Lancefield Mercury

THE ART OF LANCEFIELD

OUR NEW GALLERY

You may have noticed that Lancefield has a new Art Gallery in the main street, open since just before Christmas, perfectly timed to do a roaring trade in gifts, and support some of our local visual artists after a particularly thin time of it in the past two years or so.

A group of local artists share the running of the space over Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays to display and offer their works for sale.

The current group of artists represented are showing works covering a wide range of media:

Pastels – Sharon Pappas
Acrylics - Margaret Morgan
Fine line illustration - Taysia Davis
Pottery – Robin Wastell
Botanicals - Maureen Thomas
Wildlife studies in acrylic and pencil – Marguerite Cordell
Oils -Sheila Moss
Pop art – Sam Hemphill, and
Metal sculpture - David Bowden

When I spoke recently with Sharon Pappas, who was opening the gallery for her weekend shift, she described how she came to be part of this group. Born in Queensland, Sharon learned techniques from her grandfather, Norman Klatt, an artist in oils, who taught her when she stayed with her grandparents on weekends and holidays. After school she studied graphic design but she didn't focus on being an artist until she moved to the town just before lockdowns began. Now she is almost a year into her rebooted enthusiasm, and is planning to branch out into other media. She is also offering classes from home, currently teaching adults the basics of tone, colour and composition, just as her grandpa did when she was a little girl.

In the towns surrounding Lancefield there are flourishing and visible art communities. A local Gallery and more classes available for everyone – Sharon's are focussed on late teens and adults – will be yet another drawcard for visitors, now that we can all travel freely and enjoy what new places have to offer.

Come along and support the Gallery – another reason to make Lancefield a stop on a tour of the Macedon Ranges.

Gallery hours: Friday 10 am – 4 pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am – 2 pm
Contact for Sharon's classes: 0422 928 154

S'NO TIME LIKE NOW, TO HELP THE SNOW GUMS

The Macedon Ranges is an epicentre for low-lying Snow Gums in Victoria (Eucalyptus pauciflora) and they occur across several ecosystems and geology types throughout the shire.

There has been recent community concern of dieback identified in Snow Gum populations on Mount Macedon and surrounds, and climate modelling indicates this vegetation type is the most vulnerable to climate change.

The Snow Gum has been identified as a target species to monitor and Council wants to develop a better understanding of where they occur, and their population health. Council is working with ecologists, Landcare Groups and the Arthur Rylah Institute to record and monitor the health of Snow Gum populations across the shire and potential local climate change impacts.

Council is inviting landholders across the shire to be part of a community project to help us understand and monitor the local ecology of an iconic Eucalyptus species and the local impacts of climate change, while building community awareness and knowledge.

In the Macedon Ranges, populations of Snow Gum, occur in Montane Grassy Woodlands and Plains Grassy Woodlands across the peaks and plains of the shire. Using a citizen science approach, Council and its community partners are looking to map and monitor population health on private land on Mount Macedon, in the Cobaw Biolink, and across the Riddells Creek, Ashbourne and Baynton-Sidonia areas, where Snow Gums are known to occur.

Get involved by visiting Council's Snow Gum Monitoring webpage (www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Biodiversity) where a printable brochure is available to explain how to identify a Snow Gum tree and how to share your records.

All records must be received by 17 April 2022.

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TRANSITION STREETS

OFF TO AN ENERGETIC START

Transition Streets Romsey is a new community sustainability group for residents of Romsey, Lancefield and the surrounding area. Each month we meet to discuss a different sustainability-related topic. In March, Transition Streets Romsey had its second meeting to talk all things energy.

Over the month, we challenged ourselves to notice our energy use at home and think about how we can reduce our energy needs. While we all failed the challenge of a week without TV, we did manage the one-light-bulb challenge: you can only have one light on in the house per person at a time. It's harder than it sounds!

In the scheme of things, an extra LED lightbulb may not seem like much. However, this was a great exercise to get us thinking about the energy we use without even realising, and got us looking at our overall energy consumption.

One of the best parts of our meeting was information-sharing about options for home solar and talking about the possibility of local renewable energy generation and storage. We're inspired by Hepburn's community wind farm, which powers over 2,000 homes, and the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group's investigations into a community renewable energy park and community batteries.

Our topic for April is everyone's favourite – food! Seasonal eating is at its best in autumn so it's a wonderful time to take a deep dive into how we feed ourselves in a way that is good for us and the for the planet. Some of the challenges we're trying this month include cooking a meal using only local produce and committing to regular meatless meals.

Transition Streets Romsey meets on the second Saturday of each month from 10am-12pm at Romsey Neighbourhood House. Our next meeting is Saturday 9 April. We welcome new members at any time. You can also join us on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/transitionromsey or email Meg at transitionstreetsromsey@gmail.com.

Meg Sheehan

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AN OPPORTUNITY

The Club provides an opportunity for active retirees or semi-retired people to relax and enjoy the welcoming company of those at the same stage of life at our monthly meetings, and for periodic trips and lunches.

Our monthly meeting (fourth Thursday of the month) is a chance to catch-up with new and old friends over morning tea and hear interesting guest speakers on a wide variety of topics.

The April meeting of the Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club will be on Thursday 28 April at 10 am in St. Mary's Catholic Church Hall, Main Street, Romsey. The Guest Speaker is Luke Behnke. The Guest Speaker at the meeting on 26th May will be Dr. Fay Woodhouse – author and historian.

All attending are subject to current COVID regulations.

President: Tony 0410 747 616 www.rlprobus.org.au

ROMSEY UNITING CHURCH

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

The Romsey Uniting Church invites you to join us for an afternoon of music, fun and laughter from Gilbert & Sullivan's 'The Pirates of Penzance' performed by the Singularity Choir Sunday 15 May 2022 at 1.30pm in the Romsey Uniting Church Hall, 25 Pohlman Street Romsey Cost: $20 Concession $15

RSVP. Before 5th May, 2022

Jeni Clampit 5429 5480 0429 050 184 jeniferclampit@bigpond.com P.O. Box 264, Romsey. 3434.

Payment may be made on the day. All COVID-19 rules apply. Everyone should be fully vaccinated

A light afternoon tea will be provided.

THANKS

Julie Tully and family would like to thank the emergency services, first responders and the community for their help, care and kind thoughts, in the accident Brendan Tully was involved in, on the March 3 2022.

LANCEFIELD MERCURY INC.

A0045845D

CNAV MEMBER 2021

Items for publication should be sent to editor3435@gmail.com enquiries Andy Moore 0430 448 120

Advertising should be sent to advertising3435@gmail.com enquiries Ken Allender 0404 886 580

All articles should reach The Mercury by the fifteenth of the month.

Each edition will be distributed by mail in the first week of the month. The Lancefield Mercury is produced by the volunteer committee as a service to the people of Lancefield and surrounding districts.

The editorial committee reserves the right to edit articles for length and clarity.

Feedback? Let us know your thoughts: editor3435@gmail.com

Editorial Committee:

Andy Moore

Craig Longmuir

Karen Barr

Fay Woodhouse

Ken Allender

Julianne Graham

Beth Child

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Andy Moore 0430 448 120

Advertising Enquiries to
Ken Allender 0404 886 580.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Advertising Rates

One eighth page $35
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Annual 1/8 page $280
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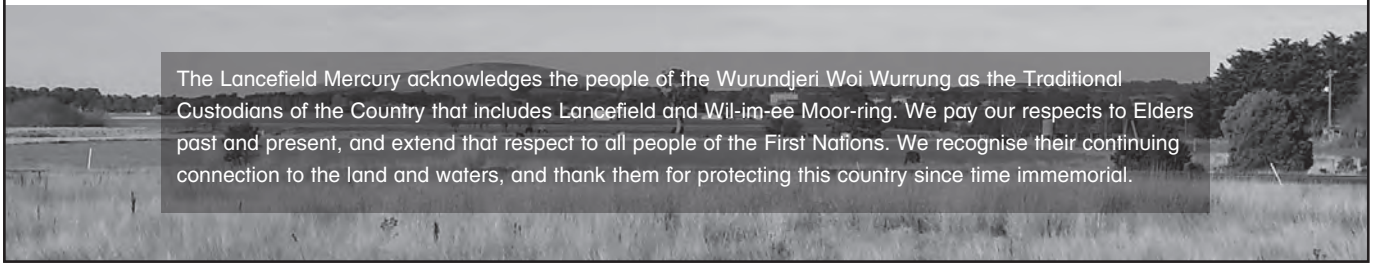

The Lancefield Mercury acknowledges the people of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung as the Traditional Custodians of the Country that includes Lancefield and Wil-im-ee Moor-ring. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all people of the First Nations. We recognise their continuing connection to the land and waters, and thank them for protecting this country since time immemorial.

