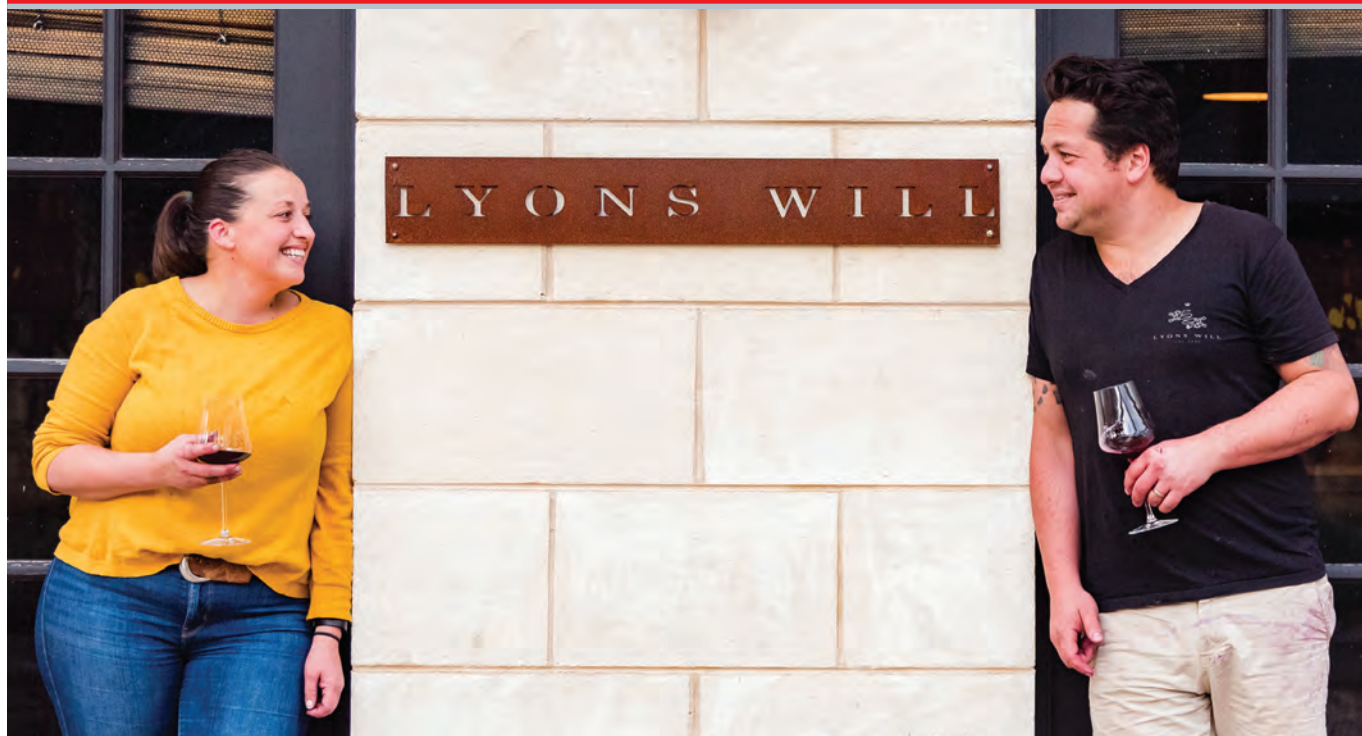


# Lancefield Mercury



## LOCAL WINERY WINS MULTIPLE AWARDS AT 2022 VICTORIAN WINE SHOW

Lyons Will Estate, located in Lancefield, have been named “Best Small Producer”, along with winning the “Best Riesling Award” in this year’s Victorian Wine show. Proprietors and winemakers Ollie Rapson and Renata Morello are thrilled to have received such coveted accolades and are excited to have been recognised for their hard work, nearly ten years after establishing the winery.

“We are super proud and excited to have been this year’s winners of not just one, but two, excellent trophies. The Riesling block is a labour of love that we planted nine years ago, and we just love it. It produces fantastic wine, and it feels really at home here in the Macedon Ranges.” said Renata Morello, the winemaker of Lyons Will Riesling. “We feel Riesling has a huge future in the region and I feel especially proud winning this award as it’s a variety I feel really passionate about.” Lyons Will also won the gong for “Best Small Producer”, which is a milestone in the eyes of the owners, who are proud to be regarded in such good light.

“We work extremely hard in trying to produce the best

possible quality across all our wines, and to be recognised for that, in a show that contains some of Victoria’s best, is just superb,” said Oliver Rapson. “We feel really privileged to be able to not only grow our own fruit here in the Macedon but make the wine all onsite, it’s something we feel strongly about, as it’s a true reflection of our home. The wines have their own identity that’s for sure.”

Lyons Will showcased this wine and others at the Budburst Festival, which ran over the third weekend in November. Their inaugural “Fete de la Fleur” event will be held on the 4 December to celebrate the flowering of the vines. For more information on Lyons Will and their winery check out [www.lyonswillestate.com.au](http://www.lyonswillestate.com.au) or #Lyonswill for their Instagram updates.

Go to [www.victorianwineshow.com](http://www.victorianwineshow.com) for details on the Victorian Wine Show. For more information on Lyons Will Estate please contact Renata Morello Owner and Winemaker [info@lyonswillestate.com.au](mailto:info@lyonswillestate.com.au) or 0412 681 940.

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# NEW SERVO OWNERS, OLD-FASHIONED CUSTOMER SERVICE

The latest family group we welcome to Lancefield is Prashanth Thera, his wife Lavanya and baby Agasthya (named after an Indian sage), who have just taken over the local servo on the corner of Main Road and Kilmore Road. Prashanth's parents are also coming to care for their new grandson.

Prash was born in Hyderabad in SE India, came to Australia to do his Masters in IT - specialising in networking - at the Melbourne campus of Central Qld University, moved to warehouse operations, and then to Metro Trains level crossing upgrades and removals. Having always wanted to live in the regions, and being very interested in having community involvement which is much less possible in the city, he and Lavanya looked around for a business to buy in a small town. They wanted to work for themselves, and to be involved in helping the local community, so they looked around for a suitable business to purchase in a town that offered something special.

Prash came to see the servo business on Lancefield Market Day one Saturday, and was immediately reminded of his childhood, when he was taken shopping for local produce sold by people from the surrounding communities. No wonder he felt at home!

Prash and Lavanya were married in 2017 – the first time he saw her was on their wedding day, not unusual in their Hindu culture – their parents arranged the marriage. Prash

describes Lavanya, who has a Bachelor of Electronics and Communications, as “damn wonderful, my backbone”.

