



DEEP CREEK LANDCARE GROUP RECOGNISES OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

From left Meryl and Robert Green, Pat and Elizabeth Toomey, George and Elaine Lobb, Steve and Donna Hendy, John and Rhonda Blamey, Jeanette and David Blicblau

In December 2016 Deep Creek Landcare celebrated its 30th anniversary and awarded Life membership to 6 members in appreciation of their consistent contributions to both local and regional Landcare activities as well as their commitment to improving local environmental sustainability.

The members recognised were Pat Toomey and George Lobb from Romsey, Robert Green from Lancefield and former local residents David Blicblau, John Blamey and Stephen Hendy.

The specific contributions of each of these volunteers are amazing Robert Green was an original founding member in 1986 and later served many terms as President and has been a member since day one.

David Blicblau was Secretary, President of DCLG and also President of our regional group,

John Blamey and Pat Toomey both served many terms as President with John coordinating a very successful rabbit reduction program in the mid 1990s.

George Lobb's focus has been on the implementation of our goals through practical on ground assistance.

Stephen was Treasurer from the time of the group's formation in 1986 until October 2016 – more than 30 years!!

Each has been a member and committed to Landcare activities for more than 20 years.

President Hayley Goodman presented each of the Life Members with a certificate to recognise their achievements and provided their partners with a beautiful arrangement of native flowers. The presentation to partners recognised their direct efforts at working bees and other Group events and the behind the scenes support they had provided. The awards were presented at the annual DCLG Christmas Luncheon

held at Glen Erin Restaurant on Rochford Road.

In 30 years the Deep Creek Landcare Group has completed a significant range of projects in our district of which we are very proud. The Group was one of the first Landcare groups to be established in Victoria. Some key projects have included

The establishment of an indigenous vegetative buffer zones along the Deep Creek to protect water quality and the identification of pest plant and animal species and the development of control programs. Extensive revegetation projects on public (Doggetts Bridge, Sheahans Crossing amongst many) have provided a template for much broader schemes that Melbourne Water and others have adopted.

“Rabbit busters” program in the early 1990's which saw an area of Mt William identified as a having a significant rabbit plague. The plague was successfully controlled and the site continued to monitored for many years - it was seen as a benchmark for rabbit control projects.

“Dung beetle release” to assist livestock farmers to control nutrient run off into waterways.

Preservation of the endangered pigmy perch fish species in the Deep Creek. A partnership between DCLG, Melbourne Water and Western Water was formed to survey isolated populations and target habitat protection and revegetation projects to protect the vulnerable species.

25 years of Landcare Anniversary Garden – established in January 2012 in the grounds of the beautiful Lancefield Park.

Continued support of Junior Landcare with 3 local primary schools, girl guides and scouts.

A lot has been achieved but there is much more to do - we welcome new members – see page xx for details



LANCEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



THE LANCEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND CLUB

Pictured: Mrs Waterman, Bryce, Georgia, Mirabel, Henry and Phoebe.

The Lancefield Primary School Playground Club stopped by Lancefield Recreation Reserve to see the new equipment being installed.

The children conducted an online survey and asked families in the area for the playground equipment preferences during last year.

The community responded recommending items such as a double flying fox, basket swing and large slide. The children also spoke with a couple of playground companies to investigate the best options for their community park.

After a couple of onsite visits and an audit of existing equipment the children felt confident to write a playground strategy for new and ongoing equipment.

With this information the LPS Playground group

made a submission with the Lancefield Park Recreation Reserve in October. They worked together to write a grant application as part of the Lancefield Park Renewal Grant from DELWP. The children's submission was successful. Today they are very proud to see the results of their hard work.

This project wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Lancefield Neighbourhood House Coordinator Vivian Phillipotts, Lancefield Park Reserve Secretary Judy Stammers, Lancefield Primary School teachers Mrs Waterman and Mrs Lyon.

Special mention to SafePlay and the Lancefield Park Recreation Committee for completing the works. The playground is now open soon for the whole community to enjoy.

MORE PARKS PROJECTS ON THE WAY

Lancefield Park Recreation Reserve is now in its 138th year. Many things have changed over those years as the Park has evolved into what we have today. They would have seen a lot of activity lately especially in relation to the projects that have been funded by DELWP as part of the fire recovery funding; the new public toilets and netball/tennis club change rooms are underway, we have four new pieces of playground equipment and the new tractor was presented to the committee in mid January.

There are four more projects from the funding which are being organised and we should see the skatepark begin construction in the next few months. There is also the ongoing maintenance the Park Committee undertake which has been consumed lately by the incredible season of grass, and more grass. Many places, particularly the swamp/ cross country area, were too wet to even get a tractor into until recently.

The season was also a good one for planting trees and there are new ones along the walking track at the back of the Park. It was also a time for quite a lot of tree limbs to fall which keeps the committee busy cleaning them up, arborists were employed to do work on the trees in the avenue, along the walking track and the four cypresses near the cricket nets. A couple of dead elms were removed from the avenue

and these will be replaced in autumn.

The work on the trees in the Park is extensive and ongoing but they are a magnificent feature and we are lucky someone decided to plant them all those years ago. Future work the committee has planned for the Park includes; creating a pedestrian access gate at the south east corner to accommodate residents from all the new houses; removing the woody weeds along the fence lines and drains (again); more planting; installing larger pipes under the crossing at the back of the equestrian area to avoid the walking track being washed away again; investigating painting the Laurie Green annexe; reinstalling the picnic table which had to be moved for the playground extension; moving the chainsaw sculptured, giant lizard bench; and various other projects.