COMMUNITY BANK CONNECTIONS

NEW BRANCH MANAGER

Our new Senior Branch Manager, Angela Dickins, has commenced with us and it is great to have her leading our team. Angela has worked extensively in the Bendigo Bank structure and is committed to working closely with our customers and community groups. Feel free to call in, introduce yourself and have a chat to Angela as she acquaints herself with Romsey and Lancefield communities.

Despite the best endeavours of the weather to spoil the day, it was fabulous to once again be participating in the Cancer Council's Relay For Life at Lancefield Park with our "Community Bank Carnival" team. This event is such a significant occasion for cancer survivors, carers and the community in general and the Bank is honoured to support such a great celebration of life. Thank you to all those involved who contributed to such a wonderful fundraising outcome.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

It is with great pleasure we announce the recipients of Lancefield & Romsey Community Bank 2022 Scholarship program:

- Rebecca Harrison - Memorial Bursary
- Alexis Larter - Bachelor Degree in Psychology, LaTrobe University
- Josh Squire - Bachelor Degree in Media & Communication at Latrobe University Tertiary Scholarship
- Jasmine Hammond - Bachelor Degree in Health Information Management at Latrobe University
- Tilly Crowther – Bachelor Degree in Medicine, ACU TAFE Scholarship
- Isabella Ryan – Diploma, Event Management, Vic University.

Congratulations to all the above recipients. We wish them every success as they embark on the next step in their education.

The Bank is proud to sponsor the Romsey Sporting Association with funds going towards general maintenance and operations of the grounds and services at the Romsey Recreation Reserve. Just in time for the footy season, our new signage has been installed.

A big thank you to all who attended our Community Forum late February. We are currently working through the feedback sheets provided on the night, as well as subsequent community input. It's great to see the breadth and depth of the ideas and suggestions. The intent is to provide a summary report to participants and work with identified stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes for the community.

MENTORING TEENAGE BOYS

Men who work with or regularly interact with teenage boys in the Macedon Ranges are being invited to take part in a six-week program which aims to explore the important role mentors play in guiding young people as they move towards adulthood. The program will cover topics such as masculine stereotypes and the impact these can have, and the importance of encouraging boys to reach their full potential by focusing on their strengths.

"More so than ever we need positive male role models within the lives of our young people," says program facilitator Joel Hines from the Man Cave Academy. "Teenagers are struggling to find their identity and they are looking to the adults in their lives for a bit of guidance. Being surrounded by a broad range of healthy masculinities helps disrupt the stereotypical narrative and enable boys to shape the kind of man they want to become."

Anyone in a leadership or mentoring role such as sports coaches, teachers and community group leaders are encouraged to attend and it is hoped that the more people across the Macedon Ranges that take part, the bigger the impact will be on the whole community. The sessions will tap into the knowledge and diversity within the group exploring heathy, positive alternatives to support boys on their journey into adulthood.

"If you are willing to be a learner but also a teacher, and are prepared to reflect on your own personal views of masculinity while being open to different points of view and new experiences," says Joel, "then this program is for you."

'Mentoring Teenage Boys' is being held from 6.30 to 8.30 pm from Monday 2 May until 6 June with the venue location to be confirmed. To register, go to: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mentoringboysinMR or contact kathryn.chai@scchc.org.au for more information.

This program is part of #thehumancode project and is proudly brought to you by Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health, with funding support from VicHealth, Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership and Community Bank Gisborne and District.

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ROMSEY LANCEFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS

A WONDERFUL TRIP

Last month we had a wonderful trip to Bendigo to visit the PepperGreen Farm, where we enjoyed a lovely morning tea of scones, jam and cream.

Our next bus trip will be held on Wednesday 6 April. We are heading to Blue Lotus Water Garden at Yarra Junction. Not only will be able to see some beautiful Native Australian waterlilies and Lotus flowers but it is also the best time to see thousands of perennial Autumn flowers such as bougainvillea, hibiscus, impatiens, salvias and more.

We would love to see you there. Give Helen or Rae a call for further details and times for bus departures.

Remember, we meet every Monday at the rear of the Romsey Mechanics Institute for lunch, for just $5 – everyone is more than welcome.

We will be having our roast meal during April in our meeting room at the rear of the Romsey Mechanics Institute. Join us for this beautiful meal - roast, veggies and dessert - all for $10. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Helen or Rae (for catering numbers and date).

For further information please contact Helen on 0409 064 303 or Rae on 0408 338 759.

Hope to see you soon.

WATER EDUCATION CREATES RIPPLE EFFECT

Educating the next generation about water conservation and climate change is just one of the ways Greater Western Water (GWW) positively impacts our communities.

GWW provides free presentations and resources to preschools, childcare centres, and primary and secondary schools across our service region. The GWW team uses fun and engaging ways to teach kids everything they need to know about this precious resource. Participants learn easy, practical ways to save water at home, interesting water facts, and how the water cycle works.

GWW's education team offers virtual and in-person presentations, following a COVIDSafe plan that reflects current COVIDSafe settings. To find out how your classroom or community group can get waterwise, contact the GWW education team on education@gww.com.au or 0404 865 597.

WHAT DO SEYMOUR COTTAGE AND TAHBILK HAVE IN COMMON?

William Henry Dunsford (1813-1892) arrived in Port Phillip from England as a passenger on the ship, Brothers. The ship, chartered by John Bear and containing his family, ten passengers and four travelling in steerage, departed London on 18 May and arrived in Williamstown on 20 October 1841. Dunsford and Bear were both residents of the township of Tiverton in Devon, England. The 28-year-old William was born into the Dunsford family, owners of The Dunsford Bank in Tiverton. Educated at Cambridge University, it is likely William came to Australia for an Antipodean adventure. Travelling to Melbourne with John Bear and another passenger, William Easy, proved to be pivotal to Dunsford's fortunes. John Bear and his sons John Pinney and Thomas Hutchings Bear were all successful merchants and businessmen in Victoria. Soon after their arrival, John Bear established the firm Bear & Son, stock and station agents.

William's movements between 1841 and 1847 are unknown. However, he acquired the Westernport Licence No. 74 at Lancefield in the County of Bourke in 1847. Named Lancefield Station or the Lancefield Run, the run contained 50,000 acres with a grazing capacity of 12,000 sheep. It was transferred from William Easy to William Dunsford in October 1847; the lease was Gazetted to him on October 4 1848. Dunsford married Ellen Ann Bear, the only daughter of John Bear of Collingwood, at St Peter's Church, Melbourne on August 11 1849.

The Lancefield Run was extensive. A detailed description of Dunsford's 50,000 acres, published in the Government Gazette, notes that the land adjoined pastoral runs belonging to James Cain (Chintin), Edward Dryden (Newham), James Peters, Joseph Simmons and William Mollison's (Kyneton) runs.

John Bear senior had purchased the property, Yan Yean on the Plenty River in 1841, where he experimented with winemaking. He is described by Melbourne journalist and social commentator, Garryowen, as a 'brusque, active, wide awake, widely liked individual'. In September 1850, he was 'in possession of no less than 29 sections (18,560 acres) within the settled district' of Port Phillip. He died of bronchial pneumonia at the age of 52, on 30 November 1851. His son John Pinney Bear took over the business and began purchasing large parcels of land throughout Victoria. At the Kilmore land sales in 1855, JP Bear purchased, among others, Crown Allotment 16C and Part of Crown Allotment 16B, Section A, Parish of Lancefield in the County of Bourke. It was on this land that Sidney Seymour settled his family in his cottage made from Singaporean Meranti doors in 1855. Seymour's claim of adverse possession was proved in 1885 when he purchased the 300 acres of land.

After two failed attempts by several other individuals, John Pinney Bear successfully established the Tabilk Winery at Nagambie in 1860. He gradually bought out the former shareholders until he owned the entire company by 1877. He and his brother Thomas Hutchings Bear ran the winery. With the addition of the word 'Chateau' in 1877, the spelling of Tabilk also changed when it gained an 'h'. With these additions the winery became 'Chateau Tahbilk'. After an absence of many years in England, John Pinney Bear returned to Australia shortly before he died in 1889 at Tahbilk. Chateau Tahbilk remained in the Bear family until the 1920s when Eric Purbrick purchased the winery; it has remained in the Purbrick family for 100 years.

Today the name has reverted simply to 'Tahbilk Wines' and wines produced by the 1860 vines (not destroyed by phylloxera) remain popular. Some Tahbilk wines will be available for tasting at the Seymour Cottage HistoryTea on Sunday 10 April.

