

Lamcetiela Mercury



BENLOCH FIRE BRIGADE CALLS FOR GREATER VIGILANCE

Thanks to the quick response from Emergency Services, the fire in Benloch is now officially marked safe. This time, we avoided injury, loss of life, and loss of buildings, but what about next time?

Let's work on there not being a next time.

Shortly after 1pm, on a Total Fire Ban (TFB) Day, Emergency Services were called to a fire originating from a property on Kitchenhams Rd, Benloch; a mere 3 km's away from the Cobaw State Forest. 2 hours later, residents were being told it was too late to leave. Thankfully, due to the effective and fast responses from our collective Emergency Services, the fire was declared under control by 4:30 pm.

All in all, 38 hectares were burnt (95 acres) spanning across several properties. There were over 200 volunteer firefighters on the ground, with more than 50 appliances and

7 aircraft. There was some damage to fences and equipment, but no loss of buildings, and more importantly, no injury or loss of life. A 15-year-old boy from Queensland has been issued with a caution following the fire.

Personally, we remain incredibly humbled by the wider response to this emergency in our community. The combined efforts of our surrounding CFA Brigades, Air crews, Forest Fire Management, Parks Vic, DELWP, SES, Rapid Response Team, Ambulance Vic, Vic Police, and the Rehab and Fatigue Units, are gratefully appreciated.

We would also like to commend our Benloch residents for their greater response in leaving early and taking their pets with them. Leaving early is always the safest option. When an emergency like this happens, a community is

Continued on page 18



In December, our Youth theatre put on a fantastic production of The Pauper Princess that delighted audiences. Months of work and planning all came together and once again highlighted our depth of talent coming through for the future.

First up for 2019 is our Annual General Meeting on Monday 18th February at the Mountview Theatre. 7 – 7.30 drinks & nibbles prior to meeting. All welcome but keep in mind you do have to be a member to vote. Nomination forms can be obtained via our website www.themountplayers.com or for enquiries call 5426 1892.

This year the players will be staging three productions as our much loved Mountview Theatre, that is nearly 30 years

old, requires some overall maintenance. This break will provide the ideal opportunity to carry out some major works. Painting of the dressing rooms has already commenced – they look fantastic and the planned new flooring will complete the look beautifully.

Twelve Angry Men, will be our first major production opening on 3rd May. This gripping drama has now been cast and the depth of experience amongst the chosen actors will no doubt deliver an incredible show.

See you at the theatre!

Karen Hunt



The new year has begun and residents are being asked to put those new year's resolutions to good use and participate in the Lancefield/Macedon Ranges Relay For Life on Saturday 2nd March and Sunday 3rd March at the Lancefield Recreation Reserve.

Now in its 17th year, the Relay For Life events in the Macedon Ranges Shire have raised over \$1,450,000 to help the 269 people diagnosed with cancer in the Macedon Ranges Shire every year.

Relay for Life is a fun and moving overnight experience, where team members take turns walking around a track to signify that cancer never rests. Throughout the Relay, participants are also treated to entertainment and activities, including games and competitions for all ages. The tug-of-war rope challenges are a favourite for the young ones, as well as those young at heart.

Everyone is welcome at Relay, no matter your age or ability. You can take part however you like by walking, jogging, running, wheeling or even dancing – it's your Relay For Life! Registrations for the 2019 Lancefield/Macedon Ranges Relay For Life are still open and cost \$25 for youth, \$35 for an adult or \$80 for a family.

A celebration of hope, Relay For Life is a unique opportunity to bring the Macedon Ranges community together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost and fight back against cancer.

If you're interested in registering a team, joining a team or volunteering please email lancefieldrfl@cancervic.org.au, call 1300 656 585 or visit the Lancefield/Macedon Ranges Relay For Life Facebook page or Relay For life website.

By getting involved with Relay For Life, you too can help fight back against cancer in the Macedon Ranges.

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2019 MACEDON RANGES MUSIC FESTIVAL

Early Bird tickets have sold out for the 2019 Macedon Ranges Music Festival as this year's event shapes up to be the biggest yet with a lineup of world class Australian artists coming to the Gisborne Steam Park on Saturday March 2nd. The boutique event promises something for everyone with music traversing genres including blues, rock, jazz, soul, folk and dance music. Melbourne-based outfit Husky will headline the family friendly festival with their indie-rock music that has seen them tour to sold out shows around the world. Returning festival favourite Lloyd Spiegel will also be bringing his biggest show yet that has stunned audiences globally.

While music-lovers will have their hands full, fans of food and drink will be excited by what's on offer at this year's festival. A new expanded bar layout will showcase Macedon's own Mountain Distilling gin cocktails, Hanging Rock Winery, Harcourt Cider and Quiet Deeds Brewery's beer range. These will be complemented by an assortment of food trucks. There is plenty also for the young ones (and young at heart) with virtual reality, jumping castle and face painting adding to the festivities.

Topping it all off is the fact that 100% of ticket sales are donated directly to the Woodend-based charity Cambodian

Kids Foundation to support their community development work in rural Cambodia.

The Festival's two 2019 sideshows will be held at the Macedon Railway Hotel on February 2nd and Wine O'Clock Wine Bar Gisborne on February 23rd. Visit our website for more information on these special nights!

The Festival would like to thank its major sponsors Creative Victoria, Gisborne & District Community Bendigo Bank Branch and the GREAT organisation for their support in making this event possible.

For the full lineup and more information visit www.macedonrangesmusicfestival.org

MACEDON RANGES MUSIC FESTIVAL DETAILS:

Date: Saturday March 2nd, 2019.