Lancefield Park is a huge community asset which is maintained by a small group of volunteers from the committee and some people from the various user groups. Support is always welcome and there is the opportunity for people to join the committee at the AGM this year which will be held at 8pm on Monday 20 February in the Laurie Green Pavilion. There is a calendar of events and club meeting times for the Park which can be viewed on the lancefield.org.au web site. To contact the Park Committee email lancefieldpark@hotmail.com



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The Lancefield Romsey Commuter Bus celebrates 35 years of delivering a cost-effective, comfortable and safe service for local residents commuting to Melbourne.

The service started in 1981 with the help of the Shire of Romsey, which is now part of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. In 2000 a community co-operative was formed to manage the bus and since then it has operated as the Lancefield Romsey Commuter Bus Co-op Ltd.

The service departs Lancefield Monday to Friday at 6.35am and then picks up passengers in Romsey. It drops passengers off at three stops in Melbourne in the medical, education, business and shopping precincts bright and early. The service is often trialled by locals looking for alternative ways to commute to the city. Most make the switch to the bus after realising that the daily drive to Melbourne is tiring, unsustainable and expensive.

In times of increased fuel costs and traffic delays, the cooperative's travelers enjoy a relaxed and air-conditioned ride without the hassle of parking, all for \$60 per week. Casual travellers are welcomed too.

Over the years the service has attracted a diverse range of commuters from apprentices; university students; administrative, IT, retail and medical staff; doctors and lawyers. There are people on the bus who have used the service for 15 years and others whom are new to the area.

According to Lynn Rowley, a scientist with the Royal Children's Hospital, "I have travelled to Parkville on the bus for 11 years and could not be happier with the service. It is the only direct service to Parkville and the city. I used to drive to Sunbury to catch the train to North Melbourne and walked to work but it was time consuming and exhausting. I thought there had to be a better way to travel. The bus is reliable, on time and it really takes the stress out of travelling. Commuters are friendly and choose to do a range of activities on the bus they can snooze, read, knit, and work on laptops or chat. It is a social atmosphere where we have had the occasional pizza stop on the way home and we have an annual Christmas party" says Ms Rowley.

"The service is the most competitive of its kind with the weekly cost to commuters of only \$60, which is significantly



cheaper than public transport or driving. More importantly, "everyone gets a seat, the bus is comfortable with lots of leg room, heating and cooling. All revenue covers petrol, tolls, parking and bus services with an upgrade approximately every 5 years."

There have been times where we have had long waiting

lists. However, we have had a number of regular commuters relocate so we welcome new travellers.

For further information call Wendy on 0419 362 673 or search the: "Lancefield and Romsey Commuter Bus" on Facebook.

LANCEFIELD MERCURY INC.

A0045845D

Items for publication should be sent to editor3435@gmail.com

Advertising should be sent to advertising3435@gmail.com

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 



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Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee.

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Advertising Rates at 2016-2017 Financial Year

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

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

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

Colour Advertising:

Inside back page:
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1/2 page \$160.
Back page:
1/4 page strip \$90.

The Lancefield Mercury should be delivered to every dwelling which receives a mail delivery from the Lancefield Post Office. The Mercury committee would be keen to make sure that no-one misses out on their monthly copy of the paper. If you have missed out on a copy, either regularly or occasionally, or know someone who has, can you let the editor know at editor3435@gmail.com. If you want a copy of the Lancefield Mercury emailed to you, on a regular or one-off basis, send an email to the editor. Thank you.

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At the beginning of 2016 we had 34 members and then during the year 8 people joined our group which brought our numbers up to 42.

All our members are active and aged between 58 - 90 years. We enjoy each other's company and have made good friendships along the way. Always plenty of chat and laughter whenever we are together.

A very enjoyable Christmas lunch was enjoyed at the 'Australiana'. Wandong on 21st December, 2016.

Our first get together for 2017 was a BBQ at the home of Greg & Jean Buist, Lancefield on 18th January, 2017. Always an enjoyable day.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

10am, 4th Thursday of the month. St. Mary's Church Hall, Main Street, Romsey. Next meeting 23rd February, 2017

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

Check out our website for information about the Romsey & Lancefield Probuss Club rprobuss.org.au For Active Retirees.

PROBUS SOUTH PACIFIC

The secret to maintaining a fulfilling lifestyle following retirement is to stay involved, become an adventurer, and enjoy new experiences with friends.

When you finish work and lose the responsibility of having a job it is important to develop interests and friendships. You also need to accept the psychological impact that this may have on you, when you realise that your work skills are no longer required. Probuss provides fellowship with others in a similar situation, which is vital to the ongoing mental wellbeing of retirees and your work skills could be used to help in another way.

Reasons to join Probuss: Enjoy the fellowship of like-minded people - Probuss club members meet active retirees in their local areas, across Australia and around the world.

You can check out the Probuss South Pacific website to find out more about how Probuss was formed 40 years ago and what it has achieved. www.probusouthpacific.org
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President: Greg Buist 5429 1116
Secretary: Jenifer Clampit 5429 5480

LEARN, PLAY & DISCOVER

Are you thinking about enrolling your child at kindergarten in 2017?

Openings remain at several Council kindergartens throughout the shire for both three and four-year old programs.

Current Health Care cardholders may be eligible for the kindergarten fee subsidy for four-year-old programs.

For more information about kindergarten programs, vacancies, early start kindergarten, fees and enrolments, call Council's Early Years unit on 5422 0239 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/children

LANCEFIELD KINDERGARTEN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: 16th February 2017
Time: 7:00pm (for a 7.30pm start)
Venue: Lancefield Kindergarten
16 Dunsford Street, Lancefield
All positions on the committee will become vacant at the AGM. For information please contact the Secretary Mandy Irving on 0438 384 593

MUSIC IN THE STICKS IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Are you aged between 14-25 years and passionate about music?

Why not join Council's Music in the Sticks (MITS) program.

MITS is a program for young people in the Macedon Ranges Shire with an interest in the music industry, and gives participants the chance to pick up a range of new skills in areas such as event management, sound and lighting, publicity, media, photography, film, hospitality, and live and studio recording.