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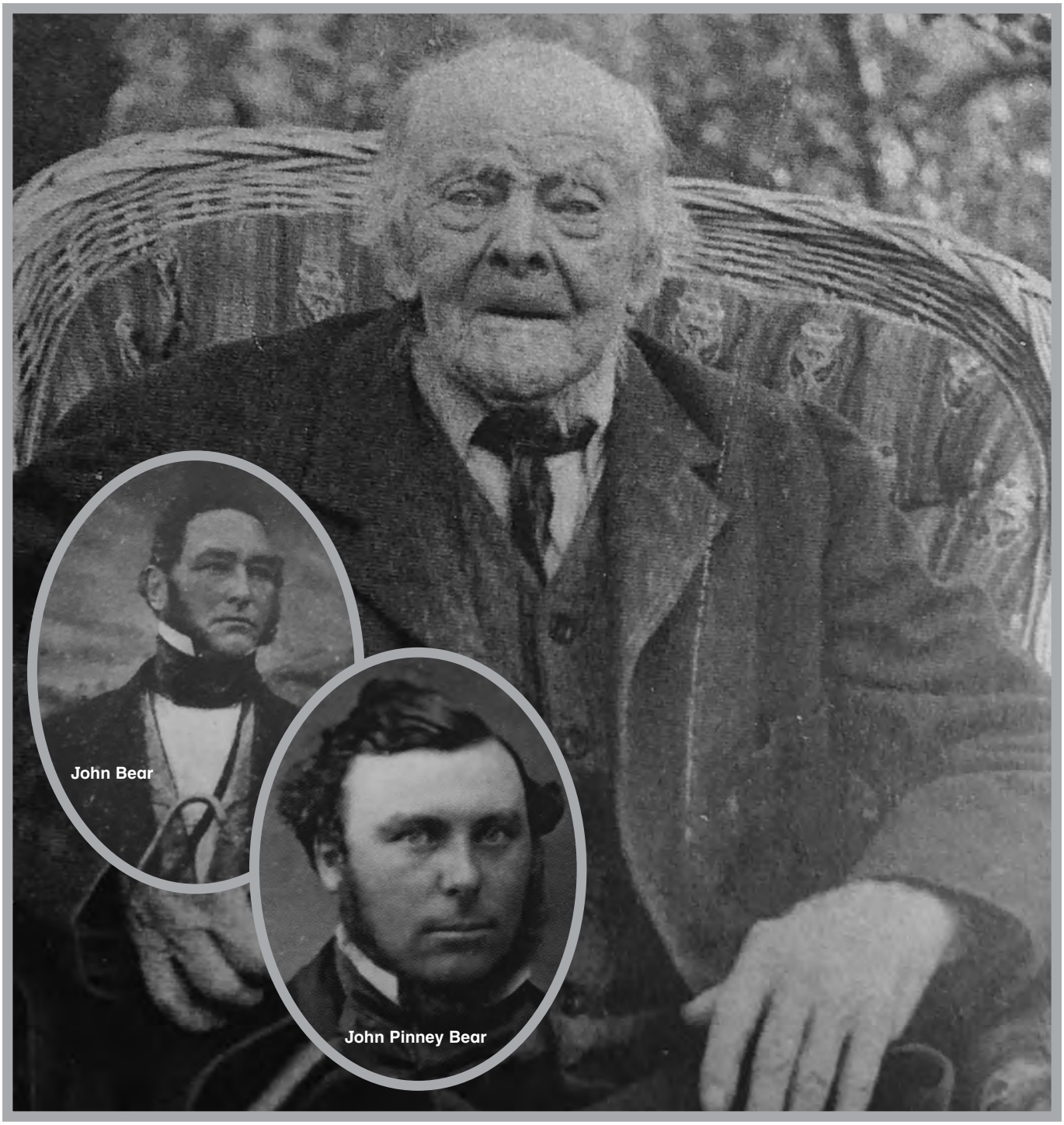

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MACEDON RANGES DOG CLUB

A HUGE START

March has started off with a huge 37 new members and their beautiful fur babies. After a rainy start to March, our second induction was a nice sunny morning, and 18 new puppies and handlers joined us, instead of going away for the Labour Day long weekend.

Although the first Sunday in March was wet, we still had 19 new members join us. Our winter motto should be "It maybe raining... but we are still training". There are not many times during the year when weather stops our instructors from being there for classes. The main exception being Code Red days, as the training grounds are an evacuation center for the surrounding areas of Riddells Creek.

There are many questions we get asked by people wanting to bring their puppies, Including:

- "How old does my puppy need to be"? Puppies must be a minimum of 16 weeks and they must be fully vaccinated before they can start training.
- "Can my child train our dog"? Children 12 and over are permitted to train dogs but must have an adult present and always be supervised. Once they are 16, supervision is no longer required.
- "My dog is not a puppy and has never done obedience training. Can we still join"? The answer... Of course, you can. We have had many dogs that have joined the club as adults. The saying "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" could not be more untrue.

So, if you think your dog is too old, too young or that winter is coming, our instructors will be there every Sunday morning to teach you and your dog, and help you work better together.

Details can be found on our website www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au. Or contact us via our Facebook page or email to info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au and a representative from the club will contact you. There are more frequently asked questions (FAQs) on our website. They may even answer the questions you have.

Don't be shy, come and see us at the Riddells Creek Recreational Reserve, Sutherlands Road, Riddells Creek. We are happy to chat and provide additional information about joining. We are there from 9 am till 11 am Sunday mornings.

Take care, stay safe and remember a dog is for life... a dog is family.

Carol Instructor
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RRBATA

THE PROGRESSIVE DINNER IS ON AGAIN

Last year's Progressive Dinner – Poetry In Motion event was a very successful feature of the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival. It returns this year as the Eastern Ranges Progressive Dinner – Poetry In Motion. After pre-dinner appetizers by Verdure Café, diners will enjoy a three-course meal rotating between Mount Monument Winery, Soltan Pepper and Lancefield Lodge. The fun will continue when diners board the buses that will transport each of the three groups of 50 diners between each venue. It truly will be "Poetry In Motion"!

Ticket price is $95 per person (drinks extra at bar prices). Tickets are limited, so book now to secure a seat at this very special Romsey/Lancefield region event. https://www.trybooking.com/BXXIN

SWAP MEET

The first Lancefield Swap Meet was held in 1995, and has grown steadily since then to become one of the biggest country Swap Meets in Victoria. Site holders and buyers come from as far away as New South Wales and South Australia, as well as from all over Victoria and the local district. This year it is being held on Sunday 24 April at Lancefield Park. There will be something there for everyone; not only everything relating to cars, but also collectables, bric-a-brac and more. If you would like a site, or any further information, please call Pam on 0414491749. There are sites for our local Not-for-Profit groups free of charge.

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CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN LANCEFIELD
with St Paul's Church Romsey

EASTER SERVICES

Regular weekly Church services are held in Romsey at 9am each Sunday and in Lancefield at 10am.
Easter Services: Maundy Thursday - Romsey 7 pm
Good Friday - Lancefield 10 am
Easter Sunday as per regular weekly times.

Our thanks to the Uniting Church Parishioners for an interesting and pleasant World Day of Prayer Service which was enjoyed by many locals from all denominations. The service was held at the Romsey Uniting Church on 4 March and will be held at St Mary's Catholic Church Romsey in March 2023.

St Paul's Romsey Op Shop is open on Fridays from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm and Saturdays 10 to 1 pm. The Op Shop staff look forward to greeting everyone and for all to see the interesting items we have on display. Items of clothing, bric-a-brac, craft and books can be left Friday afternoon and Saturday mornings during open hours. Please note that owing to regulations we cannot accept electrical good, prams, baby cots, mattresses or furniture. Your support and donations are much appreciated.

Rev. Matthew Browne 0401 615 099

LANCEFIELD COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
President: Angela Turner, Secretary: Tracy Kemp, Treasurer: Lorraine Pearce, lancefieldcwa@gmail.com

COME ONE, COME ALL

Our Lancefield branch of the C.W.A. is thrilled to host the C.W.A. Central Highlands Group Creative Arts Exhibition on Saturday 9 April from 10 am until 4 pm and on Sunday 10 April from 10 am until 3 pm at the Lancefield Mechanics' Institute.

Admission is $5 and children are admitted free of charge. As well as our own branch, all the surrounding branches will be participating in this exhibition. All manner of arts and crafts will be showcased. There will be cakes, jams, relishes, sauces, pickles, flower arranging, knitting and sewing items, and photos to name just a few. In addition there will be C.W.A. merchandise for sale such as tea towels and recipe books.

As well, on both days raffle tickets will be available for several raffle prizes, so bring your spare coins.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

When you volunteer with the many organisations that exist in Lancefield you are making a difference to your community. There are also many benefits for you personally.

Studies have shown that being a volunteer allows you to:

- make new friendships
- learn new skills and act on your values, passions, and interests
- enjoy new social and cultural experiences
- develop personally and build confidence
- enjoy better physical and mental health as studies show volunteering makes us healthier and happier
- challenge yourself in a supportive environment
- feel warm and fuzzy about helping your community
- have fun!

Why not join us at LNH? There are many opportunities to get involved.

