

Lancefield Mercury

CAN WE SHAPE THE FUTURE OF LANCEFIELD?

Maybe not, but we can have a vision to work towards. The Neighbourhood House aims to collect our different ideas and ideals and put together a new plan to work toward for the future.

A forward plan was created, with the help of the Shire, in 2009, and nearly all of the strategies have been completed - the missing one being the walking track which requires a pedestrian bridge over the creek. It's time for an update, so tell us what you would like in your town. Complete the survey on-line by scanning the QR Code or fill in a hard copy available at the Townhouse, 28 High St.



IS OUR FUTURE VISION FOR LANCEFIELD A SUSTAINABLE ONE?

If you are interested in sustainability, climate change, environmental protection and adaptation for the future, then contribute to our plan to develop a sustainable strategic plan for Lancefield.

Join like-minded people and the Cool Changes organisers from Macedon Ranges Shire Council on Tuesday 8th June at the Neighbourhood House, 78 High Street, 12.30pm (Lunch provided).

If you can't make that time, you can email your ideas to the House, leave a message on the phone, or complete

the survey on the MRSC website. If you only available on evenings or weekends please email us so we can arrange this. Please RSVP for catering on 54291214.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM AND NEW ACTIVITIES

Visit the Neighbourhood House website, lancefield.neighbourhoodhouse.org for information about the upcoming school holiday program, the Succulent Interest Group and the Family History Group.

VOLUNTEERING IS GREAT FOR YOUR HEALTH

All the Neighbourhood House activities are run by volunteers, so there are lots of different jobs. Phone Vivien on 0409 386 875 to find out what you might like to do. In particular, we are currently looking for Townhouse volunteers, Op Shop (especially people happy to be short notice fill-ins), a Bookkeeper, Transport Project admin staff and promotion support. There are also opportunities to help with the Lancefield Show, the monthly community lunches, the Megafauna Festival; and all our local clubs and organisations could always do with a helping hand.

And yes, there are studies that show that volunteering is really good for your health, mentally and physically. We have something for every interest, ability and time available.


Submitted by Vivien Philpot



Donna Price



Ben Oost




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POETRY (AND PEOPLE) IN MOTION: ROMSEY'S PROGRESSIVE DINNER

On Saturday 24 April, one hundred and fifty eager eaters converged on Romsey to enjoy the Progressive Dinner event, part of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Autumn Festival. Instigated by the Romsey Region Business and Tourism Association (RRBATA), this event took some of us back to the 1980s (or earlier) when progressive dinners were all the rage! Jenny Stillman and the RRBATA committee organised an exciting night of entertainment and eating. The theme for the event was 'Poetry in Motion', honouring the distinguished poet, Vincent Buckley, who was born and raised in Romsey.

Our evening began with an entrée course at Evans Wine & Cheese Bar. The platter of pork terrine, a shot of gazpacho soup and arancini was enjoyed by everyone at my table. We

were also entertained by the bush poet Jack Bamford with music accompanist Sarah Holden. Sadly, at this venue the voices of people enjoying conversation drowned out the artists. At Evans, we had the option to join a gin tasting, as well as explore the new outside entertainment area with igloos lit up and looking very inviting.

From there our group walked across the road and had time to visit the Romsey Neighbourhood House Co-op as well as taste Indian food on our way to Soltan Pepper. Before our main course arrived, we listened to the poet Ben Oost, a PhD candidate at James Cook University. Ben lives in Castlemaine and was a founding member of Woodend Chamber Poets for some years. He read his own poem 'Nothing But Stardust', ►

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POETRY (AND PEOPLE) IN MOTION

from his Mad Honey collection of poems. He recited one of Vincent Buckley's poems from his book Last Poems. I especially enjoyed hearing 'I See Romsey'; it was one of the highlights of the night for me.

While walking to our final destination, we may or may not have been filmed by a group of filmmakers! After socialising with those we had met at one restaurant or the other, we arrived at Verdure for our sweets – a choice of pavlova or orange cake. At Verdure we were treated to a round-robin poetry reading conducted by the entertainer Donna Prince. Members of the audience were called upon to join the reading which was great fun for all.

The 2021 Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival was the first in what I hope will become an annual event. The event was extremely well run, stimulating as well as entertaining. I'm not sure where the idea of 'poetry in motion' came from, but the spotlight on Vincent Buckley was an excellent focus. Vincent Buckley may not be a name that all residents are aware of, yet he was a well-known and respected former resident of the town. He studied at the University of Melbourne and went on to become a professor of English there, as well as a public intellectual and a left-wing activist. Romsey has much to be proud of in Buckley. And we have much to be proud of with the efforts of the members of RRBATA and its committee. Congratulations to you all for hosting this terrific event.

Fay Woodhouse

UPDATED ROAD RULES TO MAKE CYCLING SAFER

From April 26, when drivers pass a person riding a bicycle, they must leave a space of at least 1 metre between the vehicle and the rider, on roads where the speed limit is 60kmh or less. If drivers are travelling on roads with speed limits over 60kph, they must leave a space of at least 1.5 metres between their vehicle and the bicycle rider. The minimum passing distance is measured from the widest part of the combination of the vehicle and trailer (if one is being towed).

If drivers cannot pass the bicycle rider safely, they need to slow down and wait until the next safe opportunity to do so. For large vehicles when towing boats, horse floats, caravans and 'tradie' trailers, as well as heavy vehicles such as buses and trucks, a safe distance may be more than the 1 or 1.5 metre minimum. Therefore, drivers may need to slow down, sit behind and wait for a safe place to pass.

Be patient and respect all other road users.

LANCEFIELD MERCURY INC.

A0045845D



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

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

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

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

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

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

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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





Unlike in every other field of law, silence is taken as consent if people don't object to mining applications.

In 2018, Perth based company, Macedon Resources applied for a mining exploration licence near Romsey and Lancefield. A 5,276-strong petition gathered in two days, and the support of Gold Logie winning comedian Tom Gleeson, saw the mining company respond to the overwhelming community feedback by halving its area of interest, before quickly withdrawing its application altogether. In 2020 Gleeson again used his star power to pressure Syndicate Minerals to withdraw their application for a mining exploration licence spanning a huge area of the Macedon Ranges. He posted on social media "We did it again. Thank you for keeping Macedon Ranges free of mining. Best way to stop a mine is to make sure it never starts." Exactly!

Last September, the front page of the Mercury featured an article from the Deep Creek Landcare Group noting our relief upon hearing the good news. The article also warned of an impending application for an exploration licence (EL007329) in the Romsey area by Red Rock Australasia. Unfortunately, the application was successful, and we now wait with trepidation for the outcome of other applications to explore the Macedon Ranges with the aim of establishing mines. An application by Red Rock Australasia (EL007460) is in the formal advertising stage, and is known by them as the "The Kilmore West Project". Really? We know it covers Lancefield, Romsey, Monageetta, Bolinda and Clarkefield or collectively the Macedon Ranges.

