

GREAT LUNCHEON SUCCESS

A spectacular sunny day in February was host to the Lancefield Long Luncheon, where 180 diners were served a delicious 3 course home cooked meal, whilst being entertained by live artists under the canopy of trees on the eastern plantation of High Street. Lancefield Community

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Branch of the Bendigo Bank kindly offered to sponsor the fundraising luncheon to raise money towards the upgrade of the tennis courts at Lancefield Park. The old tennis courts at the western end of the Park will become 2 new multipurpose, plexipave tennis/netball courts. These upgraded courts will be open to the public at no cost.

Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) has granted \$315,000 towards the project from the Lancefield Park Renewal Fund, but Lancefield Tennis Club and Lancefield Senior & Junior Football Netball Clubs have been tasked to raise the remaining \$50,000 in funding and in-kind support as their contribution.

The luncheon raised \$17,000 profit, which will go towards this contribution to the project.

A massive thank you to Kaylene Cruise and Loraine Kraus who organised and managed the event; also to all the volunteers who helped on the day in a number of capacities and to the sponsors who donated items to use on the day or as raffle/auction prizes.

Thank you to members of the community for supporting this great cause to improve the town's facilities, and remember; these will be public courts for all the community to use, not just members of the Clubs involved.

Julie Arnold-McGill



THE LANCEFIELD LONGEST LUNCH FUNDRAISER:

Lancefield Tennis club was proud to support and participate in this fantastic fundraiser held by the LFNC. Our junior kids helped provide labour and our senior members sat back and enjoyed the day. A highlight for our club was the attendance of Tennis Victoria's Peter Bertoncini to present Loraine Kraus with a Tennis Australia Tennis Service Award. Peter was impressed overall by our wonderful community spirit and commented that if more clubs worked together the way the Lancefield community did, it would make fundraising more enjoyable

"Congratulations to all concerned for the wonderful event held in our centre plantation to raise the community contribution component of the new Netball Tennis courts. This will enable the project to proceed in early April barring any more hold ups, which seem to be part and parcel of blending a range of stakeholders to achieve an outstanding community goal: Two complete courts with a modern surface conducive to safe, satisfactory, sporting and social achievement. This was noted as a particularly important priority early in our first event funding legacy process. The presence of past and present Park Committee members on duty serving refreshments was typical of what a team effort can achieve." Fred King

 1ST ROMSEY SCOUT GROUP



DID YOU KNOW THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT CAN HELP WITH YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION MARKS?

As part of the scouting adventure your child can earn badges and awards along the way, the highest being the Queens Scout Award in Venturers

Badges and Awards are presented to Cub Scouts as recognition of their hard work towards a certain aspect of the Cub Scout program. They are based around a wide variety of achievements and activities and generally include one to three levels of achievement. Once received these can be proudly displayed on their uniforms. Some of the areas include craft, history, first aid, environment, community and bushcraft. The highest awards given for cubs is the Grey wolf while in scouts the Australian Scout Medallion and for Venturers the Queens Scout Award. This award has been recognised by the education department for the amount of work and learning involved

so that you can gain credit towards your final year of high school marks and is recognised by a few of the Victorian universities where a credit is also given towards your entry. Featured is a picture of is a pic of our winner of the recent raffle held in conjunction with our sausage sizzle held outside Romsey IGA. Many thanks to local businesses that supported this including both Romsey and Lancefield Hardwares, O'Deas Auto Spares, Romsey Post Office, Saddlery and Amcal Chemist, Burnbrook Fields and Farm Fresh on Main. The cub group is also looking for an assistant cub leader so if any adults would like to reconnect with their scout experience please let us know. Further enquiries 1stromsey@gmail.com or check out our Facebook page 1st Romsey/Lancefield scout group

THE GHOST OF BREAKER MORANT REMAINS AT THE ELMS IN LANCEFIELD

THE BUSVELDT CARBINEERS

The walls of the homestead, The Elms at 55 Chauncey Street, Lancefield, have many stories to tell. The homestead was once occupied by George Ramsdale Witton (1874-1942) whose name is associated with Lieutenants Peter Handcock and Harry 'Breaker' Morant. The three officers served in the South African or Boer War (1899-1902) and were arrested for the murder of Boer prisoners in 1901. None of them believed they would be convicted of murder, arguing that they were following orders. It was a great shock to Handcock and Morant when they learned they were to be executed. Witton found the situation unbelievable. In his description of the last time he saw his two mates he wrote:

The following morning we were removed to another part of the prison, and occupied a row of cells on the west side of the yard, which I afterwards learned were known as the 'condemned cells'... At five the next morning, 27th February, I was roused by a warder, who informed me that an escort was waiting for me... I asked permission to say good-bye to Morant and Handcock. I was allowed to see the only through the small trap-door. I clasped their hands through this for the last time and could scarcely stammer a good-bye.

Witton was released from the Pretoria Prison the following day to be transported to England under guard. While waiting at the Pretoria Railway Station on that fateful day, he recalled: 'I distinctly heard in the clear morning air the report of the volley of the firing party, the death knell of my late comrades... so went out two brave and fearless soldiers'. Their story attracted the attention of the general public at the time although news of Morant and Handcock's execution was not conveyed to the Australian Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun, until March 1902. The Australian public and the men's families were only informed of their fate by newspaper reports. The Boer War ended three months



later, in May 1902.

After serving two years of his sentence in an English prison, Witton's release was negotiated. In June 1904 he received a message from the then Minister for External Affairs, Mr Billy Hughes, that his father was seriously ill. Hughes had spoken to the Imperial authorities and urged them to consider releasing Witton. Hughes requested the

Continued on page 6

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Australian Prime Minister, Chris Watson (whose term only lasted from April to August 1904), to bring the matter before the British government. The Hon. A G Lyttleton, Secretary of State for the Colonies, replied to the Prime Minister's letter and informed him that 'he was not disposed to reconsider Witton's sentence'. Witton himself petitioned but received no reply. He describes the sequence of events leading up to his release:

My case was brought before the House of Common's on 10 August 1904. Winston Churchill asked the Secretary of State for War whether he could state the intention of His Majesty's Government in respect to Witton. Mr Arnold-Foster replied to the question that 'His Majesty the King has been pleased to order that Witton be released.'

Witton was informed of the decision the following day and he wrote: 'My joy was unutterable, yet it was tinged with one regret - I wished that it had come a little sooner. I had received the news that my father had passed away, and I felt that the knowledge that I had gained my freedom would have gladdened his heart in his last hours.'

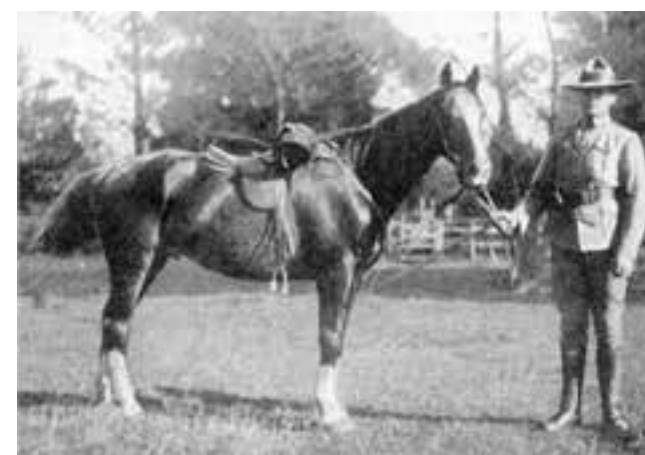
He was not officially discharged from prison for several weeks. In the meantime he was provided with clothes and shoes and he received money sent by his brother in Australia. News of Witton's release from prison had 'flashed around the world before it had been imparted to me', so it was certain his brother would have known the news weeks before his release from prison. The Hon. James D Logan played an interesting role in Witton's life after his release. In contrast

to the life of a Bushveldt Carbineer in South Africa or the confines of the English prison, when he was discharged into Logan's care he was promptly outfitted and taken on a shooting holiday to Scotland. Of this holiday Witton recalled that 'Just eighteen hours after leaving Portland Prison I shot my first grouse'. He wrote that 'the ladies joined us for lunch, making a pleasure party of twelve. This, my first luncheon on the moors, was to me a notable one; speeches and toasts were indulged in, and here I made my first speech'. He later looked upon those weeks spent with Mr Logan as 'the brightest in my life'. His book concludes with the reception he received when he arrived in Melbourne:

On the 12th November 1904, after a chequered experience extending over nearly five years, I placed my foot again on my native soil. On my arrival in Australia I met among others Mr Wainwright, general secretary of the Australian Natives' Association, and his son, Mr Austin Wainwright, who so ably assisted my brother in his efforts towards my release. I also met Mr Alfred Deakin, a true compatriot, who during his term of office as Prime Minister of the Commonwealth was untiring in his efforts to secure my liberty and return to Australia.