Place: Gisborne Steam Park, New Gisborne.

Ticket prices online: Adult - \$30, Concession - \$25, Youth (13-17) - \$10, Kids (under 12) - FREE.

Tickets available at www.macedonrangesmusicfestival.org
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ISABELLA WINS VICTORIAN TOURISM AWARD

Isabella at Kyneton has just notched up their third Silver award at the Victorian Tourism Awards for self-contained accommodation. Owners Dianne and Adrian Padgham and housekeeper Liana Spoke were absolutely delighted.

Entry to the awards is a major commitment with an extensive application process followed by an inspection and interview. Isabella at Kyneton can add this to the long list of awards they have received over the years.

“The team at Daylesford Macedon Tourism are delighted that Isabella at Kyneton has again been recognised for excellence. This wonderful property represents everything that makes our region great; capturing the rich history, making the most of our amazing local produce and displaying outstanding customer service. We are proud to be associated with this great property.” Steve Wroe, General Manager of Daylesford Macedon Tourism Inc.

Dianne, one of the owners, said “We seek to provide both exceptional accommodation and a memorable regional experience.”

This fully self contained house can sleep up to 6 persons. Di prepares tailored guest information packs including recommendations for places for dinner, day spas, shops, bus tours, nature walks, town walks, wineries and day trips. The intention is that guests will avoid the disappointment of being unable to dine at their preferred restaurant or enjoy

one of the region’s renowned day spas.

“It is a credit to Macedon Ranges Accommodation Association (MRAA) member’s Di and Adrian that they have had wins at the State tourism awards on three occasions, recognising that Isabella at Kyneton is truly an excellent property,” said Andrew Towner, President of the MRAA. “We are proud to have an award-winning property of this calibre in the Macedon Ranges,” he continued.

Isabella at Kyneton pride themselves on supporting local businesses and purchase most of their products and services in the Macedon Ranges.

“We try to do our bit to support fellow small businesses who rely on visitors to be sustainable.” said Dianne. “We don’t just refer guests to cafes and restaurants but also to the retailers and other service providers in our villages.”

For further information contact Dianne Padgham on 0413 536 303,

info@isabellaatkyneton.com.au or visit their website www.isabellaatkyneton.com.au



AUSTRALIAN DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FAKE AND A FORGERY?



Every year fakes and forgeries are revealed in public museum collections, private collections and galleries. Unfortunately, fakes and forgeries will always exist.

Learn more on Thursday 21 February, at the Kyneton Mechanics Institute (6.30-7.30pm), when ADFAS Central Victoria presents Hilary Kay, renowned BBC presenter from Antiques Roadshow. Hilary will present ‘Fakes and Forgeries’ and give you the opportunity to be a witness to the devious world of the master forger, and see objects that fooled the experts, from a Botticelli to a bottle of gin.

Hilary Kay is a British antiques expert, lecturer, broadcaster and author, best known for her many appearances on BBC’s TV Antiques Roadshow, which she joined in 1978 as one of the team of experts. Hilary’s obsession with antiques began when she was a child. In



1977 Hilary helped create Sotheby’s Collectors’ Department and later that year became head of the department and, aged 21, became the company’s youngest ever auctioneer.

So why not join us for the very first exceptional lecture in our 2019 lecture program?

Entry is \$30 cash or cheque payable on the evening and this includes refreshments (7.30-8.30pm).

For more information and registration of interest please call Nicky on 0400 958 449

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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.

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MAKE 2019 YOUR YEAR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Board and staff of the Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group (LMWRRG) would like to wish all residents in the Loddon Mallee region a happy and safe 2019. We look forward to continue our work with government, council, business, industry and the community to create sustainable solutions to waste so that the Loddon Mallee region is a beautiful, safe and healthy place to live now and into the future.

As we look to the year ahead there are many opportunities for us all to make small changes that will save money, reduce waste to landfill, and help our environment. Here are our top three reduction priorities for 2019.

SINGLE USE PLASTIC

Following on from last year's great success to reduce single use plastic bags, disposable coffee cups and plastic straws

let's continue this great work and look at other items that we can reduce or replace with more sustainable options such as replacing party balloons with bubbles, avoid excess packaging and use a reusable water bottle.

FOOD WASTE

There are many ways to reduce the amount and impact of food waste at home. When you consider the average Victorian household throws out \$2,136 worth of food each year, small changes can save your family a considerable amount of money.

It can be as easy as shopping with a list and sticking to it, making sure you're storing food correctly to keep items fresh for as long as possible, and finding creative ways to use leftovers.

E-WASTE

It is estimated that one in five Australians have unwanted electrical goods (e-waste) in their home or office and that the

amount of e-waste generated in Australia will increase by more than 60 percent by 2024, for televisions and computers alone. The good news is that e-waste is more than 95 per cent recyclable and the Loddon Mallee region has a number of drop off points to receive and recycle e-waste. So gather all those unwanted items and take your e-waste to a better place.

DO THE SCRUNCH TEST

There is a lot of confusion about what plastics can and cannot be recycled. Forget those hard to read numbers and symbols on plastic packaging, now all you need to do is give it a scrunch. The Scrunch Test is the easiest way to check whether your plastics are recyclable.

If you scrunch a plastic and it springs back to its original shape, such as a take away container, biscuit tray or plastic bottle, then it is recyclable in your kerbside recycling bin.

If you scrunch a plastic and it stays scrunched up or breaks, like a plastic wrapper or polystyrene, then it can't go in your kerbside recycling bin.