To find out more or register your interest, call Natalie on 5422 0333 or email mits@mrsc.vic.gov.au

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MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6.00 p.m. Lancefield 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month: 8.00 a.m. Lancefield and 10.00 a.m. Romsey 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the month: 8.00 a.m. Romsey and 10.00 a.m. Lancefield

ROSARY

Saturdays 9:45am Romsey

RECONCILIATION

By arrangement.

BAPTISMS

2016 – By request
For more information, please phone 5429 2130.

REGULAR EVENTS

Christian Meditation Group: Each Monday evening 6:00 p.m. Romsey Church – all welcome
Enquiries: Barry 5429 3311

SACRAMENTS

Parents with children not attending St. Mary's School who are scheduled to receive Sacraments in 2017 are requested to contact the secretary by phone: 5429 2130 or by email at lancefield@cam.org.au to register your child.

Reconciliation program begins Wednesday 1st of March – Registration cut-off is Friday 10th of February.

Eucharist program begins Saturday 29th of April – Registration cut-off is Friday 14th of April.

Confirmation program begins Wednesday 21st of June – Registration cut-off is Friday 2nd of June.

Keep up to date with parish activities - St. Mary's Parish Lancefield-Romsey

PARISH NEWS

Many of you will have heard that Fr. Marc has left St. Mary's Parish. Sadly, he has had a recurrence of some life-long health issues which require him to now take some time to heal. We wish him well.

We have been fortunate to gain the temporary services of Fr. Vinoth Santiago who is a hospital chaplain at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and Peter McCallum Cancer Hospital. Fr. Vinoth celebrated Christmas with us and will continue supply throughout February. Parishioners may opt to receive our weekly bulletin via email to keep up to date with Mass times – lancefield@cam.org.au or like our Facebook page for regular updates.

BOOK LAUNCH

The enterprising Mr MacGregor: stockbreeder and pioneer pastoralist. *Fay Woodhouse*

Red Door Books, 34 High Street, Lancefield at 11.00 am Saturday 25 February, 2017

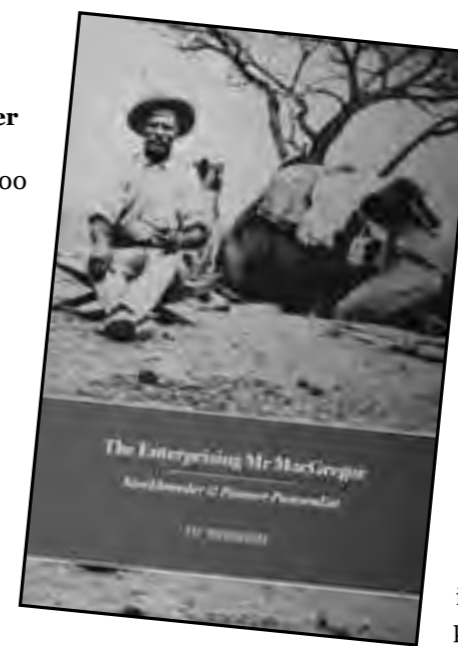
Lancefield historian, Fay Woodhouse, has recently completed a biography of nineteenth century pastoralist, Duncan MacGregor who bred Shorthorn cattle, Border Leicester sheep and Clydesdale horses at Riddells Creek and Darraweit Guim. MacGregor also held tens of thousands of square miles of property in New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia.

The launch of this book will be held at Red Door Books on Saturday 25 February at 11.00 am. Phone Red Door to pre-order your copy – 5429 2566.

For catering purposes please RSVP: Friday 24 February Leckie_assoc@bigpond.com Phone: 0407 850 804

THE ENTERPRISING MR MACGREGOR: STOCKBREEDER AND PIONEER PASTORALIST

The enterprising Mr MacGregor was an ambitious and talented Scottish Highlander who tried his luck as a shepherd in a new country and made good. MacGregor quickly realised the qualities required for cattle, sheep and horses in the



harsh Australian climate and led the industry in breeding programs. In 1869 he established studs of pure Booth Shorthorns, Clydesdale horses and Border Leicester sheep at his property, 'Inverauld' at Riddells Creek and 'Clunie' at Darraweit Guim near Romsey – his studs were to become famous throughout the colonies. MacGregor's life was one of extremes. He was highly successful in his venture draining the Kooweerup Swamp in Victoria and as a pastoral pioneer in the Channel Country western Queensland. At his peak of power in the 1880s the family holdings totalled thousands of square miles of rich cattle country. The Federation Drought dealt MacGregor's pastoral empire a drastic blow. His major losses were exacerbated by his ill-advised attempts at money-lending and property speculation. This biography of Duncan MacGregor is a thoroughly researched, exciting and highly readable account of how he survived the ordeal and lived to tell the tale. It is the compelling story of a remarkable life.

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A FUN DAY AT WINERY

Cleveland Winery's Time Out Activity Central opened its doors to public for the very first time on a beautiful summer day, with a free Family Fun Day at Cleveland Winery. "It was a great summer's day, blue skies and sunshine – we couldn't have asked for better weather condition", said Bill Balcam, Managing Director of Cleveland Winery. With a very good turn out, the event saw people coming from all over with families from the Macedon Ranges region and even adventure seekers from the Eastern side of Melbourne. There was something for everyone at the Family Fun Day. All age group had a go on the Segway, zooming around a customized Segway track where they experience various terrains such as, grass, gravel, concrete and various undulations. Many were excited to try out the Splash Golf and Paddle boats by the lake. Some comments include, "I love playing golf and the splash golf set up here is definitely a unique driving range, to improve my strokes and enjoy a lovely view whilst playing", said Irene "The splash golf is great fun for the family! Even my little boy who's just 4 had a go at it", said Craig "The paddle boat ride was rather relaxing and calming. Our daughter was very excited to see the ducks, geese and the little island by the lake too." mentioned Jason. Other activities on site at the Family