BACK HOME IN AUSTRALIA

How and why George Witton and his brother Edward chose to live in Lancefield is unknown. However, they moved into The Elms in 1905. The property of 49 acres was large enough to farm if they chose. Originally Crown Allotments 25 and 26 in the Parish of Lancefield in the County of Bourke, John



George Witton

McCrae, MLC, was the original grantee in April 1857. McCrae sold the Crown Grant to Donald Rofs in July 1866. The house and land had been leased to the brothers Ross and Joseph Beasley since 1865 and in 1866 the title was transferred to them. The property changed hands again when the Beasley brothers sold it to Samuel Derrich in September 1875. He maintained ownership of the property until June 1882 when it was transferred to the Australian Temperance and General Mutual Life Association who retained it until 1902 and Maria Mathwell became the proprietor. Mrs Mathwell did not hold the property for long; in September 1904 William Wildsmith became the owner of The Elms at 55 Chauncey Street and retained it until it was transferred to Mrs Hannah Maria McElroy in October 1909. Although it was originally thought

George Witton owned The Elms, his name does not appear on the chain of conveyance, part of the historic Certificate of Title held by Lands Victoria. Rather, it appears Witton rented the property.

From the time he settled in Lancefield, Witton set about documenting the events that had taken place in the previous five years. In his book Scapegoats of the Empire he wrote scathingly of the court-martial system and the little evidence used to convict the three men. While writing Scapegoats of the Empire, Witton operated a business as a Farm Salesman from the property. Advertisements in the Lancefield Mercury in 1905 indicate the diversity of Witton's skills. In June 1905 he publicised his presence in Lancefield as a 'Farm Salesman for Lancefield and District'. The advertisement emphasised that any farm owners who wished to dispose of property should 'communicate with me by letter, when I will personally inspect same'. On 15 September 1905 he advertised that a 'Clearing Sale' would take place at the end of September. It appears that Adamson, Strettle & Co. had instructed George R Witton to conduct the Clearing Sale on behalf of Mr E W Witton.² His brother may have moved all of his stock from elsewhere in Victoria to live in Lancefield with his brother. The livestock included '10 very fine cows in full milk, 13 forward springers in calf to pure Ayrshire Bull, 25 head young stock (nearly all heifers), 1 pure Ayreshire bull 2 years old selected from the progeny of the pure-bred Ayreshire stock, 1 pure Berkshire Boar bred by James Gibb MP, 10 breeding sows and 1 good Buggy Mare'. As well as

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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.

Supported by  Macedon Ranges Shire Council



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Advertising Rates at 2016-2017 Financial Year

One eighth page \$35
One quarter page \$55
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the livestock, the sale included 1 new Jinker with equipment such as Buggy Harness, saddle and bridle. Finally, dairy utensils and equipment were offered for sale.

That Witton chose the life of a farm salesman after his horrific War experience is perhaps no surprise. He was born into a farming family near Warrnambool, Victoria and resuming this occupation may have appeared to him to be the most obvious thing to do. At the same time, however, Witton gave talks to Victorian branches of the Australian Natives Association (ANA) on his war experiences. The ANA was an early version of today's RSL. The Lancefield Mercury reported on 5 October 1905 that Lieutenant G R Witton had recently lectured to the Prahran branch. It wrote:

Never before in the history of the branch has such an audience attended a branch meeting. The hall was crowded to the doors, many being unable to obtain admittance. In an address extending for nearly two hours Lieut. Witton dwelt upon the facts of his connection with the Bushveldt Carbineers, the story of Morant and Hancock's [sic] execution, and his own sentence to life imprisonment. He also emphasised the fact that every action of which they were found guilty by the court martial was not only approved of, but actually ordered by headquarters. The audience expressed their sympathy for him by giving hearty rounds of applause at the conclusion of the remarks. A vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer on the motion of Messrs Thomas and Tregard. Lieut. Witton then thanked Mr Austin Wainwright; Hon. A Deakin, MP; Hon. I A Isaacs, MP, and

Sir A Peacock, MLA who were instrumental in gaining his release. Lieut. Witton has received a number of requests for an address at different places. The story of his experiences will shortly be published in book form.

The first edition of Scapegoats of the Empire was published in Melbourne by D W Paterson in 1907. Few copies of this publication still exist. One story about the fate of the book is that all but four copies were destroyed in a mysterious fire at the warehouse where they were stored. The second story is that the government of the day had them destroyed because the story was seen as too controversial. Four copies exist today in the State Library of Victoria and can be viewed within the Library. The book is also a Project Gutenberg of Australia eBook and can be downloaded from the internet. Perhaps the government of the day was embarrassed by the whole affair.

The 1980 Peter Weir film, Breaker Morant was based on Witton's book; the script for the film was written by Australian playwright, David Williamson who brought the story to life once again. The hugely popular and successful film was directed by Bruce Beresford. It starred Edward Woodward, John Waters, Bryan Brown, Jack Thompson, Bud Tingwell and other notable Australian actors. In 1982, following the success of the Peter Weir film, the book was republished by Angus & Robertson.

The Lancefield Historical Society holds the manuscript of an unpublished history of Lancefield. Contained within it is a chapter entitled 'G R Witton and the Boer War'. In this chapter the unknown author writes that Witton remained in Lancefield until after the First World War and delayed



enlisting in that war. On 31 July 1914, Opposition Leader Andrew Fisher (ALP) famously declared that 'should the worst happen, after everything has been done that honour will permit, Australians will stand beside the mother country to help and defend her to our last man and our last shilling'. Only days later, Britain declared war against Germany on 4 August 1914. When war was declared and Australia was drawn into what became known as the First World War, Witton is said to have declared that he would be the 'last man' and delayed enlisting. It is understood he left Lancefield around 1918 or 1919 and moved to Queensland where he became a dairy farmer. He married twice but did not have children. He died in hospital on 14 August 1942 following a heart attack. He was buried in Brisbane's

Lutwyche Cemetery.

The author of the unpublished history also reveals a sequel to Witton's Lancefield story. It appears that in 1997 an astute gun collector was looking over some rifles with Boer War significance. An unusual Lee Metford short carbine caught his eye. He purchased it without drawing attention to the name 'G R Witton' engraved on the stock of the rifle.

In an Age article written in 1982, historian and freelance journalist Geoffrey Hutton reviewed Scapegoats of the Empire. He wrote: 'Witton's story is a personal justification but it has the ring of truth. Written almost as sparingly as a military report, it occasionally bursts into strong feeling.' Noting that historians have always assumed that the two Australians were offered as a blood sacrifice to appease the Kaiser, Hutton reports on the revisionist historian, Thomas Pakenham's views disputing this conclusion although he does not agree or disagree with Pakenham. Hutton describes the writing style as 'sparing' but I disagree. Several sections reveal his emotional response to the events he endured. Although the book is now dated in style, it is worth reading as an historical account of aspects of the Boer War. Witton has meticulously gathered court transcripts, reports and letters as evidence to support his case that Hancock and Morant were in fact scapegoats of the empire in a bloody war.

