Lancefield Mercury

# RHONDA CUSACK
## LANCEFIELD LEGEND

Rhonda Cusack joined the Lancefield Neighbourhood House in 2004 and has just hung up her volunteer hat as of the end of June.

In Rhonda's time at the House she was on the committee as President and Treasurer and has worked as a volunteer bookkeeper for many years.

Holding these roles shows us a person who is dedicated to an organization and one who generously gives their time to support our wonderful community, but Rhonda has stepped beyond this with her ideas and commitment, leaving a strong and lasting legacy in many areas to the community of Lancefield.

We have Rhonda to thank for the idea to purchase twelve defibrillators which are distributed around our community. It was also her idea to contribute a substantial amount, now $15,000 per year, to both of our primary schools, so they can provide a service not otherwise available to the children of our town.

In Lancefield we have good connection between our organisations, and have a directory of all our groups in the community calendar and on the lancefield.org.au web site. A dinner of organization volunteers held several years ago contributed greatly to the sense of community cohesion and was truly cemented by Rhonda's suggestion to give all the organisations a cheque for $500, and a $5000 cheque to the three churches in town to assist them with repairs to these historical buildings.

Rhonda had an actual dream that the-then empty, building in the shopping strip would be an Op Shop. Along with other committee members, a vision was realized, and this amazing shop has generated funds for all the above initiatives, and many others in the community, with over $500,000 donated to date.

A true queen of catering, Rhonda set up the system for the Farmers Market BBQ, which has streamlined the organizing of this fundraiser for many groups, as well as for the Christmas Carols evening BBQ. Along with her team of helpers, she has made the Anzac Day morning tea an annual tradition and organized the gun-fire breakfast for several hundred people for the Anzac Day centenary.

Our annual community Christmas lunch is also a catering feat of Rhonda's, along with the Neighbourhood House volunteers. Anyone who has ever joined us at one of these lunches will know that the dessert table just gets more spectacular every year.

This creative side of Rhonda is seen in many small but significant elements – such as the white crosses which fill the flower bed on Anzac Day, and the organization of a Neighbourhood House badge which is presented to volunteers in a beautiful, handmade package.

There is also the 'buy the toilet paper in bulk 'suggestion, and the photocopier add on, and so many small suggestions which have contributed to projects and people's lives in Lancefield – too many clever, creative and outside-the-box ideas that Rhonda has contributed to list here.

On top of this Rhonda has also contributed her time and skills to other organisations in town, and is a tireless, behind-the-scenes supporter of a resident or family in need.

People who become legends often have a lot of what they do go unnoticed – it's when you put everything they have done together that your realise the impact they have made

On behalf of everyone who has ever been supported by Rhonda, and for those who definitely will be in the future – Thank you.

Above: Mr John McCosker OAM (M)
Mr Tom Murphy OAM JP Reinhard Goschiniak
President Romsey Lancefield RSL.

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**ROMSEY-LANCEFIELD RSL SUB-BRANCH**
President: Reinhard Goschiniak 0419 375 060 Secretary: Patricia Vowles 03 5429 3456.
romlancrsl@gmail.com PO Box 315 Romsey Vic 3434

# RSL BESTOWS ITS HIGHEST HONOUR ON TOM MURPHY

The RSL Victoria bestowed it highest honour on Local Veteran Tom Murphy OAM JP on Friday July 9th, 2021. The award was ceremony was led by RSL Victoria's State Vice President Mr Des Callaghan OAM BJ JP. Tom, a veteran of the Malayan conflict and esteemed member of the RSL, was thrilled and surprised at receiving the award.

Present to witness the award proceedings were members of the Romsey Lancefield RSL Sub-Branch and invited guests, including Mr Rob Mitchell MP, Ms. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, and Tom's granddaughter Jessie.

The award presentation was followed by a morning tea.

"Tom enlisted in the Australian Army in 1958 for a period of 6 years.

His service included two years and fifty-four days on active service in Malaya with the First Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Tom elected to take his discharge in 1964 completing his six-year engagement. Just prior to his discharge, Tom Joined the Flemington and Kensington sub-branch of the RSL.

It was not long before he realised that the RSL was not just a watering-hole for ex-servicemen but found that they were very actively engaged in the welfare of other less fortunate ex-servicemen and their families.

Tom became interested in the Welfare arm of the RSL and the following year was elected to the committee and appointed to the position of Welfare office. Tom also became a volunteer for "Carry on" (Victoria), where he later won the case of the month, assisting a member to re unite with his daughter by helping the man to find a job, picking him up every morning at 3am and driving him to work as a car detailer (there was no other transport at that hour of the day). Tom assisted the man for a fortnight until he received his first wage and organized a pickup from his home with a fellow workmate.

Tom submitted his report to HQ who then assisted the man in obtaining a housing commission home and helped in the getting together with other members of his family.

Tom also commenced at a Youth Training Institute

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assisting wards of the state and young offenders back into the community. Tom remained at the institution for 34 years to assist many young people, and due to the high numbers of youth at the institution, most of Tom's work was carried out on his days off.

Tom had a number of successes and he and his wife were requested to become godparents to two children. Tom continued to assist the ex-service members and their families, as well as the War Widows in his area.

During this time at the Sub-Branch, Tom worked his way through all offices of the committee and in 1978, was elected President and remained as such until 1982 when he decided to have a break. He remained on the committee and continued to carry out the duties of the Welfare Officer.

Tom introduced a special Christmas fund whereby the children of members would attend a Christmas function and be presented to "Santa" where they would receive a gift. Tom would also invite up to 12 underprivileged children from the local community to attend the function along with their families and enjoy the same benefits at the members' children. Due to the introduction of insurance on chosen venues, the Christmas picnics became unviable.

Tom continued his volunteer work as the welfare officer and on many occasions would respond to a call from the welfare office at ANZAC house regarding members from country areas being hospitalized at Royal Melbourne Hospital or The Royal Park Age Care. Tom would attend with little bags of treats and the occasional beer. In the early 90s, Tom

answered a request from a group of ladies, including three war widows, who were having problems with the Housing Commission office staff regarding the placement of younger African males being placed in the same building and causing great concern with their drinking and use of drugs. The ladies were being treated with complete disdain, and Tom introduced himself as a Justice of the Peace and as acting on the ladies behalf. It made no difference, which caused Tom to write to the Minister, Bronwyn Pike, who personally went to visit the ladies and within a fortnight had transferred the refugees and the staff from the Housing Commission office.

During the meeting with the ladies (the three war widows), they notified Tom that they were having difficulties with their shopping. From then on up to 2004, Tom took the ladies shopping to Highpoint Shopping Centre every Thursday. Unfortunately, they passed away over the years, and Tom was appointed to assist other ex-services community. In 1992, Tom was appointed a Commissioner of Affidavits and in 1986 was appointed as a Justice of the

LANCEFIELD MERCURY INC.
A0045845D

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

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1/4 Quarter page $80 per edition

Peace, and in 1989, the amendments to the Magistrates' Court Act saw Tom appointed to the position of Bail Justice.

Tom continues to this day assisting members of the community as a JP but had to retire from the Bail Justice at the age of 70.

Tom has many certificates of appreciation for his contribution to the community and his ex-service mates.

Tom was nominated for the Centenary Medal and gladly received the award signed by the Prime Minister John Howard and the Governor General Peter Hollingworth. The citation reads, "For contribution to Veterans and to the Community"

In 2001, Tom was nominated for Citizen of the Year by the Moonee Valley City Council and received a meritorious service medal for his contribution to the community.

In 2014 Tom was awarded the Order of Australia for his contribution to the Veteran community and Youth welfare. Four years later, in 2017, Tom was awarded Life Membership of the RSL, after having joined in 1964, and continues to be a financial member to this day.

In 2018, Tom was awarded a "Quilt of Valour" certificate and a quilt by The Quilt of Valour Australia Inc.

Tom had two operations on his back and hip in 2014 and he moved to Romsey so his daughter could keep an eye on him. He joined the Romsey/Lancefield RSL Sub-Branch and continues to support them in their activities and the selling of ANZAC tokens and Poppies on Remembrances Day."