SIMPLE!

Unfortunately because soft plastics jam the automated sorting machines at the Materials Recovery Facility most Councils cannot accept soft plastic through the kerbside recycling bin collection, however this doesn't mean that soft plastics can't be recycled. In fact, most soft plastics can be recycled and are currently repurposed into outdoor furniture, signage and decking, to name a few things.

More and more supermarkets throughout the Loddon Mallee region are providing soft plastic recycling bins at the entrance of their stores and can accept items such as biscuit packets (outer wrapper only), bread bags (without the tie), cat and dog food pouches (as clean and dry as possible), cling wrap (free of food residue), frozen food bags, green bags (polypropylene bags), netting produce bags (metal clips removed), plastic Australia Post satchels, snap lock bags / zip lock bags and Squeeze pouches with lid on (e.g. yogurt/baby food).

Doing the Scrunch Test means that you are doing your bit to recycle as much plastic as possible and reduce contamination.

For more information relating to waste and resource recovery services within your area download the *free* Loddon Mallee Waste Info App through the App Store or Google Play with the search: Loddon Mallee or visit the Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group website www.lmwrrg.vic.gov.au

MACEDON RANGES SHIRE IS A MEMBER OF THE LODDON GROUP

The Macedon Ranges Shire is a member of the Loddon group which is responsible for facilitating a coordinated approach to the planning and delivery of infrastructure and services for all waste streams. The group's key functions also include facilitating the procurement of waste and resource recovery infrastructure and services, to educate businesses and communities to reduce waste going to landfill and to integrate regional and local knowledge into State-wide waste strategies.

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HENRY BLEECK

TIME TO BE VIGILANT TO KEEP THIEVES AT BAY

A recent spike in thefts in the Macedon Ranges is a timely reminder that we all need to be vigilant to protect our assets and those of our neighbours.

In early January I came across a truck abandoned on a track leading in to the Cobaw State Forest, and promptly reported it to police.

The truck was obviously stolen, stripped of valuable equipment and parts, and driven to the Cobaws. Thankfully the thieves didn't set fire to the truck, given the current dry state of the bush.

I had been in the same spot in the Cobaws the day before, so obviously the thieves worked under the cover of darkness or the late evening for their heartless venture.

Uniformed police were quickly on the scene after I reported the dumped truck, and hopefully they were able to collect enough evidence to lead them to the perpetrators.

The incident also highlighted the fact that someone had lost a valuable asset, and one which was obviously important to their business and their livelihood.

Crime such as this costs us all. Theft of valuable assets pushes up insurance premiums, and that means we're all paying extra.

Recent stats and advice from the police indicate that trailers are a favoured target of thieves at the moment. If you own a trailer, you should consider buying a wheel clamp and a coupling lock to make it as difficult as possible for thieves to make off with it. Small battery powered angle grinders unfortunately are easy for thieves to carry and use, and make their job easier.

Recent data also indicates that tradies are a target for thieves, and their trailers, utes and 4WDs often reap a rich harvest of valuable tools and equipment. Many of our tradies carry thousands of dollars worth of tools, and to lose this equipment – and their livelihood – can be devastating.

So what can we do to help prevent thefts and help police to catch the crooks? We need to be vigilant and trailer owners need to ensure that the VIN number and other physical trailer identification is a highly visible.



If you see someone acting suspiciously, particularly if it's a person you haven't seen before, keep a close watch on them. Record the number plate of their vehicle. Most of us now have cameras in our mobile phones, so take some photos of what you're seeing.

And while you're doing this, ring the local police. If we're all acting as the eyes and ears for the police, it means they're able to do their job to maximum effect.

Keep an eye on your neighbour's home and property. Make it as hard as possible for thieves to target your possessions. Have the wheel clamps and coupling locks for your trailer, and where possible lock your trailer, valuable goods and your vehicle in a shed or garage when they're not in use.

Let's work together to help stamp out crime around Lancefield and in the Macedon Ranges.

Cr Henry Bleeck.
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Our first trip is on Wednesday 6th of February. We will be going to Maldon. On our way to Maldon we will be having a short morning tea stop at the Kyneton Botanical Gardens.

We will continue onto Maldon Dredge & Dragline located at Porcupine Flat which represents the phase of gold mining in Maldon which had been worked by thousands of individual prospectors in the rush in the 1880's. If we have some time before lunch, we are going to have a wander around town, before sitting down for a 2-course meal at the Maldon Hotel.

Depart: Romsey Mechanics Institute- 9.15am - out the front.

Lancefield Post Office - 9.30am

FUTURE TRIPS WILL BE:

- 6th March Castlemaine - to visit the Mill Markets
- 3rd April Geelong- to visit the National Wool Museum
- 1st May Rochester - to visit the Silo Art
- 5th June Harcourt - to visit Harcourt Perry & Cider Makers.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact Eileen on 0412 787 213 or Rae on 0408 338 759.

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All our members are active and aged between 60-90+ years.

We enjoy each others company and have made good friendships along the way.

Always plenty of chat and laughter whenever we are together.

Now you are retired or close to retiring from work come and join the friendly folk in the Romsey & Lancefield Probus Club and learn more about what Probus can offer to assist you in staying active. Alternatively phone us to enquire.

Check out our website for information about the Romsey & Lancefield Probus Club rprobus.org.au

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are at 10am, on the 4th Thursday of the month in St.Mary's Church Hall. Main Street, Romsey

Our first meeting for 2019 is on Thursday 28th February.
Guest Speaker: Michael Tinley - Pilot.