Fay Woodhouse

1 Scapegoats of the Empire, p. 96.

2 'Clearing Sale', The Elms, Lancefield, Wednesday 27th September 1905, *Lancefield Mercury*, 15 September 1905.

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LANCEFIELD PUBLIC TOILET UPGRADE

Council is upgrading three public toilets in the shire over the next few months, which will result in their temporary closure. The public toilet at the Lancefield town centre (on the Crescent opposite the Grain Store) will be closed for approximately three weeks between April and June for improvements. This will include painting and upgrades to flooring and internal fixtures to significantly improve the amenity of these buildings for the general public. Signage will be placed at each site during works notifying patrons of alternative public toilet locations.

The nearest public toilet in the area is located at Lancefield Park, Chauncey Street, Lancefield.

For more information on Council works and projects, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/works

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE, 2018

The Romsey-Lancefield RSL Sub-Branch wishes to advise that the 2018 Anzac Day Commemorative Service will be conducted at the Lancefield cenotaph, on Wednesday 25 April, commencing at 8.30am. A smaller wreath laying service will be held at the Romsey Cenotaph commencing at 7.30am. Marchers are requested to assemble in front of the Lancefield Bakery in High Street at 8.20am and march to the Cenotaph for the service to commence at 8.30am. All families, individuals and in particular our school children are welcome to attend the commemoration of this most important day in Australia's history. The Lancefield Neighbourhood House committee will again provide tea, coffee and refreshments to the community at the Mechanics Hall following the service.

KYNETON MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

WANT TO TRY SOME TAI CHI AND OTHER CHINESE ARTS?

Come along to the Kyneton Museum gardens to try the ancient Chinese practice of Tai Chi in a class suitable for all ages and abilities this month. A fully qualified and experienced instructor from Lilac Moon Tai Chi will help you learn some basic movements and explain the philosophy behind this ancient practice for mind, body and spirit.

The one-hour class costs \$15 and includes entry to the museum's latest exhibition 'Chinese Fortunes', which explores personal stories of the first Chinese Australians in Victoria. Classes will be held on Saturday 14 April from 3pm-4pm and Sunday 15 April from 2pm-3pm.

PAPER CUTTING

You can also try the ancient art of paper cutting at the museum on Saturday 14 April from 10am-11am.

Join Anita Jack from Golden Dragon Museum Bendigo to create your own Chinese paper decoration. Cost of \$12 includes 'Chinese Fortunes' exhibition entry.

CALLIGRAPHY

Chinese calligraphy is a highly valued visual art form which occupies a prominent position in Chinese art and culture. Anita Jack from Golden Dragon Museum Bendigo will provide an overview of the techniques, styles, rules and artistic characters of Chinese calligraphy in this one-hour workshop, and assist you in creating your own piece of calligraphy art. Suitable for teenagers and adults, the workshop will be held on Saturday 14 April from 1pm-2pm and the cost of \$15 includes 'Chinese Fortunes' exhibition entry.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the exhibition and all these activities, see mrsc.vic.gov.au/museum

Kyneton Museum is at 67 Piper Street and is open Friday to Sunday from 11am to 4pm. Entry fees apply.

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NEW ACTIVITIES ON THE WAY

The Program of activities for the next three months should arrive in your letterbox this week. New activities include a women's group, men's meditation, a board games group and an initial get together for a social group. See the brochure or www.lancefield.org.au/lancefieldhouse for more details.

This year will be the fourth Extinct – Lancefield Megafauna Festival. Having a town festival which grows each year is a fantastic thing for the town – (Port Fairy Folk Festival started with 20 people). The Lancefield Festival is entirely unique and is totally specific to the town – a great idea of Michael Meehans. This year's Festival is in need of an organiser. Are you, or do you know someone who is doing event management or is a good organiser? This volunteer role is for one day a week until late October when it will be two days leading up to the festival which is planned for Saturday 24 November. Visit www.lancefield.org.au/megafauna-festival or phone 5429 1214 for more information.

Defibrillators can save lives. Funds raised from the Op Shop have purchased 17 defibrillators for sporting clubs and

public spaces around Lancefield. Once you open the case of a defib it will give you step by step instructions of what to do, however doing the short training course will give you more confidence if you ever have to use one. The Romsey Lancefield Ambulance Auxiliary have installed a defibrillator at the Lancefield Police Station which will be available 24 hours a day. The training session for this defibrillator will be held at the Neighbourhood House on Friday 27 April at 7pm and is open to all members of the community.

The Macedon Ranges network of Neighbourhood Houses are supporting the Shire Council's hosting of 'Intrepid Women's Event' which celebrates the many ways that women show leadership to contribute to making our community healthy and happy. This is a *free* event open to all women (and girls aged 10 years and up). The guest speaker is the acclaimed Australian author and personality Robyn Davidson, well-known for her book – and now film - 'Tracks' which chronicles her epic 2,835 km camel trek across the Australian desert in the 1970s. The event will also feature singer songwriter and ARIA award winner Kavisha Mazzella.

Held on the evening of Thursday 26 April at Kyneton Town Hall the event will have free child minding and car pooling or a bus will be organised to leave from each Neighbourhood House. For more information visit www.lancefield.org.au/intrepid-women or phone 5429 1214.

The whole town Garage Sale for 2018 is being held on Saturday 19 May - to register your garage sale or to be part of the car boot sale visit www.lancefield.org.au/lancefieldhouse or phone 5429 1214.

We have been tossing around the idea of a Community Nursery as a way of raising funds for our incredible edible barrels and a community food pantry. If you are interested in this idea please phone Vivien at the House on 5429 1214.

Loddon Mallee Waste Management has been meeting with our local retailers to work towards Lancefield being a Plastic Bag Free Town. To support businesses and residents with the transition, paper bags will be provided as well we our nearly ready to launch the Boomerang Bags. As the entire State of Victoria will be going plastic bag free in the near future, this is an opportunity for us to adapt to taking our own bags when shopping.

The Boomerang Bags look fantastic and we have many people who have spent many hours of sewing, cutting and printing. Boomerang Bags will be available around the town for people to borrow when they have forgotten their own reusable bag, or pick some of your favourites to take with you everywhere. Each bag takes about an hour to make from scratch so we need to respect the effort that has been made and make sure the bags continue to be used. Keep using them or return them for others to use.

POSITION VACANT

THE MEGA FAUNA FESTIVAL NEEDS A DIRECTOR!

Are you an event organiser? Studying event organising and want some on hands experience? Do you have organisational skills? This volunteer role is for one day a week until late October when it will be two days leading up to the festival which is planned for Saturday 24 November. Visit www.lancefield.org.au/megafauna-festival or phone 5429 1214 for more information.

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This is the fulfilment of my childhood dream, to own and operate my very own fabric store. The name comes from my beautiful late mother Alice, who nurtured my love for fabric and textiles.

We offer products and inspiration for the modern sewist, specialising in fresh and contemporary quilting and apparel fabrics from your favourite designers, featuring a comprehensive range of patterns for quilting, ladies and children's clothing, bags, home décor and toys, as well as a thoughtful selection of notions, tools and accessories.

'Alice in Fabricland' has a bright, comfortable and sociable workshop area, where we will be offering sit-and-sew sessions, children's, quilting and dressmaking classes, where we hope to develop a community of like-minded fabric enthusiasts!

Coming from a retail background, I understand the importance of friendly, reliable and efficient customer



service. I'm looking forward to meeting all of your sewing project's requirements; if we don't have what you need, please ask and we will do our best to help.

Drop in any time for a cuppa, I'm always happy to chat! Or contact me on 0439 993 389.

You can also follow our adventures on Facebook and Instagram.