Reinhard Goschiniak
President
Romsey Lancefield RSL Sub-Branch

**ROMSEY-LANCEFIELD RSL SUB-BRANCH**
President: Reinhard Goschiniak 0419 375 060
Secretary: Patricia Vowles 03 5429 3456.

# COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

The Romsey Lancefield RSL Sub-Branch will be conducting a Commemoration Ceremony at the Lancefield Cenotaph Main Street Lancefield on Wednesday August 18, 2021, at 1100 hours.

All Veterans and Peacekeepers (all conflicts), community members, and schools are most welcome.

The service will be followed by an informal BBQ in the carpark of the Romsey Mechanics Institute (weather permitting).

Members attending the commemoration are encouraged to come along. For more information, please contact John Horan or Reinhard Goschiniak 0419 375 060

Community members and schools wishing to lay a wreath are most welcome to do so.

A wreath will also be laid at the Romsey Cenotaph, Main Street Romsey.

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THE MOUNT PLAYERS HAPPENINGS

# 'LOVE SONG' FUNNY, TOUCHING & PROFOUND

Despite the name, Love Song is not just a story about love. It is a story of hope, of fight and of learning not to be afraid of change. It explores that it is ok not to be ok. When we meet Beane he is an exile from life – an oddball - and has been subject to social judgement for most of his life. Once he meets Molly, he realises that life is worth living, it's worth fighting for and in turn, he changes the lives around him.

Talented Melbourne Director, Travis Handcock will bring this play to life on our stage in August. Travis has been acting and directing for over ten years since completing a Bachelor of Arts in 2007 and worked at many theatres across Greater Melbourne. This will be his second play as director with The Mount Players.

This play contains some coarse language and sexual references, so suitable for a mature audience. For full details and to book tickets go to www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892.

By Karen Hunt

# DISABILITY GRANTS FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

More students with disability in Macedon will receive the support they need to learn, contribute and participate in their schools and classrooms, with funding provided by the Victorian Government. Twenty schools across Macedon will receive funding support to make their school more inclusive for all students, as part of the Disability Inclusion package.

Schools in Macedon are in Year 1 of the five-year Disability Inclusion roll-out and will all receive a base level of funding from Term 3 this year, with additional funding provided depending on the individual school's characteristics.

This new funding support is ongoing and is in addition to support already provided through the current Program for Students with Disabilities. Schools will use this funding to implement whole-school practices that support the inclusive education of students with diverse learning needs such as autism and learning difficulties.

This may include undertaking professional development for staff, employing new disability and inclusion staff, and purchasing programs, interventions or specific equipment and technology – depending on the needs of their students and the school. Lancefield Primary School is receiving $63,678.


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ROMSEY REGION BUSINESS AND TOURISM ASSOCIATION

# PRE LOCKDOWN DINNER PROVIDES HIGHLIGHTS

The Lancefield and Romsey Community Branches of Bendigo Bank (celebrating 20 years since establishment) sponsored the Annual Romsey Region Business and Tourism Association (RRBATA) Dinner at Glen Erin at Lancefield on 15/07/21. The 70-plus guests were provided with several highlights on a theme recognizing the creative talents of our residents.

The key speaker was former international chef and now ice-cream entrepreneur and Macedon Ranges resident Andrea (Dre) Reiss. Dre was interviewed by a local entrepreneur Col Cameron. After initially training in Melbourne, Dre worked in London (The Green Room Mayfair and The Lanesborough St Regis Hotel) and Paris, having been head-hunted by the Michelin-starred Taillevant Restaurant. She returned to Australia and founded Chez Dre and Bibelot in South Melbourne and now is focused on ice-cream, having founded the Woodend Ice Cream Co. and Gisborne Ice Cream Co. (along with the Footscray Ice Cream Co.).

In addition, guests were entertained by the very talented local singer, producer, and musician Gabriel Macura.

The creative talents of the Glen Erin operation were showcased with its great venue and a fine dining experience.

RRBATA is represented on the Macedon Ranges Business and Tourism Industry Stakeholder Group. The MRSC's Draft new Economic Development Strategy out for comment. This is an important opportunity for business and broader community to have a say on the "economic prosperity roadmap" – please contribute your thoughts.

MRSC has commenced planning already for Autumn Festival 2022. RRBATA has applied for event funding to support an event in this Festival.

More information at rrbata.com.au or email or phone Jenny Stillman -jennystillman@optusnet.com.au or 0411 700464.

Col Cameron and Andrea (Dre) Reiss.

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# SCARY TIMES

## STORM TRAUMA

Everyone I have met was at least a little bit scared the night of the storms, some of us did not get to sleep all night. Next time we have a strong wind we are probably going to have that fear triggered. The experts tell me that this is normal, but if the fears and thoughts of the storms continue to fill your mind or keep you awake then consider visiting your GP or the Mind Health Hub (MHH) for some support to get through this trauma.

So now is a really good time to introduce the Mind Health Hub, currently operating out of Romsey Neighbourhood House, but hopefully also in Lancefield in the near future. Your mental health is just as important as your physical health, so check in with the MHH clinicians to keep yourself healthy. You can contact MHH by email mindhealthhub@outlook.com or visit the website mindhealthhub.com or phone 0413 448 748. Appointments are via telehealth and are bulk billed for people on a mental health care plan, which you can get by having a conversation with your GP.

## FUTURE STORMS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

Meetings were held in Romsey and Lancefield, the week after storms, to discuss how we can better prepare ourselves for any future incidents where we lose power and connection. Building stronger connections within the community is the major project to come from the meetings. Keep a look out in your letterbox for some neighbourhood connection initiatives. Part of this will be to develop registers for people who would like someone to check in on them after an emergency, and a register of Neighbourhood Connectors. Please get in touch if you would like to be on either of these.

Another component of the meeting findings was to work on developing a Community Resilience Plan - contact us if you would like to be part of this working group.

The Neighbourhood House is also in the process of some retrofitting to create a place for people to go to in any future blackout instances, being without power or phones. We are upgrading our fireplace so it can be warm, installing a generator, and changing to gas cooking - the House is also a cool building during a heatwave.

## STORM PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Another initiative of the meetings is to hold an exhibition of photos to tell the local story of the recent storm. Choose your best photos that depict what the event meant to you. Photos may show the community spirit of people helping, emergency

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services, a quirky angle of a fallen tree; whatever was taken in the days during or following the storm.

Limit of two photos per person. Entries from all ages welcome to be submitted by 20 August. Photos can be emailed to admin@lancefieldhouse.org.au or phone if you want to submit a file too large to email or for printed images.

$250 Power Saving (PSB) Initiative

The Neighbourhood House is a PSB initiative agent. PSB is a one-off $250 payment to provide direct support to vulnerable Victorian households experiencing energy bill stress.

To be eligible you must be:

- a Victorian residential energy consumer (i.e., have a residential electricity account).
- receiving payments under one of the following concession programs:
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession
- JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Austudy or Abstudy
- Department of Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession
- Or hold a Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card.

Pension Concession Card holders who are not receiving payments, and Health Care Cards holders who are not receiving Youth Allowance, JobSeeker, Austudy or Abstudy payments, are not eligible.

Contact the Neighbourhood House on 5429 1214 or admin@lancefieldhouse.org.au or drop in for more information about any of the above initiatives.

# LANCEFIELD SHOW

We're getting ready for the Lancefield Show on Sunday the 17th of October. It's time for you to get ready to be part of this iconic Lancefield event. Book a site to promote your business, prepare your animals and homecrafts for competition, and save the date.

Email lancefieldshow@live.com.au or ring the Secretary 0400 045 808.

# KEEPING YOURSELF MENTALLY WELL

Sometimes clients question me how they can keep themselves mentally well to function day to day. It may sound over simplified but some of the following steps can assist.