Landcare initially submitted objections to Earth Resources (State Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions), to the company involved and also to our local member of Parliament, Mary-Anne Thomas. At our April meeting we passed the following motion: "The Deep Creek Landcare Group is strongly against any mining or mining

exploration in the Macedon Ranges. We believe that mining is at odds with the unique values of the Macedon Ranges." After the successful application by Red Rock Resources, a subsequent letter pleaded to our local state member to act on our behalf. "Mary-Anne, we call on you, as Minister for Agriculture and our local member, to stand with us and take an active and public role in ensuring that mining has no place in the Macedon ranges. We ask you to do what is in your power to have EL007329 withdrawn, to seek a ban on mining in the ranges and to overhaul the outdated and unfair process that is currently in place regarding applications for mining exploration."

Mining companies are obliged to advertise locally. They lodge their applications on the Earth Resources website. Sometimes they are lodged months in advance, or sometimes just before advertising. Once advertised, there are officially only 21 days after the last advertisement for the public to lodge objections. We ask residents to be vigilant, and to raise their voices. The only way to stop mining in our area is to be vocal. We need to use various forms of media and the official channels to register our objections and to send a message to our political representatives.

The No-Mining-Macedon-Ranges website is full of information, as is the State Government's Earth Resources webpage.

Indian Myna birds continue to be a problem in the district. Thirty-four were trapped in April, but this is just the tip of the iceberg. We have traps available to borrow, if you are able to help. 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.

Submitted by Phil Severs



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FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

WHERE WE ARE HEADING?

Council has released two particularly important documents for community consultation. The first is our budget for 21/22. If you have any interest in what will happen in the next 12 months, this is a must read. The other document is the Council Plan. This document will give you a concept of where we are heading in the years ahead. Your submission on either document can be made until COB on 8th June. Please, do not let this opportunity to shape what we do, pass.

In February, Council determined to write to the owner of the Romsey Hotel, regarding its future. A meeting between Mr Jim Hogan and Council staff took place in April. Mr Hogan indicated there were organisations interested in purchasing the site for conversion into either a supermarket or food outlet. The possibility of reopening the pub as a pub/bistro venue was discussed; however, Mr

Hogan advised this concept was not currently an active project.

The cost of recycling going to landfill is very much an expensive exercise. From Feb 2020 to March 2021, total tonnages of contaminated recycling that went to landfill equated to 2150 tonnes (approximately) or \$300k - \$350k (approximately), basically 2.5 times the cost of recycling. No question – education is the key, and we need to do better! Uploading the Loddon Mallee Waste Info App (free) is a good start.

Bill West 0400 025 455 bwest@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Geoff Neil 0419 244 776 gneil@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Annette Death 0427 956 117 adeath@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Submitted by Geoff Neil

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MAKING HISTORY NEVER STOPS

The second of the Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society's General Meetings with a speaker was held on Tuesday 25 May. Peter Scanlon told the story of his family's life in Springfield and his forebears, Thomas Scanlon and his wife Mary. The family arrived in Australia from Limerick in Ireland in 1854 and settled in Springfield around 1864 where six more children were born in the hamlet. From this time, Scanlon's have lived in Springfield where they have now farmed 'Waterford Park' for generations. The afternoon was enjoyed by many long-term and new Members of the Society.

The Society has planned an informative and entertaining program of talks for the next few months commencing in June. In the first of the Talking History program for 2021, the artist Peter Sanders will present his talk 'Bourke & Wills Journey through Victoria' and an Art Exhibition. This event will be held at the Lancefield Mechanics' Institute Annexe on Sunday 20 June from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Peter has travelled to all of the places Bourke & Wills stopped along the way and painted all of them. This Fundraiser for the Society will cost \$25.00 per head and includes beer, wine and soft drink, as well as savoury refreshments. The money will go toward restoration costs for Seymour Cottage.

The annual Winter Lunch & General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 July from 1.00-3.00 pm at the Mechanics' Institute Annexe and we are delighted to announce that Actor-director Beth Child will be presenting a talk on historic clothes and fashion, using some pieces in our collection as starting-points. Actively engaged with the local Lancefield community, Beth is currently producing the Breathe Creative Arts Festival concert on Saturday June 26th. The cost of the Winter Lunch and General Meeting is \$15.00 per head.

On Sunday 22 August, an interesting talk entitled 'Surveying the Landscape: the oldest profession in the world' will be presented by the Surveyor-General of Victoria and Romsey resident Craig Sandy LS. Craig will talk about



his career in surveying, place naming in Victoria, his work on the publication the National Gazetteer and the role of surveying in our local history. The cost of this afternoon of entertainment will be \$25.00 per head for soft drink, beer and wine as well as substantial savory refreshments.

Following the success of the History Tea at Seymour Cottage the Society is keen to welcome new members. For catering purposes for all of these events please RSVP to: lancefieldcourthouse@gmail.com and indicate which event you wish to attend.

Fay Woodhouse
Romsey & Lancefield District Historical Society




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ROMSEY/LANCEFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS BUS TRIPS

Firstly, a big *Thank You* to the Lancefield and Romsey Community Branches of the Bendigo Bank for their kind sponsorship of our monthly bus trips. Their support helps us to keep the cost down.

We had a lovely trip to Castlemaine in May; the biscuit factory was really worth the visit. Our June trip is to Westfield Shopping Centre, with lunch at Skyways and some pokies if you would like. Lunch is included in the \$40 price.

Westfield Shopping Centre has a variety of shops including Target, Kmart, Millers, Lowes, and Harris Scarfe, just to name a few. You will have time for some shopping, a relaxing lunch and to try your luck on the pokies.

The bus departs from Lancefield Post Office at 9.15am, and picks up from the front of the Romsey Mechanics institute at 9.30. For further information please contact Helen on 0409 064 303 or Rae on 0408 338 759.

Why not join us for a relaxed lunch, chat and get together? We meet from 11am every Monday at the rear of the Romsey Mechanics' Institute. We will be having our roast meal, provided by Old Mates Café, on Monday 14th of June in our meeting room at the rear of the Romsey Mechanics Institute. Join us for this beautiful meal – roast, veggies and dessert - all for \$10. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Helen or Rae (for catering numbers).

Hope to see you soon.

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She'll talk about some tough stuff, make you laugh and make you feel truly human.