In early January 2023, the servo will be transformed into a Liberty service station, with an accompanying adjustment in the price of fuel – good news for us consumers. The building will be expanded to double the size, to include hot-food preparation, some seating, and an expanded food choice. So: burgers, hot chips, dim sum, kransky and spicy chicken wings are coming in the near future. I must say, I am looking forward to a few Indian snacks and delicacies being included, so keep a lookout for samosas and those lovely Indian sweets on offer for special holidays like Diwali. For the changeover period during the build, business will continue as usual from containers onsite, so it'll be like a picnic on the corner of the Main and Kilmore Roads when you stop to top up your fuel!

Prash is keen to be involved in community events, offering petrol vouchers, for example, as fund-raisers for organisations. Whilst I was chatting with him on a busy Friday morning, the flow of people was non-stop – he says he meets, or re-meets, 300 people a day! The strong sense of community that comes with the Theras' cultural background is a bonus for Lancefield – drop in and say hello, if you haven't already. You'll get a warm welcome.

Beth Child



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LANCEFIELD TENNIS CLUB

# MONDAY NIGHT TENNIS

Monday night tennis is back. With daylight saving time, come down and enjoy a hit of tennis. From 6.30pm (weather permitting) - bring your racquet and bring a friend. See [www.lancefieldtennisclub.org.au](http://www.lancefieldtennisclub.org.au) for more details.

LANCEFIELD/ROMSEY LIONS CLUB

# WE ARE PLANNING A CRAFT MARKET

The Lions Club is organising a craft market to be held on the second Sunday of the month, commencing on 12 February next year. The market will sell handmade crafts, bric-a-brac, plants, fresh produce and much more. They are looking for stall holders (they must have Public Liability insurance). The market will be held in the Romsey Skate Park and will run from February to May inclusive. Hours of operation will be 9 to 1. Potential stallholders can contact Angela Heywood [heywoodangela70@yahoo.com](mailto:heywoodangela70@yahoo.com) or 0413065177.

# NEW KINDERGARTEN AND MCH CENTRE IN LANCEFIELD A STEP CLOSER

Council is delighted that its advocacy project for the building of a two-room kindergarten with Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Centre in Lancefield will come to fruition following very welcome funding announcement of \$1.8 million from the Victorian Government.

In 2021, Council identified that early years services in Lancefield were likely to be strained in the future due to higher levels of demand for services. Community feedback gathered in the development of the Municipal Early Years plan CREATE 2021-2025 also strongly emphasised the need for additional early years infrastructure in the area to accommodate the growing community.

It is anticipated that the new centre will be completed and operational for the 2024 school year.

## LANCEFIELD MERCURY INC.

A0045845D



Deadline for articles and advertisements is the 15th of the month. The Mercury is distributed by post and volunteer deliverers to all premises with a letter box in the Lancefield postal area at the start of the month. Copies of the paper can also be found at the Romsey Library.

The Lancefield Mercury is produced by volunteers as a service to the people of Lancefield.

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

Items for publication should be sent to [editor3435@gmail.com](mailto:editor3435@gmail.com) – enquiries Andy Moore 0430 448 120

Enquiries about advertising: [advertising3435@gmail.com](mailto:advertising3435@gmail.com) – Ken Allender 0404 886 580

Check [lancefieldmercury.org.au](http://lancefieldmercury.org.au) for general information about advertising and how to contribute articles, as well to see digital back copies.

### 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



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



**LANCEFIELD COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

President: Angela Turner, Secretary: Maybelle Briggs, Treasurer: Sandra Stevens, lancefieldcwa@gmail.com

# A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

## A.G.M

By the time you read this article, our branch will have held its A.G.M. Those members who have seen out their term in office stood down, and new office bearers were appointed. We thank those retiring members for their tireless and dedicated efforts for our community and we congratulate the incoming office bearers.

## A BIG THANK YOU

Late in October we had the delightful opportunity to provide lunch for a gathering of sixty people in the Mechanics Hall annex. Following the lunch we were complimented on our effort, so a big thank you to those members who assisted on the day, another fine team effort.

## FARMERS MARKET

At the November Farmers Market we held a pop-up stall

which was an early Christmas market. This gave patrons a chance to buy early Christmas gifts before waiting for our usual December Christmas market. This pop-up stall was a great success. We received excellent patronage from our local community and visitors alike. Do come along to our December stall and purchase top-quality home-made treats to enjoy over Christmas.

We held our Christmas break up lunch at the Lancefield Hotel. A good time was had by all.

## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

As is our custom, we will award our annual scholarships to year six students from both of our primary schools. These scholarships will assist in some way towards the purchase of text books etc for their forthcoming year.

May you have a peaceful Christmas with your family and loved ones and may you keep the best of health for 2023.

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# CELEBRATE THE WONDERFUL

However you celebrate, whoever you're with, may your Christmas be merry, always.

From the Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey team.

During the festive season our branches will close at 5pm on Friday 23 December, and reopen Wednesday 28 December.

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT EVENING

Along with members of our local community, our Community Bank team enjoyed a fabulous evening on the 27th October at our 2022 Community Investment Event. We had quite a crowd and extend our thanks to John Spring from the Macedon Ranges Photographic Society for capturing the event.

On the night, we announced an investment of \$296,837 into Romsey, Lancefield and surrounds for 2022-23, consisting of;

- \$211,087 in grants to 16 local organisations
- \$16,500 in continued investment in our local ShareRide vehicle from our 2021-22 CIP
- \$12,000 in donations to 8 local emergency services groups
- \$19,750 in sponsorships
- \$37,500 in scholarships for 2023

An amount we at the Community Bank are extremely proud of, bringing our total investment in the local

community to over \$2.5 million in our 21 years of Community Banking!

Our next grants program for events will open in March/April 2023 – email [cip@lrcfsl.com.au](mailto:cip@lrcfsl.com.au) to ensure you're on the list to be notified when the program opens.

## 2023 TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you or do you know someone heading to TAFE, University or College in 2023 for the first time? Applications are now open for a number of 1 year and 3 year scholarships as part of our 2023 Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey Scholarship Program. Contact our branch for more information or for full eligibility criteria and to apply online head to: <https://www.bendigobank.com.au/community/scholarships/community-bank-scholarships/>

## BOARD MEMBER

We currently have a vacancy on the Board of Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services Limited and invite interested residents to apply to join like-minded volunteers in this highly active community organisation.

The company is seeking applicants with specific experience in corporate and financial affairs and business management with accounting / business qualifications. Refer to the accompanying ad for full details.

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# Part of the team

Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services Limited is a franchisee of Bendigo Bank and operates the locally owned Community Banks of Lancefield and Romsey. We currently have a vacancy on the Board and invite 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 \$2.5 million in grants and sponsorships to local groups over the past 21 years.