- Try to get adequate sleep, retiring and rising at accepted normal times. Avoid nocturnal use of technology which can lead to disturbed sleep patterns.
- Having adequate nutrition, eating 3 meals a day of normal portion sizes plus snacks.
- Having regular exercise, even a 10-minute daily walk can lift your mood. What about a quick lunchtime walk, or take the dog for a walk?
- Engage in pleasant activities to lift your mood, e.g. listening to music, a hobby, craft, sport, socialising, even just having a coffee with a friend or watching a footy game with a mate.
- Monitor and manage the use of substances e.g. alcohol.
- Mindfulness activities can also assist with a more balanced approach to life, e.g. a few minutes of meditation morning and evening.

Making changes can appear difficult but little baby steps can lead to an improved and happier way of life.

Margaret Bailey. Accredited Mental Health Social Worker Margaret and has been working in the mental health field for 12 years following a teaching career.

Streatfeild & Co Psychology, streatpsych.com, admin@streatpsych.com Lancefield 0439 341 849.

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# MOST WELCOME

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Romsey 9am each Sunday, Lancefield 10.30am each Sunday.

Sunday 18th August, Rev Matthew is on Annual Leave for 1 week, Rev Cath Fisher will be leading us in worship for the week. Rev. Matthew will return and take us through the Book of Hebrews for the following weeks. All are most welcome to join us for praise, learning, and fellowship.

## OP SHOP

The op shop is open Fridays 12.30-4pm (winter) and Saturdays 10am-4pm.

Donations of clean, quality goods are most welcome and appreciated at St. Paul's Op Shop. Items of clothing, bric-a-brac, craft, and books can be left during open hours. Owing to regulations we cannot take electrical goods, baby cots and prams, mattresses or furniture. Due to COVID regulations the Op Shop cannot accept toys at this time. It would be appreciated if goods were not left near the fence as items left in the open may be damaged by the weather and become unusable. They can also be too heavy for the staff to carry. Thank you for your donations.

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# A RELAXING OPPORTUNITY

The Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club provides an opportunity for retirees or semi-retired people to relax and enjoy the welcoming company of those at the same stage of life.

Our monthly meeting (4th Thursday of the month) is a chance to catch-up with new and old friends and hear interesting speakers on a wide variety of topics.

The next meeting of the Romsey Lancefield Probus Club is on Thursday 26th August 2021 at 10am in the St. Mary's Catholic Church Hall, Main Street, Romsey.

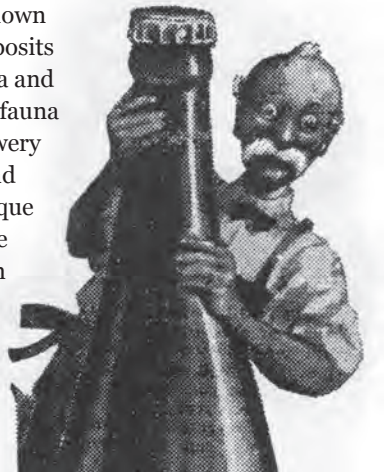
The Guest Speaker at this meeting, will be Author and Historian - Fay Woodhouse. Fay was going to speak at our June meeting but because of the COVID-19 lockdown that meeting had to be cancelled.

The Romsey-Lancefield Probus Club has 50 members with 35-40 attend our monthly meetings.

Contact: Vice President/Secretary: Tony 0408 536 290 www.rlprobus.org.au

# LANCEFIELDS BREWERY MOVING AHEAD

The Macedon Ranges' growing reputation as a destination for artisan food and drinks will be enhanced with a new craft brewery planned for Lancefield, helped by an investment from the Victorian Government. Minister for Regional Development and Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas has confirmed that the Lost Watering Hole would be developed with support from the Victorian Government's Regional Jobs Fund, creating 15 new jobs. The project is a first for Lancefield which is known for having one of the richest deposits of megafauna fossils in Australia and each year hosts an annual megafauna festival, called Extinct. The brewery aims to build on this tourism and paleontological appeal with unique branding that pays tribute to the region's rich history. In addition to brewing its own premium range of preservative-free craft beers, the brewery will also sell beers from the Port Campbell-based Sow and Piglets range.

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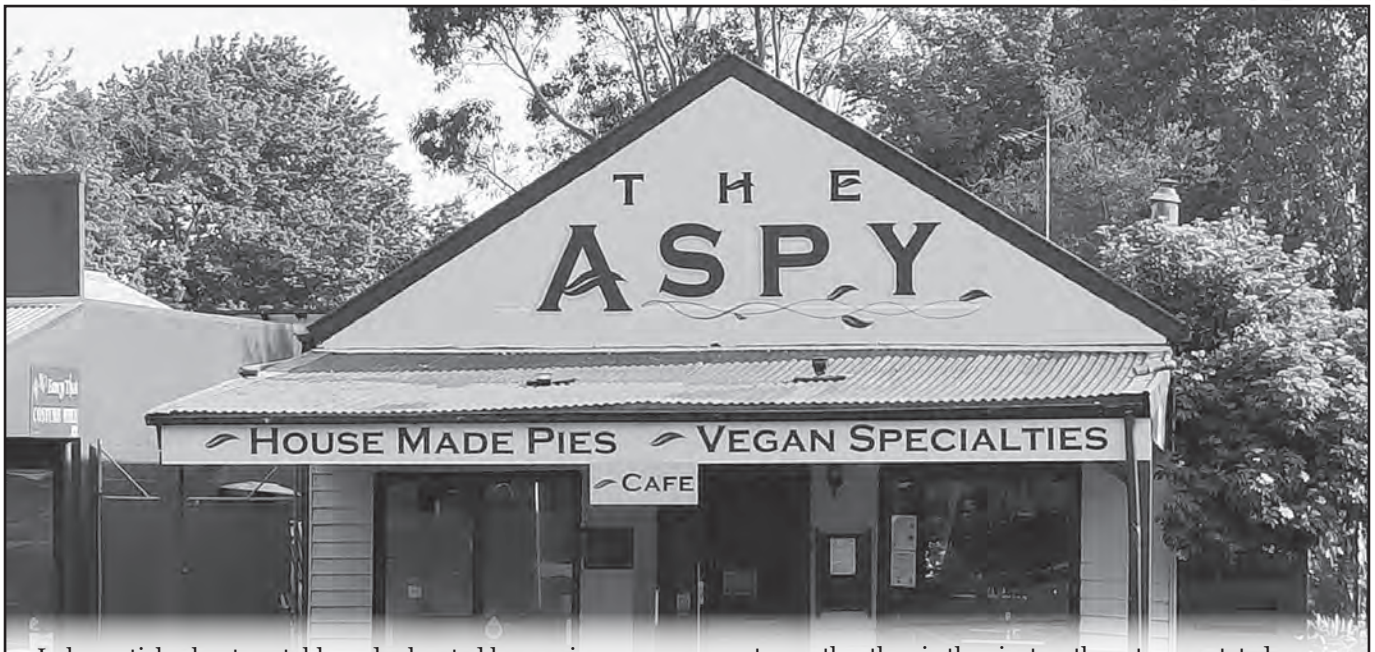


In her article about portable and relocated houses in the July edition of the Mercury, Fay Woodhouse both asked for corrections and made an error! Someone didn't hesitate to tell Fay, in no uncertain terms, that she had made a mistake – perhaps a little too aggressively for the level of the crime.

On the back page of this edition of the Mercury there is a photo of the Derrick building being transported to its present location in High Street. It indeed happened in the twentieth century rather than in the nineteenth century as stated.

The building that is now the Aspy was originally an ironmongers, built by Joseph Beasley and Sidney Derrick, on the western corner of Dunsford and Raglan Streets. It replaced a large well built timber building which was used as a hall, courthouse, Mechanics Institute, Catholic Church, music school and many social activities (source is 'From Sublime Solitude' by Dorothy Viney and edited by Greg Powell).

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COMMUNITY BANK CONNECTIONS

# A GOOD INVESTMENT

In July we farewelled Vicky Hillyer from our Romsey Branch after three years of service. Vicky has been appointed as a Personal Banker with Bendigo Bank corporate branch in Sunbury. We thank Vicky for her wonderful contribution to our team and wish her every success in her new role.

