

Lancefield Mercury



You don't need me to tell you what sort of year it was: unique to us, but not unique if you were alive in the 1920s or further back in the time when the plague killed one third of the population of Europe, London lost 15% of its inhabitants and also suffered from the Great Fire.

The local community here in Lancefield, led by the Lancefield Community House staff and volunteers, have rallied and provided great support to our residents. Hopefully, there will no more major setbacks as we move into 2021.

Since the first shutdowns in March, it has been fantastic to see that we have still been able to fill the pages of the Mercury, with the support of our advertisers and all the people who have sent in articles over the year. The commercial local papers are struggling but the true local community papers are strong, and they fill an even more important role as we lose other sources of information.

And what of the future? It seems to me that we have been given a chance to recalibrate our lives, our community and our future. We can all see an alternative future and that future was the past year – less travel for work and holidays, less consumption, more time for family, more time to think. We have reduced our carbon emissions, pollution and use of

resources. We can see a path to a long term future where it is possible to become carbon neutral – we just have to keep doing the things that we have done in the past year. Our politicians must stand strong and see the big picture. Jobs are important but they must not be jobs which sentence the next generations to a hotter and hotter world. A job in the solar energy industry, rather than a coal mine, is a better job for our future; we must re-invent our world here and now. A job in the solar industry is not the same as a job in a coal mine. Our politicians must look at 2050 and not just the next election. Changing coal for gas is not what our world needs. Decisions taken by our Governments and by all of us individually, as we come out of the COVID period, are crucial to our survival.

On that note, I am looking forward to the New Year; it is our big chance to take charge of the future! The Lancefield Mercury is entering the fourth decade since its rebirth in 1991.

Once again Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all at the Lancefield Mercury. The Mercury gets a month off for good behaviour – it will be back in your letter boxes in the first week of February!

Andy Moore



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WERE IRISH EYES SMILING AT THE SHAMROCK?

The former Shamrock Hotel was constructed in 1880 by Maurice Casey. It is a parapeted and cemented hall with shallow gable entablature rising above the main parapet and has a gabled timber porch with a shamrock added in the gable.

In 1888 Casey transferred the license to Richard Barrows, built the cottage next door to the hotel and is thought to have retired there. Barrows (or Burrows, advertisements and newspaper articles differ on the spelling) the new licensee, advertised in the Lancefield Mercury that he had taken possession of the 'well-known Shamrock Hotel', and that it had been 'thoroughly renovated and comforts refurnished as to meet the requirements of all classes'. Barrows' advertisement highlighted the fact that he stocked a range of ales, wines and spirits. The year after becoming licensee, Barrows' novel idea for Christmas celebrations was publicised. The Novel Art Union was to be a collection of festive food: 'Christmas delicacies, turkeys, geese, fowls etc. There are to be 200 members, and each one has a chance of obtaining the principal requisites for a really good blow-out at Christmas time'. Although not uncommon in 'the old country', this was the first time the celebration was to be held in Lancefield and districts. Sadly, further comment in the newspapers on Mr Barrows' Art Union has not been located. It is unclear from the records how long Barrows retained the hotel, although in 1897 Thomas Griffin is noted as licensee of the Shamrock Hotel; other records reveal that the license cost £60. He was followed by Miss M Bennett who continued the tradition of announcing her arrival as licensee and reminded readers that the Hotel was offering 'first class accommodation, best brands of wines, ales and spirits'.

An advertisement in the Mercury dated January 1905 for the Commercial Hotel (later the quarantine hospital then the Bush Hospital) states that Mrs. H. Sullivan was for many years the licensee of the Shamrock Hotel. In 1905 the Lancefield Mercury announced once again that the Shamrock was 'Under New Management'.

In 1970, the Kyneton Guardian highlighted the fact that the Shamrock Hotel had closed, commenting that 'With the recent closure of the historic Shamrock Hotel in High Street, competitive hotel trading in Lancefield came to an end'. The town, which in the past had a thriving hotel trade, had become a 'one pub town'. The Shamrock survived for over a century in Lancefield, providing service, accommodation and good cheer to many thousands of patrons. It closed on New Year's Eve 1970. The Guardian opined that 'the beginning of the end' came when the new sweeping reforms and changes in hotel standards were introduced throughout the state. The writer continued: 'Because the building is over a century old, it is believed the cost of providing all the requirements of the Licensing Board would have been prohibitive'. The last licensee of the Shamrock was Mr. A. E. Solomon, known simply as 'Sol' to his patrons.

The nature of the hotel business in Lancefield seems to indicate that hoteliers and licensees tried their hand at all of the hotels before moving from the town to try their luck further afield, or to retire in Lancefield.

Do you have stories about the last years of the Shamrock? Please let me know.

Fay Woodhouse

Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society



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KEEPING COVIDSAFE AT LANCEFIELD PARK

With many people now returning to using the Park and its facilities, the Lancefield Park Committee of Management wishes to help you keep COVIDSafe.

The following COVIDSafe Principles apply in the Park:

1. Ensure physical distancing is being kept – stay 1.5 metres apart.
2. Practise good hygiene - we encourage you to bring your own disinfectant wipes and hand sanitiser.
3. Avoid crowding in the one space - remember the 4 square metre rule.
4. Keep track of the people you are with at the Park - record for 28 days.

Shire Council staff and Victoria Police visit the Park at various time during the day to monitor safety.

The Park is important to all of us so please respect the rules, consider others and enjoy your time at Lancefield Park.

Judy Stammers
Park Secretary

FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

Dear Resident,

This is just a short note to say thankyou for your support which has enabled us to be your representatives on the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. We are committed to providing you the level of service that you expect and deserve.

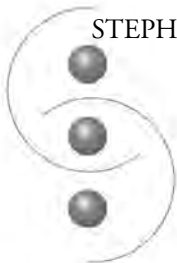
We would also like to pass on our good wishes and thoughts for the Christmas and New Year period. With COVID-19 restrictions easing, we pray that, once again, families and friends can enjoy the festive season together.

We are looking forward to working with you in 2021.

Till next time.

Annette Death 0427 596 117 adeath@mrsc.vic.gov.au
Bill West 0400 025 455 bwest@mrsc.vic.gov.au
Geoff Neil 0419 244 776 gneil@mrsc.vic.gov.au

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DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS MAN?

Randolph Hobson Pearce was born in Hobson's Bay in December 1852. The son of Shadrach and Emily Pearce of Oxfordshire, England, the family sailed to Victoria in August 1852 and were quarantined in Hobson's Bay in December before being allowed to disembark in later December.

Little is known about his family following their arrival. However, Shadrach worked as a shoemaker in Heidelberg, then Whittlesea and later in Seymour. Randolph took up his father's trade. After marrying Elizabeth Millar, the family moved to Kyneton in 1886. Following the death of his wife in 1903, it seems Randolph moved to Lancefield in 1909. His name appears on the Electoral Roll until 1928; he retired to Geelong in 1931 to live with his daughter and died there in 1938.

Do you recognise this man or his Lancefield shop?

Fay Woodhouse

Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society..



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CHRISTMAS CHEER IN LANCEFIELD

The decorations team have again been working hard to make sure Lancefield's Christmas spirit is strong in 2020. Enjoy the beautiful decorations, and thank you to the wonderful, creative and dedicated team who have put so much time and effort into bringing an abundance of special Christmas cheer to the town.

FARMERS MARKET - DECEMBER

The December Lancefield Farmers Market will be held on Saturday 19th of December (the 3rd Saturday instead of the regular 4th Saturday due to Christmas). Enjoy stocking up on fresh, local produce for your Christmas celebrations and gifts.