The company is seeking applicants with specific experience in corporate and financial affairs and business management with accounting / business qualifications. Applicants will have an understanding of the needs of the local community together with an appreciation of the impact of technology and online banking on customer engagement.

This role may be of interest to persons who are either working or retired. Positions are voluntary and therefore a strong commitment to community affairs is essential. Various training options are available for successful candidates.

The ability to invest your time and energy is key, with a minimum commitment of at least 10 hours per month, including a monthly Board meeting and participation in 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 [companysec@lrcfsl.com.au](mailto:companysec@lrcfsl.com.au) by 15th January 2023.**

Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services Limited



## DEEP CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

Covering Lancefield – Romsey and Monegeeta Districts

# HAS DEEP CREEK REACHED A TURNING POINT?

In my August article, I outlined the reasons for the Maribyrnong River and its tributaries to be given a “voice” along the lines of the Yarra River Keeper Association and the Werribee Riverkeeper Association. The events of recent weeks further highlight the need to remedy centuries of exploitation and abuse of the waterway.

During July, the first Community Forum to establish a strong voice for the Maribyrnong and its waterways was held. This was followed by the second forum during October, at which Deep Creek Landcare was once again represented. At the forum the next steps in establishing a representative organization were taken. These involved: agreeing on a name, a logo, a governance structure, the focus for the next three years and associated strategies and the setting up of a Fundraising Working Group. Since then a Facebook page has been set up and some significant funding has been gained. The rapid progress is exciting, and it is a matter of “watch this space”. We will endeavour to give periodic updates on our Facebook page.

Two days after the second forum, the Maribyrnong River flooded, with water levels the highest in decades. Upstream

the impact was greatest in Deep Creek. Months of rain and saturated farmland meant that the heavy rain on Thursday 11 October flushed straight into the creek, causing it to flood and cause significant damage to everything in its path. Our projects at sites, such as Forbes Crossing and Gallagher’s Crossing, were not spared.

The Maribyrnong Officer for the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, Nicole Kowalczyk summed it up in her report on the second forum with “The impacts of these recent floods have been damaging and far-ranging. In the lower Maribyrnong alone, power supplies were cut off, transport networks were stopped, businesses were forced to shut down, hundreds of homes were evacuated, and overall the community took a massive hit. Our thoughts go out to all those who have been affected”. She also added that “At the same time, the floods have provided an added impetus to restore and protect the river and surrounding parklands and floodplain. As put forward by Glaser (1997), a fundamentally overlooked value of rivers is the natural flood control they provide when left with some of their natural environment

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## DEEP CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

intact. Given enough floodplain, rivers have a remarkable capacity to absorb rainfall and runoff. But stripped of those, they inevitably flood. The Yarra Riverkeeper Association's position is that rather than build higher flood protection works and prevent floodwater from moving onto floodplains, we should look for opportunities to encourage floodwaters to move into areas that would benefit from the inundation, enabling the myriad of ecosystem services floods offer. And it's usually significantly cheaper to preserve a river's natural course, to give it room to move, and to absorb flood waters than to build huge monuments to protect what cannot be protected and to pay astronomical damage costs caused by the inevitable flood".

Climate change and population growth has added to the necessity to make long term decisions that protect the environment and add to our quality of life. Another consequence of the heavy rainfall in recent months has been the inability of the Romsey waste water treatment plant to cope, as it is expected that the plant will continue to discharge into Deep Creek until late November.

We have written to the relevant ministers and local candidates at the State Election outlining our displeasure and disappointment that "On approximately 22/09/22, GWW discharged waste water from the Romsey waste water treatment plant directly into Deep Creek above Daly's Bridge. This discharge is unlicensed, will continue for an undefined period and is subject to investigation by the EPA". We also noted that "A report by Western Water, back in 2019,

found that the Romsey Recycled Water Plant was at risk of uncontrolled spills in years of average rainfall. No wonder, this year, GWW has had to resort to trucking waste water out of the facility to other plants and to discharging the water into Deep Creek during the current wet period". We have also encouraged our members to become active on the issue and I issue the same invitation to you. We cannot simply ignore the situation and stress that "The water quality of Deep Creek and the other Maribyrnong River tributaries is of great importance. Farming and agricultural pursuits along the waterways require clean water. Likewise, the flora and fauna of the catchment also rely on clean water; the survival of the endangered Yarra Pigmy Perch and local Platypus population are at stake. Also, the Maribyrnong is a prime recreational facility for fishing, canoeing and rowing".

We believe that "The discharge of waste water into our waterways may be a cheap and easy solution to the problems faced by GWW but it is not a solution that is acceptable to us or the general population. Discharging of water into the natural waterway is not only environmentally irresponsible, but also wastes a significant opportunity to utilize this water. The focus needs to change from seeing this water as a waste product, to seeing it as resource to be managed for its potential benefits".

Deep Creek Landcare Group has nesting boxes for bats, birds and phascogales for sale from \$25. We also have Myna bird traps to lend out. Annual Landcare membership is \$20 per family. You can catch us at the Lancefield Farmer's Market over summer, 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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1. Be smart. Choose tap. It's the best choice for your health, the environment and your budget. After all, the best drinking water in Australia is right here in Victoria!
2. Store water in your fridge for emergencies. In the event of a burst water main or bushfire, you'll always have drinking water on hand.
3. Be prepared. Water pressure and supply could be interrupted during a bushfire. GWW has backup and staff on call, but if you live in a high-risk area, consider keeping an alternative water supply. Contact CFA to find out more about bushfire preparation.
4. Check for leaks. Avoid steep water bills by checking

for water leaks now. Read the numbers on your meter, then re-check after a period when you haven't used any water. If the numbers have changed, you may have a leak.

5. Adopt a hydrant. Help to clear grass and soil from fire hydrants or let us know if you spot one that needs attention – you'll be helping the CFA when they need to fight fires and keep property and people safe.
6. The three Ps. Remember only flush pee, poo and (toilet) paper down the loo and avoid a costly (and smelly) plumbing fix. Look out for the new flushable symbol on products too. You'll be helping to keep our sewers operating at their best.
7. Shorten your shower. Save water by keeping your shower to four minutes.
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## THE TIGERS OF OLD

# THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

The pioneering families of Lancefield live on today in place names and in new generations, and nowhere is this link more evident than in the annals of the Lancefield Football Club.

Family names which we see on the football and netball club lists of today stretch back through more than a century of history to the stalwarts that lived in the town or who came out of the hills and bush to represent the honour of Lancefield on the football field.

For a few select families this history of town and football club is unbroken from our earliest days, and this pioneering connection is acknowledged in the history book to be released next year to mark the Lancefield Football Club's 150th year.