Fiona



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CHRIST IS RISEN - HE IS RISEN INDEED

THE DEATH OF DEATH

Christians have just celebrated EASTER Day - that great day when JESUS rose triumphant from the dead through the mighty power of God. Three days earlier He had died on the Cross for the sins of mankind - us - and through His death and rising again, he has opened the way to everlasting life to all who put their faith and trust in Him as Saviour and Lord. Repentance - knowing our sinful state and seeking forgiveness, and accepting Jesus - our Saviour into our hearts - the gift of eternal life is ours, as we walk in His ways and incline to His will.

Recently when I was at the hairdresser's, I read an article in one of the magazines there on "Death Doulas", I had not heard of them before. They are women trained in counselling skills who aim to bring comfort and help to those ill, dying and in other ways troubled. I do not think faith in God comes into their counselling.

Atheists and unbelievers believe there is no life beyond the grave - when you are dead, you are dead! "Not so", says Jesus. He answered the thief, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:42/3). This repentant thief had asked Jesus to remember him when He, Jesus,

came into His Kingdom.

For me, death is passing from life into Life and joining those blessed spirits in Paradise awaiting Christ's return in glory.

Christ's return is followed by the Judgment when we will all stand before His judgement seat. Finally, we are given our new spiritual bodies to live for evermore throughout eternity in the glory and wonder of heaven.

"Jesus lives! Thy terrors now can, O death no more appal us;

Jesus lives! By this we know, Thou, O Grave cannot enthrall us. Alleluia!

Jesus Lives! Henceforth is death, but the gate to life immortal; This shall calm our trembling breath, when we pass its gloomy portal."

F.E. Cox.

Last month at the World Day of Prayer Combined Service we learnt much of the little known country of Suriname and we praised and thanked God for all the beauty of His creation and His provision for our sustenance. We also celebrated "Mothering Sunday", the Church's "Mothers Day" with Simnel Cake - thank you, Glenice!! At our "Harvest Thanksgiving" service we once again praised and thanked

God for all his bounty and a generous supply of food was taken to Anglicare for Melbourne's needy.

APRIL 2018 DIARY

Sun 1st 9am - Easter Day. Holy Communion. St. Paul's Romsey

10.30 am. Christ Church Lancefield

Sun 8th 10am - Combined Service at Christ Church Lancefield. Bishop Philip Huggins attending.

Tues 17th 10.30am - Our Bible Study Of Genesis resumes. Unit 8. At Christ Church Lancefield. A Warm Welcome to anyone interested.

Wed 18th 7.30pm - Parish Council meets at Lancefield.

Tues 24th 10.30am - Bible Study Book of Genesis Unit 9. This concludes our studies in Genesis, which have been most rewarding.

For those eager for more Bible study, Term 2, will cover St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (Part of Greece).

Sun 29th - Rev. Jeannie's Last Service. Not goodbye, as Jeannie will remain as a parishioner. The Rev. Heather will be filling in until Rev. Judi Pollard takes over as our Interim Intentional Minister in July.

CHRIST IS RISEN ALLELUIA

Church Services: Holy Communion - 9 am St Paul's Romsey. 10.30 am Christ Church Lancefield

Locum Minister: Rev. Jeannie Woollard, 0413 877 906.

CAMP OUT UNDER THE STARS AT HANGING ROCK

Pack your tent, sleeping bag and pillow and head out to Hanging Rock on Saturday 7 April for a camping experience like no other. For one night only, a limited number of campers can pitch their tents, enjoy a night under the stars and experience the mystery and magic of Hanging Rock from a whole new perspective—by moonlight! This is a fantastic family event and a night to remember, offering a rare chance to go for a walk at night and hopefully spot some of the local fauna in their natural habitat.

Campers can join the free guided night walk, relax by the camp fire (subject to weather and CFA permit) or just sit back with family and friends to soak up the atmosphere. Bookings are essential, with a limited number of places available on a first in, first served basis. Book online at mrsc.vic.gov.au/CampOut or, phone Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Recreation team on 5421 1468.

Camping fees are \$22.50 per adult, \$13 per child and \$58 per family. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



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HAPPENINGS**
LOVE LETTERS

Our second production for 2018, 'Love Letters', is now well into rehearsals. This lovely play will open on 11th May. It tells the story of a couple who have been friends since childhood. Their lives follow completely different paths but through it all they exchange letters and after many years realise that while physically apart, they have been spiritually as close as only true lovers can be. Director, Frank Harvey is passionate about this play and promises that his talented cast of Darren Gregor and Jackie Harvey will take you on an emotional journey not to be missed.

Our musical for 2018, 'Les Miserables' saw 110 actors being auditioned over 4 weekends! The company has gathered together an incredibly talented cast, orchestra and crew to bring this incredible show to our stage in August. Tickets are already selling so don't miss out!

To book your tickets for these 2 shows go to www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892.

See you at the theatre.

Karen Hunt

COMMUNITY FUNDING SCHEME LAUNCH AND GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

A grant writing workshop to assist community groups and organisations in preparing their application will be held on Thursday 29 March, from 6pm (workshop from 7pm) at the Woodend Community Centre, corner High and Forest streets (next to Woodend Library).

This will be the official launch of the Community Funding Scheme, with Council officers available to provide an overview of the grant application process, answer questions, offer grant writing tips and distribute grant guidelines and application forms. Applications for the program close on Monday 30 April.

For more information on the Community Funding Scheme, or to RSVP to attend the workshop, call Emilie on 5422 0206 or email grants@mrsc.vic.gov.au Community Funding Scheme guidelines and application forms will be at mrsc.vic.gov.au/Community-Funding-Scheme or at Council service centres in Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend closer to the launch.

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BOOK REVIEWS SUBMITTED BY RED DOOR BOOKS

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Unplugged- by Steve Antony. RRP \$15.99

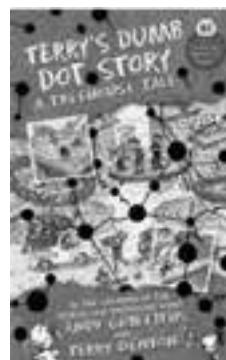
A delightful picture book about the wonders of all the fun you can have inside AND outside, by the award-winning Steve Antony, author of the bestselling Please Mr Panda. BLIP spends all day plugged into her computer, playing games

and having fun. But when there is a power cut, Blip goes down the stairs and out the front door, where she discovers playing games and having fun . . . outside. Isn't it wonderful to be *Unplugged*? By Steve Antony, winner of the Oscar's First Book Prize, nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal and shortlisted for the Waterstone's Children's Book Prize.

CHILDREN'S FICTION

Terry's Dumb Dot Story- by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton. RRP \$2.00

Andy always narrates the Treehouse stories. That's because Terry is the illustrator and 'illustrators



can't narrate-everybody knows that!' Everyone except Terry, that is. He can tell a story too. Just watch what he can do. He begins with a dot. A dot that joins up with some lines. Some lines that join up with some shapes. Some shapes that go ... *Kablam!* And that's just the beginning of the Trouble in the Treehouse. All of the proceeds from this book are donated to charity.

TEEN FICTION



Missing- by Sue Whiting. RRP \$17.99

Mackenzie da Luca's mother is missing - she's vanished without a trace in the jungles of Panama. Now, 116 days later Mackenzie and her dad are in those same jungles. Her dad is desperate to find out what's happened to his wife. And Mackenzie is desperate to make sure he doesn't ...



Flamingo Boy- by Michael Morpurgo. RRP \$19.99

A stunning new classic from master storyteller Michael Morpurgo for readers of 9+, in the vein of *Private Peaceful* and *The Butterfly Lion* This is a landmark new novel from the nation's favourite storyteller, set in the unique landscape of the Camargue in the South of France during WW2.