Do you have a green thumb? Would you like to support a great community initiative? Our Townhouse Garden needs a willing band to re-establish the herb and vegie gardens. This initiative supports the 'Feed it Forward' and Community support programs providing produce for lunches and meals Our School House cottage garden needs some TLC as well.

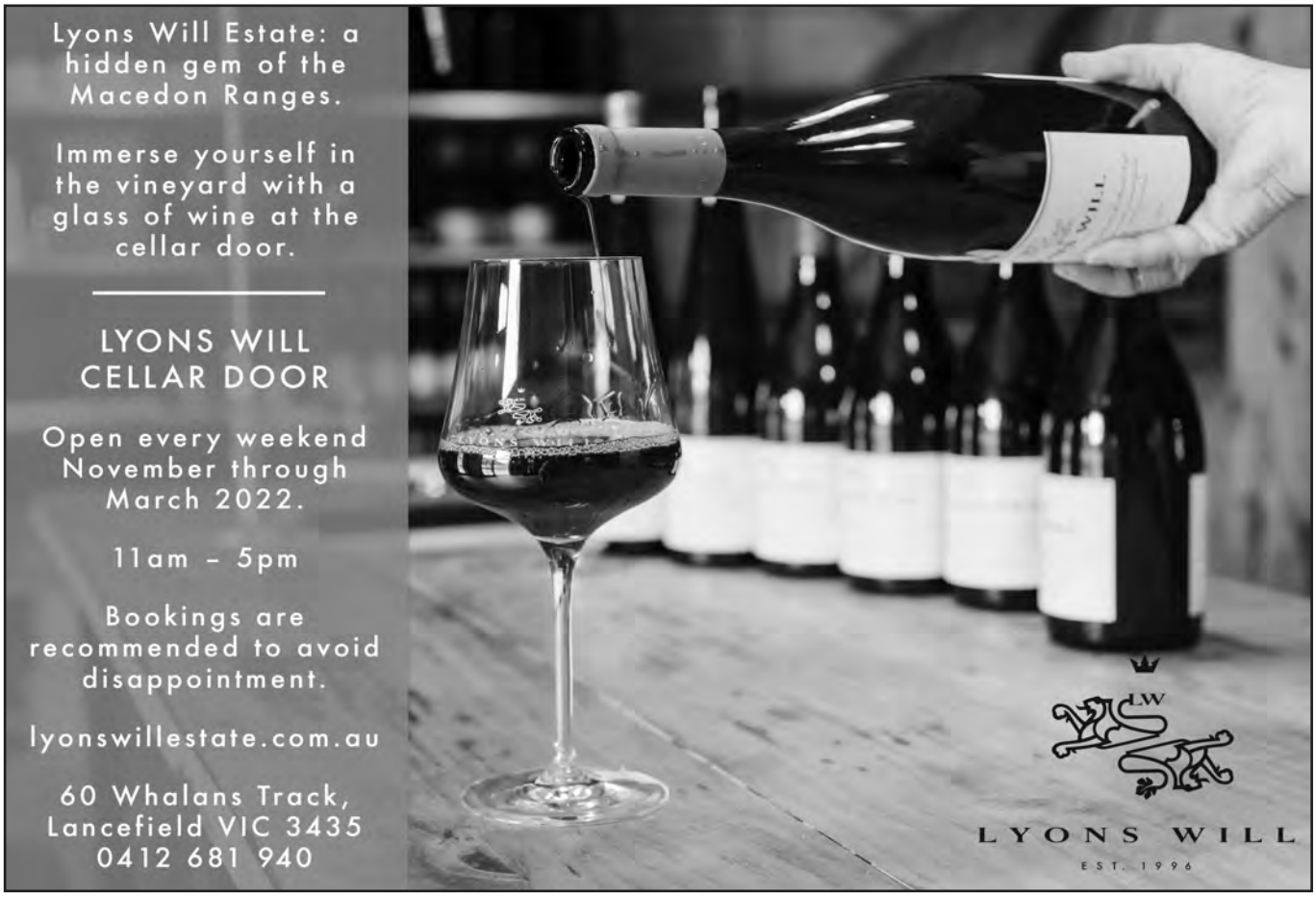
Would you like to help with our many social enterprises? We would like help with our Feed it Forward lunches, our Anzac Day morning tea, our annual Community Christmas party and Christmas lunch.

Can you sew? The team at Boomerang Bags will always welcome a pair of hands to cut and sew to assist Lancefield's plastic bag-free initiative.

Can you assist people with printing and minor computer help at our Townhouse? Training is available to assist you to learn how to operate the photocopier, laminator, and so on.

Sparing a few hours on a weekly, casual or 'one off' basis will be most welcome. Your help means we can continue to run these many enterprises. We cannot do it without you!

If you would like to help, contact the house for details. We also have a new contact telephone number 0455 480 941 You can also use our email address to get in touch or call in and information at our Townhouse.



THE AUTUMN FESTIVAL IS UNDER WAY

Local residents are getting into the spirit of the Autumn Festival, with a diverse line-up of events and activities to explore your own backyard until April 25. Make sure you don't miss Journey in the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens. Bring a picnic and experience this magical, interactive sound and light display that journeys through the garden on multiple evenings.

Visit any farmers' market during the festival and be entertained by The Gardeners. Built by local artists, kids and adults alike will love these other-worldly hobbit-like puppets who will be wandering the crowds spreading messages of joy and positivity.

You will also find free Live Music Park Pop Ups in parks and reserves through the shire, so pack a hamper of local goodies and enjoy the tunes.

Light Up Kyneton is another special night out, with spectacular artworks projected on the Kyneton Mechanics Institute. Or get on down to Kyneton›s Campaspe River for Puppy Pride, where LGBTIQA+ people, allies and puppies can get dressed up and enjoy a day of games, competitions, food trucks and market stalls.

You'll also find a series of curated autumn itineraries to discover villages and backcountry roads across the shire. The Autumn Pie & Tart Trail, with more than 20 venues featuring mouth-watering pastries to celebrate autumn produce, is a great place to start.

Find out more at www.visitmacedonranges.com

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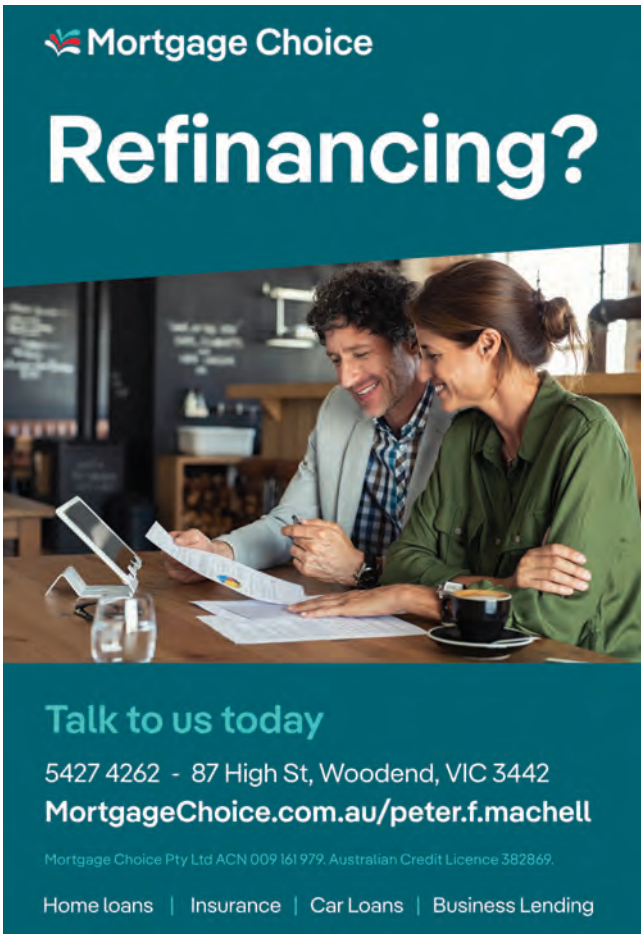
LANCEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY @ LPS

Thanks to our fabulous Christmas 2021 raffle fundraising and a generous family donation, we have introduced a family of Blue Bots to our junior classes to include computational thinking and coding within these classes. The versatility of these amazing little robots allows teachers to design learning experiences that focus on the digital technologies curriculum and integrate literacy and mathematical concepts.

Blue-Bots are an innovative Bluetooth robot. Blue-Bot can detect another Blue-Bot and say hello. Students can also record audio to play back when each button is pressed, making it more accessible to all students, including those with auditory or visual processing needs. Blue-Bots can perform 45 degree and 90 degree turns which means children can program Blue-Bot to draw a variety of different shapes.

We have also introduced some amazing document cameras for use in all classrooms. These devices are being used across all learning areas however they are really helping to bring our maths sessions to life and students have given very positive feedback to teachers regarding the introduction of these new cameras in classrooms.