Friday 18 June, 8pm

Kyneton Town Hall: 129 Mollison Street, Kyneton

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Submitted by Monica Hill

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ROMSEY-LANCEFIELD RSL SUB-BRANCH

President: Reinhard Goschiniak 0419 375 060 Secretary: Patricia Vowles 03 5429 3456.
romlancrsl@gmail.com PO Box 315 Romsey Vic 3434

ANZAC APPEAL

The President, committee and members of the Romsey Lancefield RSL wish to thank the people of Lancefield and Romsey for their generous support for our recent Anzac Day Appeal.

The community contributed a total of \$11,674.75 to the Anzac Appeal. The donations will go to the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) General Appeals Patriotic Fund which is set up to assist serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families. The Romsey Lancefield RSL Sub-Branch receives 50% of all local donations, which we use as our operating budget for the

running of our Sub-Branch.

Assistance for our members and community include, but are not limited to, help with utilities payments, firewood, and other needs they may require. We also run community events such as the Spirit of Anzac Award, School essay competitions and veterans' events.

The Committee would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers who braved the elements during the period of badge sales, as well as our Appeals Co-ordinator.

The accompanying photograph is of Mr. Rob Mitchell MP for McEwen, Mary-Anne Thomas MP Member for Macedon,

and Veterans of the Romsey Lancefield Region. It was taken in front of the refurbished Honour Rolls at the Lancefield Mechanics Institute. The restoration of the Honour Rolls was funded by both federal and state Government grants

Submitted by Reinhard Goschiniak



Isabelle Ermond

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CURRENT MASS TIMES

SUNDAY MASS

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

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

SATURDAY HEALING MASS

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

BAPTISMS

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

SACRAMENTS

Due to Covid restrictions, children not attending St. Mary's School aren't able to join in with the Sacrament program run through the school this year; therefore they will be celebrated privately during the Sunday Mass. Please contact the

secretary to book your child into the program as details will be finalised in the coming weeks. All children booked in to receive a Sacrament last year will be contacted to participate this year as soon as the details are confirmed.

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

MASS BOOKINGS

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

Submitted by Tammie Dalgleish



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TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Changing occupation can be a very difficult transition to make and accept, especially after many years in a job and having had a passion for what we do.

When an emotional connection is made to our professional role, it can blur the lines of what is, and isn't, part of our identity and how we see ourselves in the world. During occupational change, you may experience feelings of loss, or feel concern about how others perceive you as you transition between or move into another role. Sometimes this transition can trigger feelings of failure. This has been an unfortunate, but common, impact of COVID lock downs and resulting job losses.

Fortunately, with effort and at times professional

assistance, occupational transition can be an opportunity for positive change. Useful transition strategies could include reminding yourself that a job is not who you are as a person, to focus on finding the time for activities you enjoy and keeping up positive social connections

Matthew Clarke – Provisional Psychologist

Matthew works primarily with adolescents through to old age clients across a range of presentations including anxiety, depression, stress, grief and life changing events.

Submitted by Streatfeild & Co Psychology, Lancefield

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CATCH-UP

The Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club provides an opportunity for retirees or semi-retired people to relax and enjoy the welcoming company of those at the same stage of life. Our monthly meeting (4th Thursday of the month) is a chance to catch-up with new and old friends and hear interesting speakers on a wide variety of topics.

The next meeting of the Romsey Lancefield Probus Club is on Thursday 24th June at 10am in St. Mary's Catholic Church Hall, Main Street, Romsey.

The guest speaker at this meeting, will be Faye Woodhouse, Author and Historian.

The guest speaker at our meeting on 22nd July, 2021 will be Luke Behnke, Finances for Retirees

The Club's next outing is on June 16th - Lunch at The Grove at Hidden Valley Resort Restaurant. Booked for 12 o'clock lunch (food and drink at own cost). For car-pooling and RSVP call Shirley 0425700693.

Club contact is Tony 0408 536 290. www.rlprobus.org.au

Submitted by Jeni Clampit

HAVE YOUR SAY

On Tuesday 11 May, Councillors endorsed two key strategic Council documents to go out to the community for public consultation – the Draft Annual Budget 2021/22, and Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025.

The Draft Annual Budget 2021/22 describes the proposed revenue, expenditure and resources required to maintain and deliver a range of Macedon Ranges Shire Council services, facilities and projects to the community for the coming financial year. The Revenue and Rating Plan outlines how Council will raise revenue.

There are a number of ways you can submit your feedback to Council:

- Online, via the Have your say section on Council's website
- Via mail, addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444;
- Via email to mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

Submissions are due to Council by 5pm on Tuesday 8 June 2021.

Submitted by Monica Hill, MRSC

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LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON

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Mary-Anne Thomas

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P: 5428 2138
E: mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au

Authorised by MA Thomas, Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne
Funded from Parliamentary Budget





STAY WARM

Isn't it great that our branch can currently meet without restrictions? Let's hope that we can continue in this way.

You may be interested in the following resolutions which were passed at the March 2021 State Council.

That the C.W.A.:

'Strongly urges the Federal Government implement all of the recommendations outlined in the final report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety'

'Recommends that the State Government and associated entities amend the free off-peak travel vouchers so that return travel can be on a different day but still to the original station.'

'Strongly urges both Federal and State governments to investigate in more detail the implications of, and impose stronger controls on, the selling of large areas of Victorian farming land to overseas corporate investment companies. This is currently resulting in the demise of rural communities in Victoria due to the methods of operation of these corporations.'

'Strongly urges the State Government to expand Mental Health Services in this state particularly in regional areas; as the outcome of the recent Royal Commission into Mental Health Services in Victoria recommended.'

'Strongly urges the State Government to strengthen the Sex Work Act of 1994 to control the proliferation of illegal brothels in Victoria in an effort to prevent the exploitation of young, vulnerable women.'

Two craft mornings were held in May. Some were knitting and crocheting beanies, others were making gift boxes and cards. Thanks to our group craft leader, Kim Powell.

Continuing on with our theme of indigenous plants appropriate to our area, this month's plant is the Lilly Pilly. The Lilly Pilly yields masses of fruit which can be added to fruit salads or made into jams and jellies, fragrant sauces and preserves. They may be eaten raw when ripe but the consensus is that the taste is too acidic. A shame really, as they are packed with vitamin C: As a plant in your garden, they are a pretty tree, they make a beautiful hedge, and the birds love their fruit.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, June 25th. at 10:15 (note the earlier time) in the annex of the Mechanics Institute.

We are about friendship and welcome new members. Stay Warm!

Submitted by Maybelle Briggs



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SHIRE WASTE AND RECYCLING

The Lancefield Mercury recently received the following answers, supplied by the Council waste team, to a series of questions relating to recycling in the Macedon Ranges.

The most recent data for March shows that under 10% of all recycling was sent directly to landfill. This means that at least 90% was sent to be processed at our recycling facility. We do not have transparency of what material the recycling facility sends to the landfill due to contamination. We cannot disclose the costs of contamination due to it being contractually commercial in confidence.