Take a drive through Lancefield and you'll see Foy Street, Connors Road, Showlers Lane, Hemphill Court and the landmark Wiegard Buildings.

Go further out into the farmland around town and you'll come across Linehans Bridge, Parks Lane, Shannons Road, Grahams Road, Grahams Track, Mahers Road, Talbots Lane, Talbots Track, Pattinsons Lane, Fagans Lane, Notmans Lane and Oakleys Lane.

Go even further into the bush at Cobaw and you'll find Mooneys Lane.

The history is being compiled by three intergenerational Lancefield identities who are very proud of their Tiger heritage: Denis Graham, Shirley Kishere and John Chisholm. A range of events culminating in a big reunion function at the Mechanics Hall on 1 April will mark the sesquicentenary.

Five families in particular are synonymous with the history of Lancefield and its football club, and you'll find all the details in the history book.

Not only do the five have history of pulling on the boots for the Tigers, but each have provided three generations of premiership players.

The flag history of the Connors clan stretches from Tom in 1888 to Peter in 1996.

The Graham dynasty covers flags ranging from Hubert (Brick) and Oswald in 1903 to Michael in 1996.

Bill Pattinson played in a premiership in 1907, and the most recent premiership player is Justin in 1996.

The Shannons first tasted premiership success with Martin in 1910, and most recently in 1966 with Bern and Keith.

The premiership era for the Walshes is bookended by Frank in 1888 and Michael in 1966.

There will be plenty of representation from our pioneer families at the 150th celebrations in 2023, as well as other families who have made their contribution to our great club.

Numbers for the Back to Lancefield/Lancefield Football Club 150th reunion are likely to be limited to 300, so people need to get in early and book when the \$50 tickets come on sale.

The 150th anniversary will be a hard-bound coffee table edition, with plenty of photographs and extracts from the Lancefield Mercury and other publications of the time.

A range of corporate and personal sponsorship packages are supporting the funding of the history book. Sponsors – with packages at either \$1000, \$500 or \$250 – will be acknowledged. Supporter sponsorships are \$100, and reserved pre-paid copies of the book are \$60. People wanting more details or a pledge/order form can contact Pam Choate on 0414 491 749 or garychoate@bigpond.com or collect one at the Lancefield Community Bank.

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Lancefield F.C. Runners Up 1937

Rear: L to R: Joe Lane (PC), Arthur Dearsley, Jack Campbell, Hac Waterland,

Ernie Meyer, Podge Walker, George Walker, Player 8, Les Sproule (Shamrock Hotel)

Centre L to R: Mick Tanion, Len Krohn, Les Henry, Bob Graham, Bill Duggan, Harry Krohn, Hall(?), Bob Notman.

Front L to R: Tommy (Tinny) Connors, Tom Hall, Dave Madigan, Frank Walsh, Les Meyer. Source: Walsh family photos.

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## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR TIM

Encourage Church. Pastor Tim Emonson, Worship Service Sunday 10am, 7 Mitchell Court Romsey.  
Ph 5429 6327 E: office@encouragechurch.com.au W: encouragechurch.com.au

# CHRISTMAS

I don't know why, but I am really looking forward to Christmas this year. With COVID impacting the ability to come together the past couple of years, it feels like we will get an opportunity to enjoy events in December again. The Community Christmas Carols, our Kidzone Christmas Concert, the church's Family Christmas service on December 18, and our Christmas Day service are locked in. The COVID chains have come off!

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, when God 'came together' with his creation. Jesus was born as a baby and "dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Or as The Message paraphrase puts it, He "moved into the neighbourhood". Just think about that – God came and lived

as a person amongst all that He had created. I find that truly amazing.

One of the names given to Jesus is Immanuel (see Isaiah 7:14), which means God with us. Not God against us, or God is mean toward us, or God doesn't care about us, but God actually with us. God loved and cared for us so much, He sent His Son Jesus to live and then die for us.

That means that I serve a God that has experienced life like me – thirst and hunger, temptation, betrayal by friends and great pain. Jesus went through all that. He knows what it feels like.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, where God came to dwell among us.

## OUTDOOR POOLS

Summer has arrived and Council is pleased to announce the re-opening of the two outdoor pools in Woodend and Lancefield on Saturday 3 December. The two outdoor pools will open in accordance with the temperature-based guidelines.

We are also offering an early bird special on family swim season passes to outdoor pools in either Lancefield or Woodend. Purchase a family season pass for only \$108 (regular price is \$227). Offer ends 17 December. Terms and conditions apply.

For information about pool opening hours and fees, family passes and season tickets, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/outdoor-pools](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/outdoor-pools) or call 5422 0333.

## FREE END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION FOR THE LOCAL ARTS COMMUNITY

There will be a sneak peek at shows coming to Kyneton Town Hall and Kyneton Museum in the first half of 2023. Pre-sale tickets for events will be available on the night, 5.30pm, Thursday 15 December at the Kyneton Town Hall, making a great Christmas present idea for friends and family.

Featured performances on the night include Lucy Wise—Malmsbury singer-songwriter, The Mods—Macedon Ranges-based band and Babaganoush—Gisborne-based band combining the best Gypsy/Romani, Balkan and Greek music from Eastern Europe. Entry is free and finger food will be available. For information and to book your free ticket visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/launch-party](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/launch-party) or contact the Box Office on 1300 888 802 (Monday to Friday 8.30am-4pm).



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# COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2022  
Time: 12.30pm  
Where: Lancefield Hall

Traditional Christmas Lunch

Bookings Are Essential  
W. [lancefield.org.au/lancefield](http://lancefield.org.au/lancefield)  
e. [admin@lancehousehouse.org.au](mailto:admin@lancehousehouse.org.au)  
p. 54291214




## LANCEFIELD COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS Carols EVENT

Enjoy a relaxing evening by being a part of community and celebrating Christmas.

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The Lost Watering Hole is working really hard adding the finishing touches to the brewery, with early December being their target to open.

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tcole@rtedgarmr.com.au

# RT Edgar



# HISTORYFEST A HUGE SUCCESS

The Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society's HistoryFest held on Sunday 6 November was a huge success. This was measured by an attendance of 65 people – a mix from historical societies, history and heritage groups, interested individuals and local residents. There was a real buzz in the Mechanics' Institute Annexe as we settled into a day filled with talks, presentations, discussion and great conviviality.

The day began with talks by Dr Peter Yule and Dr Richard Trembath. These historians have written prolifically on subjects as varied as the Korean War, Collins Class Submarines, the legacy of the Vietnam War, and the history of the Victorian Bar. Many of the historical societies acknowledged the degree to which their talks set the tone of the day. We were especially delighted that two representatives of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) participated fully in the day. We all learned a great deal about the range of research available online as well as the sources they make available to local historical societies.