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IS HISTORIC EDEN PARK

The historic homestead, Eden Park, Romsey could be at risk. The Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society is extremely disturbed to find that the Macedon Ranges Council is considering re-zoning a part of Romsey for a new housing estate that would place Eden Park, settled in 1858 by Peter Mitchell, at risk as a continuing farming enterprise.

Located on the Woodend Wallan Road, Romsey, the 100-acre property is included within a potential new town boundary in Option Three of the Draft Emerging Options Paper, which would see the township grow into existing Rural Living Zone land to the east along Five Mile Creek, and to the south into Farming Zone land. If this re-zoning takes place and a developer is permitted to develop the site for housing, 164 years of Romsey history would be lost!

The property, well known as the residence of Peter and Janet Mitchell, has been in continuous family ownership since 1858 and is currently owned by the fifth generation of this well-known farming family. Peter purchased the first block of land on Wallan Road at the land sales held in Kilmore in 1857, probably from C J Baggott, who was granted a large acreage in this area. Eden Park, running cattle, sheep and growing grain – including chicory - has provided employment and economic benefit to the area since 1858. This property is a fine example of pastoral development by Scottish immigrants. The house was built in two stages. The gabled and verandah section at the east end was built earlier. The later hipped-roof Italianate stage was commissioned, and designed by Matthews and Round. Stage two constructed in 1875 was built of bluestone, quarried from the site on which it stands. The nearby Uniting (formerly Presbyterian) Church is strongly connected with Eden Park. Also built of bluestone quarried from Peter Mitchell's land, the church was constructed and opened for worship in 1865. Mitchell himself served as Secretary/ Treasurer of the Church for over fifty years.

As well as the Italianate bluestone house, other bluestone outbuildings include a stone cottage built for farm workers. It was once occupied by John Allen, then a ploughman and later Premier of Victoria from 1924-27. The magnificent stained-glass windows surrounding the front door, featuring the Scottish thistle and grains, reflects the story of the original owners. These window frames were created by Ferguson & Urie, the first stained-glass window producers in Victoria, who made windows for Ripponlea, Labassa and Mandeville Hall, amongst other historic homesteads. This property appears to meet the nine criteria required for heritage listing. An urgent application will be prepared with the assistance of the Historical Society.

The Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society will do all it can to support the immediate heritage listing of this historic and vitally important property – it is an icon of local history.

At a community meeting held at Romsey Mechanics' Institute on Tuesday 15 March to discuss the Macedon Ranges Shire Council's consultation on the Romsey Structure Plan, speakers elaborated on five key issues – town boundary on premium agricultural land, sewerage, Romsey's infrastructure and suitability for greater development, retaining Romsey's small-town charm, sustainability and the natural environment. The floor was then opened to other key issues and members of the community provided their views on the consultation process. In response to Council's Vision 2021-2031 – 'Greater transparency from Council to residents through cohesive communications' – the general feeling in the room was one of distrust of Council. In conclusion, the organisers urged the audience to fill out the survey designed by the consultants (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q769SK7); email council directly with your concerns and make your views known to Council.

Fay Woodhouse
Romsey & Lancefield Historical Society

AT RISK?

LANCEFIELD TRUCK SHOW

The Lancefield Truck Show was the first truck show the American Truck Historical Society has held in three years due to COVID associated issues. Everyone was chafing at the bit to get their rigs out for a polish up and a run to Lancefield, with the proof in the number of trucks we had on show. On Saturday we had 208 trucks on display, with good weather for a chat under the trees, and plenty of food available thanks to the Lancefield/Romsey Lions/Rotary clubs and our coffee and ice cream vendors; and daily tunes supplied by Dusty on stage.

Sunday saw an even better turn out with over 236 trucks on display, some of which had never been shown in public before. On both days we had an incredible, huge display of remote-control trucks, cars and earthmoving equipment in the pavilion.

Overall it was an event too good to miss; and the biggest Lancefield Truck Show yet, and tied in well with the local Farmers' Market for people to check out.

Thanks to everyone who attended, and we hope to see bigger crowds and more display vehicles next year in February.

Scott Hough
American Truck Historical Society.

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Pat Danko in the Landcare tent

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WHAT A SUMMER IT WAS!

March rolled around... summer had ended abruptly but what a summer it was! It was a goldilocks summer, not too hot, not too cold, with a lot of days that were just right for the garden and our local environment.

The absence of extreme heat and strong northerlies kept the danger from bushfires lower, and although December and February were dry the good January rain has kept a green tinge in the paddocks and Deep Creek flowing.

I cannot remember a better year for the veggie patch. Temperatures in the twenties to low thirties are ideal for summer vegetables...tomatoes up here were ready before some parts of Melbourne! Similarly, in the flower garden exotics and natives have all flourished. Penstemons and salvias have attracted Eastern Spinebills, and hopefully the native garden I planted in spring with a collection of correas, grevilleas and banksias will continue to do well and attract a range of honeyeaters and wattle birds when in flower. It is also pleasing to see swarms of wrens and thornbills flitting around during the day.

Out in the paddocks we also planted a couple of substantial groups of local native trees and shrubs comprising mainly wattles, hakeas, tea-trees, banksias and bottlebrush. With a bit of supplementary water they have taken off, and will quickly create an environment suited to local insects and birds. While on the topic please ensure that you do your bit where possible, including keeping trees with hollows on site. Even if a branch with hollows is lying on the ground it is invaluable to native invertebrates and fauna species including reptiles and small mammals.

Deep Creek Landcare Group in conjunction with the Australian Plants Society is working together to promote planting gardens that will attract frogs, bees, other beneficial insects and native birds.

The benefits are that indigenous plants once established require very little water. They range from ground covers to bushes up to 1-2 meters tall in a variety of colours and tend to flower for long periods of time. Our Gardens for Wildlife stall will be at the Farmers Market on the 4th Saturday in March, April and May.

In February our group conducted an extensive clean up along the path on the eastern boundary of Lancefield Park. Lots of weeds and suckers were removed and the overhanging trees along the path were given a substantial prune. During March we will conduct the first of our roadside clean-ups along the Lancefield-Kilmore Road from Doggetts Bridge into town, as part of our commitment to the Keep Australia Beautiful campaign.

Autumn is the best time to plant natives in Lancefield so at this stage in April we are planning to plant approximately 300 trees and shrubs at Gallagher's Ford, and 50 or so to replace losses up on the hill at Forbes Crossing. If you can give us a hand, we would be very appreciative!

We have nesting boxes for bats, birds and phascogales for sale from $25. We also have Myna bird traps to lend out. Landcare membership is $20 per family. You can follow us on Facebook, contact our President, Phil Severs (0476 324 000) or attend our monthly meetings in the Lancefield Mechanics Hall.

Last year Clare Watson was appointed as the new Landcare Facilitator for the Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network of which we are a member.

Clare is based in Seymour with her family and has many years of experience locally as a volunteer in environmental groups and as a wildlife carer. Clare's background is in environmental science and ecology, and she has a passion for all things wildlife and their native habitats. Clare is available, free of charge, to visit rural properties and offer advice to landowners. She can draft brief property plans that will detail the natural assets and relevant land management issues along with suggestions of how to improve the property's productivity, sustainability and biodiversity values. Our Landcare members are also available to visit properties, big or small, to give advice on improving the environmental values of your property.

Phil

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CURRENT MASS CONDITIONS – ALL WELCOME

- QR Code check-in for places of worship is no longer required.
- Staff and Volunteers within the Parish setting, are still required to be 'fully vaccinated' or 'up to date' with their vaccination (have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine or have a valid medical exemption).
- Face coverings are no longer mandatory within places of worship.
- All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household, reading holy scripture & encouraging one another in our faith. Prayerfully participating in online Mass continues to be a great source of comfort on Sundays.

We welcome the opening of our places of worship but remain mindful and respectful that many in our community remain feeling cautious. Face coverings are recommended for workers who "serve or face" members of the public. As always, our priority is care for others and especially those most vulnerable.

Hand sanitiser will remain available at the church entrance, as will masks if you feel more comfortable using them. Social distancing is always recommended.

EASTER MASS SERVICES

Lenten Reconciliation – Fr. Martin
Wednesday 6 April – 7 pm – Romsey or
Wednesday 13 April – 7:30 pm - Woodend
Holy Thursday - Fr. Arnold
Thursday 14 April – 7 pm - Lancefield
Good Friday Passion of the Lord- Fr. Arnold
Friday 15 April – 3 pm - Lancefield
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil - Fr. Arnold
Saturday 16 April – 7 pm - Romsey
Easter Sunday - Fr. Arnold
Sunday 17 April – 9 am - Romsey

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CURRENT MASS TIMES:

Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 9 am and will alternate between Lancefield & Romsey.