COFFEE MORNINGS AND MORE

Our group enjoy fortnightly coffee mornings and the alternate week 10 Pin Bowling at AMF Bowling Watergardens. The dates for February Coffee morning - 8th, 22nd at Cookies Café Romsey. 10am.

Outing for February will be lunch at the Lancefield Hotel on Wednesday 20th February, 12.30pm.

Our March meeting will be the Annual General Meeting where elections will take place. There is no guest speaker and we will go for lunch at Soltan Pepper Restaurant.

President: Gerard Hanrahan 5429 5630
Secretary: Jenifer Clampit 5429 5480



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PASTORS PARABLES

BELIEVING IN GOD IS A CHANCE WORTH TAKING

To prove our capabilities in certain endeavours, we often need someone else to take a chance and believe in us. When given such a chance, we then have an opportunity to prove their faith in us was well founded.

The world's greatest intellects can neither prove nor disprove God's existence. It all comes down to personal belief. If we adamantly don't believe in something, we sceptically explain away all proof. We live in a world where seeing is believing; however, one of the greatest acts of trust we can show in another, is believing in them before the evidence is seen.

God does not coerce our free-will. That is why belief is the currency that He demands before He vindicates Himself. Only those who step out in faith see the evidence of God working in their lives. This explains why many Christians have a strong faith; by believing they have seen – and once seen it is easy to believe.

In a world of reason it seems foolish to believe in something before seeing the evidence, but if we always disbelieve in God we inadvertently close the door on Him ever proving Himself. Give God a chance. We must remember, God does not need us – but we certainly need Him. God does reveal Himself through creation and His Word (the Bible), but if we wish for God to reveal Himself

further in our life, we must choose to seek Him.

How do we start? The Bible states in John 14:6-7 that Jesus Christ is the Way, the truth and the Life and by believing in Him we will receive everlasting life and an eternal relationship with God. (Hebrews 11:6, 2 Corinthians 5:7)

Pastor Marilyn Hunter

We are a Family Church and genuinely care about the people of our Community.

We offer Life Groups for Adults; Young Adults; Youth and Children. mainly music is held on Wednesday mornings for babies to pre-school aged children and we also run the Kidzone Before and After School Nationally Accredited Program. We are a progressive Church with a live band as part of our Worship team. If you have needs we would welcome you to join us on a Sunday morning and connect with someone who can help you, or just drop in enjoy the music, friendship, and have a barista coffee on us.

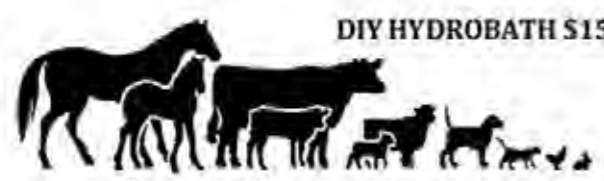
Our aim is to Encourage one another to be all we can be, in Life and in God.

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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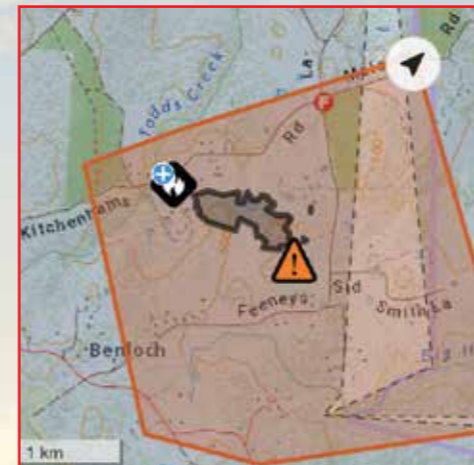
Monday	9am to 1pm / 5pm to 9pm
Tuesday	9am to 3pm
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Saturday	Alternate 9am to 3pm



LONG LUNCH TIME

SUNDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2019 - 12:00PM - 5:00PM

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Continued from page 1

quickly displaced, so it was great to see offers of support from Lancefield citizens and surrounds. Ralph Nader once said that "When strangers act like neighbours, communities are reinvigorated". We are very blessed to live in the area we do, surrounded by such community minded locals.

Many concerns have been raised by the Benloch Community in light of the most recent fire. Frustrations include the worrying lack of mobile communications. Regular power outages and land line faults are also a problem. Many did not even receive prior warnings via the EmergencyVic App due to no coverage. This was an issue for the 2015 fires, and it unfortunately remains a major concern for the 2019 fires. A new communications tower was announced last July by MP Mary-Anne Thomas after the failed first tower. It remains in the planning stages.

Also of concern to residents is the VEAC recommendation that the Cobaw State Forest (3km from where this fire took place) be locked up and changed to a Conservation Park. Locals have expressed concerns over the fire danger of the Cobaw Forest, and how changing it to a conservation park that doesn't have an improved Fire Management Plan or increased funding, endangers all surrounding residents. Regularly maintained fire access

tracks through the Forest are still needed and residents are concerned over VEAC suggestions they may be left to overgrow.

The lack of response to requests for road side vegetation management in areas of Benloch, such as Nicholls Lane, are also concerning. Fire risks can be managed properly, if all parties respond accordingly, and within an acceptable time frame. In our case, preferably before the fire season.