There, a young autistic boy lives on his parents' farm among the salt flats, and the flamingos that live there. There are

lots of things he doesn't understand: but he does know how to heal animals. He loves routine, and music too: and every week he goes to market with his mother, to ride his special horse on the town carousel. But then the Germans come, with their guns, and take the town.

A soldier shoots a flamingo from the sky, and it falls to earth terribly injured. And even worse is to come: the carousel is damaged, the horses broken. For this vulnerable boy, everything is falling apart. Only there's a kind sergeant among the Germans - a man with a young boy of his own at home, a man who trained as a carpenter.

Between them, perhaps boy and man can mend

what has been broken - and maybe even the whole town...

The Huntress: Sea- by Sarah Driver. RRP \$16.99

The first book in a stunning new fantasy adventure trilogy, perfect for readers aged 9+ and fans of Philip Pullman, Piers Torday, Katherine Rundell and Frances Hardinge. In the sky, the fire spirits dance and ripple.

Grandma says they showed our Tribe that I'd be a captain, before I was even born. Ever since Ma died, Mouse has looked after her little brother, Sparrow, dreaming of her destiny as captain of the Huntress. But now



Da's missing, Sparrow is in danger, and a deathly cold is creeping across Trianukka . . .

ADULT FICTION

Spinifex & Sunflowers- by Avan Judd Stallard. RRP \$29.99

For years Nick Harris has been drifting, until the day he finds himself surrounded by red dirt and razor wire, staring at





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BOOK REVIEWS

brownskinned men inside a detention centre. He's no crusader, no bleeding-heart. It's just a job. The strange thing is, the longer Nick looks, the more normal the detainees seem, and the crazier everything around them- the desert that is its own prison, the staff filled with resentment and disdain, the system that represents both salvation and damnation. Nick is a future seeker-just like his 'clients'. Only, he comes to realise they're not just clients. They have personalities and share conversations, just like him. They joke and steal and cry and conspire. They are bad men, good men, dumb men, smart men-just men. Like him.



NON- FICTION

We Are Here- by Fiona Harari. RRP \$29.99

These are the last adult witnesses - in their own words. When Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, he quickly began to realise his dream of a racially superior nation free of 'inferior' groups.

His goal included the eradication of European

Jewry, a plan that would ultimately claim six million lives. By 1945, almost two in three European Jews were dead. So were millions of other victims of Nazism. For those who survived, liberation came with the enormous weight of guilt and memory as they began the second part of their lives, often in faraway places such as Australia, which would become home to one of the world's highest per capita communities of Holocaust survivors.

Now the last of those adult survivors have reached an age once considered unattainable. They outlasted Nazism, and today, in their tenth and eleventh decades,

have outlived most of their contemporaries. Eighteen of these Australians, originally from all over Europe, tell what it is like to have lived through those years, and long after them.

Somebody I Used to Know- by Wendy Mitchell. RRP \$24.99

What do you lose when you lose your memories? What



do you value when this loss reframes how you've lived, and how you will live in the future?

How do you conceive of love when you can no longer recognise those who are supposed to mean the most to you? When she was diagnosed with dementia at the age of fifty-eight, Wendy Mitchell was confronted with the most profound questions about life and identity. All at once, she had to say goodbye to the woman she used to be.

Her demanding career in the NHS, her ability to drive, cook and run - the various shades of her independence - were suddenly gone. Philosophical, profoundly

moving, insightful and ultimately full of hope, Somebody I Used to Know is both a heart-rending tribute to the woman Wendy once was, and a brave affirmation of the woman dementia has seen her become.

Dinner Like a Boss- by Katy Holder. RRP \$29.99

Dinnertime is very different for families today than it was 10 years ago. Many parents work, kids often have after-school activities, and there's the constant battle to get the kids away from a screen. Amidst all of this, who has time to cook?

This cookbook is for real-world parents who



want quick, easy yet nutritious meals to serve at dinnertime - they want to make dinner like a boss! Every recipe highlights the preparation and cooking times, with easy-to-follow steps and options to vary the recipe, so the one dish can be adapted for different family members. Many of the variations add extra flavour without being overt, meaning this book can be a

great way to introduce kids to more complex flavours at a young age.

The dishes are nutritionally balanced family meals, covering both meat and vegetarian options (and some sweets, too) in more than 50 recipes, and take inspiration from around the globe. Recipes include san choi bao, bibimbap, shakshuka, risotto, aromatic chicken noodle soup, spiralised zucchini noodles, fajitas, meatballs with hidden vegetables, and the ultimate mashed potato fish cakes. The desserts are all healthier yet delicious sweet options such as coconut popsicles and Greek yoghurt panna cotta.

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WHO ARE WE?

Probus is an Association for active members of the community and for those no longer working full time to join together in clubs for a new lease of life.

OUR PURPOSE

Our basic purpose is to advance intellectual and cultural interests amongst adult persons; to provide regular opportunities to progress healthy minds and active bodies, through social interaction and activities, expand interests and to enjoy the fellowship of new friends.

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. Or phone the numbers below.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Our next outing is on Wednesday 18th April, 2018 when we will enjoy something a little different, an evening meal at 5 Kings Café .

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 26th April, 2018

Guest Speaker: Bob Tompkins - speaking about Historical Railways

Our group enjoy fortnightly coffee mornings and the alternate week 10 Pin Bowling at AMF Bowling Watergardens The dates for April Coffee morning - 6th & 20th at 10am at the 5 Kings Café in Romsey.

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

President: Gerard Hanrahan 5429 5630

Secretary: Jenifer Clampit 5429 5480

PASTOR'S PARABLES
Encourage Church, 7 Mitchell Court Romsey

RECEIVE HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP

Today, many oppressed people risk their lives, braving open seas or paying a fortune to flee their tyrannical county of birth. They will risk everything for a chance of becoming citizens in another nation rich with opportunity, freedom and prosperity.

The greatest nation of all time is the Kingdom of Heaven - sadly, none of us are born citizens. Mankind, through bad choice (sin), sought independence from God and is now imprisoned in the tyranny of a corrupt and fallen world. Because of those choices, there is now a barrier (called judgement) between mankind and God. This barrier separates us from ever being citizens in the Heavenly Kingdom. We can't do anything ourselves to gain citizenship - we can't bribe a church or do any number of good deeds to become an acceptable candidate. The truth is that only God can pay the necessary price on our behalf - and the astounding news is the price for our citizenship has been completely paid.

God so loved the world that He gave His uniquely born Son (Jesus Christ) that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

Through the willing sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, a way was made through the barrier. Heaven awaits any who accept Christ's gift (sacrifice) on their behalf.

God never intended this corrupt planet to be our eternal home. He desires all to be citizens of His Heavenly Kingdom and gain the magnificent eternal privileges and prosperity that it offers. Right now the border is open, the walls are knocked down and all we need do is accept Jesus Christ's gift to become citizens of the most splendid Kingdom ever to exist. The choice is ours. If you haven't crossed the



border (by believing in Christ) - do it now. Citizenship will not be offered after life on Earth - do not miss the greatest opportunity of eternity. (Romans 5:8. Ephesians 2:8 -9)

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

We would be happy to help you find true peace and joy in life.

Encourage Church: "Encouraging one another to be ALL we can be in life and in God".

You are invited to join us at our regular Sunday Service: 10am at 7 Mitchell Court Romsey or one of our fortnightly Life Groups, Youth events and weekly Children's Programs.

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129 Mollison Street



For more information or to book, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/intrepid or call 5422 0333.

BE SEEN!

Winter is coming... the days are getting shorter. Many of us are now leaving and returning in the dark for our commute to work or school. Now is a good time to consider how visible you are on the road to other users. This applies whether you are driving a car, walking or riding a bike or horse. For cyclists in particular, it is important that we make ourselves as visible as possible. This means always carrying lights and many of our local community now use flashing front and rear lights every time they ride a bike, day or night.