First and third Sundays of the month in Romsey, second, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month in Lancefield.

The Healing Mass will be celebrated at 10 am in Romsey on the first Saturday of each month.

Baptisms are held at 2 pm on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Please contact the office for the next available date.

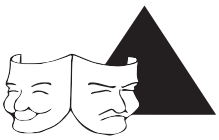
SACRAMENTS

Bookings are now open for parish children to register for Sacraments in 2022. Reconciliation available to Year 3 and above; Eucharist available to Year 4 and above, and Confirmation available to Year 6 and above. Please contact the office if you would like to register your child.

Should a parishioner want to go to Reconciliation, please contact Fr. Martin directly at Woodend on 5427 2690 to make arrangements.

Please direct enquiries to the parish office on 5429 2130 or by email at lancefield@cam.org.au

For funeral arrangements, please contact Fr. Martin on 5427 2690 or by email at woodend@cam.org.au



THE MOUNT PLAYERS HAPPENINGS

THE *ODD COUPLE*

Our second production for our 2022 season is sure to be a crowd pleaser! The comedy hit play The Odd Couple by Neil Simon was originally written in 1965 and was made into a film in 1968 starring Jack Lemon and Walter Matthau. The success of the film was the basis for the American sitcom starring Tony Randall and Jack Klugman.

This timeless classic is set in the smoke-filled apartment of Oscar Madison, who lives like a slob. Felix, one of his regular weekly poker game guests, moves in, having been thrown out by his wife. Felix is a neat freak and the blokey poker nights change dramatically as the slob and his new roommate find each other impossible to live with.

This is a very funny play with a fabulous cast! The season runs from 13 to 29 May. To book tickets go to www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892 for assistance.

See you at the theatre!

By Karen Hunt

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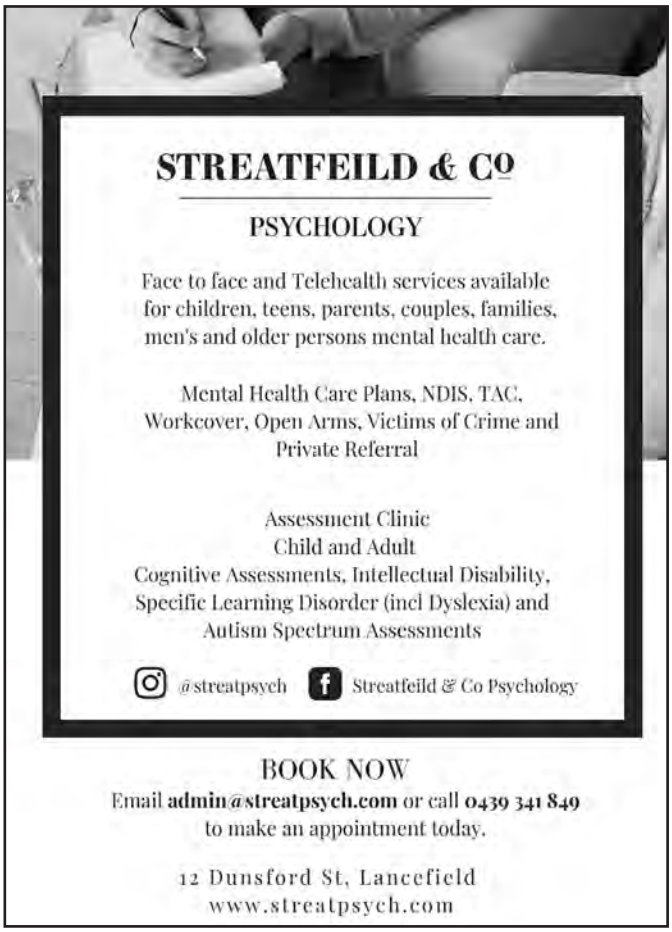

COMMUNITY BANK TALKS TO THE **COMMUNITY**

On Monday 21 February 2022, the Chair of the Community Bank, Lancefield and Romsey, invited the residents of Lancefield and Romsey to a Community Forum. Held at the Romsey Mechanics Institute, more than 100 interested people attended to explore their 'ideas as to what services and facilities our communities in Lancefield and Romsey need'. The bank was asking how the Community Bank could assist through their community investment program.

The bank's Chair, Suzy Ewart, introduced herself, her staff and the board to the audience. As well as Community Bank members present, representatives from the Macedon Ranges Shire and the Federal Member for McEwan, Rob Mitchell, attended the evening.

Enthusiastic representatives of a wide range of local sporting and community groups were present, as well as traders and individuals keen to hear what the bank had to say. The bank was keen to know what the audience thought and to hear their input. The facilitator for the evening, Bill den Hartog, outlined the format the evening would take. Each of the twelve tables was equipped with paper and pen and the youngest member of each table was the nominated scribe and spokesperson for the evening.

The exercise was to hear exactly what it was that the community wanted and how the bank could assist with achieving these goals. Bill gave the audience several examples of successful projects achieved by the partnership of groups with the bank. Some of the ideas that came out of the workshop session included expanding the pony club grounds in Lancefield, redeveloping the Lancefield Park, building a chapel for the Lancefield cemetery, building a 50-metre indoor pool, placing more tables and chairs on the Lancefield Plantation, developing places of interest for indigenous tourism and replacing the kitchen and installing indoor toilets at the Courthouse. These are just a few of the many excellent ideas presented by the audience.

The evening's format was most successful. Residents from both towns were fully engaged in the exercise. The bank made a list of 70 of the ideas from the audience; the remaining ideas, written on the sheets of paper at each table, were collected for further reference. I'm sure I am not alone in hoping that the bank is able to help bring some of these important ideas to fruition.

Fay Woodhouse

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NEW SENIOR PASTOR

At the end of March, with many a tear and hug, we said goodbye to Pastor Marilyn and Ray Hunter after 31 years of amazing service at Encourage Church. They have been called by God to leave the Macedon Ranges and continue their ministry in the warmer climate of Queensland. We thank God for their leadership, wisdom and faithfulness and we know that God will bless them as they serve Him for many more years.

As one door closes, so another opens, and we would like to introduce the new Senior Pastor of Encourage Church and his family. Pastor Tim Emonson will be stepping into the Senior Pastor position, with the support of his wife Georgia, and sons Josh, Jonah and Noah. Pastor Tim was ordained in a wonderful service on the afternoon of Sunday 6 March this year and he is excited to be serving the church and the community into the future.

Pastor Tim and his family have lived in Romsey for over 17 years. You may have come across them in one of their community activities – Lancefield/Romsey Little Athletics for many years, junior and now senior football for Romsey, playing futsal on a Tuesday night at the Romsey Recreation Centre, as the Approved Provider for

the Kidzone Before & After School program, Mainly Music with pre-school aged children or working in the local libraries.

Pastor Tim is putting aside his consultancy business, with his previous career covering a couple of the Big-4 accounting firms and then financial modelling consultancies. Pastor Tim will be full-time with the church from March 28. Please feel free to contact him via the church, or bail him up in the street, if you would like a chat.

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PUTTING GREEN WASTE TO WORK

From its humble beginning as a waste transfer station, the green waste treatment site at Romsey has reached a milestone of processing 63,000 tonnes of trees and storm debris in its first six months of operation.

Announcing the milestone, Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas said the dedicated treatment site was established to manage large volumes of high value wood, particularly Mountain Ash, from the June 2021 flood and storm event.

A partnership between Bushfire Recovery Victoria and Macedon Ranges Shire Council, the facility has been an integral part of the Bushfire Recovery Victoria residential clean-up program; clearing, processing, and making best use of the beautiful trees.

The new treatment site has set a new standard for sustainable processing of trees. In the past six months the facility has:

- supplied 10 different men's sheds across six shires with timber for their community projects
- established a partnership with RuralAid to provide 50 kilometres of fencing and retaining wall sleepers for residents and primary producers across the worst storm-affected farms and communities
- milled 11,500 stakes for Council tree planting programs
- created firewood for nearly 2,000 residents in surrounding impacted local government areas
- processed root balls to enhance fish habitat in rivers and water systems
- delivered 225 cubic metre bags of saw dust to residents
- processed 180,000 cubic metres of mulch, with free mulch available at transfer stations across surrounding local government areas.

Bushfire Recovery Victoria is continuing to consult with environmental and community groups about their needs and best use of products. The facility has been funded through the Victorian Government's $105 million response to the June 2021 storm and flood event. The Bushfire Recovery Victoria residential clean-up program covers the demolition and removal of any structures or hazardous trees threatening residents, work crews and structures, on eligible residential properties that were damaged beyond repair by the June event.

ROMSEY/LANCEFIELD RED CROSS

THANKS TO ALL

Thanks to all who donated to the Red Cross Flood Appeal. As usual the communities of Lancefield and Romsey have been very generous. We are holding an Easter Raffle on April 8 and 9. For your chance to win a large basket of Easter Eggs come and purchase a ticket outside IGA Romsey, $2 a ticket or 3 for $5.