Representatives from the Broadford, Kilmore, Romsey & Lancefield, Trentham, Malmsbury and Woodend Historical Societies spoke about their organisations, their projects and the significant local histories they had published. The Chewton Domain Group, Friends of Kyneton Museum and Wallan Wallan History Group (an online only group) all informed us about their activities and their own communities. Many of these groups have published extensively, and these books were discussed and were on sale at the end of the presentations.

Following our day of presentations, Rosemary Cameron, CEO of the RHSV, congratulated everyone on their efforts and their contributions. She said: 'When I was invited to attend and participate today, I knew that it would be a successful day, because the historical societies here today are successful.' Rosemary was right!

Tables had been set up in the foyer so that the societies could sell their books and other items of interest. While enjoying more conversation, sumptuous food, local wine and book sales, we were entertained with the live music of harp student, Georgia.

In 2021 the Society was successful in its application to the Victorian State Government for a grant to hold this HistoryFest. Funding was granted to encourage communities to reconnect after Covid lockdowns, and this aim was certainly achieved.

As well as receiving funding from VisitVictoria, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of so many of our local businesses. The following businesses sponsored our day in cash or in-kind and we thank them sincerely: Bendigo Bank, Central Victoria Conveyancing, Curly Flat Wines, Double



Oak Estate, Heskett Estate Wines, Hindsight Consulting, Lancefield Bakery, Lancefield Guesthouse, Lancefield Pharmacy, Lancefield Post Office, Lancefield Providore and Ochre Health. Not to forget the Lancefield Mercury.

The day was a milestone – it emphasised the importance of the work done by all local historical societies – especially publishing their own local histories. This was the second HistoryFest held by our Society. Sunday convinced us that continuing to meet regularly with other like-minded societies and groups is vitally important; there has already been a call for an annual event of this nature!

Fay Woodhouse





# STACEY HEANEY

Stacey Heaney is a 30-year-old historic motorcycle racer of all disciplines who has been racing since she was 5 years old. The Lancefield local podiumed third at the Southern Classic Broadford in early November in the pre-1972 unlimited cc class, on a 1972 Yamaha xs 650. Stacey the only female competing on a solo machine also placed fourth on a 1954 BSA 350cc machine.

Historic motorcycles were produced from the early 30s up to late 90s . Stacey specialises in historic road racing and motocross, taking out multiple lap records and Australian titles in a male dominated industry. Some of the motorcycles she competes on are a 1954 BSA b31 350cc

(road racer), 1964 Triumph Metisse 500cc (motocross) and a 1983 Honda CB 1100cc *Superbike* (road race)

On the weekend of 25-28 November she will be competing in the Australian Superbike challenge at the BEND motorsports Park South Australia on her 1984 Honda CB 1100cc in the classic support class. She hopes to do women kind proud and represent women professionally and competitively in a male dominated field.

Visit her face book page (<https://www.facebook.com/staceyheaneyracing>) to learn more about historic racing and follow her many adventures. .





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# FOURTH TERM IS FLYING BY

Fourth term is flying by, and the students have been kept extremely busy with many excursions and incursions. So many opportunities and great learning experiences have happened already this term and so many more still to go. Here is a snapshot of what's been happening in the last few weeks.

## RSL ESSAY COMPETITION

Our Year 5/6 students were invited to enter the RSL essay competition recently. This year they had to write about the Returned Services League and its importance for those that have served. At assembly on Friday 4 November, we were honoured to have Reinhard and Ron from the Romsey Lancefield RSL join us to announce the winners. Congratulations to Gus Haslett (first place), Lachlan McElhinney (second) and Michael Brown (third) for their excellent work.

## PREP EXCURSION - PEVAN & SARAH CONCERT

Wednesday 2 November was a very exciting day for the Prep students of St Mary's. They traveled to the Capital Theatre in Bendigo to see educational entertainers 'Pevan and Sarah'. It was a magical experience seeing the very talented duo perform live to a packed audience, and to top it all off our preps sat in the very front row. The preps danced and sang along to 'Give it a Go', 'Syllables', 'Rhyme Time', 'The Morning Song' and many more. They all wore their tiger ears in honour of Pevan the tiger and listened as Principal Pallywaffle made her announcements. Following this they had a lovely picnic lunch in Rosalind Park. A huge thanks to Mrs Zarb for organising this amazing experience for our prep students.

## YEAR 6 VISIT TO THE MEN'S SHED

By Tabatha and Seamus

On 8/11/22 half of the grade 6s walked to the Men's Shed in Lancefield to learn some wood making skills with the men and women at the Men's Shed. During this time we learnt the skill of not hitting our thumb while nailing and being able to use a drill. (It was a lot of fun!) First, we built a birdhouse and that was really fun. We had to nail together the main structure of the houses, with glue as some extra support. After having fun with building the bird houses, we left the workshop for biscuits and cordial that the women provided for us.

After the delicious snacks provided, we continued to make things. This time, however, we built a pencil case made out of wood. It was another fun activity that benefits us all as we have now promoted them to our new pencil cases. After that we went home, saying goodbye and thank you to the men and women that helped us. Overall the Men's Shed was an amazing experience for us all.

## Year 5/6 Excursion to Latitude

By Emma and Naite

On Monday 7 November, Year 5 and 6 students got the opportunity to go to Latitude and they had a blast. We got on the bus that took us from Lancefield to Heidelberg and when we got there, we had a snack. After snack we were split into 3 groups that we got to choose and went to different activities. The activities were basketball, rock climbing, dodgeball and ninja warrior. After that we had an hour of free time, the activities were trampolines, ninja warrior, high ropes and stick fighting in the foam pit. After that we had lunch and got back on the bus to Lancefield.



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## DEMOCRACY, COMMUNITY AND ME - 3/4 INCURSION

The students in Year 3/4 had a wonderful day on Tuesday 8th November at their incursion Democracy, Community and Me. Students explored the fundamentals of democracy and government in Australia. They examined the difference between rules and laws and how they are made to benefit the community. Students stood for mock-election to the local government while learning about preferential voting and absolute majorities. They participated in a local government council meeting role play, with costumes and props, to illustrate how local rules and laws are made for the community. Students took the role of Councillors and residents to contribute their opinions to the debate and to get to grips with the democratic process. We were super impressed with the confident manner in which all students contributed to the incursion. We certainly have potential leaders in our classroom who can be very persuasive and confident public speakers. Well done 3/4.