Fun day included archery, laser clay shooting as well as visiting the winery farm animals, which made great photo opportunities. Many also went on to Cleveland Winery's unique underground cellar door for some wine tasting and enjoyed a lovely fresh gourmet wood fire pizza lunch after. With the new Time Out Activity Central installation at Cleveland Winery, Bill said that it will offer locals and visiting tourist to the Macedon Range region an exciting new attraction that is quite unique. The facilities are open to the public to book, so local families now have a new venue to consider when looking for a place to entertain visiting guests or even when considering something different for birthday party themes or entertainment options for special occasion. According to Bill Balcam, Managing Director of Cleveland Winery, "As well as being integrated into the community, we see our role as assisting to develop the region and boost tourism. With many cottages and smaller bed & breakfast accommodation operators located on this side of the region, we have got a positive response from many of them, adding that our new initiatives of Time Out Activity Central and our underground cellar door wine tasting experience and restaurant, gives them another good source of attraction to recommend to their guests".

VISIT DROMKEEN

Dromkeen homestead in Riddell's Creek was built in 1889 and was the country residence of High Court Judge Arthur Chomley and his very large family. For over 50 years it has been known as a national centre displaying original Australian children's picture book illustration. Open weekly for public viewing, every year Dromkeen Gallery is visited by thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds. Currently there is a wonderful retrospective exhibition by award winning Castlemaine writer and illustrator Rachel Tonkin, whose work spans over 50 years. The exhibition includes a beautiful drawing of a cat and dog, framed by Rachel's grandmother and placed on a wall in her kitchen when Rachel was only 4 years old. Last year Dromkeen hosted the inaugural Dromkeen Literary Festival which will be held again on Saturday March 18th and kindly sponsored by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. The theme of the festival is "Books Can Take Us Anywhere" and some of the writers and illustrators presenting on the day will be Mark Wilson, Marc McBride, Claire Saxby, Gabrielle Wang, Glenda Millard and Brett Cardwell. Further details about the event will be posted on the Dromkeen website and Facebook page in mid January.

MACEDON RANGES SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS

COME AND JOIN US

Macedon Ranges Scottish Country Dancers will start another year of dancing on Thursday February 2 from 1pm to 3pm at Buffalo Stadium Woodend.

We are a small friendly group and beginners and experienced dancers are welcome to come and join us. A

fter warming up we start dancing. All dances are walked through first.

Doctors say dancing is one of the best forms of exercise you can do, so come along and join us, have some fun and enjoy meeting new people.

For more information phone Elizabeth 5429 6470 or Meg 5427 1100



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Talk about a *fabulous* start to 2017!

The Macedon Ranges Art Trail continues its collaboration with Cope-Williams Winery with a not-to-be-missed exhibition of photography and sculpture over two weekends.

Artwork Orange will feature the work of six fine art photographers from Woodend, Heskett, Romsey and Lancefield. Each artist brings a different repertoire of techniques and subjects to what promises to be a fascinating high standard show.

The fine art photographers exhibiting are: Gordon Cope-Williams, Ralph Ewart, Alina Golovachenko, Deborah Mullins, Anna Thomas and Michelle Thompson. Sculptors Dawn Robinson and Chris Flenley will also display small and large works in metal, wood, stone and bronze.

In addition to the Cope-Williams event, three artists will open their studios in Woodend.

Robin Baker will give pottery demonstrations on February 11 and 18 at Black Anther Gallery (rear of 42 Anslow Street). Drop

by at 11am, 1pm and 3pm to talk to and watch Robin at work.

Ettore Di Pilla will show visitors the art of glass fusing at his Leadlight By Ettore studio, 329 Harpers Road, on February 11 and 12 from 10am to 3pm.

Painter Jenni Mills will open her studio door at 18 Stuart Drive on February 11, 12 and 18 from 10am to 3pm.

Kay Brabham, co-owner of Feeling Framed, is an expert at the very intricate scraperboard artform. Some of her stunning works will be displayed in the shop window (next to the post office boxes) during the duration of the MRAT event.

And don't miss Bakery Lane Gallery's latest exhibition at Colenso, which is open daily except Sunday.

Artwork Orange opens with a celebration on Friday, February 10 from 6.30pm at Cope-Williams, 160 Glenfern Road, Romsey. The exhibition can be visited on February 11, 12, 18 and 19 from 10am to 4pm.

Details about the open studios will be at the Visitor Information Centre or contact Nadine on 0439 399 838.



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THE MOUNT PLAYERS HAPPENINGS

FLAWED, BUT LOVABLE WOMEN

The first production for 2017 is already well into rehearsals and offers something a little different. "Little Gem" by Elaine Murphy, directed by Richard Keown is a beautifully written Irish play about a year in the life of one family. Three generations of woman tell their individual and collective stories by way of entwined monologues. These women are real, flawed, vulnerable but lovable characters with multi dimensionality, complexity and humanity.



Their stories are delivered with passion and typical Irish humour. The season runs from February 24 till March 11.

Auditions for the 2nd production "True West" by Sam Shepherd, Directed by Travis Handcock will be held at The Mountview Theatre on February 27 and 28 at 7pm. Auditions

are by *appointment only*, contact Travis to book an audition time on 0424 494 829 or via email handyesu@hotmail.com (email preferred). For full details on this play or to book your tickets for Little Gem go to www.themountplayers.com or call our box office 5426 1892. By Karen Hunt

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW LANDCARE GROUP

Calling all Kerrie, Cherokee and Heskett Landholders
The Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network (UDCLN) invites all landholders interested in the natural environment and sustainable farming to attend a public meeting on the formation of a new Landcare group in your area.