Romsey/Lancefield Red Cross Branch meet on the first Monday of the month in the old court house in Stawell Street at 1 pm. We would love to see you there.

Karen Hermann President: 0432103274
Robyn Stephens Secretary: 0439083142

NEED ADVICE?

Coping with changes brought about by the COVID-19 situation? Looking to start a small business and not sure how to go about it? Own a business and need expert advice?

Businesses in the Macedon Ranges are invited to book a free mentoring session with small business experts later this month. Get assistance to help you plan, start or grow your business.

The Small Business Bus is a government-funded mobile business mentoring service helping small business operators to run, grow or start a business.

If restrictions allow, mentoring sessions will be conducted face-to-face 10 am-4 pm, April 26 to 29 in Kyneton, Woodend, Gisborne and Romsey. Alternative online arrangements will be made should the situation change.

Bookings are essential. For further details and bookings, call 5421 9616, email ecodevadmin@mrsc.vic.gov.au or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-events

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A **FORGOTTEN** RIDDELL

One hundred and forty-four years ago Romsey district lost one of the most respected and successful members of its community - *Joseph Riddell* – he is not to be confused with John Carre Riddell, founder of Riddells Creek, as they are not related.

Joseph was born 1833 in Northumberland, England and migrated to Australia, on his own, in 1851 at the age of eighteen. Over the next couple of years he met his wife-to-be Celester Styles, who was born in Croydon, England in 1837. Celester came to Australia in 1849 with her parents and younger brother and sister.

Joseph and Celester were married in Gisborne 1854, then purchased a small farm at Monegeetta North where they started breeding cattle. Over the next couple of years he specialised in shorthorn cattle after purchasing a prize bull from England. By this stage he had leased two neighbouring farms that were not being used by land grant holders, making one large paddock of about 600 acres in which he had over 300 breeding cattle and 65 head of milkers. Eventually he was recognised as having one of the best shorthorn herds in the colony, however this was only part of the plan.

He had also started making cheese and by the time a couple of Melbourne newspapers visited his farm in 1871 to report on the way his award winning "Berkley Vale" cheese was made, he had already won first prize in a national cheese-making competition every year from 1860 to 1871.

On top of all this farm work, he was very involved in the community being a councillor, a J.P. and in the setting up and running of the local Duckholes school - No. 201. Somehow, he and Celester found time to raise a family, having 15 children, although only 10 survived. Some are buried in the grave at Lancefield with him.

Joseph died 144 years ago on 15th April 1878 from sepsis after four months illness.

Seven years after his death, Celester married Francis Muirson, which is roughly when most of the children went their own ways, except for the youngest son, Alfred Riddell. Muirson died 10 years later, resulting in Alfred helping his mother run the farm, but it would have been substantially downsized by then. Celester died in Bethesda Hospital; Richmond aged 89 on 1st January 1926 after having a fall eleven days earlier, resulting in a broken hip. She is in a grave next to her children and Joseph, while Alfred, who died in 1955, is in an unmarked grave a few rows across.

The following is the obituary for Joseph Riddell as it appeared in the Lancefield Mercury.

RIDDELL, Joseph
Lancefield Mercury, April 18 1878

The condition of Mr. Joseph Riddell has been so critical for some time past, that our readers will be to some extent prepared for the deeply regretted news of his decease. Death took place on Monday evening, at Melbourne, where he was

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under doctor's care, he having some little time previously been seized with an epileptic fit of a severe nature. He died, however, with a thorough command over his senses, being conscious of all going on around him.

It is only by the absence of Mr Jos. Riddell that the large space he has filled in the community can be estimated. As a private gentleman, he had won the approbation and esteem of almost everyone who knew him, by his hospitality and urbanity; his house and purse were always at the command of his friends, and nothing gave him greater pleasure than to see advantage taken of them. Like many individuals of his standing, he rose from small beginnings. Although comparatively a young man, he was an old colonist, having sojourned the greater part of 20 years in Monegeetta, where he made a start in life with a few cows of indifferent breed. By zealous, energetic, and judicious management, Mr. Riddell was enabled to introduce a pure-bred bull into his herd, and from that time forward, despite serious losses and concomitant vicissitudes, his efforts were crowned with success until he arrived, as it were, to the top of the tree, with one of the best shorthorn herds in the colony, and an indisputable reputation as a cheese maker second to none in Victoria.

In his public capacity, Mr. Riddell's efforts and successes are too well known to call for lengthy publication from us. Perhaps the most prominent position he held was that of Vice-President of the West Bourke Agricultural Society, of which he may be said to have been one of the principal founders. The liberal and common-sensed views he invariably took to matters which tended to the interests of the Society, or to the dealing out of justice to those connected with it, were traits recognised by all, and his sending in his resignation of the office some little time back was received with deep concern by his fellow members, who requested him to reconsider his determination; death however intervened, and the Vice-President's chair will never be filled with Mr. Riddell again. In the Romsey Shire Council, where he represented the ratepayers of Monegeetta, he had become endeared to his colleagues and the people who put their trust in his hands, a trust which he never in any way betrayed. Privately and socially the deceased gentleman was welcomed everywhere, his jocularity, education, intellectual superiority and independence of character always adding geniality and pleasure, to all companies. He was devotedly nursed and cared for during his late protracted illness by Mrs. Riddell and family. We are aware that Mrs. Riddell and family are left in affluent circumstances, by a judicious will.

The funeral, which took place yesterday, was the largest that has ever passed through Romsey, there being about 50 carriages and 60 horsemen, the whole presenting a grand but solemn spectacle. The service at the grave at the Lancefield cemetery was conducted by the Rev. A Brazier, and during its reading, a great many personal friends were very deeply moved. The grief of the widow and children can be better imagined than described.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

The Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society are thrilled to announce that in January the Committee welcomed a new member, Dimity Reed, AM. Dimity Reed trained as an architect and has been involved in urban planning, acting as an architectural advisor on a number of planning and government boards, and various organizations and planning committees. Dimity started Women in Architecture, cultivating female talent within a primarily male-dominated field. She also wrote regularly for both the Melbourne *Sun* and *Age* newspapers and had a weekly slot on ABC radio talking about architecture. She was RMIT Professor of Urban Design before retiring when she and her husband bought their Feeneys Lane retreat.

While now retired from the architectural sphere, Dimity is still very active in homelessness and low-income housing initiatives. She was a Trustee of the Shrine of Remembrance for twelve years overseeing its transformation into a museum of our country's involvement in peacekeeping and wars. She now heads up her own film production company, Mad Women Productions, in conjunction with her three film maker sons.

One of Dimity Reed's interests is Victoria's rich architectural and cultural heritage, especially the many historic buildings located within the Macedon Ranges Shire. She also emphasises the importance of retaining historic buildings, such as Eden Park, Romsey, and assures the community that the Society supports the owners in their current objection to the re-zoning of their farmland.

This year the HistoryTea, due to be held on Sunday 10 April at Seymour Cottage, 20 Palmer Street, Romsey, has been postponed. It was to feature live music from the one-man-band, Uptown-Brown, guest speaker John Patrick, former presenter on Gardening Australia, and wine tastings of Tahbilk Wines. The new date is expected to be in September.

Fay Woodhouse
Romsey & Lancefield Historical Society

KYNETON TOWN HALL–INSPIRING APRIL PERFORMANCES

Kyneton Town Hall (KTH) will be headlining some inspiring artists and presenting more stunning performances this season.

A BOY CALLED SAILBOAT

Slava & Leonard Grigoryan have toured Kyneton Town Hall with sold-out shows over the years. This time they are bringing a very special show for our audiences to enjoy. "A Boy Called Sailboat" is a heart-warming movies with the acclaimed guitarists providing the soundtrack live.
Sunday 10 April, 3 pm
Kyneton Town Hall
Cost: Full $49, Seniors $45, Concession $39, Student $10
Purchase tickets: 1300 888 802 or www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/buytickets

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LANCEFIELD GETS A LOCAL DIETITIAN

Local expertise at Ochre Medical Centre Lancefield is growing, as dietitian Prudence Williams joins an allied health team including an audiologist, an endocrinologist, a podiatrist, and pathology services. Prudence jumped 'straight into the deep end' after university, undertaking clinical work in hospitals in Sydney. At different times, she worked in a coeliac clinic, a gastroenterology ward and a renal ward and critical care unit, providing medical nutrition therapy as part of a multidisciplinary team.

"If someone is in a coma," she says, "they still need to be fed! So, you work out the best way to nourish them. At first, that might be intravenous, then via a tube. Then when the patient is lucid, you might work with speech pathologists and move to a liquid diet, followed by minced food."