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM ROUND 1

We are pleased to announce that applications for our Community Investment Program 2021/2022 are now open.

Our Community Investment Program (CIP) comprises both grants and sponsorships funding, and over the past twenty years of Community Bank operations, we have given over $2 million back to the local community! Applications can be submitted online through Bendigo Bank's philanthropic partner, the Community Enterprise Foundation (communityenterprisefoundation.com.au).

Make sure your organisation is registered to receive our CIP information and program updates – send your name, organisation, and email address to cip@lrcfsl.com

Applications Will Close On The 23 August 2021. Late Applications Will Not Be Considered.

## RECENTLY COMPLETED CIP PROJECTS

**Lancefield Cricket Club** – Community Seating – Users of Lancefield Park will now be able to enjoy permanent outdoor seating alongside the oval near the Cricket clubrooms. A grant of $1,765 was provided to LCC to engage the Lancefield Men's Shed to build some picnic tables. Cr Bill West said: "This is a tremendous example of the community working together to enhance Lancefield Park, for the use of both locals and visitors alike. Full marks to the Lancefield Cricket Club, Lancefield Men's Shed, and the Lancefield Community Bank for this very practical initiative."

L**ancefield Football Netball Club** – Netball Uniforms – Community Bank Lancefield is proud to again sponsor the netball uniforms for the Lancefield Tigers to the value of

$5,000. The new design looks fabulous! Community Bank director Graeme Kelly, and Customer Relationship Manager Leanne Showler were there for the first game of the season. Good luck for the remainder of the season Tigers!

**One Voice – Food Truck** – Keep an eye out for the One Voice Food Truck now serving delicious meals in and around Romsey and Lancefield. One Voice provides practical and social initiatives to at risk youth in the local area. As part of the 2020/21 Community Investment Program, One Voice have received a grant of $55,000 to initiate a social enterprise utilising the One Voice Food Truck. The Food Truck will visit local towns on specific nights to offer take away meals, providing the opportunity for participants in the Elevate Youth Project to develop their skills in hospitality, communication, and business management.

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**DEEP CREEK LANDCARE GROUP**
Covering Lancefield – Romsey and Monegeeta Districts

# BEAUTY LIES IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER

It is often said that beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder. Lakes Entrance or Lake Eildon? Scomo's short back and sides or Boris' rather shaggy look? The backyard where the grass is trimmed to 2.5 cm each week along with the compulsory edging (hi dad!) or a more natural landscape?

Of course, in looking after our little patch of land, beauty is only one aspect of the equation to be considered. In the Macedon ranges we need to also consider local and state government laws and bushfire risk as well as the way we use the land and how much space we have to play with.

In Victoria, native vegetation removal is regulated through the state and local planning system. We will generally need a permit to remove, lop, prune, or destroy native vegetation. The genesis of these laws is the benefits of native vegetation to the ecosystem and the knowledge that more than 83% of Victoria's woodlands have already been lost!

In this context most of us will think of large trees. They provide habitat and food for insects, birds, and an array of small critters. Older trees with hollows are especially important as they provide vital habitat for 17% of birds, 42 % of mammals and 28 % of reptiles. Kookaburras, owls, parrots, tree creepers, gliders, phascogales, antechinus, bats, and many others in the local area require hollows to breed. Even when they topple in storms the hollows, cracks and bark still provide valuable food and habitat, even if we need to relocate them to a more suitable location.

I recognize that "tidying up" of bush-blocks through raking, removal of fallen logs and mowing of native understory is carried out primarily for aesthetic reasons and the desire to lower bushfire risk. However, these activities reduce opportunities for natural regeneration and for fungi and micro-organisms to establish, impacting insect populations and soil moisture levels which has flow on effects up the food chain.

In the dry eucalypt forest near Lancefield, the rare Common Dunnart relies on fallen timber, both for protection and as a rich source of food. Removing too much timber from the ground makes their lives difficult, and in many places has likely led to their disappearance.

If we want birds to visit our backyards, flowering plants that provide nectar are only part of the solution. What about the insect and seed eaters? A bit of observation will help here. We will often see LBBs (Little Brown Birds) such as wrens and thornbills flitting around searching for food -often very close to the ground but note that they limit their time exposed out in the open. They like cover…longer grass, bushes, low branching trees and fallen branches. Frogs are another animal that is under threat and would appreciate the minimalist approach as they too like the cover provided by rocks, logs, bushes, and longer grass.

In summary, private landholders play a vital role in protecting the biodiversity of the Macedon Ranges, so, if we can leave some of our patch to basically look after itself it will be greatly appreciated, and we will be rewarded each time that we take the time to look and listen.

Annual 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.

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VICTORIAN SERRATED TUSSOCK WORKING PARTY

# MANAGING SERRATED TUSSOCK IN WINTER

Serrated tussock has infested over 250,000 hectares of land in Victoria and has caused great damage to agriculture and native grasslands. Now is a good time to inspect your property for serrated tussock, with increased plant visibility due to frost bleaching. In frost prone areas, the tussocks are bleached a golden yellow to white colour by frost during late autumn and winter. Serrated tussock has a white leaf base, while the tips of old leaves often have a bleached tip.

The change in colour makes the plants easier to spot in a paddock, making now a good time to do a survey of your land. The recent rains and autumn break in some parts of Victoria has been good for crops, but unfortunately, also good for the growth of serrated tussock. Controlling serrated tussock before the plant goes to seed is critical to prevent further spread, lost productivity and increased control requirements.

Serrated tussock (Nassella trichotoma) is a long-lived perennial that can invade poor soils and survive fire, drought, and frost. It reduces the productivity of pasture and can create a fire hazard. Its fibre content is so high that stock are unable to digest it. Seeds are spread by the wind, machinery, water and animals. The seed remains viable in the soil for more than 10 years and can dominate if there is no competition from other pasture species.

Depending on the size of the infestation plants can be removed manually using a hoe or spade, or spot-sprayed using a registered herbicide. Small seedlings recently germinated will appear bright green until they are bleached by frost and will be erect and stand out from the other grasses in a pasture. The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) has a host of information on treatment options and case studies, including videos and information sheets that can be posted or emailed to landowners. The VSTWP has developed an online video and information sheets to help landowners identify the noxious weed, which can be viewed at www.serratedtussock.com.

"We are asking landowners to conduct assessments of their properties before Spring, when the grass starts to flower. Serrated tussock flowerheads develop a distinctive purple colour as the seeds ripen in late spring and early summer. During winter you will be able to see the plants easily when they are bleached a lighter colour," said VSTWP Community Engagement Officer, Ivan Carter. "Serrated tussock is a costly weed to have on your property, especially when it becomes established. It is best to check your property for new infestations and treat plants every season before seeding. A mature serrated tussock plant can produce thousands of seeds in a season, blowing up to 20 kilometres from the parent plant."

For further information, please visit www.serratedtussock.com, or contact the VSTWP on info@serratedtussock.com

Ivan Carter, VSTWP
Communication Officer, 0422 605 953

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# FREE SOLAR ADVICE

As our community recovers from the storm damage and drops into some extremely low temperatures during winter, many have been thinking about the use of solar and household batteries as an alternative to petrol/diesel generators and improving the thermal qualities of homes in a sustainable way. So here is an opportunity to ask those questions - what technologies would work for my home? What are the costs/benefits? Where can I find a list of potential suppliers?

Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group is paving the way for a sustainable future with a new partnership with the Australian Energy Foundation, offering free energy advice and access to trusted solar suppliers. Macedon Ranges residents will receive complimentary advice on PV solar systems and energy efficiency, as well as an opportunity to purchase solar and battery storage systems through carefully selected and vetted suppliers. The Macedon Ranges Shire Council has supported this project through last year's annual Community Funding Scheme.

Take advantage of a free 20-minute phone consultation for tailored independent advice on energy efficiency in your home. All residents can call the Australian Energy Foundation and book a consult on 1300 23 68 55 or visit mrsg.org.au/home-energy-advice. The group had advisors in-person at the

Lancefield Farmers Market on the 28th August.