Various recycling processors and facilities accept different plastics. Council is working with their current processor to find solutions for all household plastics and take all rigid household packaging: for example, containers and bottles. A detailed list is available on our A-Z guide of what goes where on the Council website. Council is accepting all rigid household packaging. Hard waste plastic items are not accepted. More information about what is accepted is available on the MRSC website.

The numbers on plastic recycled materials are resin numbers and not printed on all materials. The number system can be helpful but can also prove to be very confusing. An item made of #2 plastic (HDPE) could be a milk bottle which is a rigid plastic and very recyclable. However, you can also find plastic bags made of a #2 plastic which, as it is a soft plastic, cannot be recycled in the kerbside bin.

To keep recycling simple, the Council focuses on stating it is rigid household plastics going in the recycling bin rather than referencing the resin codes.

All bins in the Shire should be hot stamped with what is accepted or not accepted in the bin. Some batches of bins were not stamped with this information; we are applying stickers to these bins to remind residents of this information.

Soft plastics cannot be disposed of in any kerbside recycling bin in Victoria. Soft plastics cause issues such as getting stuck in machinery in the trucks and at the sorting facility. Due to their lightweight nature, they can also get mixed in with other

materials, such as paper, during processing.

Council is aware that soft plastics are an issue for households due to the soft plastics used in more and more packaging of everyday items. A recent audit of general waste bins showed approximately 70% of the volume was soft plastics. Council is actively searching for a long-term soft plastic solution for residents. In the meantime, interested residents can soon dispose of soft plastics at Macedon Ranges' Transfer Stations via a new soft plastic drop-off area.

When staff tag a bin, they leave feedback for the resident explaining why the bin has not been collected. You can see, on our website, the different bin inspection tags used. Where appropriate, staff provide feedback and information to households via letterbox drop and letters.

The processor inspects every load sent to the recycling processor for contamination before entering the MRF (Material Recycling Facility). Every load is different, and whatever contaminants the MRF find are sent to landfill. Council works closely with its contract partners for collection and processing and understands the processes from beginning to end. Tours of Material Recycling Facilities are not currently available to the community.

In Australia, recyclers cannot recycle composite packagings such as a Pringles container and tetra packs. Previously recyclers sent these items offshore for processing. The council hopes to see local solutions emerging in the coming years, with governments and industry making strong commitments to waste reduction and a circular economy.

The council is introducing public place recycling bins across the Shire. Council rolls out more bins each year and is doing this over time.

Submitted by Andy Moore

The Loddon Mallee Waste Info App is available through the App Store or Google Play and has detailed information on what can be recycled in the Shire and when to put which bin out.

WORLDS OF CREATIVE STITCHING

ARTISTIC QUILTING

On Thursday 29 April, members of A Patch of Lancefield Quilting group met to award prizes to quilters who had taken part in their annual challenge. Each year quilts, inspired by any theme chosen by the quilter, are designed by members with the purpose of donating them to the Royal Children's Hospital's 'Very Snuggly Quilt' program.

The Quilting group's President, Bronwyn Inman and Vice-President, Jo Marsh, described the creative work the group do each year. As a group, they inspire each other and enjoy the camaraderie of gathering weekly. This year prizes were awarded as follows: First Prize of a \$50 voucher was awarded to Joan Bone for her Dinosaur/Happy Quilt. Second Prize went to Jo Marsh for her Nursery Rhymes quilt; and Sybil Theodore won Third Prize for her Puppy Love/Cyclamen in a Pot quilt.

The quilting group gather every Thursday at 10 am in the Mechanics Institute Annexe for stitching, conversation and morning tea.

A TAPESTRY INTEREST DAY

The Central Victorian branch of The Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (ADFAS) held an inspiring and informative Tapestry Interest Day on Thursday 29 and Friday 30 April. The day was held at the Newham Mechanics Institute, Newham.

Renowned tapestry artist, Cresside Collette, summarised for the audience the story of the establishment of the Victorian (later Australian) Tapestry Workshop (ATW). Since its establishment in 1976, the Australian Tapestry Workshop has built a worldwide reputation for the creation of contemporary tapestries in collaboration with living artists



and architects. During this time, the ATW has woven over 500 tapestries, which hang in significant public and private collections, both nationally and internationally. Some of their most stunning tapestries are hanging in the National Gallery of Victoria and in Parliament House, Canberra. We were treated to the most wonderful PowerPoint presentation of so many of the tapestries created by members of the Workshop. Put simply, they were all both beautiful and awe-inspiring.

Cresside Collette and Kyneton tapestry artist Glennis Leary spoke of their life in tapestry. Later they, and other members of ADFAS, showed the audience various forms of tapestry. ADFAS regularly hold wonderful lectures and workshops which are a delight to attend.

Submitted by Fay Woodhouse



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CREATING POSITIVE MEMORIES

AUSLAN AT LPS

During term one, all LPS staff completed their Auslan Level 1 training with Auslan in the West. Students and teachers are enjoying learning how to communicate with each other using Auslan. During term two, students are participating in two incursions with Briana from Auslan in the West to learn more about deaf awareness, and to practice their skills and learn new ones!

PLAY BASED LEARNING

On Tuesday 20th April, Renee and Jess, our Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESOs), visited LPS to run an Aboriginal perspectives rotation as part of our Play Based Learning (PBL) program. Renee and Jess came with some Aboriginal artefacts, dolls, books, colouring pages, ochre and other open-ended items that children could visit to engage and interact with.

The children were encouraged to use the resources in a way that was meaningful to them, and to ask questions if they wanted to. The students thoroughly enjoyed dressing in the emu feathers, painting their faces with ochre, and using all the resources to immerse themselves in role-play that included hunting, cooking and caring for the babies. The children used some of the other open-ended resources to create their own games using traditional Aboriginal symbols and memory cards. The idea behind creating this child-led experience is that children connect to the resources, and experience them in a genuine and age-appropriate way and begin to form a tangible understanding of how and why some of these items were used by Aboriginal people in the past, and why they remain so important to Aboriginal people now.

This hands-on experience aims to create positive memories for the children and also provides some context and relatability when the children engage in further learning about Australia and the First Nations People.

SCHOOL TOUR DATES - TERM 2 AND 3

We are conducting several school tours during term 2 and 3 and are now taking enrolments for 2022. All tours are at 10am. Please contact the school office to book your spot (54292307) or go online and book your tour on our school website (lancefieldps.vic.edu.au).

We can arrange another tour time for you if none of these dates suit.

Term 2 - Monday 17th May, Thursday 10th June and Wednesday 23rd June

Term 3 - Wednesday 21st July, Monday 5th August and Tuesday 31st August

Submitted by Sharon Healy






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THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

When the Whiteman family moved from inner city Melbourne to rural Chintin in the Macedon Ranges in 2018, they had no plans to become leaders in the lavender oil industry.