What you wear is important. Do you realise how difficult it can be to see a cyclist without lights and wearing dark clothing during the day? It's that time of year where many of our tree lined roads are in shadow at various times of the day. Are you really as visible as you think? Check out this short video for a graphic demonstration. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQsYih8lf1I>.

No matter how you use the road, you need to be responsible for making yourself visible to other road users. After all, no one wants to run over a cyclist or to be knocked off a bike so let's be visible out there!

Jem Richards
Bike Safe Macedon Ranges



ST. MARY'S PARISH - LANCEFIELD & ROMSEY

27-29 Chauncey St, Lancefield & 85 Main Rd, Romsey.
Presbytery 5429 2130

MASS TIMES

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month: 8am Lancefield and 10am Romsey
2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the month: 8am Romsey and 10am Lancefield

COMMUNION SERVICES

Tuesday 9am Romsey Church
Saturday 10am Romsey Church

ROSARY

Saturdays 9:45am Romsey

RECONCILIATION

By arrangement.

BAPTISMS

2018 – Romsey Church – July 1st, September 2nd & November 4th.
2018 – Lancefield Church – June 10th, August 12th, October 14th & December 9th.
For more information, please phone 5429 2130.

SACRAMENTS

Parents with children not attending St. Mary's School who are scheduled to receive the First Holy Communion or Confirmation in 2018 are invited to email their details to the secretary at lancefield@cam.org.au to register your child.

AN AMAZING AUTUMN OF ART!

Clear the calendar and prepare for an action-packed season of events at Kyneton Town Hall you won't want to miss. For the grown-ups, two of Australia's most revered comedians, The Umbilical Brothers present their live action show, 'Speedmouse' on Thursday 5 April at 8pm. Don't miss Dave and Shane as they create the impossible with a microphone - performing a series of comedy sketches, punctuated by transitions triggered by a remote control, which is operated by an audience member. Expect a wild, fast-paced and spontaneous ride.

Then it's all about elegance, romance and glamour on Friday 20 April as one of Hollywood's most iconic partnerships of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers is celebrated in the performance, 'Cheek to Cheek'. Featuring classic songs including the Academy Award winning 'Night and Day', 'Let's Call the Whole Thing Off', 'Top Hat' and more, this is a rare chance to see the flair of these silver screen legends recreated by two of Australia's brightest young music theatre performers.

SOMETHING FOR THE LITTLE ONES

Join Australia's favourite kid's comedians The Listies as they bring their bestselling book, 'Ickypedia: A Dictionary of Disgusting New Words' to the stage on Wednesday 4 April, 11am and 1pm. With a mix of clowning, slapstick and improvised chaos, this seriously silly show is fun for the whole family.

For more information or to book tickets to shows at Kyneton Town Hall, call 1300 888 802 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/buytickets

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ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL LANCEFIELD

EASTER ALREADY!

It has been an extremely busy first term. The students have settled into their routines and are proving yet again how dedicated they are to their learning.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Our 2018 Environmental Group has been chosen. Students from years 3-6 will be working with the Deep Creek Landcare Group as part of the River Detectives program. This will involve the monitoring of water and water bugs in the Deep Creek and observing the surrounding environment. They will also work with the Lancefield Neighbourhood House to assist with the Incredible Edible Barrels as well as helping out with our school gardens. Congratulations to the following students:

Rylie Cricelli, Koby Lingard, Lachlan Goodes, Jack Turner, Hayley Hall, Eve Keogh, Cody Van Hooff, Katie Alford, Charli Laity, Lilly Cusack, Summa Dowling and Olivia Goodes.

MINI VINNIES

Our Mini Vinnies had their first official meeting on Wednesday 14th March when Cheyne Pettit from the St Vincent de Paul Society in Melbourne along with Lola Rowe (SVDP School Liaison Officer) came in to talk to them about the St Vincent de Paul Society and what it means to be a Mini Vinnie. The students learnt a little about what their role might involve in 2018 and the Mini Vinnies model of 'See, Think, Do'. A commissioning ceremony will take place early in Term 2 where the students will receive their Mini Vinnie badges at assembly and read out the Mini Vinnie pledge. Congratulations to our 2018 Mini Vinnies:

Tighe Thrum, Isabelle Lahtinen, Matisse Donnellon,



Chelsea McCarthy, Sophie Reid, Harry Wilson, Ella Newnham, Bethany Higgins, Kammeryn Forbes, Ava Mezzatesta, Kendrah Meader and Ruby Van Hooff.

COBAW SPORTS

St Mary's students in years 5/6 participated in Cobaw Sports on Tuesday 6th March. Teams competed in cricket, softball and volleyball. An enjoyable day was had by all with the students displaying great sportsmanship throughout their various sports. Particular highlights were our girls' cricket team who played in the grand final, unfortunately losing to Kyneton PS and our mixed volleyball team who finished second overall. Our next sporting event is Cross Country at Hanging Rock on the 26th April for our students in Years 3-6.



DIVISIONAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Four St Mary's students competed at the Divisional Swimming Carnival in Bendigo on Friday the 9th March. Angus Nuttall, Cate Mahoney, Sofia Harrop and Luca McTrusty all had a fantastic day and did St Mary's proud. They were a very small group compared with other schools who had up to 20 competitors in their teams. The students were extremely supportive of each other with lots of cheering during events. All students had great results:

Angus placed first in his heat and came second overall in the Boys 12-13 50m Freestyle. Sofia placed first overall in the Girls 12-13, 50m Freestyle and second overall in the Girls 12-15 50m Backstroke. Luca placed sixth in his heat for the Boys 12-13 50m Backstroke and Cate placed first overall in the Girls 9-10 50m Freestyle and first overall in the Girls 9-10 50m Backstroke.

Sofia and Cate have both qualified for the District Championships to be held in Swan Hill on Thursday March 22nd. What a magnificent effort by all four students, they are to be congratulated on their achievements!



ADMINISTRATION RENOVATIONS

Renovations to the school administration area are now complete, with the admin area officially open to the public. We are very lucky to have a brand new reception area, first aid room, staff meeting room, principal's office and staffroom. We welcome students, families and members of the community to come and view this exciting new space.

DISCOVERY LEARNING

Our students in Prep - 2 are involved in Discovery Learning as part of their inquiry. It has been an exciting term of discovery with many new skills being learnt on a weekly basis. Our Preps joined their first Discovery session during February, and there was plenty of engagement, fun and great learning had by all! The 1/2's have begun to incorporate a prayer station during discovery time. They were able to help construct their new prayer cloths with their scripture focus at the centre. And on Friday 9th March the 1/2's wrote, before they discovered, to predict what their discovery learning might be like. The concertina candles from their paraliturgy gave them provocation to create other paper folding activities. All students are to be commended on their ability to stay focused, use their imagination and share their learning with others, well done!

We wish all our families and the wider community a very safe Easter and hope you are able to spend some quality time with your loved ones.

Jo Shannon
Community Liaison Leader

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Free Come & Try Day

at Romsey Recreation Centre
Thursday 5 April, 10am-4.30pm

Activities include:

- Indoor cricket, handball, karate
- Lovaball, bubble soccer, tennis
- Dance classes
- Basketball activities with WNBL players Nadeen Payne and Indiana Faithful
- Sausage sizzle, face painting and more!



Contact 5429 5637 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/RRC

Lancefield CAR & COLLECTABLES Swap meet

Something for everyone

Sunday 15th April 2018

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Show and Shine

- \$6 Entry (Includes Show and Shine)
- Main Oval - 11 am Judging

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All enquiries phone 0414 491 749. Lancefield Park, Channon St, Lancefield 3403

AUTHOR VISIT AT RED DOOR BOOKS

SATURDAY APRIL 28TH 11AM TO 1 PM.

Elizabeth Macarthur by Michelle Scott Tucker. Published by Text Publishing. RRP \$32.99

Introducing Michelle Scott Tucker, the author of "Elizabeth Macarthur". Michelle is a local author who lives on a farm with her family. This is her first book.

