all positions currently open and application details, visit Council's website or call 1300 666 535.

- Childcare workers, various positions
- Library Assistant – closes Wednesday, 17 December
- Aerodrome Works Plant Operator – closes Sunday, 14 December

Now Open

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

Stage 2 – Kyabram Recreation Reserve

Community consultation for Stage 2 of the Kyabram Recreation Reserve is now open. Help shape the future of the reserve by sharing your ideas and priorities for Stage 2 upgrades by completing our quick community survey. Your feedback will guide future improvements and help Council secure funding. Survey closes Tuesday, 6 January 2026.

Farm Drought Support Grants

The Victorian Government has established the Farm Drought Support

Grants program to assist primary production businesses to implement on-farm infrastructure improvements and undertake essential business activities that improve drought management and preparedness. A grant of up to \$5,000 (excluding GST) per eligible primary production business is available statewide. For more details and to apply, visit www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants

For more information on drought support visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

Festive season operating hours

Council's operating hours will change across its services during the festive season. The following changes to opening hours at Council service centres and libraries will occur between Wednesday, 24 December and Monday, 5 January 2026:

- **Echuca:** Service centre and library close 3pm Wednesday, 24 December. Service centre opens at 8.30am and library at 10am on Monday, 5 January 2026.
- **Kyabram:** Service centre and library close 3pm, Wednesday 24 December; they reopen at 8.30am on Monday, 5 January 2026.
- **Rochester:** Service centre and

library close at 3pm on Wednesday, 24 December; they will reopen at 8.30am on Tuesday, 6 January 2026.

- **Rushworth:** Service centre and library close at 4.30pm on Tuesday, 23 December and reopen at 8.30am on Monday, 5 January 2026.

- **Tongala:** Service centre and library close at 4.30pm on Tuesday, 23 December and reopen at 8.30am on Monday, 5 January 2026.

Online library services and after-hours return chutes will remain available.

For the festive season opening hours of other Council services, please visit Council's website.

Works notices

The Kyabram and Tongala dog parks will close at separate times from mid-January for scheduled irrigation maintenance. Kyabram Dog Park will close for about three weeks from 19 January, after which crews will move to Tongala for similar works that will require closure of that park for about three weeks also.



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, 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

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KINDERGARTEN &
CHILDCARE**

The Children,
Parents, Committee
& Educators wish
everyone a Merry
Christmas and Best
Wishes for a terrific New Year.



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Ceremonies with compassion


*Merry Christmas and a New Year to all of
our Customers, Friends and Staff.*
Open: Thu 10-4, Fri 10-4, Sat/Sun 10-3, Mon 10-1
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2 Williams Street (cnr Ross St),
TATURA
Mobile: 0400 681 819
BH: 5824 1428
motormobile@bigpond.com

 **Natrad
Radiators**

20 Campbell Street, Shepparton
Phone (03) 5821 8500
Fax (03) 5821 8462
natrad.com.au

**Merry Christmas and have
a safe and good New Year.**
Keep an eye on your kids!
Close lunchtime 24 December,
reopen Monday 5 January.

Nip into Natrad 

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**Thank you to all our customers
and we wish you a safe and happy
Christmas and New Year!**


Christmas hours:
Closed Thursday 25 December and reopen Monday 5 January.

**25 Stevenson Street
Murchison 3610
Ph. 5826 2443**

**Murchison
Service Station**

- New & Old Vehicle Serving
- All Vehicle Mechanical Repairs
- Full brake service & machining
- LP Gas bottles refill & swap'n'go
- Car & Motorcycle Roadworthys
- Tyres and Wheel Alignments
- 24 Hr. Coin Car Wash facility

*Ralfy, Annette, Snow and Mason wish you all
a safe and Merry Christmas and New Year.*
**Closing 12pm Wednesday 24 December,
reopen 8am Monday 5 January.**



**LEARNING
SUCCESS
RESPECT
CITIZENSHIP**



Stanhope Primary School

Would like to say a big thank you to
everyone who has supported us over
the last 12 months.

We wish you all a happy and safe
Christmas and New Year.