Prudence later moved to Brisbane, where she established a clinic that supported oncology patients. "I loved that!" she says, "You can really help people suffering from cancer - and the effects of their treatments - and make a difference."

"It is about understanding the issues. Many patients have nausea. Have they lost their sense of taste or smell? Is their mouth or neck painful from radiation? Has their treatment made food taste bitter?"

During her years in Brisbane, Prudence also spent time as Diabetes Australia's Head Dietitian. This public health role saw her rolling out community food education programs with teams of nurses and diabetes educators, and lecturing at universities and conferences. Now living in the Lancefield area, a chance visit to the Ochre practice with a sick child made Prudence aware of the need for a local dietitian service - prompting a new chapter in her professional journey.

She's looking forward to working proactively with new local patients whatever their needs or health issues: "It's not about being told you can't have chips, ice cream or a beer. My role will be to help people understand their options, enjoy everything in moderation and change eating behaviour – it's not about 'going on a diet'."

Prudence Williams is an Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) with Dietitians Australia with a Bachelor of Health Sciences (majoring in nutrition and dietetics). Bookings are available on Tuesdays and can be made via ochrehealth.com.au or by calling the practice on (03) 5429 1362.

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THE NEXT PHASE OF BUSINESS RECOVERY

COUNCIL OFFERS VOUCHERS

Following an overwhelming response to the two Business Continuity and Recovery Program voucher offers in 2021, Macedon Ranges Shire Council is once again encouraging local businesses affected by COVID-19 to apply for vouchers of up to $1,000.

Funded from Council's COVID Recovery budget, the Business Continuity and Resilence Program 2022 (BCRP2022) has been revised to include services not only from local professional services businesses but also from local health and wellbeing businesses.

In recognition of the need to help businesses and their staff get back to the business of doing business, local businesses can apply for vouchers of up to $1,000 from a maximum of two professional services firms, and one voucher for health and wellbeing services. A grand total of three vouchers are available to each business in the shire across the three voucher programs (BCRP, BCRPe from 2021 and BCRP2022).

To apply or to find out more about the BCRP2022 opportunity and what is available to your business, please visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/bcrp. The voucher program opens at 8.30am Monday 4 April 2022.

Alternatively contact the Economic Development Team on ecodevadmin@mrsc.vic.gov.au or Mani Heck on 0400 406 157 for more information. Applications for BCRP2022 vouchers will close when program funds are exhausted, or by 5 pm on Friday 29 April 2022.

POWER ON IN THE RANGES

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas has met with Powercor in relation to the ongoing power outages across the Macedon Ranges. Ms Thomas wrote to Powercor CEO, Tim Rourke, to bring his attention to the constant power outages across Trentham, Blackwood, Romsey, Lancefield and Kyneton, as well as electricity connection reliability across the Macedon area. Ms Thomas has received high volumes of correspondence from upset locals, absolutely frustrated by the constant outages. Powercor released a statement saying that they had found the cause of multiple power outages in the Macedon Ranges and the Central Highlands and that crews inspected and replaced a variety of items – lighting surge arrestors, fuses, insulators, and high-voltage leads – on seven high voltage power poles along Martin Street South in Blackwood. Residents across the Macedon Ranges should now look forward to reliable electricity in the future. Ms Thomas urged residents to contact Powercor for any continuing issues.

THE BEASTIES ARE COMING

On Saturday 2 April between 10 am and 11 am, the Beasties will be at the Lions Park Romsey. A square cow quacking for biscuits, a squirting pig, a one-eyed blue cat, dancing carrots, and a giant roaming poo, Beasties is a petting zoo with a difference. This installation of strange and endearing creatures will keep young and old enchanted and highly amused. There's fish, birds to feed and Deloras will sing for you if you pat her enough. https://www.visitmacedonranges.com/events/beasties-in-romsey/

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SHAPE FUTURE OF PARKS, WATERWAYS AND RESERVES

Now is your chance to get involved in shaping the future of open spaces in the Macedon Ranges Shire. Council is calling for expressions of interest to participate in a Community Assembly to guide key decisions about the future of our parks, playgrounds, sporting facilities and conservation areas.

Recruitment for the new Open Space Community Assembly launches this week with expressions of interest closing at midnight on April 8. The Community Assembly will be asked to consider the outcomes of the public consultation process which runs until the same date.

The Community Assembly will provide recommendations to guide the development of the Open Space Strategy providing clear direction for planning, management and delivery of public open space in the shire.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you or anyone in your household (16 years or older) is interested in being a part of the Open Space Community Assembly, please register your interest at the link available on Council's website. Visit www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay to apply. Registrations close at midnight on Friday 8 April.

For more information and to Have Your Say as a community member, www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay

If you would like to receive project updates, please register at mrsc.vic.gov.au/open-space or call the Strategic Planning team on 5422 0333.

SUPPORT TO HELP YOU STAY IN YOUR HOME

Most people want to stay in their homes for as long as possible as they get older. Commonwealth Home Support Program services can provide the extra support you need to stay independent and living safely at home. During April and May, Macedon Ranges Shire Council is holding free information sessions across the Macedon Ranges for older people, their families and Carers to explain:

- What the Commonwealth Home Support Program is and who can benefit
- Services available locally
- How you can access support
- Approximate costs.

The information sessions will be held from 10 am to 12 noon at:

- Kyneton Mechanics Institute on 26 April
- Riddells Creek Community Centre on 3 May
- Woodend Community Centre on 12 May
- Romsey Mechanics Institute on 17 May
- Macedon Community Centre on 23 May
- Online on 30 May.

COVID-safety measures will be implemented at the live sessions and free transport can be arranged if you do not have access to transport. There is an online session for those who prefer not to attend in person or cannot attend one of the face-to-face sessions.

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LIGHTNING MAY ONLY STRIKE ONCE. THANKFULLY, KINDNESS DOES NOT!

It was a case of deja vu when the Edgar's Mission rescue team set eyes upon a wool-burdened sheep atop Mt Alexander in central Victoria last week. Alex (as he was quickly and affectionately named) was found by a kindly bushwalker and was in a very sorry state of health and unable to stand.

Displaying haunting similarities to Baarack the sheep, whom the sanctuary took in last year with a massive fleece of 34.5 kg (76lbs), Alex's plight was no less urgent or critical. In fact, it would be more so, as the rescue team would soon learn.

"I'm not sure how long the poor fellow had been lying there," said Edgar's Mission founder and director, Pam Ahern, "but I do know that, judging by the length of his fleece, he had not been shorn in many a year, and had he not been found when he was, he would have passed from this world."

Although Alex was literally out of the woods, the old metaphor still applied as his rescuers raced against time to rid him of the burdensome fleece. Not long thereafter Alex stood on wobbly legs as a 40 kg pile of urine-soaked, stick and twig-matted and insect-encrusted fleece lay in his wake. This is not much short of the Guinness World Record for the heaviest fleece, which is a staggering 41.1 kg.

"I am not sure who was more relieved when the job was done. However, there was a collective sigh from one and all," said Pam.

The Edgar's Mission team saw many similarities between Alex and Baarack: both were wethers around 7 years of age and both were of Merino breeding. Both highlighted the problems that occur when sheep are not shorn, and both displayed the smarts of sheep and their resilience to survive against the odds in inhospitable terrain. And, both found sanctuary thanks to the goodness of the human heart.

Chloe and Molly Brown, two elderly and wise rescued sheep, greeted Alex as he began his recovery, and knew exactly what they had to do. They let him know that he really had landed on heaven on earth and now was the time to thank his lucky stars that kindness, unlike lightning, really does strike more than once!

Sheep of today, unlike their ancestors the Wild Mouflon, need to be regularly shorn, at least annually, otherwise critical welfare issues arise such as those experienced by Alex and Baarack. The Wild Mouflon interestingly was a "haired" sheep whose body covering would grow and shed according to the seasons, giving warmth in the cooler months and relief from the heat in the summertime. However, through selective breeding of sheep that has all changed, as has humans' increased responsibilities to animals in our care.

TARGA FLORIO IS COMING

Calling all classic car buffs! Approximately 65 classic cars will be in Romsey on Thursday 7 April with the first car arriving at around 11.45 am along the northern end of Station Street. They will wait their turn to complete the slow time trail down Station Street and then continue driving towards Melbourne. The last car will depart around 1.30pm. Enjoy a coffee and ice cream from the onsite Mia Mia van whilst you enjoy watching the cars go through their paces! (They will be coming from Pyalong and through Lancefield on their way to Romsey).

EDGY VEG AWARDS

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL REGION'S ENTRY

This year's Autumn Festival has a myriad of activities and exciting events including the inaugural Edgy Veg Awards organised by the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (https://veg.mrsg.org.au/edgy-veg-awards). The eastern corridor's own Verdure Cafe has a dish entered in this competition which will be decided by popular vote so get on board and support our local entrant!

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