The Farmers Market needs some help – we are after some volunteers to help with putting out the traffic signs at the beginning of the market, also someone to help put them away at the end. There is also a range of small jobs to assist with the market, on market day and during the month. We would also like some new members for the Market Sub-Committee. Phone the House on 5429 1214 for more information.

THE TOWNHOUSE - CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

We have locally made goods for you to purchase; preserves, jams and organic herb salt, made with produce from the community garden, potted plants, cards, gifts, knitted goods, books, toys, animal coats and more. Proceeds are used to support the local community.

THANK YOU, ELIZA

A big shout out to Eliza. Thank you for all the time and effort you put into the Christmas ornaments fundraiser, it has been an astounding success. Your generosity is most appreciated.

SEED LIBRARY

Our Seed Library is up and running at The Townhouse - 28 High St. Come by and collect seeds to take home for your garden or donate some spare seeds from your garden for someone else to use. What's not to love about this initiative?

LANCEFIELD MERCURY INC.

A0045845D



MEMBER 2020

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
- Editorial Enquiries to Andy Moore 0430 448 120
- Advertising Enquiries to Ken Allender 0404 886 580.

Advertising Rates

- One eighth page \$35
- One quarter page \$55
- Half page \$100
- Full page \$165

Rates for one year – 11 editions (no edition in January)

- Annual 1/8 page \$280
- Annual 1/4 page \$360
- Annual 1/2 page \$650
- Annual full page \$1000

Colour Advertising:

- Full page \$240 per edition
- 1/2 page \$145 per edition
- 1/4 Quarter page \$80 per edition



LANCEFIELD ROMSEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Lancefield Romsey Community Support continues to provide assistance to our local residents. This includes meals and basic groceries which are available for collection from The Townhouse. We also provide assistance to those who would like to connect digitally with friends/family and the world, but don't know how. If you or someone you know could use a hand, get in touch - 0491 243 996, 5429 1214, communitysupplanrom@outlook.com or lancefield.org.au/lrcs/

THE COMMUNITY NURSERY

We have produce ready to be picked and used/eaten; please come by and enjoy fresh food at its best. We also have potted plants available to purchase at the front of The Townhouse on the cart; small \$2, medium \$3, large \$4 and x-large \$5, please pay inside The Townhouse during opening hours, or leave the money in the box on the cart after hours. The nursery is located at The Townhouse, 28 High Street.

BARREL GARDEN GROUP

Meeting every Wednesday at 28 High Street at 10am this group is to work on caring for the plant barrels along High Street – everyone welcome to come and join in.

ART IN THE PARK

Romsey Ecotherapy Park Inc invites you to help secure the inclusion of Romsey Ecotherapy Park's distinctive site-specific art installations inspired by nature as the next exciting stage in the Park's evolution is realised.

Renowned artists from our region and beyond have created concepts for sculptures that harness wind, sound, wood, stone and repurposed materials in sculptures that will be unique to Romsey Ecotherapy Park.

Generous support from State Government (Regional Development Victoria), Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Romsey and Bendigo Bank's Lancefield Community Bank branches will result in the critically important sensory gardens, ephemeral (seasonal) billabong, water play area and arts culture space commencing construction in 2021.

However, the Art in the Park is not fully funded. Your valued support will become part of the eastern corridor's heritage, leaving a legacy that matters to you, your family and the region. The COVID-19 era has highlighted the compelling importance of one's physical and mental health at all stages of life. Now is the time to consolidate Romsey Ecotherapy Park's regional significance as a truly nurturing and healing place in nature.

Walk with us to help put the Art in the Park!

For more information OR to make your tax deductible gift: www.romseyecotherapy.com.au
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FIVE WEEKS IN ALREADY!

At times throughout this year we weren't sure if we were going to get here, but here we are five weeks into the season! Thus far, the senior teams and U13s have been playing, but without points. Now that the Metro teams can train and play, the season proper starts 20.11.2020

We have seen a big influx of interest and players this season and have substantially increased our player capacity. We have three senior teams, four juniors and 21 Woolworths Blasters. The club is buzzing!

This is Lancefield Cricket Club's very first year with junior girls teams. Thank you to Emily Consiglio and Brianna Woodburn for your hard work and dedication in providing a varied and exciting training program for new and returning players. It's fantastic to see such enthusiasm and fun at training. Good luck for your first season!

Thank you to all of our committee, players, parents and sponsors for supporting us through an uncertain start to the season. We have worked hard to be a COVID Safe club and will continue with the Cricket Victoria guidelines throughout the season. We should be in for a ripper! Go Tigers!!

Please direct all enquiries to lancefieldcc@gmail.com and follow our Facebook page for updates



IT'S NOT "WHAT" YOU HAVE, BUT "WHO" YOU HAVE

The story of Christmas is a story of humility. A young, unmarried Jewish girl faced the prospect of being ostracized in her community. She was pregnant. Would her betrothed still consent to marry her? What would her family say? What would her friends say?

A census was commanded by Caesar Augustus for the little country. Each had to return to his ancestral home for the count. At nine months pregnant, Mary and

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her betrothed Joseph made the long arduous journey to Bethlehem. As they entered the little village, they longed for a place to lay their weary bodies. However, as they sought a room at an inn, there was none available – only a stable.

The entry of Mary's son into the world did not occur in a mansion with servants in attendance but in a place prepared for cows and donkeys. Her son did not have a soft feathered bed to greet him but a feeding trough. But this was not the end of the humiliation - a cross still lay in the future. Yet in the midst of the darkness there was the good news of light coming to a dark world.

The prophet Isaiah had proclaimed more than seven hundred years earlier: "To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'"

Mighty God? This carpenter from an obscure village in Galilee? This man with no earthly possessions? Who would believe it? Yet many have, and do, and will continue to believe in the One born and placed in a manger. As the Bible states of him: "...who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human

form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

This is the story of Christmas: God the Son (Jesus) coming down to earth as a little baby and taking on himself the sins of the world. Your sins and my sins. God Himself became a nobody so that we can all become somebodies. I hope you remember these things as we celebrate the reason for the season.

Our prayer is that through this year of difficulties and challenges, of isolation and restrictions, that you have come to understand it is not about "*what*" you have in your life. Rather it is about "*who*" you have in your life. This is the Christmas Message.

We pray that your loved ones will mean so much to you this Christmas, but even more than that, Jesus will have become the essential relationship in your life, and that relationship, will be valued by you for Eternity. May you all have a *very blessed and meaningful Christmas* with much love from all @ Encourage Church

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ENVISAGE A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE

Wednesday 25th November was the International Day for the elimination of violence against women and 10th December is Human Rights Day. The 16 days that began and end on these dates are recognised internationally as the '16 Days of Activism' to prevent violence against women.

During the 16 Days of Activism, people around the world unite to raise awareness of gender-based violence and call for improved laws to end violence against women and improved services to support women and children whose lives are impacted by violence.

This is not just an issue in other places and other nations. In Australia, on average, one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner and intimate partner violence is the leading cause of death, disability and illness in Australian women aged 18-44 years. Statistics prepared by Women's Health Loddon Mallee show that of the reported sexual offences against women in Macedon Ranges during 2019, the perpetrator was known to the victim in 73% of cases.

Recent revelations of a longstanding culture of bullying and harassment of women in Ambulance Victoria, evidenced

by the experience of Lancefield resident Donna Fabris, and the murder of Romsey woman Courtney Herron in 2019, bring the issue of violence against women to our own community.

To mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (25 November to 10 December) and as part of the Lancefield Romsey Stand Together Campaign, teachers at Lancefield Primary and



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Saint Mary's Primary Schools are taking a stand by sharing a photo of themselves in front of a banner stating their pledge. Jo Emond, Principal at Lancefield Primary School says, "Our students learn about gender equality through our participation in the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships program, which is designed to support students' social, emotional and positive relationship skills. We lead by example, working together in a considerate manner using respectful language and behaviours."

The Stand Together Campaign was initiated by a group of local residents participating in a community wellbeing project facilitated by Swinburne University and supported by Cobaw Community Health. Margaret McDonald, CEO at

Cobaw says, "As we reflect on how COVID has impacted lives it is important to understand that family violence incidents have increased in the last year and we continue to support any activity that results in the reduction of family violence that endangers the lives of women and children."

All community members are invited to participate by taking a photo of themselves holding a sign showing what they will do when it comes to promoting a more equal society free from violence. "Preventing family violence is a shared community responsibility and we need to be united, says Julie McDougall, Principal of St Mary's Primary School. "The school community is often the first place many families turn to during a time of need. We strive to live by our school's

anti-bullying message - We extend our hand and united take a stand."

The Lancefield Romsey Stand Together campaign will be promoted during the 16 Days of Activism and at the end of the campaign the photos will be publically displayed in both towns and published in the local paper and on social media. To submit your photo, email lauren.tyrrell@cobaw.org.au.



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A POST-WAR AND POST-PANDEMIC CHRISTMAS: LANCEFIELD IN 1920



After a thorough study of the four weekly copies of the Lancefield Mercury published in December 1920 and January 1921, I found very little mention of Christmas – a surprising result. Egg production, cattle and sheep sales, train cancellations and the business of the Lancefield Dairy appear to have been more noteworthy items of interest.

The Lancefield Fancy Goods Emporium advertised ‘Christmas Gifts for young and old’ each week. Placed at the top of each page and in a large display centred on the page, readers could not have missed the advertisement. In

1920 the Lancefield Fancy Goods Emporium, then owned by Miss House, was located at 27 High Street, now occupied by VicDraft.

The Lancefield Post Office advertised their arrangements for Christmas and New Year. They advised readers that Sunday arrangement would be observed on Christmas Day, Saturday 25 December and New Year’s Day, Saturday 1 January 1921 – that is, the Post Office would be closed. However, the Boxing Day closure was to be observed on the following Monday 27 December and the New Year’s Day

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COBAW COMMUNITY HEALTH

SING ALONG WITH MOTHER GOOSE

Cobaw Community Health is launching a new free song, rhyme and storytelling group that will be available online for parents, grandparents and anyone looking after young children.

Prior to the pandemic, Child and Parenting Worker, Deanne Brogan, was running the weekly Parent-Child Mother Goose program in Woodend and Romsey, but due to coronavirus restrictions the groups stopped meeting in person. "I have kept in contact with many of our families over the last few months via a private Facebook group, but I wanted to extend the joys of Mother Goose to new families," said Deanne. "Whilst we wait for restrictions to ease further, we thought it would be good to share some short pre-recorded sessions, where children and their carers can engage with each other through songs and rhymes."

There is no need to register. Anyone interested can click on the 'Family Goose Teasers' link that will be posted each Thursday on Cobaw's Facebook page and website. "The great thing about making these sessions accessible via our website and social media is that they can be viewed when it's convenient and parents and children can watch them over and over again.

Families can join at any time but we encourage you to start with the first video as we will build on the material in the sessions as we move along." As well as being a fun activity for pre-schoolers, the Parent-Child Mother Goose program enhances the bond between child and carer, connects families in the community and allows for the opportunity to share tips and ideas on parenting.

The use of songs, rhymes and stories can also have a positive impact on language and literacy development and school-readiness as children get older. Also available will be a fortnightly digital newsletter called the Wombat Weekly which will have links to fun and engaging activity ideas for children.

Cobaw also offers free parenting support and information for parents with children 0-12 years. Contact 5421 1666.



holiday would be observed Monday 3 January.

In the post-War atmosphere of 1920, returning soldiers were still being welcomed back to Lancefield and their War service enthusiastically celebrated at the Mechanics' Institute. The deaths of thirty or so Lancefield residents stood as constant reminders of the impact the Spanish Flu Pandemic had on the Lancefield community. After four long years of War, Australians were very happy the hostilities were over, yet remained war weary at the end of 1920. As we near the end of 2020, living through the COVID-19 Pandemic and the long Victorian lock-down, the parallels between events one hundred years apart bear a remarkable resemblance.

Fay Woodhouse
Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society

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GOD'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO US

Ding, ding go the cash registers; glitter, glitter the silver tinsel; glowingly the Christmas candles shine and resplendent the decorated Christmas tree stands in all its glory. These are the expressions of the worldly Christmas today!

Why all the fuss? What is being celebrated? Where are the angels? The worshipping shepherds? The humble manger with Joseph and Mary and the new born Child? All these life-changing events go unacknowledged in the secular society of today.

The Christian Church celebrates the coming into our world of Jesus Christ becoming one of us and taking our humanity into the God Head, in order to save us from eternal separation from God.

Jesus' name means Saviour and his other title - Emmanuel - means 'God with us' and so he left the glory of heaven to be born and grow as one of us and to eventually die on a cross for our sins. This mind-boggling message was delivered by an angel to the humble shepherds guarding their sheep that night on the hills around the little town of Bethlehem. They were terrified at his glorious appearance!

The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today, in the town of David, a saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a babe wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace to all on whom His favour rests." (Luke 2:13-14). So, they hurried off to Bethlehem and found it was just as the angel had told them; they knelt down and worshipped the Holy Child in the arms of Mary, with Joseph standing by in the lowly stable. (Luke 2:16).

So it is no wonder that Christmas is such a time of rejoicing for us! To know that Jesus has come to give us

new life in Him and by His death on the Cross our sin is forgiven as we put our faith and trust in Him, giving us the promise of eternal life in heaven.

"O may we keep and ponder in our mind, God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind:

Trace we the Babe who has retrieved our loss, From His poor manger to His bitter Cross,

Tread in His steps, Assisted by His grace, Till man's first heavenly state again takes place." J Byrom

Another year draws to its close, a year like no other - we grieve for those who have lost loved ones, a lifetime's work, jobs and relationships. We thank and praise God for His many blessings and for bringing us through this difficult year. We pray for our leaders that they may have his grace and wisdom in guiding us through the rebuilding in the months ahead.

PLEASE NOTE:

Our Op Shop shop is closed until further notice.

For our Christmas services 2020, refer to the church notice boards for service times.

The Rev Judi Pollard and all the members of the Anglican Parish of Lancefield and Romsey pray that all in our Community will enjoy a blest Christmas and Happy and Safe New Year 2021.

Any pastoral care needs may be directed to the Rev Judi Pollard on 0402 268 001

Parish Office 5429 1830.

Email: judepol@bigpond.net.au

This will be the last Anglican Parish News from me and I thank the Editorial teams of Romsey Rag and Lancefield Mercury for their assistance over many years.

Doreen Morgan Correspondent



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Do you have a bushfire survival plan?

Understanding your level of risk is the first step in developing your bushfire survival plan. Research shows that many people living in high-risk areas, threatened by bushfire will leave it too late to make critical decisions, often leaving them with very few safe options.

In high-risk areas, leaving early is your safest option, particularly on Code Red, Extreme and Severe fire danger days.

CONSIDER THINGS LIKE:

- Where will you go?
- What to pack in your emergency kit - does it include medicines, phone charger, pet or baby food?
- What about your animals?
Just like people, animals too can become extremely traumatised in the event of a disaster. Your plan should consider their welfare too.

TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE THIS SUMMER

Take the time to prepare now:

- Download the “Can I, Can’t I” brochure from the CFA website, visit: cfa.vic.gov.au to find out what you can and can’t do during the fire danger period.
- Prepare a bushfire survival plan using the Red Cross Rediplan template, visit: redcross.org.au/prepare
- Download the Vic Emergency app to your smartphone or tablet and use it to stay up to date with local Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans.

You can also find us on Facebook. Search for ‘Macedon Ranges Emergency Alerts’ and ‘like’ our page. Our page focuses on helping you to prepare for and respond to an emergency in your town or region. It does not replace official emergency alerts from the CFA, Victoria Police or SES.

Remember, being fire ready is everyone’s responsibility. Take the time to prepare yourself, your family, your animals and your property so we can all be safer this summer.

*The trouble is,
we all think we have time.*

It’s time to have the conversation with those you love about your funeral.

Complete the ‘Your Goodbye’ booklet to outline your wishes.

For your complimentary copy of the Your Goodbye and Your Story Booklets contact Kelly Scott at kelly@tjscottandson.com.au or phone 03 54226455

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VERY HAPPY AND EXCITED



This term we have been very happy and excited to welcome our new 2021 Preps. They have been participating in several transition sessions throughout term 4. Whilst we have had reduced group sizes and time for each session to ensure we follow COVID safe processes, we are ensuring that our newest students and their parents are well supported and prepared for their journey to school next year.

Our Experience-Based Learning program has really taken off this term, allowing our Prep and Year 1 students to participate in a hands-on, immersive and interactive play learning session twice a week. The activities really allow for students' imagination and creativity to flourish, whilst also providing great prompts for their writing tasks and maths understandings to develop through real life examples.

Last week the Prep class participated in a special online Webex with Western Water, learning all about the water cycle through yoga!

Our year 4s and 4/5s have been working with the fabulous Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program and have been preparing some amazing dishes from around the world (Indonesia, India, Mexico and Italy) as well as cooking indigenous dishes. Our school veggie garden is looking fabulous, with lots of produce being picked and cooked by students in our program.

We are supporting the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (25th November – 10th December). We see our role at LPS as so important in educating our students and promoting messages in support of gender equality, respectful relationships, and challenging attitudes condoning violence.





INTERVAL.....

By Karen Hunt – The Mount Players Inc.



We drew the curtains on that final scene
But little did any of us know
That when it ended & the stage swept clean
It would be this year's only show.

Our 2020 season promised patrons we'd delight
With drama, Shakespeare and song
But alas our hopes went out with the lights
This 'interval' has become painfully long.

A melodrama wasn't on this year's ticket
With such a plot never conceived
The star being a villain that is oh so wicked
We've boo'd & hissed like you'd never believe!


Our Youth Theatre with its lively buzz
of inspiring young actors who dream
Has not gathered here for many months
This Villain is cruel it would seem.

We've put down tools, we build no set
Our actors don't rehearse
Scripts on hold with lines unlearned
Our singers have no verse.

Our theatre ghosts must wonder what's wrong
Why the 'interval' does not end
They are missing the applause & encore of song
And long to share an audience again.



But rest assured, we'll be back in style
Our curtains and doors open wide
You'll be greeted with a sherry & welcoming smile
And we'll present you our shows with pride.

So stay strong & gather with family & friends
Enjoy the Christmas season with zest
We have so many plans for when this all ends
We'll get back to what we do best!



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Lancefield & Romsey
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Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services Limited is the management company of the Community Bank branches at Lancefield & Romsey. Following the retirement of long standing Board members, the Company is seeking interested residents to apply to join like-minded volunteers in this highly active community organisation.

The Community Bank is a major contributor to the amenity and financial wellbeing of our Romsey and Lancefield communities, and has distributed more than \$1.6 million in grants and sponsorships to local groups over the past 19 years.

The company is particularly seeking applicants with an understanding of the needs of the Lancefield and Romsey communities together with an appreciation of the impact of technology and online banking on customer engagement.

These roles may be of interest to persons who are either working or retired. Experience in corporate/financial affairs or business management is an advantage but not essential. The ability to invest your time and energy is a key attribute that we're looking for. Various training options are available for successful candidates.

The positions are voluntary and therefore a strong commitment to community affairs is essential. There is a minimum commitment of at least 10 hours per month, including a monthly Board meeting and participation in regular Board committees.

Expressions of interest, with a brief resume, should be addressed to the Company Secretary at PO Box 30, Lancefield, 3435 or emailed to info@lrcfsl.com.au by 31st December 2020.

*The staff & board of your Community Banks
Lancefield & Romsey wish all our customers and
the wider community a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy & Safe New Year.*





VALE TO A TIGER OF OLD

October saw the passing of the legendary number 9, veteran and Life Member, Jack Showler, aged 90 years.

Jack was a 5ft 6in tenacious rover who played more than 300 games, retiring in 1966 at the age of 36. From a football perspective Jack was absolutely fearless, taking on much bigger opponents ... fast and skilful, he truly reflected the Tiger spirit and gave 100%.


Teams were virtually all local content players in those days; Jack finished fifth in the Bowen Medal count (RDFL best and fairest) in 1957 and 1959, and he represented the RDFL in inter-league.

He was best afield in the very low-scoring victorious 1958 grand final against Sunbury, kicking two goals as well, and second best Tiger in the famous 1960 grand final when Heskett won its only premiership.

In later years, he moved to Melbourne and immersed himself in his hobby of crafting wooden clocks. He donated two to LFNC and one is still proudly displayed in the foyer of the Laurie Green Pavilion.

Condolences to Beverley, his wife of 61 years and his extended family, from all at Tigerland. March 10, 1930 – October 14, 2020





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Jack is holding the Shield



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To secure a unit for the lead up to Christmas & speak to us about pricing, please call us on 5429 6744 or come and see us at 11 Park Lane, Romsey.

So get storing, and Happy Holidays!



LET'S CELEBRATE OUR BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY



After a year that has been challenging for many, with all of us having to adapt to new protocols and rules, there appears to be light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel. Our region's businesses demonstrated an amazing capacity to adapt to the conditions foisted upon them whilst dealing with the inherent anxiety of not knowing what was to come. The community houses in Lancefield and Romsey assisted the more vulnerable members of our community, and governments at all levels made support available.

As the year draws to a close, Christmas in Romsey 2020 will this year be potentially an even more significant "brightener" of community spirit. Although the Community Carols will not be held, the Lights and Decorations Competition and Main Street Christmas Tree Display will go ahead.

Santa, Lights and Sparkles will take over the town on the evenings of Friday 11th and Saturday 12th of December. Santa will be "cruising" the residential streets in the early evenings. His "drive-by" schedule will be posted on RRBATA Facebook (Romsey Lancefield Business and Living) and Romsey Online (www.romsey.org.au).

On the same nights, Main Street landmarks will be beautifully illuminated with feature lighting, best viewed between 9pm and 10.30pm. Dress up in your favorite Christmas attire to enjoy the ambience of Christmas in Main Street Romsey. And enjoy some food truck snacks! Watch out for further information (Facebook, www.romsey.org.au) closer to the date.

RRBATA wishes the Romsey and Lancefield region's communities a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Prosperous New Year ahead in 2021.