The fire season is not over yet, so we ask that residents remain vigilant. Crews will still be active in the area. Much work for residents still needs to be done to make properties better prepared and accessible. If there is one CFA event you should get to, it's the pre-season Fire Ready meetings. Benloch's Fire Ready Meeting will usually occur annually in October. Just turn up, talk to us, and we will help you from there. There are some responsibilities that go along with living happily and safely in an area like Benloch, get in touch with us to learn what they are. For more Benloch Brigade information, please head to our Benloch Fire Brigade Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BenlochFireBrigade

Thanks once again to all involved. Together, we can make our communities safer.

Jacquelyn Deer
Communications & Marketing Officer, Benloch CFA



LANCEFIELD COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

GREAT YEAR AHEAD

The Lancefield C.W.A. held their last fundraiser for the year with their stall at the Lancefield Christmas Farmers' Market. Home made goodies, treats and gifts sold steadily throughout the morning despite the inclement weather!

We presented our annual scholarships to two Year 6 students at their end of year celebrations. The scholarships assist the students with purchasing textbooks for their forthcoming year seven at secondary school.

The recipients were: Charlie Knott from St. Marys Primary School and Madeline Rowe from Lancefield Primary School.

We congratulate both girls and wish them the very best for their future education.

We began this year, 2019, with an informal luncheon at the Lancefield Hotel.

Our country of study for this year will be very interesting.

Our International Officer, Sandra Stevens will share information that she has discovered with us at each meeting. We thank Sandra for sharing with us all that she discovered about Peru last year.

Now, here are some clues as to what our 2019 country is:

It is the largest volcanic island in the world.

A feature of the country is the Hekla volcano, last erupting in 2000 with mineralised ash that claims to contain homeopathic qualities.

It has the famous tourist attraction- The Blue Lagoon - which has mineral rich water containing curative powers especially for psoriasis.

In area, it is larger than Tasmania, but has a smaller population.

In fact, on the whole island, there are more sheep than people.

The musician and singer Bjork is from here

Erik the Red settled here when he was forced to leave Norway.

The famous novel 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth' by Jules Verne commenced in this country.

Last clue, The capital city is Reykjavik.

Yes!! You guessed it, the country is Iceland.

Our monthly meetings are held on the fourth Friday of each month at 10:30 am at The Neighbourhood House

For further information, contact Maybelle Briggs, Publicity Officer 54 291 624



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SMALL CHANGE PROJECT

The Small Change Project is an exciting new micro-funding initiative supporting community groups from Lancefield, Romsey and surrounds. Groups can apply for grants of up to \$2000 to support projects with demonstrated community impact by filling out a simple application form, which can be obtained by emailing lsmallchange@gmail.com or by calling the Lancefield Neighbourhood House who are administering the process. Round two applications must be received by March 1st 2019.

Our first round of funding closed in November with \$10,400 being shared between the Lancefield Playgroup, Lancefield Park, Romsey Red Cross, Lancefield Mens Shed, Lancefield Primary School and Lancefield Romsey Community Transport. We are proud to support the efforts of these amazing groups and look forward to the next round of applications.

THE MERCURY QUIZ

1. Electrons, Neutrons and....?
2. Ameteur, Amateur or Amatuer?
3. How many squares on a chess board?
4. K is the symbol of which element? Calcium, Potassium or Sodium?
5. What does the Dewey Decimal system categorise?
6. Which continent has the largest population of people?
7. Which Australian Prime Minister held office for the shortest time?
8. Australian artist Margaret Preston was best known for her bold printmaking. What other form of art making was she known for?
9. What is the name of the astrophysicist and lead guitarist from the band 'Queen'?
10. Who said: "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened"?

Answers on page 29

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WESTERN WATER

ANNUAL WATER OUTLOOK FOR 2018/19

Western Water customers are being encouraged to shorten showers, check for dripping taps and leaks and use water wisely in the garden after consumption increased by 11% in the past year.

Western Water General Manager Customer and Community Relations, Graham Holt, says the simple water saving actions were part of the voluntary water efficiency program - Target 155, and had the potential to make a big difference to home water consumption.

The 11% increase has been reported in Western Water's Annual Water Outlook for 2018/19, released in December.

Mr Holt says every year Western Water and other Victorian water corporations provide a snapshot of their region's water supplies and the actions to be undertaken to maintain supply.

"The Outlook reports an even chance of above or below average rainfall for December 2018 to February 2019 with supplies sourced through a mix of sources, including local reservoirs, groundwater and the Melbourne system. Recycled water is also used to support the regions recreational spaces and agriculture.

Some customers in the region will experience a change of water supply over summer – this is part of normal

operations as Western Water best manages available water resources to meet supply.

Mr Holt says climate change, population growth and increasing demand for water means that we need ensure we protect the security of our water supplies."