With a desire to create a sustainable, mixed farming enterprise, Stuart and Sonia set about planting 12,000-plus lavender plants with the intention to not only provide a food source for their 7 beehives, and to compliment the growing herd of Aussie White sheep, but to produce food-grade lavender oil as a supplementary source of income.

Fast forward only 2 years, and the Whitemans attended their first Lavender Growers Association Conference held recently in Hahndorf, South Australia. To their delight and surprise their Lavender Oil took out the prestigious Rosemary Holmes Award for their Lavender Angustifolia Essential Oil.

“To be recognised so early in our journey is truly humbling, and to be awarded this honour named after one of the stalwarts of the industry is inspiring us to keep going. It’s unusual to produce oil of this quality with such young plants, but we believe that it’s in the way we grow them.” said Sonia Whiteman after receiving the award.


Rosemary Holmes is legendary in the lavender industry



as an early adopter of commercial lavender growing and is a founding member of The Lavender Growers Association (TALGA).

What’s next for the Whitemans? “Our climate is perfect for Australian native bush foods, so we are working on a program to plant and harvest a variety of plants for both their oil and their leaves. Everything that we do on the farm is designed to complement: the sheep fertilize the soils and keep the grass down, the bees pollinate the plants, and the plantings regenerate the soil structures.”


Submitted by Stuart Whiteman



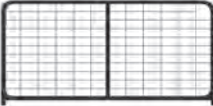
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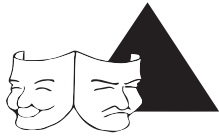
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**THE MOUNT
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HAPPENINGS**

THE MOUNT PLAYERS SAY A BIG THANK YOU

The Mount Players are delighted to report that they received \$4,400 from the Autumn round of grants from The Bendigo Bank Gisborne. This money will go towards upgrading the front steps. A huge thank you to the team at Bendigo Bank who have already committed so much to the theatre and continue to support it.

The theatre finally opened its doors again on 14th May and welcomed in a full house of patrons for the opening of *Too Many Crooks!* The radio play/comedy enjoyed a wonderful season and provided the perfect escape for everyone to step back in time and enjoy a laugh. Just what we all needed after the year we've had.

Our next show, *Love Song* is now in rehearsal and will open in August. Lots more about that next month.

Submitted by Karen Hunt

KYNETON MUSEUM UNDONE

An immersive re-interpretation of the Kyneton Museum collection.

Undone is a playful encounter with the Kyneton Museum collection, engaging with history and its gaps, as part performance, part exhibition. Created by cross disciplinary local artists and Metanoia Theatre, the work is an immersive choose-your-own journey through collective possibilities for an imagined future.

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TAKE THE TIME

By the time you read this we will be in winter. We have already had some chilly mornings with ice on our cars. I have also noticed the green tinge of moss on some of our major arterial roads, making the surface more dangerous for motorists, motorcyclists and cyclists. I sound like a broken record, but please take the time to have a quick look at your vehicle. Please check your tyres for tread, tyre pressure, lights that work, windscreen for vision and your windscreen wipers. Try not to use your wipers to get ice off your windscreen as it will damage them very quickly.

On Sunday the 25th of April we were blessed with beautiful weather, sunny but a little bit chilly for the Anzac Day ceremony in High Street.

CRIME:

Over the last 6 weeks there have been 9 reported incidents in the area indicating another decrease in activity.

- There have been two assaults reported to police which have been alleged to have occurred in the Lancefield Hotel.
- Over the last 6 weeks there has been 2 incidents of family violence reported in the Lancefield area.
- Incidents of graffiti have been reported which have occurred in the public toilets at the Lancefield Park. These incidents occurred on Tuesday night.

- I am glad to say that there has been no reported theft of and from motor vehicles and also no residential or commercial burglaries. However, let's not get complacent, please continue locking your cars, garage and garden sheds.

TRAFFIC:

On the 26th of April 2021, new laws came into existence surrounding motorists and cyclists on the roads. The laws state that motorists should leave cyclists at a minimum of 1 metre space when travelling in 60 kph zones or less and a minimum of 1.5m when travelling in speed zones over 60 kph.

Don't forget the School Zones locations, times and the speed limit of 40 kph. Remember the speed zone starts at the first 40 sign, not the second, and ends at the 60 sign.

I have received a complaint about vehicles speeding in Park Street between Chauncey Street and High Street. Park Street is a 50 kph zone, and whilst I was sitting there the other day detected a vehicle travelling at 65 kph.

If you decide to get away for the long weekend, have a great time and please come home safe.

Submitted by Chris Botwood. Leading Senior Constable Lancefield Police Station 5429 2000

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the Dance, Riverdance, and Gaelforce Dance alongside a treasure trove of Irish Dancing World Champions, A Taste of Ireland delivers the very best talent in the nation.

Hot off its premiere New York City run in 2020 and with over 120 shows in 2019 across Australia and New Zealand, A Taste of Ireland—The Irish Music & Dance Sensation finally returns down under.

Sunday, 13 June 2021, 07:30 PM to 09:10 PM, Kyneton Town Hall: 129 Mollison Street, Kyneton. Bookings: 1300 888 802 or online: mrsc.vic.gov.au/arts-events

Submitted by Monica Hill, MRSC

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YOUTH AMBASSADOR

The Macedon Ranges' Youth Ambassador Program (MR YAP) is an annual program for young leaders connected to the Macedon Ranges, aged between 15 and 25. The program gives a voice to young people in the Shire, empowering our next generation of leaders to tackle community issues that matter to them.

Youth ambassadors will drive the change they want to see through:

- Attending leadership activities
- Designing and implementing a community project
- Hosting the youth awards
- Bringing a youth voice to council decision-making

There will be a focus on the development of practical and general leadership skills through workshops and guest presentations. The program runs on Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 pm with a mix of face-to-face at the Kyneton Youth Space (COVID restrictions permitting) and online during school term.

Young people with an interest in becoming an ambassador can apply by completing this application form (Under 18) or this one (18+) and sending it to Sarah Day at sday@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

Submitted by Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network

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COMMUNITY BANK CONNECTIONS

LANCEFIELD BANK BRANCH TURNS 20!

The doors opened on the Lancefield branch on Saturday May 26, 2001. Chair, Suzie Ewart, said the locally-owned and operated branch had grown from strength to strength since it was established. This growth was rewarded with the opening of the Romsey branch in 2005. Special congratulations to staff member, Leanne Showler, who has been involved with the Lancefield branch from the beginning, celebrating her 20-year anniversary on May 14.