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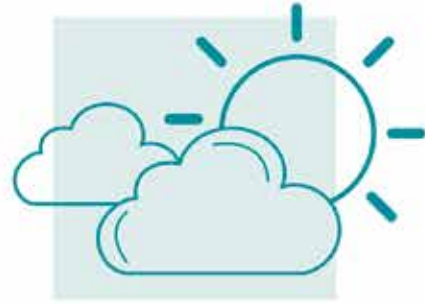


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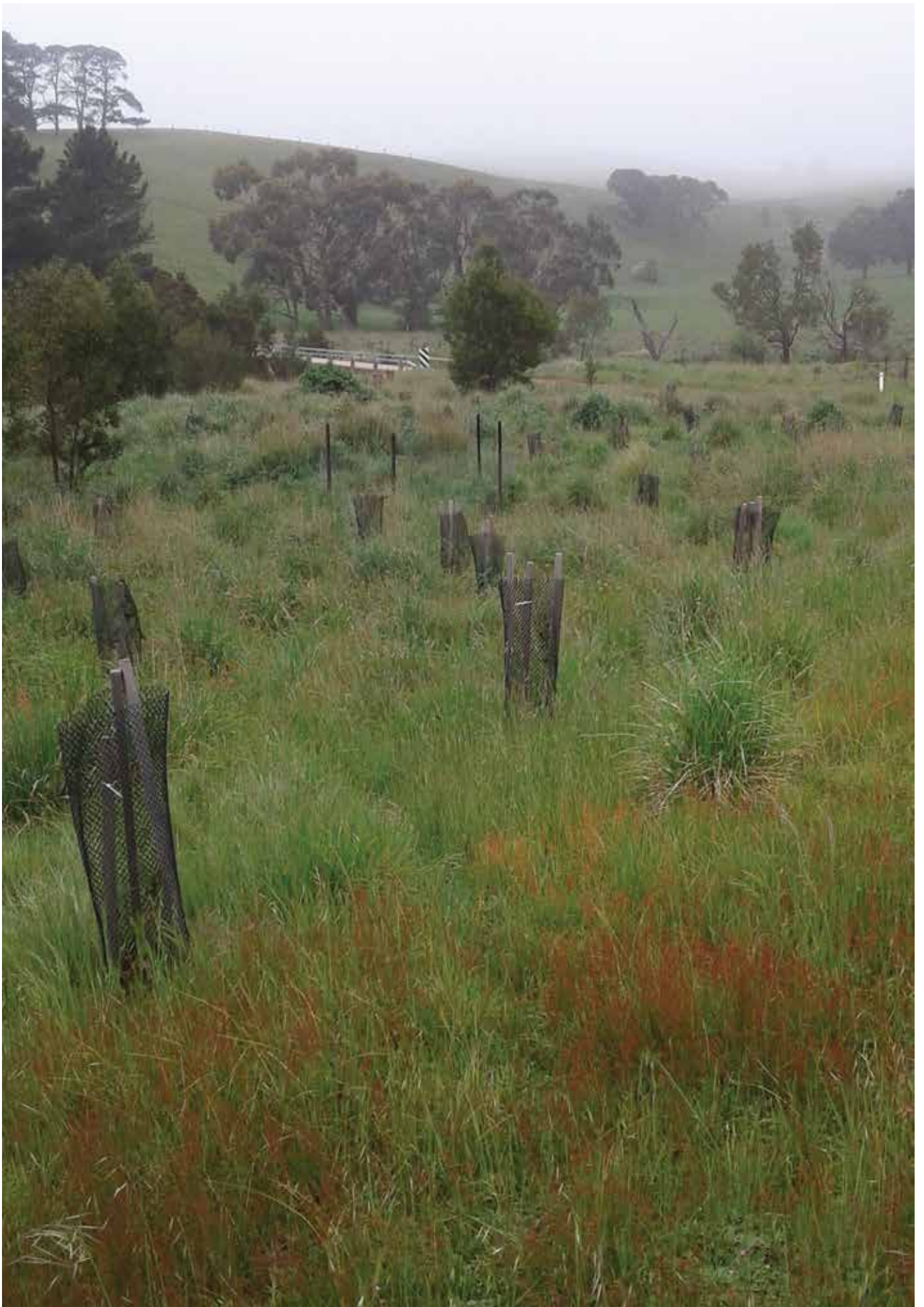
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STAY OPEN**

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STILL OPERATING EFFECTIVELY

Despite COVID-19, our Landcare group was able to operate effectively throughout the year and welcome seven new members to the group. In November we were able to conduct our AGM at our regular meeting place, the Mechanics Hall in Lancefield. At the meeting the election of office-bearers for the next year took place. Phil Severs remains President with Ken Allender and Pat Danko continuing to serve as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

During the year most of the monthly meetings were conducted over Skype. We were able to meet our obligation to carry out two roadside cleanups and complete substantial plantings along Deep Creek in the areas near Forbes Crossing, Sheehan's Crossing, Linehan's Bridge and Doggett's Bridge as well as our regular garden maintenance along the Eastern border of Lancefield Park.

The Chainsaw Hollows project was a highlight. Thirty tree hollows were installed and we are now monitoring the hollows for Phascogales and other users. Early results look promising.

Summer is a great time in the vegetable patch in the Lancefield area. Leafy greens such as the many varieties of lettuce, plus mizuna and rocket are easy to grow, as are plants such as silver beet and chard. These plants are favourites of mine because they grow quickly and can be harvested over a number of weeks. Other easy to grow salad vegetables including radish, cucumber, spring onions, beetroot and tomatoes, can be planted now. December is a bit late to be planting tomato seeds but seedlings should be worthwhile, particularly smaller varieties such as Tommy Toe, French (dwarf) beans and zucchini are other plants that thrive over summer in our area. Chilies will reward those who like a little spice, and carrots can be grown during most of the year.

At this time of the year it might be tempting to use herbicides and poisons such as snail bait, but they pose risks to us and to wildlife. Mulching will conserve moisture and suppress weeds in garden beds, and in other areas organic weed killers are a better option. A cocktail of vinegar, salt and liquid dish soap will do the trick. In regard to snails and slugs, a general clean up will eliminate most of them and remove their hiding places. A walk around the garden with boots on, after rain, will also do wonders!

It may be warming up, but a bit of planning for winter crops is advisable. By the time many summer crops are finished it is too late to establish the winter mainstays. In February, I plant seeds for sprouting broccoli, cabbage, kohlrabi, cauliflower, brukale and a number of varieties of kale. By late March they are ready to plant out and become established before the cold weather hits. These plants may

require a bit of watering and care early, but the onset of cooler weather and damper conditions means that the occasional bit of weeding is all that is necessary.

While thinking of the pleasures of the backyard, I am reminded of Australia's Backyard Bird Count conducted in late October. As well as doing your bit for the environment, participating is also very educational. It involves downloading a simple App whereby users can indicate whether they are novices, intermediate or experienced birdwatchers and their location. By doing this, the App is able to give assistance in identifying birds in your area. Participants log the birds seen or heard during a 20 minute period. This can be done as often as you like, which enables you to cover different times of the day.

One bird we want to see less of is the Indian Myna. Our Landcare group lends traps to residents and so far this year 358 have been trapped, a great result for our native birds.

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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YOUR 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, share a pleasant morning tea, and hear interesting speakers on a wide variety of topics.

Over the past months the Probus Management Committee have had meetings via Zoom Video Conferencing, which have been most successful. The club was able to hold their AGM via Zoom in September, when we finalised all official business for 2020.

We are unable to get together for our annual Christmas Lunch, but hopefully will be able to meet up for lunch in January.

The next official meeting of the Romsey Lancefield Probus Club is on Thursday 25th February, 2021 at 10pm in St.Mary's Catholic Church Hall, Main Street, Romsey.

This is subject to the Covid restrictions being lifted.