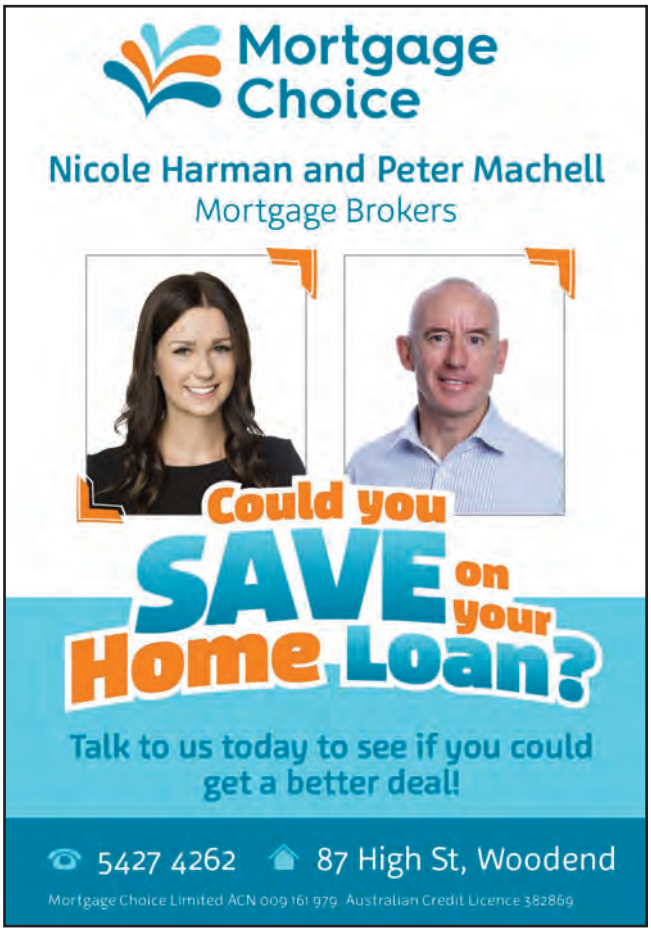
Since launching their Energy Advice Service in 2013, the Australian Energy Foundation has supported 27,000 households with energy advice and abated 372,000 tonnes of emissions.

As the nation's leading energy organisation, Australian Energy Foundation works with homes, businesses and all levels of government (including local councils) to tackle the climate emergency and to accelerate the transition to an equitable zero carbon society.

The Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation focussing on projects, events, and practical activities that promote sustainable living in our Shire. Use their web page: https://mrsg.org.au/home-energy-advice to book for free advice.

## SOLAR HOMES) INFO SESSION

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council is supporting an information session on 5 August in the Mechanics Institute in Lancefield, organised by More Australian Solar Homes (MASH), the community solar and battery storage bulk buying scheme. For more information about MASH or to register to attend the information session, visit https://mash.org.au/info-meetings-winter-2021/



James Sumarac,
Master Michiro Noguchi,
Kevin Vivian

# MARTIAL ARTS IN THE MACEDON RANGES

Did you know that we have a martial arts dojo (literally "learning place") in Lancefield?

Did you know that Traditional Chinese Medicine is the umbrella term for five elements to re-establish harmony in the body: acupuncture; massage and moxa; diet; herbal medicine; and medical gymnastics, which is the karate, tai chi and their variants area that brought me to meet James and Shou Mei Sumarac, and Kevin Vivian.

We met in the dojo itself. Its design based on a traditional Shaolin temple, Wu Lin Retreat houses the martial and healing arts centre founded by James and Shou Mei. Shou Mei was the design mind behind this lovely, tranquil place, using Feng Shui principles, so when they were looking for the right location, a disused football field, with a mountain at the back - for protection - and a view of the far distance to the front – seeing well into the future – was perfect. A traditional Taiwanese farmhouse was the inspiration, and here there are two courtyards, front and back. The original design would have had three courtyards, but the invention of washing machines means the third (laundry) courtyard is redundant here!

Here you can learn Karate and Tai Chi, and even come on a retreat away from the daily routines and distractions. Tai Chi classes run here, in school terms (when there's no lockdown!) and James offers special courses, such as the women's defensive self-empowerment weekend on August 14-15, to instil confidence and fitness, and give strategies for dealing with sudden situations that might need defusing safely.

James is also offering an intensive in the classical Chen 13 Tai Chi style form on September 18-19. This course "provides the foundation for subtle methods of biomechanics with precise instruction from the mind."

James started studying karate because he was bullied as a migrant kid. At 19 he went to Japan for 14 months, then to Europe, then came back to Australia and began teaching at 21. His day job was Plumbing Inspector for the Board of Works, where he spent 14 years before in 1983 deciding to become a professional martial arts teacher only when he had acquired 200 students and was able to support his family, which included five children by then. He has been teaching ever since.

Along the way he achieved a Diploma in Acupuncture and Chinese massage, and is now a Doctor of Traditional Oriental Medicine. He is the principal for Australasia of Go Ju Kensha, which has schools in Switzerland, France, Germany and Rumania, amongst others.

Kevin Vivian, the other martial arts practitioner I met at Wu Lin, has a dojo in Kyneton, with seven students currently. He came to this way of life by a very different route – as a teenager with two strong older brothers he needed to be able to stand up for himself. Then, as a fourteen-year-old teenager, was inspired by the Bruce Lee phenomenon. During the first year of his apprenticeship as a chef, whilst working at Pickwick, the exclusive French restaurant in Melbourne, he discovered yoga at the Gita School, and was enthralled by Wings of Power, Margrit Segesmans's book about its founding. Tai chi classes were too expensive for a boy on $42 / week, but when he moved jobs to the RACV Club he kept fit running around the Tan with the Club's Italian chef, (who held a black belt in Goju Kai) and kindly showed Kevin some Karate techniques. (Go – hard, Ju – soft, Kai – association). The practice of karate that originates in Okinawa, saw twelve years of karate practice and dedication follow for Kevin.

At 34, he moved with his wife and two daughters to Wangaratta, where he had to complete a degree with Charles Sturt University via distance ed, so he could qualify as a Vocational Education and Training teacher for TAFE NSW. This is where Kevin found his passion for teaching.

At 40 years of age Kevin completed his degree, and his Black Belt while a member of the Wangaratta Goju Kai Karate dojo; during a fifteen-day visit to Japan, Kevin did a 5-day intensive at the Goju Kai headquarters in Tokyo. Kevin now holds a 3rd Degree Black Belt in Goju Kensha; Internal Martial Arts Instructor Diploma, trained extensively in Japan and Taiwan, and is a 7th generation instructor from a direct lineage of Traditional Goju Kensha Karate. Goju Ryu Kakurin Kan has been established in Australia since 1974 and has direct links to Japan through Master Michiro Noguchi. (pictured)

In 2006, while still in Wangaratta, Kevin saw the Getaway program on TV featuring Wu Lin and, moving back to Melbourne in 2013, looked up the Wu Lin Martial and Healing Arts Centre and contacted James. Kevin has been studying Goju Kensha Kakurin Kan Karate and Tai Chi under James and Shou Mei for the past seven years.

Kevin's karate classes run each Wednesday night in school term, at 6.30pm, at the Kyneton Community and Learning Centre, 34 Mollison Street – "just past the IGA and round the back." Sensei (Instructor) Kevin says there is a wide range of age groups and students are encouraged to learn at their own pace, and his first group of Blue Belts are graduating this month.

While Traditional Karate provides self-defense skills and attributes, there are many other benefits that see students improve their physical fitness and self-confidence in a professional, caring and respectful environment…next term we'll introduce more Chinese Internal practices including Qi Gong and Tai Chi which actively promote better health and well-being." As part of this focus, students can opt to train at the International Headquarters at Wu Lin Retreat - Lancefield.