A wonderful achievement and a reflection of the commitment and dedication of our branch teams. Since opening its doors, Lancefield and Romsey Community Bank has grown to boast \$240 million in banking business and 5000 customers. Over \$2 million has been returned to Lancefield and Romsey community groups and clubs in the form of grants and sponsorships. Dividends of \$717,597 have been returned to our local shareholders.

Lancefield and Romsey Community Bank plans to celebrate its 20th birthday year with an event in Lancefield on Friday, October 22, 2021, and is inviting the entire community to come along and join in the festivities. Stay tuned!

Six local students from the Lancefield and Romsey community have been awarded scholarships and bursaries as part of our 2021 Scholarship program. Four students received scholarships valued at \$3000 per year for the next three years. Alice Quigley studying a Bachelor of Arts

Degree at Deakin University; Raveena Kumaran studying at The University of Melbourne for a degree in Biomedicine; Lucinda Matthews also undertaking a degree at The University of Melbourne in Agriculture Science; and Jack Summers undertaking a degree in Outdoor Leadership through Victoria University. Two students have received a bursary of \$1,000 each under the inaugural Rebecca Harrison Memorial Bursary – Alexandra Kalinowski studying a degree in Fashion Enterprise at RMIT; and Jessamyn Godsmark undertaking a Bachelor of Exercise Science at La Trobe University.

LATEST COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANTS

It is with pleasure we announce the following grants were recently awarded: • \$500 - Romsey Golf Cub for their upcoming Women's Open Tournament • \$2000 - Romsey Lancefield Senior Citizens to subsidise bus excursions in 2021 • \$3000 – Romsey Lancefield Historical Society for restoration of Shire map c1870.

Our next program is due to open for applications on 19 July 2021. Make sure you are registered to receive program information and updates – email cip@lrcfsl.com.au

Submitted by Bronwyn Meadows Smith

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Western Water reminds customers that from 1 July we are joining with City West Water to form a new water corporation – Greater Western Water.

Recently, Maree Lang was appointed as the inaugural Managing Director of the new water corporation following a robust process by the Western Water and City West Water boards, overseen by the Greater Western Water Joint Transition Committee.

Ms Lang is currently the Managing Director of City West Water and brings more than 23 years' experience to the role. She has previously held executive positions with Melbourne Water and Chemistry Australia (PACIA), and senior consulting roles.

Western Water's Chief Operating Officer Graham Holt said existing customers should expect an easy transition to Greater Western Water.

"Though our name will change from 1 July, our focus on delivering the best customer experiences and high

quality, affordable services to our customers will remain," Mr Holt said.

"Customers will be able to pay their bills in all the same ways as they do now, and customers with concession cards will still receive discounted rates. Customers only need to note that future bills will be issued with the new GWW branding."

If customers want to find out more about their new water corporation before the integration, they can visit westernwater.com.au/GWW

From 1 July, our new website will be up and running at gww.com.au

Western Water is also reminding customers to prevent a frozen meter this winter by covering their meters with a bucket, blanket or container.

Submitted by Jessica Jorquera

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HALFWAY ALREADY

ENJOYING SCHOOL LIFE

Already we find ourselves halfway through the term, it's great to see the students so settled and enjoying school life.

ANZAC DAY

On Friday 23rd April, we held a special assembly to commemorate ANZAC Day. This was an extra special event as it was the first time we were able to have parents attend assembly, in person, since early last year. The call had been put out to our St Mary's families to send in information on any relatives they had which had served in the armed forces. We had a huge response, and this information and photos were displayed at the back of the hall as an honour wall for those who have served.

Our ANZAC service was attended by members of the Romsey Lancefield RSL who also participated in the ceremony. We would like to say a huge thank you to these members, Reinhard Goschiniak, John McCosker OAM (Military) and John Horan. It was a moving service, enhanced by our wonderful display and the students' handmade wreaths. Thank you to all the family members who attended, and to the students for displaying great respect throughout the service.

On the commemoration of ANZAC Day on Sunday 25th April, our St Mary's School Leaders attended the ANZAC Service in Lancefield. Once again it was a very moving service which was well attended by the local community.

Thank you to our school leaders, John Cleve, Emily Stocker, Holly Alderton, Coco Portelli and Ella McCarthy who participated in this event and once again did themselves and our school proud. Lest we forget.

MOTHER'S DAY DEVONSHIRE TEA

Thank you to all our mums, grandmothers and special females who came together to celebrate Mother's Day at our Devonshire Tea on Friday 7th May. What a wonderful atmosphere there was as all these amazing women enjoyed each other's company, a good chat, a laugh and some delicious scones, jam, and cream! It was fabulous to see so many families join us, and we hope they all had a very special Mother's Day.

YEAR 5/6 CAMP

On Wednesday 28th April our Year 5/6 's headed off on their 3-day/2-night adventure to Warrnambool. It was non-stop, with superb weather and many exciting activities. Students and staff were kept very busy throughout with a full program including - a visit to the National Wool Museum in Geelong, sightseeing along the Great Ocean Road (Loch Arch Gorge, London Arch, Twelve Apostles and the Blow Hole), a coastal awareness program, which included rockpool rambles and a self-guided visit to the Warrnambool Soldiers Memorial. They also got to explore Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum, and in the evening enjoyed the Sound & Light show "Tales of the Shipwreck Coast". Their final activity was experiencing the breathtaking birds-eye-view of the magnificent Otway Ranges from the World's tallest treetop walk - the Otway Fly Treetop Adventure. A truly memorable camp for all that attended, with many great tales of the fun and laughter that was had by all. A huge thank you to the staff who attended, and to the students for their excellent behaviour, their sense of fun, and their ability to remain positive and resilient throughout.

Jo Shannon (Community Liaison Leader)



SNAPSHOT 2020 REVIVED - AND RENAMED!

Last year – you remember last year! – we at the Lancefield Mercury applied for a grant from the state government for a project called Snapshot 2020. We didn't get it.

So, not to be deterred, we are renaming it Snapshot 2021 – a sensible adjustment, I'm sure you'll agree – and applying again.

Snapshot 2021 is planned to be an interactive social history project which aims to boost connections between people in Romsey and Lancefield, offering a creative outlet to share challenges experienced during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Whilst the initial effects are largely past, the longer-term fallout is still with us. So perhaps now is a better time to assess and express our responses to that unique year in history and its ongoing changes to our lives.

Expressions will be shared through traditional and social media during the project and become a permanent digital history collection for future audiences. This inclusive, community-wide project is open to people of all ages and abilities in the townships of Romsey and Lancefield and surrounding districts, in the Macedon Ranges Shire.

THE PLAN INTENDS TO ENCOURAGE:

- Local organisations who will contribute to the promotion of the project with their skills and capabilities;

- Local artist-mentors will help develop participants' skills;
- Local people of a variety of ages and localities will participate in the project either by:
- creating and submitting their own expression of their experience;
- assisting others in their household or friends to create and submit an expression of their experience; or
- participating in sessions with artist-mentors to help create their individual expression of their experience to submit to the project.