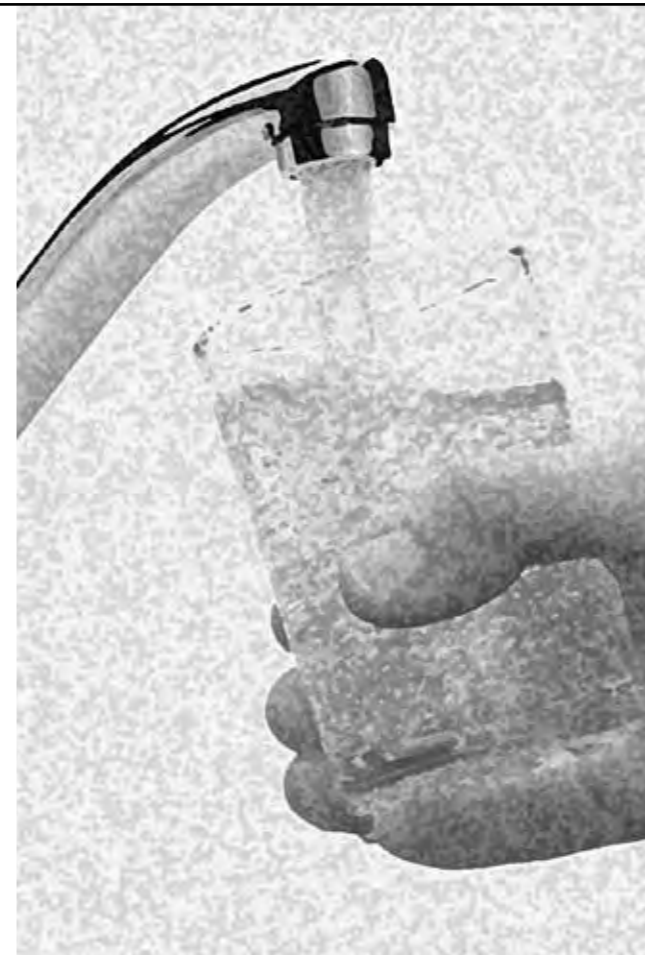
Mr Holt says Western Water is well-positioned to meet the dual challenges of climate and population growth but we need the community to remain vigilant in saving water where possible.

"We are investing in projects that maximise use of our water supplies however we also rely on our customers to use water efficiently."

Western Water's website has a number of tips for saving water in the home and garden through our Target 155 program as well as how to guides on checking for leaks which can lead to bill shock and wasted water."

Water corporations across greater Melbourne, supported by the State Government, have adopted Target 155, a voluntary water conservation program to encourage residents to restrict use to 155 litres of water or less per day.

Western Water customers are already demonstrating a responsible approach to water saving, using on average 194 litres per person per day throughout the year.



Due to the higher temperatures last month, water use rose to an estimated average of 202 litres per person per day. Western Water says that efforts to manage water use need to continue, especially with the hot, dry summer expected this year.

Western Water's two major reservoirs, Merrimu and Rosslynne, are at 32% and 24% of capacity respectively.

The Annual Water Outlook is available at: www.westernwater.com.au/Our-Services/Drinking-water/Reservoirs

To reach the Target, Western Water customers need to save on average 40-50 litres a day. This equates to a little more than three buckets of water, and will vary from person to person and according to the time of year.

Graham Holt, General Manager, Customer, Community Relations and Operations, said:

"Customers can help reach the Target by taking shorter showers. Even one minute less is 7-20 litres saved, depending on the type of showerhead. Other water saving tips include turning off the tap when brushing your teeth, not rinsing your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher, and checking the weather forecast for rain before watering the garden. All these seemingly small changes can make a big difference."

Customers can find out more about T155 and read about further ways to save water by visiting westernwater.com.au.



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A STELLAR YEAR TO COME FOR THE COPE-WILLIAMS ARTS FOUNDATION CONCERT SERIES

The 2019 program of concerts will commence on Sunday 24 February. Held at the Cope-Williams winery in Ochiltrees Road, Romsey, the program for the year is truly a stellar line-up of talent.

The Cope-Williams Arts Foundation run by Judy Cope-Williams, is dedicated to supporting and furthering the careers of young Australian classical musicians. The annual program brings together some of the most talented global performers in the realm of chamber music together with Australia's up and coming talent. The concerts take place in the serene setting of the Romsey estate. Regular attendees to these concerts include locals from Kyneton, Castlemaine, Woodend, Romsey and Lancefield as well as a substantial cohort who travel from Melbourne to enjoy the series each year.

The Melbourne-based pianist, Hoang Pham, will open the 2019 series. Pham was born in Vietnam and moved to Australia with his parents at an early age. He is the winner of many awards including the 2013 Symphony Australia Young Performers' Award. During 2013 he appeared as soloist with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl and solo recitals at Melba Hall at the University of Melbourne. His performance of Scriabin's Black Mass

Sonata was praised for 'showing a mastery that converted its seemingly aimless trajectory into a model of clarity'. On 24 February he will perform Mendelssohn's Prelude and Fuge in E minor, Rachmaninoff's Variations on a Theme of Corelli and Mozart's Overture to Tannhauser.

The second concert to be held on 31 March, will feature the Orpheus Trio performing Mozart's Sonata in G Major, Ravel's Mother Goose Suite and Arensky Trio in D Minor. Wilma and Friends return on 19 May and the solo pianist Hannah Shin will perform on 2 June. They will be followed by Zoe Knighton and Amir Farid on 14 July and the Acacia Quartet on 20 October.

Entry to the concert, which commences at 2.30 pm, is \$40 which includes substantial savouries and a selection of Cope-Williams wines during the interval. These concerts are illustrative of the level of rich cultural events held in the area and are a monthly concert I look forward to enormously. (Bookings can be made by phoning Judy on 5429 5428 or see their website: <http://copewilliams.com.au/arts-foundation-events/>.)

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CHRISTMAS MASSES SUCH A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION

MASS TIMES

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month:
8:00am Lancefield and 10:00 am Romsey
2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the month:
8:00am Romsey and 10:00am Lancefield
1st Saturday of the month:
10:00am Romsey – Healing Mass
Reconciliation available from 9:30am

COMMUNION SERVICES

Tuesday
9:00am Romsey Church
Saturday
10:00am Romsey Church
ROSARY
Saturdays 9:45am Romsey

RECONCILIATION

By arrangement.