Throughout our conversation we kept coming back to the ethos of martial arts. Karate translates as kara – empty, te – hand; the implication being that all you need is your mind and body to protect yourself and those who need it. Qi (pronounced Chi) Gong is a more passive breath meditation practice, "to keep multi-dimensional beings in balance", qi (chi) being the word for life force/breath. Tai chi is more active.

Formality and ritual is a hallmark of these practices. The atmosphere in a class is friendly with no displays of ego. "The ego is addressed through etiquette." I like that.

Beth Child

# PLANET GAGA

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health's WayOut team is hosting a morning of games and activities for non-binary, transgender and gender diverse children and their parents and carers. 'Planet GAGA', aimed at primary school aged children, will offer an opportunity for people from across the Macedon Ranges to connect and have some fun.

"For a long time now, we have realised that there is the need for a local group for young children who are gender diverse or gender questioning," says Mez Lanigan, from WayOut. "Planet GAGA - Gender Affirming Games and Activities – will be safe, welcoming and inclusive and we hope to make it a regular event."

WayOut has been running in the Macedon Ranges for nearly 20 years and provides a range of services and support for LGBTIQA+ young people and their families, as well as education and training for professionals including teachers, healthcare workers, youth services and community organisations.

The event takes place on Saturday 14 August from 10am to 12 noon at 3 Hoyle Court Kyneton. This event is aimed at children aged 6 to 11, but you are encouraged to get in contact if you are interested and your child is older or younger.

Call WayOut on 5421 1666 or email healthpromotion@scchc.org.au.

# ROLL UP SLEEVES FOR **CFA** AS **BLOOD COLLECTION** POPS UP

Victorians have been urged to roll up their sleeves to save a lives and support CFA's bid to win the 2021 Emergency Services Blood Challenge when Lifeblood donation site pops up in their respective areas this winter. The Challenge, held annually by Australian Red Cross Lifeblood from 1 June to 31 August, encourages friendly competition between emergency service workers to join their team and donate to win the challenge and, more importantly, save lives. Lifeblood has several blood donor centres across Victoria and also operates mobile donor pop-up sites. With 1258 blood and plasma donations during the 2020 challenge, CFA members came second to Victoria Police by only 59 donations and are keen to take out top honours this year. One in every three Australians will need blood or blood products in their lifetime, however only one in 30 Australians donate blood each year.

Whether you are a regular, lapsed, or first-time donor, there's never been a better time to donate as friends and family of CFA members – that's anyone in our communities! – can nominate to donate on behalf of Team CFA.

You can register to donate at lifeblood.com.au.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LANCEFIELD AND ROMSEY LIONS CLUB

# JENNY STILLMAN - OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Geoff Clarke, Angela Heywood, Jenny Stillman (award recipient), Les Saultry, Ged and Wendie Mclaughlin.

Recently the Lancefield and Romsey Lions' Ged McLaughlin and his team hijacked proceedings at the Romsey Region Business and Tourism Association (RRBATA) Annual Dinner at Glen Erin, to award a Lions community service award to Jenny Stillman. As Jenny is exceptionally good at avoiding being recognized for her massive community efforts the hijacking was totally justified.

The award acknowledged her tireless work on a wide range of community activities over many years.

Currently Jenny is the very active President and acting Secretary of Romsey and Region Business and Tourism Association (RRBATA), a committee member of Tourism Macedon Ranges with a focus on ensuring there is adequate recognition and support for the Romsey – Lancefield corridor of the Ranges, and much more.

RRBATA's primary task is to promote business and tourism in the Romsey region. Through her role Jenny is heavily involved in 'Xmas in Romsey', the promotion of the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival in our area (this year with the Progressive dinner being a major highlight), the upgrade of amenities and revegetation of Five Mile Creek, and in the recent past she has played key roles in the following major projects - the establishment and securing of funding for the Romsey EcoTherapy Park, the Romsey Streetscape upgrade (a major refurbishment of lighting and amenity in the area around Main Street, Romsey) and the Romsey 150th anniversary Gala Dinner.

In recognition of Jenny's community service, the Lions have donated funds to the Australian Lions Foundation which provides support to Lions Clubs throughout Australia to further their contributions to the community.

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# CURRENT MASS TIMES

## SUNDAY MASS

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

1st & 3rd Sundays of the month in Romsey, 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays of the month in Lancefield.

## SATURDAY HEALING MASS

The Healing Mass will be celebrated at 10am in Romsey on the 1st Saturday of each month.

## BAPTISMS

Baptisms are held at 2pm on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. Please contact the office for the next available date.

## SACRAMENTS

Due to Covid restrictions, children not attending St. Mary's School aren't able to join in with the Sacrament program run through the school this year; therefore, they will be celebrated privately during the Sunday Mass. Reconciliation and Eucharist are now closed but if you would like to book your child in for Confirmation, please contact the Secretary.

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

## MASS BOOKINGS

As Mass numbers are restricted at this time, attendance at Mass is by registration only. Please contact the Secretary at lancefield@cam.org.au or by phone on 5429 2130 to reserve your place at the next available Mass. Social distancing, hygiene protocols and QR code sign-in are all place at our churches. Please do not show up at Mass without a booking as you may be turned away. Thank you for your co-operation to keep our churches open.

## ENQUIRIES

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).

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ROMSEY LANCEFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS

# BUS (BOAT) TRIPS

Hopefully on our next bus trip on Wednesday August 4th we will be heading down to Sorrento, and across to Queenscliff on the ferry. Lunch will be at the Rosebud Hotel. We might need to rug up, but it is sure to be a great day out. We will depart from the Lancefield Post Office at 9am and pick up from the Romsey Mechanics Institute at 9.15am.

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

We will be having our roast meal, provided by Old Mates Café, during August 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 on this day, please contact us (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.

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# THE WOODEND BEE-FRIENDLY SOCIETY

The Woodend Bee-Friendly Society leadership team has been working behind the scenes to mitigate the disruption that COVID has caused to both our meeting schedule and our planned beekeeping courses to assist new beekeepers.

As Spring is approaching and we have many new and budding beekeepers keen to get started with bees, we will be conducting our "Beekeeping Basics Intensive Workshop" over the next 3 meetings *Free* for financial members of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group.

Each workshop will go for 2 hours and will be held in lieu of our normal 3rd Sunday of the month meeting at the earlier starting time of 2.30pm. There will be ample time for Q&A, and we encourage our more experienced beekeepers to attend as their guidance and insights will be invaluable!

This is a COVID-Safe event so registrations, for contract tracing, are essential please. On the 15 August 2021, 2.30PM - 4.30PM at the Woodend Neighbourhood House, Forest Street, Woodend (TBC pending COVID Restrictions). COST: Free for Members

# KYNETON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

After a 2-year absence, the Kyneton Horticultural Society will be eagerly hosting its annual spring flower show on Saturday 4th September from 1pm to 4pm and Sunday 5th September from 10am-4pm in the Watts pavilion, Showgrounds, Mollison Street, Kyneton. The popular flower show is one of Victoria's longest standing and is part of the Kyneton Daffodil Festival. Everyone is encouraged to enter the show. For more details about the show please visit the website closer to the date at www.khs1894.com The spring show will be held under the COVID-19 regulations operating at the time. There will be a plant stall and raffle. Entry is $5. Enquiries can be directed to President, Nicholas Scott on 0438 664 849.

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# HELPING RECOVER FROM STORMS

The Victorian Government continues to support local communities across Hepburn, Moorabool and the Macedon Ranges following the catastrophic storms that have caused widespread damage and power outages. To bolster recovery efforts being undertaken by locals on the ground, the Government will provide $8.2 million to 10 councils across areas significantly affected by the recent flood and storms. The Council Support Fund will ensure these councils have the recovery staff and expertise they need on the ground, helping them stand up dedicated local teams to coordinate and drive recovery efforts. The Fund is designed to boost recovery capabilities within councils so activities like impact assessment and community engagement can be undertaken by community members who live in and understand their local areas. It can be used to employ additional recovery staff, onboard specialist contractors and provide targeted training support to help local communities recover. The recent storms and floods have been devastating for Victorians.