Merry Christmas

'Inspiring Lifelong Learning'



Metro Tunnel *now open*

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

With more services arriving in February, you can use the new Metro Tunnel this Summer.

more ways to *move*

Find out how you can try the Metro Tunnel at bigbuild.vic.gov.au





Sports Report

Proudly sponsored by
**KANANGRA
ACCOMMODATION**

Rushworth U13 Junior Cricket

Wednesday 26 November

Under 13's played a strong Echuca team at Echuca Primary School on Wednesday 26 November.

Echuca were the first to bat making 8/111 after 20 overs defeating Rushworth 6/91 from 20 overs.

Best bowlers: Thomas Ogden 2/4 from 1 over, Noah Castle 2/4 from his 2 overs (and being involved in two run outs).

Best batsmen: Thomas Ogden retiring on 21 from 12 balls including one 6 and three 4's, Bodhi Howe 9 (no) and Zoe Perry 7 (no).

Player of the Match: Noah Castle

Wednesday 3 December

Under 13's played Stanhope at Ironbark Stadium on a pleasant day.

Stanhope batted first making 2/136 which was enough on this occasion to beat Rushworth who achieved 6/100.

Best batsmen: Archie Chillingsworth retired on 10 from 15 balls and Liam Jarrett retired on 10 from 17 balls.

Wicket takers: Noah Castle 1/1 from 1 over, and Josh Hawking 1/6 from 2 overs,

Player of the match: Zoe Perry.

Right above: Player of the match 26 November, Noah Castle

Right: Player of the match 3 December was Zoe Perry.



Rushworth Senior Cricket

Saturday 29 November

B Grade

B Grade hosted Elmore at Ironbark Stadium. Rushworth batted first (111) was defeated by Elmore 9/112.

Best batsmen: Mick Enrico 31, Josh Francis 21 and Josh Newton 14(no)

Wicket takers: Shannon Jarrett 3/12 from 8 overs, Regan Hanson 3/20 from his 8 overs.

Saturday 29 November

D Grade - bye

Saturday 6 December

B Grade - was abandoned due to rain.

D Grade

Rushworth hosted BLU at Ironbark Stadium. BLU batted first and were 9/67 after 23.1 overs and were defeated by Rushworth 2/68.

Best bowlers: Shannon Scorse taking 5/11 from his 5.1 overs and Thomas Ogden 2/15 from his 6 overs.

Best batsmen: Peter Raglus 39 (no) and Bradie Chillingsworth 17 (no).

Many thanks to all the sporting clubs who contribute to the paper on a regular basis.
Your contributions help to keep the community informed and up to date with the latest sports information.
Merry Xmas to you all and a happy and healthy New Year.

Rushworth Bowls Club ladies Goulburn Valley State Pairs winners!

Congratulations to Rushworth Bowls Club players Lyn Nicholson (lead) and Jean Sprague (skip) who won the Goulburn Valley State Pairs recently.

The ladies won their Section on 23 November 2025 at Shepparton Golf/Bowls Club defeating the combination team of Debbie Dunkley and Margaretha Cerini in the first round and then Mia Knowasad and Cathy Dudley from Shepparton Park in their second game.

They went on to defeat Sandra Winch (lead) and Sandy Wallace (skip) in the Semi Final, both from Shepp Park and then defeated Jo Crowe (lead) and Kris Wright (skip) from Shepparton Golf in the Final, winning by eight shots in a highly contested match.

Many thanks to all who supported the pair in the section rounds and then again in the finals.

Good luck in the next round against the winners of the State Pairs, Murray Region.



Rushworth Golf Club

Would like to wish all of our district community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

New members, young and old, are welcome to come along and join in the fun.

Many thanks to all our sponsors and remember to support the businesses that support us.



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Merry
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wishing you a Christmas filled with
laughter, love & cherished memories.

From Dr. Joe & the team at
Waranga Medical.

Our practice will be closed from
Thursday 25th December & will reopen
Monday 5th January.



RUSHWORTH FIRE BRIGADE

**2025 CHRISTMAS
EVE FETE**

WED. 24TH DEC.

Starts at 5pm

Santa arrives at 6pm

Family Friendly and Alcohol Free
Rushworth Fire Brigade's only annual fundraiser event

CASH ONLY



**SANTA TICKETS
AVAILABLE
ON THE NIGHT**

RUSHWORTH FIRE STATION
MURCHISON ROAD, RUSHWORTH

Pedal Cars
Spinning Wheel
Jumping Castle
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Santa on a Tanker!