In 1788 a young gentlewoman raised in the vicarage of an English village married a handsome, haughty and penniless army officer. In any Austen novel that would be the end of the story, but for the real-life woman who became an Australian farming entrepreneur, it was just the beginning. John Macarthur took credit for establishing the Australian wool industry and would feature on the two-dollar note, but it was practical Elizabeth who managed their holdings—while dealing with the results of John's manias: duels, quarrels, court cases, a military coup, long absences overseas, grandiose construction projects and, finally, his descent into certified insanity.

Michelle Scott Tucker shines a light on an often-overlooked aspect of Australia's history in this fascinating story of a remarkable woman.



LANCEFIELD SMALL BORE RIFLE CLUB

Competition continues in the State postal comp in Prone, 20m rimfire bench rest, 20m air rifle bench rest and 10m supported air rifle classes. In addition some members have been entering competitions held at other clubs' ranges. Max and Rodger had a successful time at a Frankston competition winning first and third places in the Supported Air class. These two A Grade shooters often attend competitions around the State as do several other of our members. It was great to welcome a couple of interested juniors at some of our recent evening sessions. Anyone interested in the sport is encouraged to come along one evening to see what is involved and to learn about licence requirements. We have members of all ages and levels of experience who are happy to share their knowledge. The club has a covered range so the approaching autumn and winter weather won't affect our practice and competition evenings. If you would like to know more about our activities please ring our Club Secretary Max on 54 292259.

Tai Chi Classes

Tai Chi has been practiced in China for centuries to develop balance, coordination and overall wellbeing. Classes are suitable for all ages offering a balanced approach to both martial and health traditions.

Classes are run on Saturdays at 11am. Come and try at a free introductory lesson.

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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.


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LANCEFIELD BOWLING CLUB

Lancefield Bowling Club was thrilled to have its high quality green used for three division one finals, including the grand final on March 17. Greenkeeper Michael Linehan was praised for his efforts in having the green in tip-top condition for the finals matches. Gisborne, which won its first premiership in 52 years by defeating Lancefield in last season's grand final, made it back to back flags by defeating Kyneton Golf 99-86.

Lancefield club secretary Gary Dickerson said February-March was a busy time for the club with tournaments, finals, barefoot bowls and other activities, and thanked all

club members for their efforts. "The club really appreciates members' contributions enabling us to be in a sound financial position for the future," he said. Lancefield's division one side finished just outside the top four, and the division two side found the step up from winning the division three flag a tough task.

The clubs mid-week division one side was eliminated from the finals by eventual premiers Kyneton. Lancefield was well represented again at the annual Bendigo Country Week competition in late March.

AUSTRALIAN DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETIES

Thursday 12 April, at the Kyneton Town Hall

The Diary of Samuel Pepys and Restoration London:

Why was it so compelling to read, and what dramatic turn of events brought them to an end?

Presented by Susannah Fullerton OAM for more information and booking: Nicky 0400 958 449

THOUSANDS HAVE THEIR SAY ON WESTERN WATER'S PLANNING

In March Western Water lodged its price submission with the Essential Services Commission for their review. Managing Director, Neil Brennan, said "After many, many months of hard work, the submission sets out our planning for prices, delivering quality services and undertaking capital works across the region for the next two years".

Close to 6,000 customers provided input across a variety of topics for Western Water's price submission. Mr Brennan says, "We would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers for their significant input into our planning for the future. We have heard customer

priorities about affordability, quality reliable services and planning for the long-term. These priorities will continue to be top of mind as work gets under way on our price submission for 2020-2025".

In late April, the ESC will release its draft decision on the price submission for public consultation via its website, esc.vic.gov.au. The ESC's final determination will be issued on 19 June, with the agreed plan to be in effect from 1 July 2018. More information on Western Water's customer consultation can be found at haveyoursay.westernwater.com.au.



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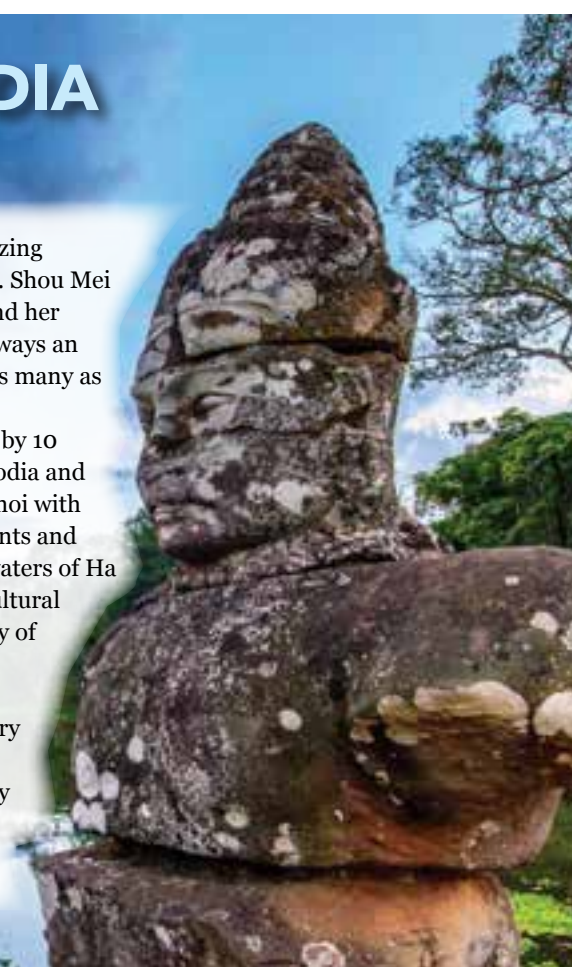
VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA ADVENTURE

Shou Mei Sumarac from Wu Lin Retreat in Lancefield will be organizing another of her wonderful Asian tours to visit the roads less travelled. Shou Mei has organized dozens of fun-filled tours to Vietnam, China, Japan and her native Taiwan over the past 40 years. Travelling with Shou Mei is always an adventure and many of her guests have returned to travel with her as many as seven times.

From departure on the 20th of October 2018, you will be thrilled by 10 days filled with both the quintessential sights of Vietnam and Cambodia and lesser-known cultural treasures. Walk the old French Quarter of Hanoi with its peaceful tree-lined boulevards, quiet lakes and delicious restaurants and cafes to enjoy. The trip will include a visit to the stunning emerald waters of Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along with a variety of cultural shows and displays. In Cambodia you will experience the ancient city of Angkor Thom and the magnificent Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world.

Shou Mei will ensure that your journey is well organised and worry free with opportunities to explore and shop as you please.

Cost includes return airfares, all meals, accommodation and entry fees. For more information, Shou Mei may be contacted at Wu Lin Retreat: 54292122 0417350398 james@jamesumarac.com



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RELAY FOR LIFE

The annual Cancer Council's Relay for Life was held in Lancefield on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 March. The Relay is a fun and moving overnight experience that raises funds for the Cancer Council's vital work in cancer research, prevention, information and support. 2018 was the 16th year the event has raised money for cancer sufferers, recognised survivors and remembered loved ones lost through cancer in this region. A local committee of ten, chaired by Ken Wiltshire, organise the annual event. The MC for the weekend, Russell Pattinson, stressed that all the performers – singers and choirs – donated their time. To date the Lancefield event has raised \$1.4 million. This year 20 teams, adopting a variety of themes, assembled in tents around the Lancefield oval. The opening ceremony commenced at 3 pm. The Lancefield Mercury's own tag team, Julianne and Fay, went along to find out more about it.