Contact: President: Tony 0408536290; Vice President: Allan 0408098428, Secretary: Jeni 5429 5480

We wish everyone a very joyful Christmas and a much better 2021. www.rlprobus.org.au

**ROMSEY LANCEFIELD SENIOR
CITIZENS**

MERRY CHRISTMAS

It is great that things are slowly getting back to COVID normal. We hope to start back next year with our weekly meetings, so keep an eye out for more details.

We miss our get-togethers and especially miss the birthday celebrations of our members. Whilst we cannot share a cuppa and a piece of birthday cake together, we wish the following member a very happy birthday.

Margaret Holland is celebrating a birthday on the 17th of December.

Happy Birthday to you, have a lovely day.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year, enjoy your time with family and friends and hopefully we will see you next year in our rooms at Romsey Mechanics' Institute every Monday.

Remember, if you need assistance you can contact Lancefield/Romsey Community Support on 0491 243 996 or the Macedon Ranges Shire Council on 5422 0237

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



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TREVOR GEORGE HOBBS

NOVEMBER 22, 1942 - OCTOBER 29, 2020

We note with great sadness that Trevor passed so suddenly on October 29th. Trevor was a well-known local figure with many friends who will miss him.

Trevor was born in what was the Lancefield Hospital, to Joseph and Ada and was the fourth child in a loving family, that at that time lived in Dunsford Street. (The Lancefield Hospital is now the Lancefield Guest House). Trevor leaves behind his loving partner of twenty-six years, Beryl Jean Jones and two children (Andrew and Rosemary), from his first marriage.

Trevor and Beryl met by chance, or was 'Cupid' really bringing two 'kindred spirits' together?

Beryl was living in the Lancefield Caravan Park, now yet another housing development. Trevor was living on the Main Road. Beryl's car had broken down and she went into the Lancefield Hotel (Old Mack's at the time) to try and get some help.

Trevor was at his usual bar-stool in what was affectionately called 'Bay 13'. (Referencing that the extension - now a pretty dining room/bar was allegedly built from the breeze blocks and roofing iron left over from the renovations at the MCG!)

After announcing he had to "finish his beer first", (priorities, right!), Trevor left with Beryl to see what could be done. Allegedly, because the language used might have been



a bit 'blue', Trevor told Beryl that she had merely run out of fuel. Or words to that effect!

Fuel was obtained and the rest has become a joyful history of a mutually caring and loving partnership with Beryl, who formally moved into Trevor's house at the beginning of September 1997. (It is easy to remember the date because it was the morning Australia was told of the tragic death, in France, of HRH Princess Diana.)

The picture shows Trevor on the right, in front of his mother, playing the banjo at the Lancefield Mechanics Hall.

Continued page 30

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TREVOR GEORGE HOBBS

(Photo courtesy of Gweneth Meyer – on the left of the photo). Gweneth's father, Frank Russell, taught a lot of Lancefield children, Trevor included, to play the banjo/mandolin as part of the 'Hill-Billy Club' at the Church of England Sunday School. This photo is from one of the regular concerts held at the Hall and all the children are from Lancefield families. (Recognise anyone?) Frank Russell, on the right in the photo, went on to sell Trevor the house Trevor and Beryl lived in.

Gweneth recalls from her childhood that Trevor and herself and others regularly played in Dunsford Street and that Trevor always had the best colouring books. (Whilst most of us called Trevor "Hobbsy", Gweneth recalls Trevor was also called "Sneezy" as a child, but at the time of writing I have not discovered the origin of the nickname).

A further recollection was that Ada, Trevor's mother, also cleaned the hall and afterwards took the children for an ice cream at the milk bar opposite.

Trevor was also a choirboy as well as a very keen gardener.

Over the years, Trevor had a few jobs. On land I had bought, he showed me where he worked both in the timber yard and also the charcoal making pits. (This still has remnants of those times). Trevor was for many years the Grave Digger at Lancefield cemetery until his health started to decline.

Trevor had a tradition of always leaving a 'last pot' of beer on the pub window-sill as a funeral cortege passed and the picture below shows his loving partner Beryl carrying on the

tradition.

Trevor will be sadly missed. He is now at rest in the burial plot he bought for \$44 nearly fifty years ago, alongside his parents and two younger sisters who died at an early age.

Beryl would like to pass her thanks on to all those who sent condolences and also flowers. There is a 'Memory Book' at the pub for anyone who wishes to add a memory and/or anecdote.

Beryl also wishes to thank all those who were able to attend the funeral and a very special thanks to Rose and Rosalie for their support and assistance as well as to Kane and all the staff at the Lancefield Hotel for putting on a 'wake' and for the beautiful tribute as in the photo Kane supplied above.

Enormous thanks must go to Irma and John for the care and support they have shown Beryl.

N.

Vale: Trevor George Hobbs.



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DEER PROBLEM SET TO BE ADDRESSED

Wild deer have been a growing problem in the Cobaw Ranges and other bushland areas around the region, so it's pleasing to see the Victorian Government is taking action.

The Government launched its Victorian Deer Control Strategy at the end of October, and it addresses most of the issues which have been identified.

Earlier this year I saw deer roadkill twice in one week on Three Chain Rd, just east of Mooneys Lane.

I know from first-hand experience the damage that kangaroos can do to a vehicle, and with their size and bulk the big sambar deer pose a far greater risk of significant damage to vehicles and a heightened danger of serious injury or death to motorists.

Tramping around in the bush in the Cobaw Ranges, I often see deer or evidence of where they've been.

For a while they seemed to disappear or go quiet after DELWP's disastrous "controlled burn" bushfire in 2015, but as the undergrowth cover returned, so did the deer.

They are a major environmental hazard to some of the more sensitive ecosystems in the bush, so it's important that they are controlled.

The Victorian Deer Control Strategy recognises the growing problem of deer in the Shires around the urban fringe, and the outer northern and eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

It's pleasing to see that the strategy addresses the

environmental impacts of the feral deer population while maintaining hunting opportunities.

It sets out a co-ordinated plan to control wild deer numbers and reduce the threat they pose to the environment, farming, public safety and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

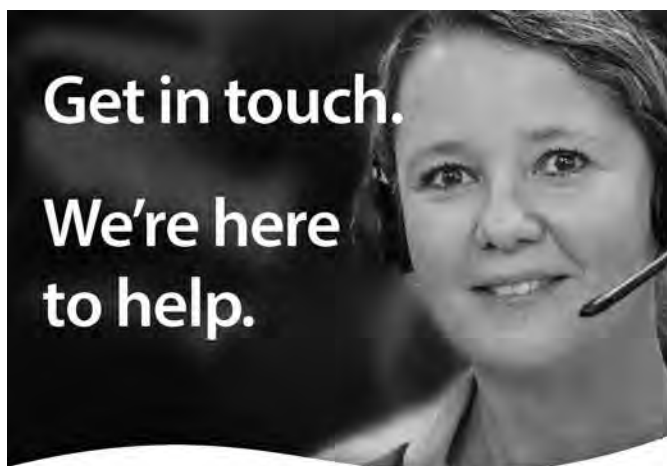
Wild deer can cause significant damage to native plants, wildlife habitat and water quality.

The strategy is also a commitment under the Sustainable Hunting Action Plan, expanding the areas deer can be recreationally hunted. I just hope that the planned redesignation of the public land in the Cobaws from State forest to a conservation park does not limit the opportunity to control deer through hunting.

As part of the strategy, legislative changes will allow hunters to have wild deer butchered for personal use. I've found deer carcasses in the Cobaws over the years where the animals have been killed just for the trophy antlers, so these legislative changes will limit the intrusion of shooting cowboys into the bush and ensure humane treatment of these wild animals.