BAPTISMS

2019 – Romsey Church – April 7th, June 2nd, August 4th, October 6th & December 1st.

2019 – Lancefield Church – March 10th, May 12th, July 14th, September 8th & November 10th.

For more information, please phone 5429 2130.

SACRAMENTS

Registrations are now open for all Sacraments to be received in 2019. Please send your details to the secretary at lancefield@cam.org.au to register your child.

PARISH NEWS

Our Christmas Masses were celebrated by Fr. Vinoth and the churches were full. It was wonderful to see the children participate in "The Nativity" at the Family Mass in Romsey on Christmas Eve. A big thank you goes to Margaret Redmond and her amazing musical family who provided the music for the evening and Louise Newnham for organising the children.

Midnight Mass once again brought out the lovely local voices who sang along to "Carols" beautifully lead by Maureen and Ken Wiltshire. Christmas Day Mass was also well attended and Agnes Kennedy provided the music for this Mass. Our Liturgy team of Rosalie McCarthy, Marie Hoban and Anne Alford did a fabulous job of decoration the churches for Advent and the Christmas Masses. Thank you to all involved for making the Christmas Masses such a wonderful celebration.

FAREWELL FR. VINOOTH

After two years of wonderful service to our parish, sadly we had to say goodbye to Fr. Vinoth in January. Thankfully he will not be too far away so we can still keep in touch. Fr. Vinoth has taken on the role of Parish Priest at St. Brigid's in Gisborne after the retirement of Fr. Gerry Spillane. A farewell luncheon was held for Fr. Vinoth and we wish him every happiness and success in his new role.

WELCOME FR. DARYL

Luckily for us, Fr. Daryl Montecillo, who took over Fr. Vinoth's Chaplaincy work in the city hospitals has kindly agreed to also take over Fr. Vinoth's supply to our parish. Fr. Daryl was welcomed to the parish in January and we look forward to getting to know each other over the coming year.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020.

During the month of February the Parish of St. Mary's

Lancefield/Romsey will be attempting to contact you to inform you about the Plenary Council. The Plenary Council is a meeting of the Church in Australia to be held in 2020.

It is being called to discuss the future of the Church. In a certain sense, the Council has already begun at the local Parish level throughout Australia. The bishops have asked everybody to consider what it is that must be done to make the church more responsive to the age in which we are living.

The opportunity to pray about the future and discuss your own thoughts will be provided in church on Sunday February 10 when Sister Josè from Sunbury will lead us in group discussions.

You may attend and contribute in a group or alternatively respond anonymously to the Plenary Council by returning your letter to the Parish House, 27 Chauncey St., Lancefield, 3735 or by making a submission online to plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/have-your-say/

The choice to be a voice for the future is yours. Pope Francis and the Australian bishops are insistent that everybody in Australia is welcome to contribute their thoughts and ideas about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. "Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches" (Rev.2:7)

MERCURY QUIZ ANSWERS FROM PAGE 22

1. Protons, 2. Amateur, 3. 64, 4. Potassium, 5. Books, 6. Asia, 7. Frank Forde served for 8 days from July 6-13, 1945, after the death of John Curtin., 8. Painting, 9. Brian May, 10. Dr. Seuss

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BACK IN ACTION

We hope that everyone has had a fantastic holiday season and is settling into the New Year. The Lancefield Op Shop and Town House volunteers have had a very well deserved break and are now back in action and looking forward to another busy year.

The Neighbourhood House is set for a busy term 1, with many new and old favourite activities on the schedule. By now you should have received your Term Brochure outlining all our upcoming activities in the mail, however copies are available at the Town House if you missed out.

All regular activities commence the week beginning 4th of February. Sewing classes, decorative painting, meditation, yoga and craft are some of our usuals, however this year we also welcome Guitar classes, Reading Circle and a Walking Group. Lancefield Radio is another exciting development this year so keep an eye out for details.

We are also running a Youth Mental Health First Aid course in early Feb, contact the Shire for more information and bookings.

Many of our events and programs are setting up for the year ahead, so please get in contact if you want to get involved.

Megafauna Festival organisation meeting: Friday 8th Feb 10:30am at the Aspy

2019 Christmas Decoration planning meeting: Monday 25th Feb 1pm or 7pm at Neighbourhood House

The Op Shop, Town House, Community Transport, Feed it Forward, Farmers Market and Boomerang Bags are also all looking for more volunteers so get in touch if you are interested.

WHOLE TOWN GARAGE SALE

Start collecting and organising for the Whole Town Garage Sale on Sat March 16. Either register your individual garage sale or be a part of the car boot sale at the Mens Shed. More details to follow.

HOW TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING!

To keep up to date with what is happening at the Neighbourhood House and around town visit www.lancefield.org.au or follow us on Facebook. You can also join our mailing list to get email updates, via the 'news' page on the website or email us on lancefieldhouse@tpg.com.au

YOUR GROUP INVITED

We also invite community groups to send through their events to adminlnh@tpg.com.au and we will share via the Lancefield website and our facebook page.

We see it as a valuable community service to spread the word about everything going on around our beautiful town.

RUN

"Twas the month after Christmas and all through the house

Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse."

Sound familiar?

Fortunately, our volunteers are gearing up to take everyone interested on a 'Start to Run' journey from sitting on the couch (eating plum pudding) to jogging 5km in eight weeks at your pace, with the opportunity to extend to 10km in an additional five weeks. A great way to get back into shape and improve your fitness.

Our Start Running program began on Monday, January 28 (7.00pm) at the Skate Park, Romsey. Come and join us, you will be made most welcome.