A number of additional grants have also been established for affected households and businesses to get the necessary support during recovery. More than 556 payments have already been made to people under the Personal Hardship Assistance Program, totalling $634,000. For more information on assistance available, visit www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief/#financial_assistance.

# NEVER FORGET BIN DAY WITH THE NEW **MSRC WASTE APP**

Macedon Ranges Shire Council has launched a new app that will replace the current Loddon Mallee Waste Info App. Existing Loddon Mallee Waste Info App users will need to download the new MRSC Waste App.

The new app will enable people to quickly find the most up-to-date information on what bins go out on what night, and guides people on what should, and should not, go in each bin.

## FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Personalised bin collection calendar for residents, with optional reminders
- A-Z list of materials and images showing which bin to put materials in
- Further information, hints, and tips to help with waste management
- Information about Council's waste and recycling services and facilities, including contact details, opening times and maps
- ush notifications to advise people of changes to collection dates, as well as events and programs.

The app is available for both Apple and Android users. Download the App by searching MRSC Waste App or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/bin-days


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# BOOST FOR STORM RECOVERY EFFORTS

Council has welcomed the announcement of $55.5 million recovery funding from government to address urgent requests to help Victorian communities impacted by storm damage in June, including those in the Macedon Ranges Shire. Operations Crews responded to emergency callouts and supported the SES in the initial response. Since the event, Council officers have responded to hundreds of calls for on-site clean-up, other support or insurance and financial advice.

Local property owners can now register with Bushfire Recovery Victoria for funding of flood and storm clean-up operations on private properties across Victoria under jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. A link to register with BRV is available on Council's storm recovery webpage, mrsc.vic.gov.au/storm-recovery

Council has engaged specialist arborists and clean-up contractors to help assess storm damage and lead the clean-up and tree clearing efforts on roadside, parklands and to provide urgent access to private properties. The clean-up is expected to take at least the next 6 months. Officers are identifying sensitive conservation areas whilst gradually reducing the fire hazard.

## ACCESSING SUPPORT

If you are a resident or landowner in Macedon Ranges Shire and have been directly affected by recent damage, please visit Council's website for information updates on the support available. This includes how to register for the $55.5 million clean-up program delivered by Bushfire Recovery Victoria.

The website also provides general advice on tree removal, drainage, access, road closures and roadside wood collection, transfer stations and free tip vouchers for debris disposal. If you've been affected by this emergency, our relief and recovery staff will be on hand to speak with and help you with your basic needs via the Recovery Operations Centre on 5422 0237 Monday to Friday 8:30am-5pm or email recovery@mrsc.vic.gov.au

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# HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE DRAFT RURAL LAND USE STRATEGY

Macedon Ranges Shire Council invites the community to have their say on the proposed draft Rural Land Use Strategy between Monday 19 July and Monday 30 August. The draft Rural Land Use Strategy will help provide direction for the future use and development of land currently in the Farming Zone and Rural Conservation Zone to ensure the unique attributes of the land are protected.

Recommendations in the draft strategy are based on an analysis of the land, and the results of surveys previously conducted with residents and landholders. The Rural Land Use Strategy will ensure our important environment and conservation areas remain protected when considering plans for how rural land can be used or developed.

Have your say at mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay. If you would like to receive updates as the project progresses, register at mrsc.vic.gov.au/rural-land.

# HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL'S DRAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is encouraging residents and businesspeople to have their say on the draft Economic Development Strategy 2021-2031 between 25 June and 9 August.

The draft strategy was developed in consultation with the community and provides a vision for economic development, job creation, education and training and COVID-19 recovery in the Macedon Ranges over the next 10 years.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council encourages all residents and business operators to take this opportunity to give feedback between 28 June and 9 August. Input from all sectors of the business community and from all age groups from the broader community, is welcome.

There are several ways you can have your say:
Web: mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay
Phone: (03) 5422 0333
Email: strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au
Mail: PO Box 151 Kyneton Victoria 3444

GREATER WESTERN WATER

# A BRAND-NEW LOOK

The region's new water corporation, Greater Western Water (GWW), was launched last month with a brand-new look revealed at the special event held at the Sunbury office. The new water corporation follows long-term planning by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the former water authorities to best cater for population growth in the region and to deliver high quality, affordable water services.

The formation of GWW will save on costs and reduce household water bills into the future, with former Western Water customers also securing greater access to the Melbourne supply system. GWW will support and grow regional jobs, consolidating $1.5 billion of investment across the western region over five years to serve a fifth of Victoria's population.

Inaugural GWW Managing Director, Maree Lang, said that it was an honour to lead and serve the new organisation that spans such a wide region.

'We will use our size, and the full resources available to us, to continue to deliver the water quality and security, affordability, reliability and continuous supply our customers deserve. 'We are lucky to have a diligent and dedicated expert team and I look forward to supporting each one of them to produce their best for our customers.'

For more information, Visit Greater Western Water at gww.com.au or call 13 44 99.

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**PASTOR'S PARABLES**

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# EVERYONE HAS PROBLEMS

A mother who had lost her only son went to the man of religion in her village and said: "Is there anything you can give me to reduce the pain that I feel?" "Yes," he said. "There is a wonderful thing you can do. I want you to go and get me a mustard seed from a home that has no problems. Such a mustard seed can ward off all problems. When you find it, bring it to me and I will use it to relieve your pain."

So, the mother started out and came to a big mansion. Nothing could possibly be wrong here! She knocked on the door, told what she was looking for, and they answered, "You've come to the wrong house." And then they told her all their problems. As she was listening to their problems, she thought, "I know something about problems... Maybe I can help these people with theirs." So, she listened to them; and this helped people.

She kept on searching for her magic mustard seed. But no matter where she went, she could not find that seed. Everyone everywhere had some kind of troubles.

But she really did find the magic mustard seed, because in trying to help others solve their problems, she forgot all about her own. Philippians 2: 4 says: "Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."

This was the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Even though He was God, He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross and paid for *all our* sins so that whoever believes in Him and what He did for them, would be counted sinless by God the Father, and could have eternal life with Him in Heaven.

Have you received your passage to heaven through Jesus' selfless sacrifice for you?

When you do, you can't help but want to do the same for others.

If you think about spiritual things and would like reliable answers, please don't hesitate to contact us @ Encourage Church as we would love to help you on your journey in Life.

If you would like to find out more about having personal peace, you will be made most welcome to join us at one of our Sunday services or Fortnightly Life Groups. Please feel free to contact our Church office for further details.

Our aim is to Encourage one another to be all we can be, in Life and in God. If you would like to know more about faith in Jesus, please contact Pastor Marilyn or our Church office 5429 6327.

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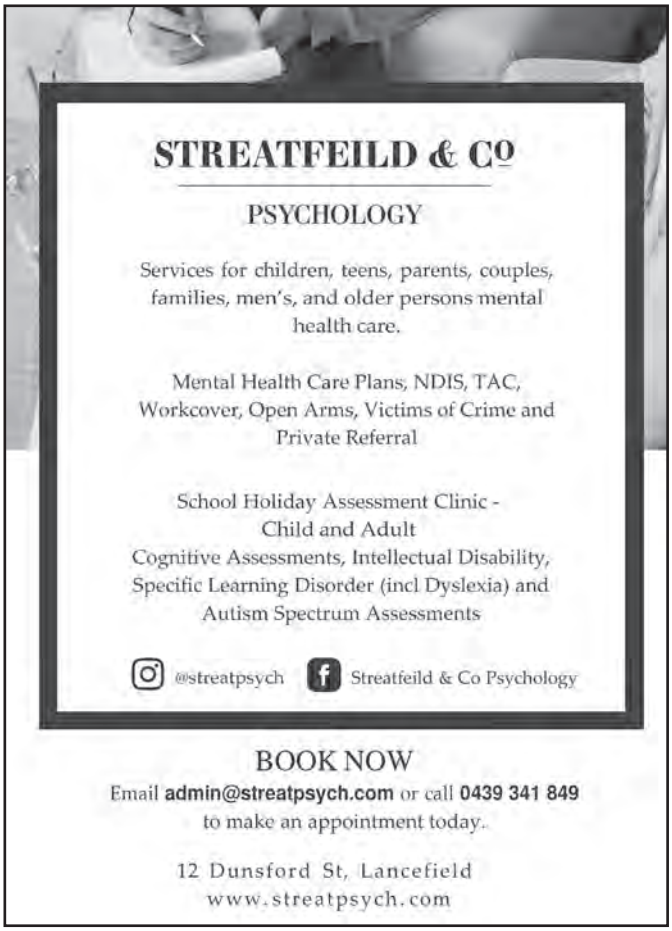

# KYNETON TOWN HALL PERFORMANCES THIS SEPTEMBER

There are some great shows coming to the Macedon Ranges in September! We're delighted to bring a range of acts, and you're sure to find something for everyone. Join us at the Kyneton Town Hall for one of these exceptional experiences.