Hopefully the strategy will help limit the growing deer problem in the Cobaw Ranges and other local areas, and the broadening of the hunting provisions will bring more visitors to Lancefield and surrounds.

Henry Bleeck.



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ST. MARY'S PARISH - LANCEFIELD & ROMSEY

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DEAR PARISHIONERS

As many of you will be aware, we are currently allowed to celebrate Mass in our churches. It has made our parishioners very happy! There are guidelines we must follow in order to do this, and with restrictions likely to ease after November 22nd, the best way to get the most updated guidelines is by contacting the presbytery on 5429 2130 or by email at lancefield@cam.org.au

MASS ATTENDANCE OPEN BY BOOKING ONLY

As we are still restricted to a maximum of 20 people at each Mass, attendance is strictly by registration only.

Please contact the secretary at lancefield@cam.org.au or by phone at 5429 2130 to reserve your place.

Sadly, you will be turned away if you are not on the attendance register.

CURRENT GUIDELINES

Weddings allowed with up to 14 people present. This includes the couple, a celebrant, a photographer and 10 guests.

Funerals – Indoors permitted with up to 20 people.

Outdoors permitted with up to 50 people (not including celebrant or funeral staff)

Indoor Mass – permitted with up to 20 people plus 1 faith leader.

Outdoor Mass – permitted with up to 50 people plus 1 faith leader.

Visitations – Fr. Martin may visit the sick in their home to provide support.

Baptisms – may resume following numbers allowed for Masses.

Note that there are strict hygiene measures in place for all of these events.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR ST. MARY'S PARISH

Sunday Mass has resumed. Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 9am and will alternate between Lancefield & Romsey. 1st & 3rd Sunday at Romsey, 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday at Lancefield

Saturday Healing Mass has resumed

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

Saturday weekly Mass has resumed

While we have the restriction of 20 attendees at Mass, Saturday Mass at 10am in Romsey will be held.

Baptism families who have had to postpone Baptisms already this year will be given first preference to rebook.

New Baptism enquiries will be taken for 2021.

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

Thank you for your understanding and please take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

WORSHIP FROM HOME - HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN MASS ONLINE

- St. Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne, daily Mass at 1pm, Sunday Mass 11am.
Watch this at <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>
- Via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicArchdioceseofMelbourne>
- The Archdiocese youtube channel at www.youtube.com/archmelb
- Mass for you at home is broadcast on network Ten on Sundays <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>
- Fr. Vinoth streaming live on Sundays via <https://www.facebook.com/St-Brigids-Parish>




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WOODEND HANGING ROCK PETANQUE CLUB

The Relaxation of COVID Restrictions Gets Petanque Back into Tournament Mode!

There has been almost no competitive Petanque in Victoria this year, but thanks to the recent relaxation of the State rules on contact between people, tournaments are able to recommence.

One of the first Tournaments was the Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club Triples, this was played at the Club's new Piste at the Old Woodend Racecourse in Forest St Woodend on Sunday 22nd November. There were players competing from many of the clubs throughout Victoria, all anxious to compete in serious competition once more and keen to see the new Piste in Woodend which offers a fantastic new venue for Tournaments within this State.

It would have been a great spectacle for many Petanque players around the State to come and watch, to see some of the leading players around the County perform and to get a few tips on the art of our game, but sadly this was not possible for this Tournament due to the restriction on contact numbers still in existence. This was a real shame as the facility offers tremendous spectator opportunities. Better safe than sorry though, and we look forward to welcoming everybody on another day when these restrictions are over.

The Club is pleased to report that play within our membership is back in full swing with great numbers turning up at our Thursday 'Petanque at the Rock' sessions at Hanging Rock Reserve and at the new facility at the Old

Racecourse on Monday afternoons. We have been pleased to greet a large number of new members since we have restarted play, many of these have never played the sport previously and have enjoyed the coaching offered by the club's senior players, enabling them to start playing the game with a good understanding of the skills involved and making new friends in the process.

We still have plenty of room for more new players, and invite anybody to give the sport and our club a try. It will cost you nothing to try it out; it's lots of fun and whether you are a long-term resident of the area or have recently moved into the Macedon Ranges you will meet some wonderful new people who will become great friends

WHAT IS PETANQUE?

It's a funny French sport with an even funnier name, a bit like Bowls and Bocce but without a lot of those sports' formalities - and it's a lot more fun! It is played by all ages and people of all fitness levels, it can even be played in a wheelchair! It's inexpensive to play, no fancy uniforms to buy, and we provide free Club boules to use while you give the sport a try. Come and join the fun, we'd love you to.

For more information please contact john.pizzey@petanqueattherock.com.au or visit our website www.petanqueattherock.com.au



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LANCEFIELD COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

President Rosemarie Jones. Secretary Lyn Barclay. Treasurer Lorraine Pearce lancefieldcwa@gmail.com

CWA DECEMBER REPORT

Hello everybody. Well by the time you read this at least two lots of restrictions would have been eased. This means that our loved ones in the metropolitan area are able to visit and we are able to visit them in their homes. Oh, how those grandchildren have grown in the meantime!

Did you find the time to make a batch of scones using the recipe in last month's Mercury? Well, the 'Beat the Scone Challenge' was very well supported with 13,443 scones being baked. The total money raised was well in excess of \$20,000.

What a year - one like no other. Our Branch couldn't meet in person for our formal A.G.M. because of the restrictions applying to group gatherings. The members of the Branch who currently hold an executive position were all willing to continue in those respective positions for the forthcoming twelve months.

We thank our secretary Lyn, and our treasurer Lorraine for their thorough annual reports and congratulate our president, Rosemarie for accepting the role of President for 2021.

How did you go trying to better the number of words made from the word Botswana? One member bettered the record of 25 by 2.

This will be the final mention of our country of study this year, Botswana. However, you may be interested in a series of crime fiction novels set in Botswana entitled 'The Number 1 Ladies Detective Agency' by Alexander McCall.

Red Door Books of Lancefield has copies of the books in this series.

Alexander McCall has also written a children's book "Precious and the Monkeys."

Another children's picture book called "Africa Amazing Africa Country by Country" by Atinuke would be worth a look. A Christmas present, perhaps, for your children or grandchildren?

I wonder what will be our country of study in 2021. Watch this space.

May you have a blessed, peaceful and healthy Christmas. We look forward to when, hopefully, our monthly Branch meetings recommence in 2021.

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WATER CORPORATIONS INTEGRATE

As announced by the Minister for Water Lisa Neville recently, City West Water and Western Water will integrate next year to support the growing needs of the rapidly expanding area west of Melbourne and strengthen the high quality of service to customers. The new water corporation, Greater Western Water, will ensure we are well-placed to service the growing demand for services and infrastructure across our communities, to support a population expected to double over the next 30 years.

City West Water Managing Director Maree Lang and Western Water Managing Director Jeff Rigby both welcome the Victorian Government's commitment to invest \$500,000 in planning upgrades to convert the Sunbury office into a COVIDSafe Greater Western Water hub, as well as the retention of Sunbury and Footscray offices and all depots.

Importantly, there will be no job losses as staff move to the new water corporation, which will also create jobs and significantly reduce household water bills into the future. An additional 50 staff will be based at Sunbury over the next three years, and there will continue to be a strong executive presence at the office. Western Water's Mr Rigby said that the pace of urban growth in Melbourne's west required a new approach keep up with demand for water and sewerage services.

"Western Water and City West Water have been working together for some time, sharing resources and investigating

opportunities that reduce business costs, and ultimately prices for our customers," Mr Rigby said. "The decision to integrate has not been taken lightly and we have worked hard with the Victorian Government to find this solution, which is in the best interests of our customers and our teams."