Michelle Wyatt (Macedon Ranges Shire) – on how Council supports Landcare groups.
John Robinson (Chair, UDCLN) – on how UDCLN can support a new Landcare group.

RSVPS & REGISTERING YOUR INTEREST:

For catering purposes please RSVP by Tuesday 14 March your interest in attending the meeting to John Robinson (Chair UDCLN) by email upper.deep.creek.landcare@gmail.com or call 5782 0184.

All welcome.
Please send an email or call John if you cannot attend the meeting but are interested in being a member of the proposed new Landcare group, or if you want more information on Landcare.

Date: Thursday 16 March 2017
Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm (6pm tea/coffee)
Where: Kerrie Hall, Kerrie Valley Road, Kerrie

THE MEETING...

At the meeting you will hear from several guest speakers and get the chance to meet other locals and discuss how a new Landcare group might work and what it could do. Guest speakers will include:

Representatives of local Landcare groups – on how they formed their groups, what they do, and the benefits of Landcare.

Grant Godden (Landcare Facilitator, UDCLN) – on the support he can provide to a new Landcare group and its landholders.

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WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

LANCEFIELD PARK

On the 21st November a very successful planting was held at Lancefield Park with the Girl Guides and approximately 40 plants and trees were planted and protected with guards, this has now been increased to approximately 100 plants and trees. The area planted is in the rear paddock along the side of the track and Park Lane. All participating Guides were presented with a bag containing hat, pencils, plant leaf book and stickers etc.

LANCEFIELD PRIMARY

In the last week of the school term members attended an

assembly at Lancefield Primary and presented members of the Green team with a bag containing pencils, plant leaf book and stickers to list a few of the contents in appreciation.

CONTACT DETAILS

President : Hayley Goodman : 0409 936 814
 Secretary : Pat Danko : p.danko1@bigpond.com 0417 103 364
 Indian Myna bird traps are still available
 Lancefield: Pat Danko : p.danko1@bigpond.com
 Romsey: Cathy Phelps : cathy.phelps@bigpond.com
 Next Meeting Monday 13th February 2017 at 8.00pm at Lancefield Mechanics Hall annexe.

HAVE YOU SHARED YOUR VISION FOR THE RANGES?

There is still time to have your say and help shape the development of the Council Plan 2017-2021, which includes the Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The plan will set out how we, as a community, would like to invest in our services and facilities.

You can share your opinion on possible aims and aspirations for the shire via an online survey or written submissions until Sunday 12 February.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Mayor, Cr Jennifer Anderson encourages everyone to make the most of this initial consultation phase aimed at seeking feedback on a range of community views Councillors heard during last year's election period.

"We are very keen to work with our residents and businesses about the development of our Council plan,

covering the next four years and beyond, for all Macedon Ranges communities.

"You can share your ideas via our short survey—or prepare a written submission of your own.

"We need the community's help and ideas as the plan guides how Council sets its priorities, and plans for future," she said.

Feedback from this first stage of consultation will inform the development of a draft Council Plan, which will be subject to further community consultation in February and March 2017.

To complete the online survey, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay by Sunday 12 February 2017. You can also send a written submission to mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au or PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444.

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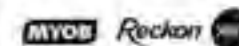
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SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL HEROES

The Lancefield history timeline on the Neighbourhood House wall highlights how this town is built on people getting together and making things happen.

There has always been a very strong community spirit and the number of individuals and businesses who have recently donated their time, skills and money towards improving Lancefield shows that this spirit is still at the core of this community.

To keep this spirit of generosity going we need to make sure we are supporting the businesses that support us. Please take note of these local community heroes and make sure when you need the services they offer, that they are first you get in contact with.

The new toilet/change room facility at the Park would not even be happening without many of our local tradies discounting and donating their skills and time to produce this building within the budget. Other sources had it costing at least twice what we will now be able to build it for.

Firstly a huge thank you to Doug and Michelle Kindred of Dig Rite Excavations. Over the years Doug has done a lot of free work in the community. He recently spent several days working on the dig site as part of the Megafauna Festival and also brought in his excavator to demolish the old netball shelter and clear the site so construction could start on the new toilets at the Park. Michelle has also been a huge contributor to the project, donating her time and skills to be part of the Project Control Group and taking on the volunteer role of admin support for the builder. Dig Rite own an extensive list of construction equipment such as multiple excavators, trucks and loaders as well as the extra equipment required to carry out large and complex jobs.

This project would still be only an idea without the truly incredible generosity of time and expertise of architect Stephen Kosa who after designing the building has gone onto organise all the permit aspects so the building was affordable and could actually start, he is also helping to manage the project gratis.

Lastly for this month is builder John Poletti of Goldie North Pty Ltd. John and his team have also been responsible for many of the renovations at the Mechanics Hall and a huge list of projects over the years— he really is the Builder of this

community.

We will keep the list of local heroes going each month, for this and other projects—get behind these people as they are making your town a better place.

Dig Rite Excavations - 5429 1264 0409 094 276
Stephan P Kosa & Associates—Architects, Planning & Conciliations - 9853 3513 0412 102 673
Goldie North PtyLtd - Builder, John Poletti 0427 507 026

This list does not mean that these are the only businesses who support community, in fact in some ways they all do, we will be covering more in future Mercury articles. The main point is that we should always be looking at supporting local first because that is how we help keep our town viable and liveable.

A Mega thankyou to Adam Bostanci for pulling together the Extinct Megafauna Festival.

If you are interested in contributing to the festival or being part of the study into the future options of the dig site contact the Neighbourhood House.

Another huge thank you, for another Adam, is to Adam Talbot for project managing the installation of the new playground equipment at the Park. Also for making sure all the softfall was spread out in time for Christmas holidays. The new flying fox & swing are fantastic fun.