The first Relay team we saw was the Lancefield Neighbourhood House. The LNH began participating 13 or so years ago and this year the group called themselves the 'Hope Ranch Rustlers'. Familiar faces from the Op Shop and the Town House – Peter Quinn, Caroline and Linda, Glenys, Dee and Graham, Mark, Richard and Michael – were creators and fundraisers. The twins, Caroline and Linda, were responsible for theming the 'Ranch', the Men's Shed constructed the corale, the hay was donated and the fabulous props (horses heads and bunting) were sourced from the Op Shop and other places. The team was smaller than usual this year, a recurring theme and a fact that was commented on by all the teams we visited.

The 'Lindenbury Lappers' team brought a taste of France to Lancefield with their beautifully painted tent depicting a Parisian café – it was of course, the Café de Paris, complete with Eiffel Tower that lit up at night. Lynne Boyce and her team were selling local produce from Romsey and they raffled a kettle BBQ and a large and splendid looking hamper. Tres chic!

A family team, with members gathering from the townships of Kilmore, Romsey and Monegeeta, called themselves 'Under the Sea'. They had one of the most colourful and lively looking tents around the grounds with blue and jade coloured balloons festooning their tent. Their team captain Marilyn Austin and her family were justly proud of their nautical theme.

The next large and enthusiastic team we met were a group of teenagers, appropriately named the 'Untitled Youth' who made their second annual appearance at Lancefield this year. Members of the Gisborne Church of Christ seemed to be everywhere, and their popular ride on the mobile couch appeared to be one of the most popular events. The ticket to ride on the couch was a gold coin donation! As far as we could see, the couch had no rest Saturday or Sunday.

Next door to the untitled youth we greeted 'The Amigos', predictably sporting large sombreros. This largely family team, headed by the matriarch Sugar Parks, is very much a local Lancefield team and family. Sugar first found out about



the Relay for Life event when she visited a friend in Mansfield who was suffering from cancer. Sugar was instrumental in introducing the idea of the Relay for Life to Lancefield in 2003. Over the weekend she was joined by her two daughters, their husbands, children and grandchildren.

Photographer Julianne and I were intrigued with the 'Bristol Night Owls' theme of Noah's Ark. Rows of animals (toys only) were displayed waiting patiently at the edge of the ark to be admitted! The Bristol Farm at Clarkefield were represented to remember their grandmother.

Similarly, the 'Team Cutajar' gathered to remember Anthony Cutajar who died of brain cancer. The team consisted of brothers, sons, daughters-in-law, nieces, nephews, children and grandchildren. They came from as far afield as Sunshine, Sunbury, Melton and Cranbourne as well as Clarkefield.

Calling their team 'Speranza' – Chelsea Boyd and others embraced this theme, using the Italian word for 'hope' in honour of Chelsea's sister Ammie Boyd. Another team of sisters, the 'Scentsy Sisters' supported Karly Goodson, a survivor of cancer.

In their 10th year taking part in the Relay for Life, the Macedon Ranges Shire was once again officially represented at Lancefield. In an un-themed tent, Anna Quigley, children and friends gathered, walked, talked and made their presence known. Likewise, the Romsey Neighbourhood House was well supported by volunteers. 2018 was the fourth year in which



HOPE LIVES IN RELAY FOR LIFE AND YOU!

this team has participated. Their surprising offerings calls for a separate story.

The Romsey Neighbourhood House produce 'Knitted Knockers' prosthetic breasts for women who have undergone a mastectomy. With wool from the Bendigo Mill, the 8-ply cotton is knitted into tiny pillows to be inserted into bras. What a creative and thoughtful contribution the RNH is making! Although we did not succeed in talking to every team present, we noticed other teams such as 'Peaceful', 'Grease' and of course, the 'Bendigo Bank'.

Events during Saturday included various Tugs of War and a variety of singers who entertained us as we walked the oval. The 8.00 pm candlelight ceremony on Saturday evening celebrated the memories of loved ones from the region who had died from cancer and the 10.00 am Sunday closing ceremony acknowledged the work done and the funds raised for cancer research. The tag team found the whole weekend inspiring, memorable and extremely moving.



A big thank you to everyone who participated in our 16th Relay and to all those who supported our wonderful teams. It was a wonderful weekend where we celebrated survivors, remembered loved ones and continued the fight back against cancer at Lancefield Relay For Life. Three hundred and twenty-four people walked the track and raised vital funds for Cancer Council Victoria's life-saving work in cancer research, prevention and support. We have already raised over \$84,000 to help the 249 people diagnosed with cancer in Macedon Ranges Shire each year.

Thank you for helping Lancefield Relay For Life exceed their fundraising target, and for making such an incredible difference in your community!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS

- Best costume: Friendship
- Best team site: Lindenbury Lappers
- Early bird rego: Clarkefield & Friends
- Highest fundraiser 1st: Friendship \$12,375.45
- Highest fundraiser 2nd: Macedon Ranges Shire Council \$7830
- Highest fundraiser 3rd: Lindenbury Lappers \$7174.80
- Passport challenge: 3 Ways
- Sunsmart race: Lynne & Wendy's Walkers/JK's Joggers
- Tug o' war (junior): Team Cutajar
- Tug o' war (senior): Untitled Youth
- Spirit of Relay: Katrina Hood



JUNIOR COMPETITION.

The juniors are approaching finals and 5 of our 6 teams have made it to finals! Well done teams and parents for a great effort. This has been Jamieson Liersch's last season as junior coordinator so a big thank you to him for doing such a great job. We are currently putting together teams for the winter competition which begins after Easter. If your child would like to give winter tennis a try, please contact Emma Stevens on 0428291904. If you are unsure whether your child is ready for tennis, please give our coach Jamieson a call 0413 190 607 and he will advise!

SATURDAY OPEN MIXED:

Our Saturday open mixed teams have all made it to finals with Section 1 being knocked out and Section 2 and 3 making through to the next round. We are looking for players for the weekend competition. Please contact Bruce Morgan 0402595368 or Roger Barr 0423 020669 for more information.

TUESDAY LADIES AND THURSDAY NIGHT MIXED:

We are mid-season with our Tuesday ladies tennis and Thursday night open mixed competition.

Our ladies section 4 teams are currently sitting at 1 and 3 on the ladder. We have a number of teams in the Thursday night competition, which continues to be the most popular tennis comp offered by the MRTA.

We are always looking for new players in all these competitions so please contact us if you would like to play!

Tuesday Ladies Contact: Sarah Petschel 0419 031 879
Emma Stevens 0428 291 904

Thursday Night Mixed: Greg Paulay 0400 186 904.
Darren Patton 0417 287 823. In the Thursday night mixed competition, Lancefield is second and third on the ladder in section 1. We have 1 team in Section 2 sitting at 7. We have teams in section 3 sitting at number 1 and number 8. We

have 1 team in section 4 sitting at number 5. We have 1 team in section 5 sitting at 7.

COACHING:

Term 2 & 3. Coaching continues 4 nights per week in Lancefield with 1 night in Romsey. Mixed junior squad will also continue with six sessions being offered during term 2 and 3. A fortnightly hot-shots league will continue to run midweek in term 1 on a Thursday starting at 4pm.

For more information, please contact Jamieson Liersch coaching 0413 190 607

SOCIAL TENNIS:

Term 2 will see Monday night social tennis continue! All are welcome, tennis balls provided, members free and non-members \$5. Social tennis is a great way to get back into tennis, especially if you aren't keen on jumping straight back into competition. From 6pm to 7:30pm.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership prices are as follows: Family competition \$240, Individual competition \$150, Family social \$120, Individual social \$75, Junior competition \$75, Associate membership \$50, Key deposit \$15 (only available with membership)

OTHER MATTERS:

Lotto night: We are coming to the end of the 2017/18 lotto season – stay tuned for the announcement of the big one!

2018 has started off with a great vibe around the club – we look forward to the rest of the year!

Lancefield Tennis club welcomes all new members and looks forward to seeing you up at the courts!

Emma Stevens
Lancefield Tennis Club.