City West Water's Ms Lang said the move was a positive step forward for the region, which will cover an area of 3,700 square kilometres from Melbourne's CBD and inner west and north-west suburbs out to communities including Werribee, Bacchus Marsh and Macedon Ranges townships.

"The integration will lead to strong service outcomes, more secure water availability and high quality and more affordable water services for customers living and working in these communities," Ms Lang said. "It's also an opportunity for our people, with Greater Western Water retaining all staff from both water corporations, and new job opportunities to support an expected 100,000 new customers over the next 10 years."

City West Water, with its head office based in Footscray, provides water supply and sewerage services to more than 1.1 million residential and 42,000 business customers. Western Water, with its head office based in Sunbury, supplies water and sewerage services to more than 80,000 properties, or around 185,000 customers. Both corporate offices will remain, along with all other depots and offices of the two corporations.

The integration will take effect from 1 July 2021.

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COBAW COMMUNITY HEALTH

THE FRONT DOORS HAVE RE-OPENED

After a few months of closed doors, and most staff working from home, Cobaw Community Health is pleased to be able to share with the community the new building at 1 Caroline Chisholm Drive Kyneton. The front doors have re-opened and to celebrate Auntie Jo Honeysett, an Elder from the Taungurung Land and Waters Council, visited the building last month as part of NAIDOC Week to do a special Welcome to Country.

A number of staff gathered in the new reception area with the remaining staff connecting via video. "It is wonderful to see the building finally being open to the community," said Margaret McDonald, CEO. "After our move from High Street in May we have had only a handful of staff working from the building and clients by appointment only."

Cobaw's doors at both their Kyneton and Woodend sites are now open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, offering a range of health and wellbeing services and support groups including counselling, housing support, physiotherapy, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation and dietary advice.

Cobaw continues to be a local agent for Centrelink and Medicare and appointments can be made to access the Centrelink self-service telephone and computer. Telephone 5421 1666. Media Enquiries: Sarah Turner 0448 294 835



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AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

2020 has been an extraordinary year for all of us. For our Year 6s it's been a disappointing year of missing out on many wonderful activities which would have completed their Primary School years. Unfortunately they've missed out on their camp, excursions, incursions and their final Sacrament of Confirmation. Their graduation will look very different from previous years, with their parents looking on via an internet link. However, with all this said, we've made sure that their final term of Year 6 has been full of as many experiences as we could pack in! Terrific Tuesdays have been a big hit! We wish our graduating class of 2020 every happiness and success as they transition to their new schools, new friends and new opportunities. We hope that they will remember fondly their time at St Mary's and keep in touch to let us know how they are going. They've shown great strength and resilience throughout this year and we know this will hold them in good stead in the years to come.

My favourite thing about Primary School is being able to have supportive teachers that always help me. The thing I will miss most is that I will have to leave all my amazing teachers and won't be able to have the same privileges as I have with them. I am excited to do new things, meet new people and learn new things. I will always remember going to St Mary's Primary. Hayley Hall

One thing I love about Primary School is how all the teachers are nice and kind. They teach you everything you need to know. Another thing that I'll miss is all my friends, because all of them are going to different schools and I'll miss the teachers at this awesome school. Also I can't wait to make new friends at my High School. Sam Haslett

My favourite thing about Primary School is that you get to go on fun excursions and camps and that everyone around you is nice and helpful. The thing that I will miss about Primary School is my friends because not all of my friends are going to the school I'm going to. The thing that I'm looking forward to in Secondary School is making new friends, being at a different school and discovering new things and people. Heidi Snow

The thing I will miss the most is my friends going to other

schools. They are good friends and I will be sad to not be able to see them every day. The best thing about Primary School was going to camps. It was so much fun and the places we went to were so much fun. Next year I am looking forward to having different classes and teachers every time. Evan Turok

The thing I'll miss about Primary School is my teachers Mrs Johnston and Mrs Vecchio because they have been the best teachers I have ever had. The best thing was that I gained an enormous amount of friends. The thing I'm looking forward to next year is making new friends and being able to experience new opportunities. Lachlan Brundell

One of the things that I loved about my Primary School experience was all of the fun excursions that we did that we most probably won't get to do in High School. Another thing that I will miss is the friends that I have made which I will most likely never see again or at least not see for a long time. Something that I am looking forward to in High School is making new friends and changing things up a little bit. Chelsea McCarthy

I will miss Primary School because I will miss my friends from Year 5. What I loved was going on camps but we did not go this year. I am looking forward to being in High School and meeting new friends. Jack Turner

I will miss not having the same friends from Primary School. I loved having the same teachers. I'm looking forward to being in a new place. Zade Mezzatesta

I will miss the teachers not being really strict. I loved the environment we were in but I'm looking forward to a different environment. Occy Cuthbert

The thing I will miss most about Primary School is seeing all my friends and making friends. The thing I loved most was the fact that homework was easy. Something that I'm looking forward to next year is meeting new people and making new friends. Dermot Hanaphy

The thing I will miss about Primary School is that you lose your friends if you move to a different High School. What I loved was playing with my friends and just spending time with them. The thing I look forward to is meeting new friends and learning new things. Jackson Sands

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ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

The thing I love most about Primary School is meeting so many great people and having so much fun with them. Making so many memories with everyone one was a highlight of St Mary's. The thing I will miss is all of the fun excursions and the Cobaw Sports. Although I will miss St Mary's, I am really looking forward to going to Secondary School because I will meet a lot of new people. I am also looking forward to doing different subjects and activities. Emmy O'Meara

The best thing about Primary School was going to camp, bonding and trying new experiences as well as having a break from work. The thing I'm going to miss is my teachers, friends and walking away from my memories. I'm excited to meet new people and learn new subjects. Crystal Dyer

The thing I'm going to miss the most about Primary School is my friends because we are all probably not going to be in the same class. The thing I loved was no homework. It was nice having spare time at home. The thing I'm looking forward to in High School is expanding my knowledge about the world. Ajay Schembri

I love that we have made so many friends and that we have so many great memories that we will remember forever. I will miss all the Cobaw Sports and how our class could always joke around with each other. I am looking forward to the different subjects and that we can play sports for the school. Sophie DeCarolis

The best thing about Primary School for me was meeting and having laughs with my best friends or close friends, going on school camps and discovering new places and information, but also getting to have new experiences and opportunities! I

am going to miss a lot of things but the thing I will miss most are my best friends that I've shared this wonderful journey with as we are going our different ways to High School. I am so excited to be starting High School next year and if you ask me what I'm looking forward to the most, it's trying new subjects, starting a new school and meeting plenty of friends to come. Ellen Nuttall

The best thing about Primary School has been all of the fun opportunities that we got to contribute to. After remote learning our teachers have been rewarding us for all of our hard work by setting up fun, hands-on activities. The thing that I will miss the most is the great relationships that I have made with my classmates. I know most people really well and it is sad to be leaving them. The thing that I am most excited for at High School is making new relationships just like the ones that I have made here. I am also really excited to dive into the different subjects and try new things. Cate Mahony

The thing I will miss about Primary School is my friends from Years 3-6. In High School I'm looking forward to seeing all my cousins at the same school and my friends who are going to Assumption. The one thing I loved was Cobaw Sports. Josh Wiegerink

My favourite thing about Year 6 has been doing Terrific Tuesdays. The thing I will miss about Primary School is that I will not be able to see my friends. For High School I am excited to go on school camps. Lukas Cichy

Best wishes to you all, good luck and make the most of every opportunity!

Jo Shannon (Community Liaison Leader)



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