Back to the Megafauna Festival where we must acknowledge the Macedon Ranges Freemasons Lodge 97 who ran the community bbq for everyone on the Friday night. This fantastic group of men are also responsible for cooking breakfast once a month for all the children at Lancefield Primary School. You can support their fundraising for this when you see their sausage sizzle tent or raffles.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Did you know that the Golf Club House is available for hire?

It's a great venue for small to medium size gatherings. Great views and the outdoor decking area can be covered in and heated in winter. The club house has a newly renovated kitchen and a licence to run the bar. Other great community run spaces in Lancefield include the Mechanics Hall and various facilities at the Park and the Primary Schools. For more information about these visit the Lancefield web site.




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For more details, please visit www.artsmarties.com.au or call Alison on 0481453857



Spinners and Yarners Craft Group
Bring along your own craft work and enjoy the company, advice and sharing of creative ideas.
Wednesdays 1pm - 4.00 pm.
Beginners welcome. Gold Coin Donation

Decorative Painting
Tuesdays 12 - 3 pm \$10
Learn the basics of decorative painting techniques, using the medium of your choice.

Relay for Life Team
The Neighbourhood House Relay for life team welcomes new members. Call the House on 5429 1214 if you would like to walk in the Relay as part of the House team

There are six Neighbourhood Houses in the Macedon Ranges. Between us we run hundreds of activities and courses. A new brochure lists what's on and where. It is available at The Town House, Op Shop, and the Corner Store. Between us we have something for everyone.

The 2017 Lancefield Community Calendar is now available for collection from the Neighbourhood House, The Town House and various shops around town. Make sure you get your free copy.

Subscribe now to get updates about what's happening in Lancefield. Visit the Lancefield Community web site www.lancefield.org.au and scroll down to the news page. The website has a calendar of events and meetings, directories, the latest news and information about the town.

Lancefield Singers Group
Interested people are invited to a once a month singers session in Lancefield.
Third Sunday of the month, 2-4.30pm, starting Sunday 19 February. Gold Coin Donation. Bring a folder pencil, eraser and highlighter.



This group is open to anyone 12+ who would enjoy singing in a group. There is no need to be able to read music, but you may accidentally learn....

In the spirit of community singing we will sing for an hour, break for an afternoon tea provided on a roster system, then we get to sing again for another hour.

What a great way to spend the afternoon!
Members will be provided with access to a Facebook group and a Dropbox folder. Some music will be provided and the rest you will be able to download and print


'Singing makes you feel good. It's a very uplifting activity, but it also improves your cognitive skills, as well as your physical wellbeing...singing is great for your overall attitude and happiness' (Associate Professor Jane Smithson, Monash University)

This group is not about perfection or performance. It is a group about fun, that will try many styles and will value every voice. * **Everyone** can sing!
Lauren Olney - Facilitator
Join the Lancefield Singers Facebook page for information

Meditation
Thursday mornings 10am. Starting 9 February
Meditation practice induces relaxation and a sense of well being. Join this friendly and informal group to learn the techniques. \$5 per week

Social Bike Riding
Meeting at the Lancefield Park on Friday mornings at 9.30am for an easy ride around town. Suitable for all abilities. We go for a social cuppa afterwards.


Learn to Ride
Would you like to learn to ride a bike or regain your confidence?
Let us know so we can organise the wonderful Lauren from Cobaw to come over and teach you.



Cards
Tuesday afternoon is for playing cards (Euchre) and enjoying a shared afternoon tea. 12.30 - 3.30.

Bus Trip to Werribee Plaza
Friday 24 March
Leaving the House at 9 am. \$10. Phone to book a seat

Like us on Facebook to be kept up-to-date with activities at the House and around Lancefield.



NEW SKILLS WILL DELIVER PEDAL POWER TO MACEDON CFA



Wilkinson's Wheels, is well on its way to delivering pedal power to the masses.

Since Phil Wilkinson began his campaign to collect old, unwanted bikes to fix up and sell at the Macedon CFA Flea Market, the community has listened with nearly 200 bikes being donated so far.

"The community have truly embraced what we are doing. The donations of bikes have been phenomenal and we are looking forward to more coming through,

"Once we get these bikes fixed up and sold off at the Flea market, I'm excited to see Wilkinson Wheels continue as a community workspace for people to come together and tinker away in a Men's Shed type way." said founder Phil Wilkinson

Bikes donated so far include lots of great kids bikes for those starting off, through to adult bikes purchased with good intention, left to sit in sheds across the region. Bikes and parts are still being collected, or can be donated

directly to Macedon Nursery and Garden supplies in Nursery Road, Macedon or Woodend Cycles.

There will be two more sessions for fixing up the bikes in the lead up to the Flea Market. February 4th and February 18th from 2pm - 4pm at Macedon Nursery.

All abilities are encouraged to join in, as there will be experienced bike mechanics on hand to give direction and encouragement! All money raised from the sale of the bikes will go to the Macedon CFA.

For more information, join the Wilkinson's Wheels Facebook page or contact Phil on 5426 2281

EVENT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Whether it's a fun run, community festival, music event, art show or cycling competition, a key part of a successful event is having an Event Management Plan.

This interactive and practical workshop is taking place on Monday 13 February 2017 and will provide event organisers with the tools, skills and knowledge to develop a comprehensive Event Management Plan. Topics which will be covered include risk, safety and emergency planning along with other key operational matters.

Presented by Tracey Hull from THA Consulting, she has over 25 years' experience in the events industry, including event management roles with community events. Tracey's experience means realistic event training will be provided using practical examples.

Held from 6pm-9pm at the Kyneton Town Hall in the Richardson Room, all attendees will receive a comprehensive event plan template to take away with them. Whether your event plan is in need of an update or you need to develop one—come along to find out how!