Snapshot 2020 reaches out to the local community to encourage everyone, of any age, living or working in Romsey, Lancefield and nearby districts to contribute, using any form of expression, to this interactive social history project, about a rare and difficult moment in history. It encourages people to share their experience with others. The intention is that in the act of creating and sharing, participants are reaching out and at the same time helping others to see that they are not alone.

- A selection of submissions will be published and shared in traditional and social media.
- A permanent digital collection of people's expressions of their experiences will be created. • Social media users will further share submissions posted by the project on



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social media.

- Participants will make new connections and report improved confidence and skills.

THE LIKELY OUTCOMES:

Participants and others will:

- Recognise that they are not alone in their experience of difficult times;
- be more inclined to reach out and stay connected through difficult times;
- recognise the benefit of creative expression to share experiences of difficult times;
- revive and use old or newly-gained skills to express themselves.
- Local community organisations will find new connections with other organisations, and share knowledge and capabilities.

Keep your eyes out for news of our successful application – yes, we at the Lancefield Mercury are an optimistic bunch! – and we’ll let you know how you can participate in this celebration of our strength and resilience at this time in history.

Beth Child

FROM THE
COUNCIL WEBSITE

A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Macedon Ranges Shire Council voted in favour of declaring a Climate Emergency at the March Scheduled Council Meeting. By declaring a Climate Emergency, Council publicly acknowledges that action is urgently required to address the causes and impacts of climate change and avoid irreversible disruption to society, the economy and ecosystems.

COBAW BIOLINK

Council supports a newly released video that highlights the important role the Cobaw Biolink plays in providing landscape connectivity between Mount Macedon and the Cobaw Range. The video explores the significant restoration work that has occurred in the Cobaw Biolink over the past 15 years and provides insights for how future biolinks could be developed and nurtured. Landholders can help contribute through enhancing waterways, undertaking pest and weed control, protecting remnant vegetation, planting paddock trees and revegetation corridors and encouraging native grasslands on their properties. Landholders in the Cobaw biolink area are encouraged to take part by contacting Newham Landcare – any contribution, no matter how small or big, can make a significant difference. The video has been produced by Warm Eggs Productions for Newham Landcare and can be watched on Vimeo.



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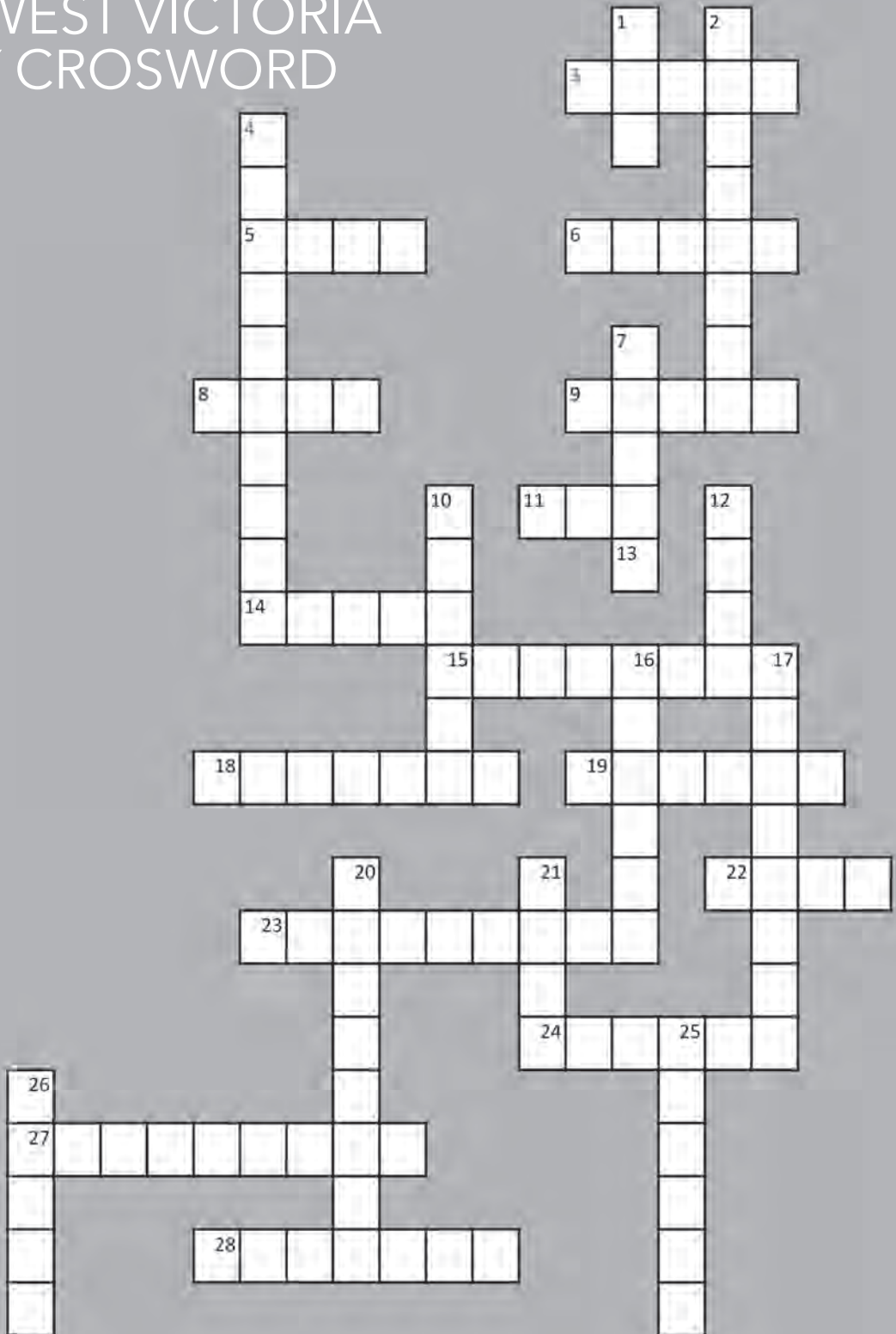
NORTH-WEST VICTORIA HOLIDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 3. Art on a public wall
- 5. Salt lake named for its colour, near 15 across
- 6. Cereal crop
- 8. Soft white soil
- 9. Grain storage
- 11. Most common road vehicle
- 14. A town which sounds like nothing
- 15. Town with a film and a play named after it
- 18. Holidaying in a tent
- 19. First name of the artist Nolan
- 22. Place to get cash
- 23. Mountain range
- 24. Name of the 'small desert'
- 27. Quick way to descend a cliff face
- 28. A smaller version of a kangaroo