The Spring 2018 Start Running program culminated in a run through beautiful bushland around Woodend and our Christmas Party at the Children's Park. Next, our branches get together for a run between Romsey and Lancefield on February 10 with breakfast in the park to follow.

All enquiries to macedonrangesrc@gmail.com

Check our website for more information <http://macedonrangesrunningclub.com/>

Lindsay Sharpe, Secretary



Beth Peckham

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STILL A CHANCE TO SEE SMALL WORKS

2018 saw the set up and creation of the inaugural 'small works from a Big Place' exhibition.

If you haven't yet had a chance to see this collection of miniature artworks representing 130 artists from Central Victoria, make sure you do in 2019.

Tell your friends and loved ones too, get along and visit us! Read on for exhibition tour dates and more great ways to make 2019 happen...

BENDIGO MARKETPLACE

Tuesday 15th January - Tuesday 12th February
116-120 Mitchell St, Bendigo

ARNOLD STREET GALLERY

Thursday 14th February - Tuesday 19th March
189 Arnold Street, North Bendigo

CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL OPEN STUDIOS PROGRAM

Thursday 21st March - Monday 1st April
Castlemaine VLine Station, Castlemaine



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Professional and caring instruction in a safe and supervised environment. Practice effective self-defense and develop fitness, discipline and confidence.

Classes operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, with a Children's class at 5:00 and adult class at 6:30 during the week, and at 2:00 on Saturdays.

All classes are run by Kyoshi James Sumarac, 8th Dan assisted by Shou Mei Sumarac, 5th Dan and Glen Cannon, 4th Dan.

Private lessons are available by arrangement.

WU LIN RETREAT is a purpose built Martial and Healing Arts center, set at the base of the Cobaw Forest and has appeared on both Coxy's Big Break and Getaway.



47 Sherwood Court Lancefield VIC 3435

Email: james@jamesumarac.com

Phone: 54292122 Mob: 0417 350 398

www.wulinretreat.com

TUSSOCK HITCHES A RIDE ACROSS THE STATE

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) would like to advise landowners to ensure fodder and hay purchased this summer and autumn is free of noxious weeds, and in particular, serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*). The previous year has seen perfect conditions for this weed of national significance to seed prolifically, resulting in many paddocks being infested prior to baling for fodder. Drier conditions also result in more fodder being transported around the state and interstate.

Whilst it can be difficult to inspect all fodder purchased for noxious weeds, VSTWP Executive Officer Doug May suggests that "landowners should attempt to purchase stockfeed from reputable outlets that can verify the absence of declared noxious weeds and from areas outside of the serrated tussock core infestations around the fringes of northern and western Melbourne, Landowners are often unaware of the grassy weed in their paddocks, especially during a decent spring like the one we just had and may bale paddocks unaware of the viable seeds in the fodder," noted Mr May.

The VSTWP recommends that landowners set aside designated feed-out area, which allows the landowner to monitor this area regularly for the germination of weeds particularly after periods of rain. Landowners should keep an eye out for Serrated Tussock or any new or unusual plants in these feed-out areas and undertake control measures early before they flower and set seed.

Long standing member and current chairperson of the VSTWP, John Burgess, stated that the VSTWP "advocates that best practice management is to control and treat mature serrated tussock plants prior to flowering and seeding each



season with a registered herbicide, manual removal or cultivation".

Serrated tussock is an introduced invasive plant from South America that has the potential to rapidly decrease the biodiversity of native grasslands and seriously reduce the agricultural capacity of properties.

For further information, please visit www.serratedtussock.com, or email info@serratedtussock.com.



VSTWP assist landowners identify and manage the weed

Horsfield Muscle Technique
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and more
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For an appointment phone 0412 787 213

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**JAPANESE KARATE
MASTER HOSTED
BY WU LIN RETREAT**



I first met Master Noguchi Michiro in 1974 during one of my extended training trips to Japan. I travelled to his dojo in Koshigaya Saitama prefecture, about an hour from Tokyo via subway, and was thrilled by his enthusiasm about Karate. After the training session and inevitable demonstrations he talked about his Karate experiences and attitudes. Noguchi Sensei is one of the most senior members of Ohtsuka Tadahiko's Goju Kensha Saishin Kan dojo and was an

influential support to Master Ohtsuka for 50 years. Master Noguchi is a living legend in Japan but had never been out of his country, despite numerous invitations from American and European Martial Arts schools. Master Noguchi in fact didn't possess a passport. Little did I know that 45 years later he would come to Australia to teach and inspire as he has done this year!

Master Noguchi has now visited our school in Lancefield for the third time and loves the Macedon Ranges. He takes early morning walks to view the wildlife and is very emotional about nature.

Master Noguchi's recent visit was to launch a new text by James Sumarac called The Living Bubishi, an ancient text on the principles of Traditional Martial Arts, fighting strategies and moral code.

In addition to the book launch and three day workshop Master Noguchi also upgraded local members to Black belt and was very pleased about the high standards of practitioners.

Brodie Murphy 1st Degree Black Belt; Glenn Munro 2nd Degree Black Belt; Supun Ambepitiya 2nd Degree Black Belt; Nicholas Tuffin 2nd Degree Black Belt; Mark Donald 2nd Degree Black Belt

Regular classes for beginners and advanced levels are available at Wulin Retreat

Enquiries may be made to James or Shou Mei 54292122 or 0417350398 www.wulinretreat.com e : james@jamesumarac.com

James Sumarac

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