## DAY FOR DANIEL

On Friday 28 October, St Mary's participated in Day for Daniel. Students wore red, donated a gold coin and spent the middle part of the day learning about personal safety. A total of \$206 was raised for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. We were lucky enough to have Dan Leach, a Victorian Police Officer join us to speak with students about safety. Dan also invited a couple of local police officers to join us for part of the session.

The Preps loved their police visit, especially the chance they were given to freely explore the police vehicles. For the Junior talks, the police officers discussed ways to stay safe while performing different activities and reminded the

children to go straight to a safety helper if they felt unsafe in any way.

In the prep classroom, they discussed body cues that tell us we are feeling unsafe and drew these on an outline of their bodies. Then they traced their safety hand which showed their 5 safe adults (safety helpers) to go to if they felt unsafe or uncomfortable.

In the 1/2 classes, the students looked at a clip of a fight in the playground and how it got out of hand because people didn't make good choices. They then discussed how they could have handled the situation better. They also looked at a clip about the importance of rules and the consequences of not following rules.

In the 5/6 classes they did a brainstorm about bullying and watched a video of Adam Goodes talking about bullying. Police Officer Dan talked to them about staying safe online and gave them some strategies. They also had the chance to check out different equipment the police use and have a close look at a police vehicle.

We thank everyone for their participation and all our families for supporting this day.

Jo Shannon (Community Liaison Leader)



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# SOFT PLASTIC COLLECTION

Soft plastics taken to Council’s transfer stations by residents will not be impacted by the closure of REDcycle. These plastic items are collected by local Kyneton company, Victorian Regional Recyclers (<https://victorianregionalrecyclers.com.au/>), and are taken to GT plastics in Geelong (<https://gtrecycling.com.au/>) for mechanical reprocessing to pellets.

It is important to note that the transfer station only takes some plastics and not, for example, silver lined chip packets, silage wrap and snack wrappers. They do, however, take bread-bag tags and plastic bottle caps (collected separately in clear plastic bags). The transfer station soft plastic trial was to run for an initial six-month period which finished some months ago. Four tonnes a week (or 100-150 cubic metres a month) has been successfully collected.

Council has encountered some contamination issues, particularly with loose small plastics that make it difficult to go to market for an ongoing service. Council is working with the current provider and testing additional waste education messaging to overcome the contamination issue. Council is planning to be in a position by the end of the financial year to test the market for an ongoing service.

Council launched the kerbside soft plastics recycling collection trial in Romsey in November 2022 to support the community to reduce waste and recycle more.

Council confirms that its kerbside soft plastics collection trial in Romsey will still go ahead and will not be impacted by REDcycle’s announcement to halt collection of soft plastics. All soft plastic items accepted in the REDcycle service, and that carry the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL)–Return to Store symbol or REDcycle logo are accepted in this trial.

All soft plastic items accepted in the REDcycle service, bearing the REDcycle logo or the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) – Return to Store/Store drop-off symbol can go into the kerbside trial in Romsey.

The trial is being driven by the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) and is part of a national trial for a stewardship program led by the Australian Food & Grocery Council (AFGC) and funded by the Australian Government.

Plastic collected will be going to our comingled processor APR (<https://www.aprplastics.com.au/>) which now has a soft plastic pyrolysis plant in Dandenong that will transform

the collected plastic back into crude oil for reprocessing back to plastic. The food processors who are members of AFGC will buy the material back for packaging, closing the loop.

Council officers are investigating APR’s capacity to take more material at their facility in Dandenong, as we are expecting to get an increase in material from residents at the transfer stations. In addition, following the current trial, officers will investigate the potential to roll out the soft plastic collection across the whole shire.

In February 2023, Council and the AFGC will invite residents and business owners of Romsey to complete a satisfaction survey. Council will then look at options for an ongoing shire-wide service to support soft plastics recycling.

For information regarding Council’s free soft plastics drop-off at transfer stations, including what items are accepted, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/soft-plastics](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/soft-plastics). To find out more about the Romsey soft plastics trial visit [mrsc.vic.gov](http://mrsc.vic.gov)

Council’s Chief Executive Officer Bernie O’Sullivan said, “Council will consider whether any other interim local solutions are needed to help residents with their recycling needs in light of REDcycle’s announcement. We know this is a popular service for locals to use. I’d like to remind residents they can still take their soft plastics to our transfer stations for free. We also encourage our Romsey residents to support the soft plastics kerbside collection trial taking place.”

## RECYCLING SURVEY

Council is relaunching the ‘Let’s Get Sorted’ campaign materials in line with the state-wide campaign – ‘Small acts, big impact’ and wants to investigate household behavior, attitudes and knowledge to improve Council’s waste education. Your valuable opinion will help us understand how we can improve our waste and resource recovery services and better support the community to reduce waste to landfill and increase recycling.

By completing the survey, you can also win one of the three lucky draw visa gift cards worth \$200. The survey closes 20 December. Visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/your-say](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/your-say) to find out more.

Andy Moore

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# ALL WELCOME TO MASS

## SUNDAY MASS

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

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

### Saturday Healing Mass

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

## BAPTISMS

Baptisms are held at 2:30pm on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. Please contact the office for the next available date.

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

Plans are underway to host an outdoor Christmas Eve Mass this year. Fr. Arnold Heredia has kindly agreed to

celebrate Christmas Masses at St. Mary's this year, so Fr. Martin will be able to schedule a further three Masses at Woodend. A total of five Christmas Masses will be available to all St. Mary's and St. Ambrose parishioners so there will be a time and place to suit everyone.

- Saturday 24 December – 6pm – outdoor family Mass – Lancefield.
- Saturday 24 December – 6pm – indoor family Mass – Woodend.
- Saturday 24 December – 10pm Mass (including carols) – Woodend.
- Sunday 25 December – 9am Christmas Day Mass – Lancefield.
- Sunday 25 December – 9am Christmas Day Mass – Woodend

Should a parishioner want to go to Reconciliation, please contact Fr. Martin directly. Please direct enquiries to the parish office on 5429 2130 or by email (lancefield@cam.org.au). For funeral arrangements, please contact Fr. Martin at woodend@cam.org.au or on 5427 2690.

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# SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS WANTED!

Council is currently looking for swimming instructors for Learn to Swim classes.

Swimming instructors deliver classes for a range of ages and abilities, including preschool, primary, infant, schools, stroke development (squad), adults, disability and private lessons.

There are also opportunities for you to obtain the qualifications needed for this position if you do not currently have them. Get in contact to find out how. Call Wayne Brown on 5421 1490 (or [wbrown@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:wbrown@mrsc.vic.gov.au)).