For those who love passion-filled wicked comedy/drama then The Hunter. The Hunted is the perfect show. Desire can be wonderful, can drive you crazy and even get you killed. Think Frankenstein meets Downton Abbey, and everything in between. When: Saturday 11 September, 7pm.

For the music lovers, Daniel Champagne is a must-see. Daniel is an Australian-born Nashville-based musician and has been touring across Australia and New Zealand. Daniel has been selling out shows wherever he plays. Featuring songs from his five studio albums. When: Friday 17 September, 8pm.

Damien Leith brought the house down the last time he visited Kyneton Town Hall and this time he is teaming up with Darren Coggan in the Two of Us: The Songs of Lennon and McCartney. All the classics like Hey Jude, Let It Be, Here Comes the Sun and so many more! If you love The Beatles, then this will be the best sing-along of all time! When: Saturday 18 September, 7.30pm

Finally, our last KTH Kids for the year with Electronic Music Adventure these September School Holidays. This will get the kids off their phones and creating their own soundtrack. This workshop is a highly immersive and interactive creative music-making experience.

Participants will learn how to collect and manipulate sounds using intuitive apps on tablets. Tuesday 28, Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 September, 10am and 1.30pm sessions each day.

For all bookings phone 1300 888 802 or go to mrsc.vic.gov.au/arts-events

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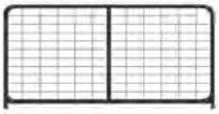

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# RENEWED ENERGY AND EXCITEMENT

Term 3 has begun, and all students have returned with a renewed energy and excitement for the term ahead. There's plenty of activities booked for the next 10 weeks, which include our Indigenous Week celebrations, Book Week, St Mary's Feast Day and the Yr 3/4 camp to name just a few. We look forward to sharing all our news over the coming months.

## STAFF VS STUDENTS NETBALL GAME

The day was cold and overcast. The new tradition of end-of-term netball games between teachers and grade 6 students came around quickly this time. I think the teachers have just put themselves back together after their last victory. With my avocado socks and butterflies in my stomach we lined up against our much more youthful opponents. Eye to eye, age was no barrier. The crowd became silent ..... Mrs Agius blew the whistle for the game to start. The competition was fierce, game faces were definitely in play. The interchange bench was well sought after for teachers and students...we all wanted to be a part of the action. Preps jumping up and down "go teachers" "go students' their little faces in awe of their idols. Too many best-on-ground players to mention. Rain finally put a stop to the game as it became more than just a drizzle. Unfortunately for the students, the teachers were once again victors! Thanks to all who participated in the game and those who cheered on the sidelines.

(Written by Amanda Stevens - staff member/netballer!)

## COBAW SPORTS

On Tuesday 22nd June, our Yr 5/6 's (and some Yr 4's) travelled to Romsey to compete in Cobaw Sports. They played softball, football, and netball. Netball had two sections, girls and mixed. It was a great day of competition for all, with wins, losses and even some draws! The weather was fine, and all students played well, displaying great teamwork and sportsmanship. Our mixed netball team came away winners of the flag at the end of the day, a fantastic effort! They will now go on to Bendigo to compete in the next round. Congratulations to all students for their participation and representation of St Mary's, a great job by all.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to Michael Brown who has been competing in the school's Cross-Country meets. Michael recently ran in the Regionals at St Arnauds (11-year-old boys), coming in fourth after an amazing effort. He will now move through to the State Cross Country, and we wish him all the best and know that he will make St Mary's proud.

## LUNCHTIME CLUBS

It has been great to see students consistently turning up to clubs each day throughout Term 2 to enjoy the company of other students from across the school. Currently our Clubs are as follows; Monday - Craft/Knitting, Tuesday - Dance, Wednesday - Games/Puzzles, Thursday - Digitech and Friday - Gardening. There is great banter that goes on during clubs and we have lots of fun. In craft we are currently decorating the letters to make a 'Craft Club' sign and we look forward to Knitting (with the ladies from CWA) returning in Term 3. During dance, the students have mastered the Nutbush and Heel & Toe Polka whilst thoroughly enjoying the Hokey Pokey.

Games and puzzles have been great fun to watch as students bring a puzzle to life or twist their bodies into strange shapes to master the game of Twister! Students are learning many new skills in Digitech, they could certainly teach me a thing or two! Unfortunately, gardening was put on hold at the end of Term 2 due to COVID restrictions, but we can't wait for its return in Term 3. Clubs have been great for students to have choices during breaks and to mix with students from across the school. Friendships have been formed and new skills learnt.

We look forward to more of this fun in Term 3 and are always open to student suggestions for any new clubs they might like to see as the year progresses.

## PARENTS & FRIENDS STUDENT GRANTS

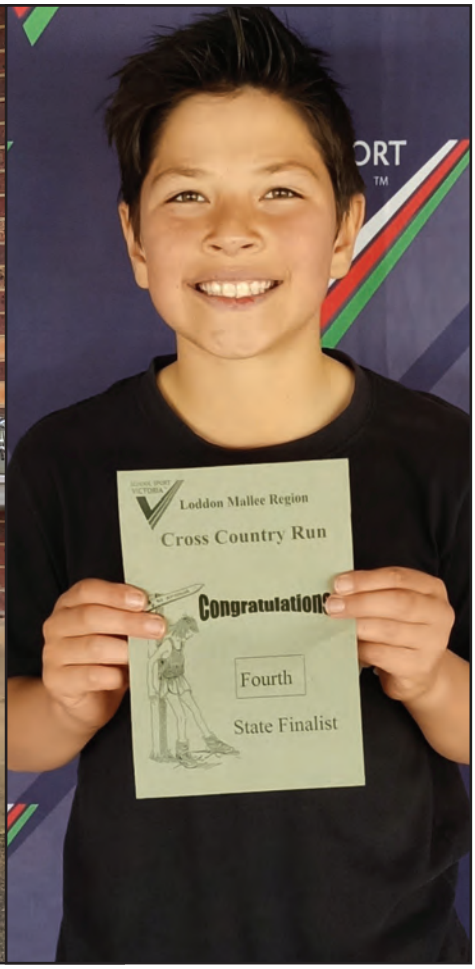
Our Parents & Friends Association runs an annual Grants Award for students which gives them the opportunity to apply for funding up to the amount of $500 for projects, activities or equipment they would like to see at school. The closing deadline for applications was in the last week of term, with the winners announced at the final school assembly for Term 2. There were some fabulous applications, and we congratulate all students for taking the time to apply. The winners are:

**Top Award**, Paddy McCarthy - Fence Extension ($250)

**Additional Awards**, Anna Newnham - Junior Netball Ring Installation ($50), Mohammad Khalil, James Collins, Jake Smith & Ethan Jansz - Beyblade stadiums x 3 ($50), Matilda Brown - Canvas Painting ($50), Jada Johnson, Isabelle Ellul, Holly Alderton & Lyla Brown - Garden Club ($100)

A huge thank you goes to the Parents and Friends for giving students this wonderful opportunity.

Jo Shannon (Community Liaison Leader)

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