The cost is \$25 for two representatives to attend from each community event and places are limited. To book, visit www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-events For more information call Bridgette on 5421 9521 or email bobrien@mrsc.vic.gov.au

WESTERN WATER

KNOW THE RULES TO HELP TARGET 155

Western Water is urging Lancefield residents to be aware of Permanent Water Saving Rules when using water this summer. Permanent Water Saving Rules are sensible guidelines that make sure we take care with our drinking water. Being aware of the rules will help households keep their water use to 155 litres or less per person per day, which is the aim of the State Government's Target 155 campaign.

Under Permanent Water Saving Rules you can: Water your garden or lawn with a watering can, bucket or hand-held hose with a trigger nozzle at any time, Water your garden or lawn with a watering system such as a sprinkler only between 6pm and 10am, Wash your car with a bucket, hand-held hose with a trigger nozzle or high-pressure cleaning device at any time, Use water for a fountain or water feature only if it recirculates water.

Things that can help you achieve Target 155 include shorter showers, only washing clothes when you have a full load, and mulching your garden to keep water in the soil.

Western Water will be at the Macedon Ranges Sustainable Living Festival in Woodend March, offering advice about Permanent Water Saving Rules, along with plenty of water-saving tips and giveaways.

You can also find out more at WesternWater.com.au.

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WELCOME TO THE FIELD TRIP

Term One is going to be an incredibly exciting Field Trip experience for members. We're calling it YouFood because we've launched our own healthy eating YouTube Channel called 'YouFood' and in each weekly session the kids will be cooking a delicious healthy dish (led by nutritionist Kate Coleman and working with celebrity chef Tony Chiodo) and we will be filming Field Trip kids teaching other kids how to cook and eat healthy snacks.

On the menu is blueberry muffins, zucchini & chickpea fritters and tomato & watermelon salad.

It all starts Sunday Feb 5th in Riddells Creek (and Feb 7th in Meadow Heights) at the new time of 4-6pm.

Term Two is going to also be incredibly special when Field Trip members work towards being Mayor for a Day!!

Cost this year is \$180 per term or \$650 annually with a 15% discount for every sibling attending. The slight price rise is due to careful budgeting this year and additional time – it's now two hours long, 4-6pm. We are finding we need more time to get all the cool stuff done that we want to get done!

For newcomers, the two weeks free trial still remains valid.

Please confirm your place by paying membership before the start date of Feb 5th. You can apply for a scholarship



to pay a reduced rate (by emailing info@thefieldtrip.co) or simply book in your child/children).

We look forward to seeing you Sunday Feb 5th, ready to start at 4pm sharp.

THE GLORY OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Are you noticing it's getting harder to get up and down from the chair, walking to do the shopping or domestic chores? Have you noticed your joints are not moving like they once did, you are getting tired quicker, or you do not enough energy to do the things that are important to you? What about your mood? Are you more irritable as you get tired, or you wake feeling tired, and it's hard to get excited about life as everything is just getting harder? Maybe your body is just not doing what you want?

Not sure what to do about it? You have some choices: you can accept it and do nothing; you could do something about it or maybe accept it and do something.

First, have with a chat with your G.P. to consider whether there are other reasons for the way you feel?

If not, where can you go for assistance? If all is well, there are fitness instructors and industry trained teachers, for example in Pilates, Tai Chi and Yoga.

However, if you have never liked exercise, had dodgy exercise experiences, have chronic pain, health or mobility issues, then there are Exercise Physiologists (E.P.'s) who

can help. E.P.'s are university trained, accredited and have rigorous ongoing learning requirements. They can be found at medical centres, community health centres and in private practice.

Each E.P. will have certain interests and expertise. Often a phone call and a chat will help you determine if this is the right person for you? Don't be afraid to ask questions and check the cost. Remember to ask friends, as word of mouth is a good start.

It really comes down to a simple decision: Is your life working for you? If it isn't working for you, talk to an E.P. to see how physical activity can help?

For further information go to the web site at: Exercise & Sport Science Australia (ESSA).

Submitted by:

Jeannie Hartney

Accredited Exercise Physiologist, ESSAM

PGDip ExRehab, B.AppSc (Human Movt.), GDipAdvClin

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A GIFT WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED

A gift is usually something 'paid for' by another and given free of charge – no strings attached. We do not earn or deserve a gift, otherwise it would be a payment or a reward. However, when a gift is given, it only becomes ours when we freely accept it.

God gave us the greatest of all gifts. He humbled Himself and became a man (Jesus Christ) and willingly went to the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of the world so anyone who chooses may have everlasting life instead of judgement.

All that is left to receive everlasting-life is for us to simply accept it as a gift - by faith.

We must understand that salvation is not a reward or a payment, (... it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Eph. 2:8-9). If we think we earned or deserved it, then we have not received it - everlasting life is a gift paid for by another (Christ). All we have to do is simply 'believe' the gift is ours and it becomes ours – forever. Furthermore, God does not take back His gifts.



Once in our possession, it always remains in our possession - for eternity. We did nothing to gain the gift - we can do nothing to lose it. No one can steal it from us and we can't return it to God.

John 3:16 states, '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.' Don't be one who eternally regrets declining the greatest gift ever given, when by accepting it is as easy as 'believing' that it belongs to us. As it is freely given - it must be freely received. (John 6:40)

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. Fortnightly Youth events and weekly Children's Programs.

We also offer Kidzone Before & After School Care | Vacation Care | 'mainly music' Program

Pastor Marilyn Hunter
Encourage Church

PASS WITH CARE

I was lucky enough to spend some time in Port Fairy over the holidays. On the wide flat streets, many people ride or walk everywhere. It was holiday time for most people and the mood was relaxed. As a result, all road users just learnt to get along safely and it worked!