# GRASS IDENTIFICATION DAY

Sunday 11 December, 10am-11.30am, Malmsbury

Martin Roberts, our Bushland Reserves Officer, will take you on a guided walk around Malmsbury Common. Martin will give a practical demonstration and discuss the key characteristics in identifying the grasses you have on your property and in your paddocks.

# VETERANS AND KIDS THEY CARE FOR

Veterans can face a multitude of challenges after transitioning out of the defence force. These challenges can have knock-on effects for kids living in veteran families and the relationship they have with their parents. We are looking for Veterans and their co-parent, currently caring for kids 3-12 years, to anonymously complete an online survey. The survey is available using any device with internet access.

The survey will require around 25-30 minutes of your time. Your answers will help us better understand the relationships between Veteran mental health, experience of parenting or providing parental care, and kid's psychological wellbeing.

Research findings will inform development of Veteran parenting support programs.

Online survey or email our contact below for a copy: <https://redcap.link/VeteranParentCarerSurvey>.

Contact Katrina Streatfeild PhD (Psychiatry)  
Candidatekatrina.streatfeild@uon.edu.au

This project has been approved by the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs Human Research Ethics Committee [Approval No.280-20] and registered with the University of Newcastle Human Research Ethics Committee [H-2021-0031].



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SENIOR CITIZENS

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

We Wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

## CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

After a couple of weeks off, we are back in our rooms enjoying our Monday get togethers. Helen, our President, was off sick for a couple of weeks but is back ready to go.

Our Monthly Bus Trip are back on for December. We are off to the Highlands Hotel in Craigieburn for a Luncheon. This will be on Tuesday 6 December. If you are interested, please ring Helen for details of pickup times and costs. Hope to see you soon.

For further information please contact Helen on 0409 064 303.



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## HAVING FUN

Having fun, making new friends, and catching-up with old ones, that is what we are about.

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

Our monthly meeting (fourth Thursday of the month) is a chance to share a pleasant, delicious, morning tea, and hear interesting speakers on a wide variety of topics.

The first meeting of the Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club for 2023 will be on Thursday 23 February, at 10am in St.Mary's Catholic Church Hall, Main Street, Romsey.

There are many activities members can enjoy; some being regular, and others planned from time to time. Join us for coffee at the Lancefield Corner Store at 10am every Friday for a chat and a bit of fun. We are a friendly welcoming group from diverse backgrounds and with a variety of interests, and we'd love to meet you!

President: Tony 0410747616, Secretary: Noreen 0401 579 180 ([www.rlprobus.org.au](http://www.rlprobus.org.au))

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful 2023.

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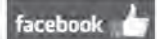
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MRODC

# A DOG IS FOR LIFE NOT JUST CHRISTMAS

The final induction for the year saw 13 new members. Our next induction is on Sunday 5 February.

Christmas is almost here and whilst many are aware of the problems chocolate causes, other festive treats are also toxic. Nuts, mince pies and Christmas pudding - best keep everything out of reach, and remember a dog's nose is powerful and can sniff out food under the tree with ease.

We don't often use mistletoe or holly in Australia but we do often use poinsettias as decoration, or give them as gifts; they are dangerous if eaten by our canine friends. Candles can also be an issue as dog fur is flammable. A wagging tail can easily knock a candle over, setting fire to wrapping paper, presents or anything else it lands on.

A dog is curious by nature and a Christmas tree, whether real or artificial, can pose a health risk. Adorned with fairy lights, tinsel, edible treats and so on, they are seen as a convenient peeing post or new chew toy. Christmas tree oil/sap can cause skin irritation, and if eaten/chewed, pine needles are mildly toxic. Chewing on an artificial tree has its own dangers, such as ingesting bits of wire. To keep your dog safe, place your tree in a corner, elevated, maybe contained, and save your best decorations for the top.

Lastly from our family at MRODC to yours have a Merry



Christmas we'll see you in 2023.

Visit our website [www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au](http://www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au), our Facebook page or email to [info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au](mailto:info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au) for more information.

Remember a dog is for life not just Christmas.

Carol

Instructor/Treasurer MRODC

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# CHRISTMAS HOURS

The Romsey Library will close at 5pm on Friday 23 December and then remain closed throughout the Christmas and New Year period until reopening at 9.30am on Tuesday January 3.

Our eLibrary ([www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/eLibrary](http://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/eLibrary)) will remain fully accessible during this time. The Kyneton and Gisborne libraries will both be open Wednesday 28 December to Friday 30 December, 10am – 5pm.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Our final children's story sessions for 2022 will take place in the third week of December.

- Last Storytime: 11am, Monday 12 December
- Last Toddler Time: 11am, Tuesday 13 December
- Last Baby Rhyme Time: 11am, Thursday 15 December

## A MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

Yes, you guessed it, it's Christmas time! With this realisation comes great responsibility for us Christmas lovers - a duty to share as much Christmas joy as possible, and the Romsey Library is here to help you do that! With Christmas books galore we've got you covered. For the crafty creators check out Craft it up: Christmas Around the World or Kids make Christmas: over 40 kids' craft projects for Christmas. For

those in charge of the Christmas day feast, browse through Jamie Oliver's Christmas Cookbook and Women's Weekly: Celebrating Christmas for inspiration. And for anyone wanting to get lost in a Christmas winter wonderland tale, borrow The Merry Christmas Project by Cathy Bramley, White Christmas by Katie Flynn or The Christmas Bookshop by Jenny Colgan.

We've also got plenty of children's Christmas books to keep them entertained before Santa visits, with Bluey: Christmas Swim, Peppa's Christmas Unicorn and Steve the Christmas Elf.

Personally, I'll be borrowing Zero Waste Christmas: Crafty Ideas for a Sustainable Christmas by Christine Leech & Emma Friedlander-Collins, in an attempt to be as sustainable as possible this festive season.

To see what else is available, view our catalogue at [goldfields.spydus.com](http://goldfields.spydus.com), or to access magazines online, visit [ncgrl.vic.gov.au/elibrarynewspapersmagazines](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au/elibrarynewspapersmagazines).

Merry Christmas from Liv and the Romsey Library team!

## ROMSEY LIBRARY PLAYDATE

1– 3pm, Tuesday 13 December

Come along to the library to connect with others and make

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new friends. We have a lovely space for interaction between parents, carers and children, with toys from the Romsey Toy Library to keep the kids entertained. Everyone is welcome at this free session, scheduled for 1– 3pm on Tuesday 13 December. For more information, visit the library at 98 Main Street Romsey or phone us on 5429 3086.

**A CURIOUS CIRCLE:**

*Curiosity, Connection & Creativity! 7– 8.30pm, Thursday 15 December*

We're inviting adult women to come together to connect and explore their curiosity in a creative way. Try out some new arts and crafts just for fun – no special skills required.