DOWN

- 1. Flowering Australian tree
- 2. Large marsupial
- 4. Number of people who live in an area
- 7. Rock in the shape of a bishop's hat
- 10. Used to be an Aussie made car
- 12. Need this to keep 11 across going
- 16. Grown on trees, can be made into oil
- 17. 14 across is halfway between Melbourne and this city
- 20. Park area that is protected
- 21. Track that trains travel on
- 25. Vehicles that transport goods
- 26. Travel on foot



ANSWERS

14. Hill	15. Dimboola	16. Olives	17. Adelaide
11. Car	18. Camping	18. Holden	19. Gurn
9. Silos	19. Sidney	19. Little	20. National
8. Sand	20. Population	20. Fuel	21. Rail
6. Wheat	21. Kangaroo	21. Mitre	22. Trucks
5. Pink	22. Bank	22. Walks	23. Abselling
3. Mural	23. Grompions	23. Fuel	24. Wallaby
	24. Little	24. Population	25. Adelaide
	25. Sidney	25. Trucks	26. Walks
	26. Gurn	26. Adelaide	27. Adelaide
	27. Adelaide	27. Adelaide	28. Adelaide
	28. Adelaide	28. Adelaide	

THINKING ABOUT QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

We can sometimes assume it is good to be a Queen. She has power, great riches and people vying for her attention. While this may be so, the Queen is also a regular target of those constantly trying to steal her wealth and usurp her power. The truth is, with all her riches and power; she cannot buy privacy or peace of mind.

We wrongly assume that if we reach our personal aspirations of attaining fame, power or riches, happiness will follow. We think our problems will easily be solved, that people will finally recognize and celebrate our success and we can eventually relax in our prosperity and applause. Regrettably, this is usually the start of our problems, the beginnings of misery and a time of great personal attacks. Members of the Royal family will certainly attest to this at this time.

The truth is: For every action - there is a reaction. The greater your impact - the greater your opposition. For every person who claps you on the back – there is another who stabs you in the same spot. The greater your size – the bigger the target you make. Once you have a crown – there are many that wish to take it.

Prosperity is one of life's hardest tests; it breaks more people than it makes. So, what is life's ideal environment?

Every set of circumstances has its own set of tests. Being rich or poor, famous or unknown, powerful or insignificant

has its own set of problems.

Happiness is a state of the soul, found in a spiritual environment. It is an inner capacity that has little to do with outward circumstances. If you are not content in the circumstances you find yourself, it is unlikely you will be content if your circumstances change.

We were designed to have a relationship with our Creator. When we honestly start trusting in God, knowing He is working all things together for our good, we also start relaxing and gaining that inner peace the Bible promises – no matter what our circumstances.

The Apostle Paul states in Philippians 4:11: "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content."

And David states in Isaiah 26:3: "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."

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

Our aim is to Encourage one another to be all we can be, in Life and in God.

If you would like to know more about faith in Jesus please contact Pastor Marilyn or our Church office Ph 5429 6327

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SELENA NIGHTINGALE - BREATHE ART

Selena Nightingale is a Lancefield girl; not quite born, but bred here – she and her family moved here from Bundoora when Selena was 7, in Grade 2. Her parents, John and Gemma, had owned their cottage on twelve acres on Three Chain Road for 12 years before the move, in 1986, and it was upgraded to welcome the expanding family. Selena is the second of six children.

Educated at Lancefield Primary and then Kyneton Secondary College, her interests were the classic mix: art, music and horses. For the next twenty years or so, Selena was very focussed on all things Horse. She belonged to Pony Club, and took part in show-jumping, cross country, Lancefield Bush Rides, and ran a riding course for the CAE. She was involved in Riding for the Disabled, using working police horses at the Academy in Port Melbourne, and harness racehorses; the trotters and pacers. You won't be surprised to learn that her favourite movie was *The Man from Snowy River*, as she imagined herself hurtling down those steep slopes (angles adjusted for maximum effect), riding her dashing steed, knees gripping, hair flying.

After leaving school, Selena went to Latrobe University and started a Bachelor of Fine Arts, with music as an elective for second year. After her first year, she ran away to join the circus – literally.

For the next three years she had sixteen horses to wrangle as part of Circus Sonelli, which also featured lions and acrobats

and the usual range of exotica that fascinated me as a kid when I went to Ashton's or Bullen's Circuses in Sydney. I saw the glamour, not the hard work. She also went to work at a Summer Camp in Michigan one year – a great one-off experience.

As happens with arts workers, Selena has had several other forms of employment – the cliched “day job”, which most artists recognise as a fact of life in the creative realm.

Selena then swapped to a different kind of horsepower, the two-wheeled kind – motor bikes - starting with a Honda 250, and moving to an 850. She met her husband-to-be through their shared enthusiasm for this pastime. It was then that she had an accident on the twisty roads of the Black Spur in Healesville; she has been in a wheelchair ever since.

Life went on, with adjustments. Her interest in art, always present, inevitably in an artistic family, came to the fore. Selena married her boyfriend. At this point, she realised that Art might be a hobby, not a career. Her husband was doing a Product Design course at RMIT which introduced Selena to Adobe Illustrator – she had been using the Paint program – a revelation. So she enrolled in an Advanced Diploma at Chisholm in Dandenong and was on her way to Making Art Pay!

For the first year of her Diploma, Selena was pregnant with Ashley; for the second year, she took the new baby to classes in the pram.

From 2008, Selena was the premier public speaker



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in Independence Australia’s Spin Chat Program, funded originally by RACV, now by the TAC. She has visited hundreds of schools and talked about living in a wheelchair to thousands of students all over Victoria - sometimes 3 or 4 times a week. The kids get to see how the accident happened and what injuries resulted, including X-rays, and the progress Selena made through her recovery.

Next, Selena and her family went to live in Palmerston North for a year for her husband’s job – another experience whose memory she relishes. Situated in the Manawatu Plains, on the river there, and 140 kilometres north of Wellington, it was a wonderful place to live.

The family returned to Victoria in 2016. In late 2019 Julian was born, and in 2020 Selena and the children moved back to Lancefield, to the family property on Three Chain Road.

Along the way, in her art life, she has done designs for book covers (3RRR), logos, Accessible Beaches, Mobi International, Jibber Jabber Coffee, and now she is the Design Consultant for the Breathe Creative Arts Festival.

This brings us to the present day. Selena joined the first version of Pitch Please! Choir in 2006 when it began, and was thrilled when Josie Waldron revived it earlier this year. Given her musical talents, she is intending to fit some guitar playing and singing into her life, being inspired in particular by Mazzi Star (who also plays a mean harmonica), Janis Joplin and of course, Joni Mitchell. At the moment, though, Selena is busy with the design elements of our first Arts Festival – her music is still to come.

Beth Child



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ANZAC DAY 2021