Our December evening will focus on Christmas craft. Supper is provided, and beginners are welcome. Bookings essential. For more information, please email romsey@ncgrl.vic.gov.au or phone us on 5429 3086.

And keep an eye out for future Curious Circle events in February 2023.

**BIG SUMMER READ**

*A Victorian State-wide Reading Program  
When – December 2022 – January 2023  
Who – anyone aged 0-18 years.*

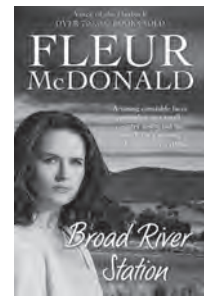
Research has identified a phenomenon known as the 'summer slide', which refers to the loss of literacy skills over the summer holidays when children do not read—estimated on average as the equivalent of two to three months of reading proficiency. The BIG Summer Read aims to slow the slide by engaging children and their families in a fun and dynamic campaign supported by Beanstack, a user-friendly website (with an intuitive mobile app) that makes it easy to register, track reading and earn digital 'badges' as rewards for reaching reading milestones. Both Beanstack and paper reading logs will be available to participants this year.

Visit – [www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au](http://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au), [www.plv.org.au/projects/big-summer-read/](http://www.plv.org.au/projects/big-summer-read/) or enquire at the library desk.

**NEW AUSTRALIAN FICTION**

To reserve a loan of any of these titles, head to [www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au](http://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au) or phone the library directly on 5429 3086.

Broad River Station by Fleur McDonald  
Bestselling author Fleur McDonald really knows how to layer on the suspense. Rookie police officer Mia faces resistance and prejudice when she is



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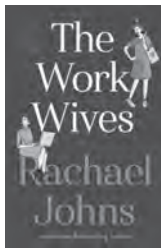
**Contact Jack 0411 429 003**

## ROMSEY LIBRARY

posted at Broad River – but that all changes when a child goes missing and it's Mia who everyone is counting on.

The Butterfly Collector by Tea Cooper

This dual timeline mystery follows the story of 1920's Sydney journalist Verity Binks as she unravels the secrets of the Treadwell family stretching all the way back to the early colonial era. Known for her compelling storylines and strong female characters, Tea Cooper is a master of the genre.



The Work Wives by Rachael Johns

Debra and Quinn couldn't be more different, but at work they are each other's lifelines. And just when the latest round of office politics seems to be simmering down, a new man arrives, and it all goes horribly wrong. One woman can't stand him. The other can't stop thinking about him...

The Wrong Sister by Fiona Palmer

A family camping trip forces Ellie Sutton to answer some hard questions about herself. Why did she give up her career move to an outback cattle station? And why did she leave everyone else behind? A heartfelt and evocative story set in the Karijini country of Western Australia.

# SHIRELIFE TIMELY UPDATE

Council has made a change to the release dates of the ShireLife newsletter for 2023 to make it more timely and relevant for residents.

There will be three editions in 2023 with the first edition due to for delivery at the end of February/early March. The first edition will provide an overview of upcoming events and service information as well as current Council news.

The second edition will be released end of July with information regarding Council's 2023/24 Budget. The final edition will be delivered mid-November with a wrap-up of Council's news for the year and information leading into 2024. Vouchers and offers will also still be available in relevant issues so keep an eye out. For information about ShireLife or to subscribe to Council eNewsletters visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/newsletters](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/newsletters)



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# PLENTY HAPPENING

## WHATS ON

Romsey Church Service 9am each Sunday; Lancefield Church Service 10:30am each Sunday.

Christmas Services: Saturday 24 Christmas Eve - St Paul's Romsey at 11:30pm; Sunday 25 Christmas Day - Christ Church Lancefield 10am.

Prayer Meeting at St Pauls Romsey each Monday 7pm.

Bible Study St Pauls Romsey Tuesday 6:30pm.

Bible Study Christ Church Lancefield Thursday 10:30am.

## MONTHLY PARISH COMMUNITY LUNCH:

Saturday 10 December will be a fun filled Christmas Lunch at Christ Church Lancefield Hall at 12midday. The day is free, and all are very welcome to attend.

## ROMSEY TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAY:

The Town Churches are once again joining together and working to create a Christmas Theme for the Romsey

Christmas Tree Street display. Watch out for the displays, they are well worth the time for a slow wander through our lovely Romsey.

We pray that everyone in the Lancefield, Romsey and the wider communities enjoy a safe and a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year for the year ahead.

## OP SHOP

St Paul's Romsey Op Shop will close for Christmas break 20 December and re-open on Friday 20 January. During this time the Op shop will undergo some maintenance work and be ready to open for normal hours of Friday 12:30-4:30 and Saturday 10:00-1:00pm. The Op Shop will be refreshed and ready with lots of new items for your perusal. Owing to the maintenance work it would be appreciated if your donations could be delivered after the opening date in January. Your valued donations of clothing, bric-a-brac, craft items, books and good quality working toys can be left Friday afternoon or Saturday mornings during open hours. Please do not pack in large boxes as they are too heavy for volunteers to carry. Note that owing to regulations we cannot accept electrical goods, prams, baby cots, furniture or mattresses. Your ongoing support and donations are much valued and appreciated.

Rev. Matthew Browne 0401 615 099

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# HANGING ROCK KOALA COUNT

In November, citizen scientists and Council staff gathered at Hanging Rock Reserve for the annual Koala Count. Koala numbers have declined throughout the Macedon Ranges, and have even become locally extinct in some areas. Fortunately, visitors are still able to observe koalas at Hanging Rock Reserve and it is important that we keep tabs on this precious population. Koala watchers were delighted to spot two koalas—a male and a female—sitting in Manna Gum trees.

This year there has been an extensive program of habitat planting at Hanging Rock Reserve. Counting koalas lets reserve staff know they are on track to keep the koalas happy at Hanging Rock.

If you are interested in participating in our koala count next year or other environment events, subscribe to the Environment eNews at [mrsc.vic.gov.au/Environment-eNews](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/Environment-eNews)

# MEN'S MONDAY

Lancefield's newest hairdressing salon, Instyle Hair in High Street, have just begun a special day for men: Men's Monday is now open for men only – and they can simply call in for a cut when they have the time. What a good idea – especially as one of the hairdressers is trained to cut men's hair!

Janelle Urritia, the new owner of Instyle Hair, saw that there was a need for this kind of service when a growing number of men of this town and surrounding areas, began dropping in without appointments to see if they could get a haircut. It seems these men, especially tradies whose hours and the length of job can be unpredictable, were constantly missing out on appointments because they could not guarantee they would be able to be there at a particular time. Hence, Men's Monday!

Fay Woodhouse

## The Wood Bloke

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