Bike Safe Macedon Ranges has just launched our "Pass with Care" campaign aimed at encouraging all road users to be careful when overtaking other vehicles on the road. It's simply about leaving plenty of room and time to pass safely. It is particularly relevant to new users of our county roads which presents different challenges to the urban environment. Who knows what is around that corner? All it takes is a little impatience or lack of concentration and someone's dad or mum, brother or sister, son or daughter could end up in hospital or worse. Nobody wants that kind of outcome.

We have placed billboards and posters across the Ranges to remind people of this simple message.

Maybe in 2017, we can all think about taking a little more time and care out on our roads? A few seconds just isn't worth the risk.

Jem Richards
Bike Safe Macedon Ranges

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THE TRUE GUIDE

As a new year begins we know that in the days ahead there will be joys and disappointments, hopes and dreams fulfilled and unfulfilled, the happiness that comes when a baby is born and the sadness when a loved one leaves us for the life that is to come. What a comfort it is to know that we have One Who will guide us throughout the ups and downs of these days - God Himself, our Loving Father, when we look to Him.

The Psalmist writes, "For this God is our God for ever and ever, He will be our guide even to the end." Psalm 48:14. King George V in his Christmas Message of 1939, following the outbreak of WW2, quoted a poem given to him by his thirteen year old daughter, Princess Elizabeth - "I said to the Man that stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely out into the Unknown, and he replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God, that shall be better than a light and safer than a known way.'" (Minnie Haskins 1908). He finished by saying, "May that Almighty Hand, guide us all."

*"Not mine, not mine the choice, In things or great or small;
Be Thou my Guide, my Strength, my Wisdom and my All."* Horatio Bonar.

Last year ended with the usual joyful Christmas observances and a packed car of food supplies and Christmas gifts for Melbourne's needy, was taken to Anglicare by Betty and Max Dansey. During January 2017 carpet was laid in the Op. Shop in time for its opening on 27th February.

FEBRUARY DIARY 2017

Thursday 27th January op. shop re-opens.
Thursday February 9th at 8pm AMS (Anglican Men's Society) Christ Church Hall Lancefield
Enquiries Tom Morgan 5429-6060.
Wednesday Feb.15th Parish Council meets Christ

Church Hall
Sunday February 19th at 5pm Healing Service Christ Church Lancefield Rev. Bill Carroll
Tuesday February 28th Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

MARCH 2017

Wednesday 1st March Ash Wednesday 9am Holy Communion St.Paul's Romsey
Also St.David's Day
Friday 3rd March Church and Community World Day Of Prayer.

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES-

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

Minister Rev. W. Carroll
Correspondent Doreen Morgan
Office 5429-1380 0427-918-607

COUNCIL GRANTS—GET READY FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Council's grants and funding programs are a great opportunity for community groups to receive assistance to develop skills, programs, performances, artworks, events, festivals and much more.

Now is the perfect time to plan any projects and goals your group would like to achieve in the year ahead and to see if they will be eligible for a Council grant.

To assist with applying for grants, keep an eye out for upcoming workshops.

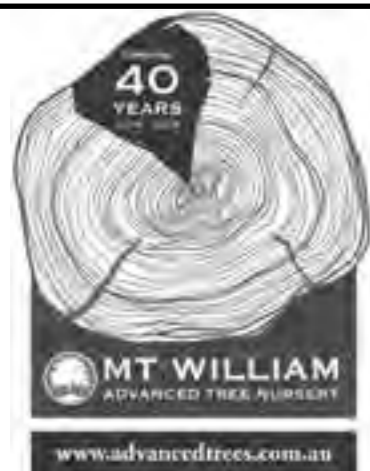
ANNUAL GRANTS CALENDAR

January: Landcare and Environmental Friends Group funding
April: Community Funding Scheme

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS GRANT PROGRAM

August: Places for People
Community Weed Partnership Program
All year: Small Community Grants

For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/grants or contact our customer service officer on 5422 0333.



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WE LIVE IN A WONDERFUL TOWN

PROPERTY IN POSSESSION OF POLICE

Lancefield Police Currently have a blue Repco BMX bike that was found in the vicinity of Park Street in October/November 2016. If you have lost this bike please give me a call as if it is not claimed soon it will be sold off.

Also in police possession is a black vinyl wallet containing a quantity of money that was left on a Lancefield To Sunbury V/Line Bus on the 14th of October 2016. Again this wallet and its contents will go to the finder if it is not claimed very shortly.

CAUTION ADVISED

We recently had a very opportunistic theft outside the Lancefield Bakery. A lady who had just purchased a coffee spilt it while trying to enter her car. She ducked back into the bakery to replace it and while she was gone someone has stolen her purse out of the car.

Living in a wonderful town like Lancefield we all get very complacent with regards to our vehicle and home security.

It is timely to remind everyone that you do need to lock your cars when you get home of a night and you do need to lock them when you stop down the street.

Even if your vehicle is locked try to avoid leaving valuables such as phones, camera's, wallets etc in view of persons passing by.

INTERESTING PHONE CALL

I recently had a phone call from a lady who was most concerned. She had just purchased a property in Lancefield only to have one of her children say to her, "Why did you buy there, Lancefield has a very high crime rate." I was very pleased to be able to inform her that Lancefield has a very low crime rate and is a wonderful place to live.

Like any town Lancefield has its issues from time to time and we have the occasional spate of offences, but these more often than not relate to business premises. Quite often these spates occur when we have out of town offenders coming through our area and they will often hit Romsey, Riddell and other towns in the area in the same spree.



This is not to say we should be complacent. As stated in the previous paragraph vehicle and home security are still very important.

From a business perspective one of the best aids in defeating these offenders is modern technology such as good quality CCTV cameras and recording systems, good quality alarm systems. Simple things such as movement activated lights and good quality locks and door/Window security can make it that much harder for offenders and cause them to move onto a softer target somewhere else.

GREAT RESULT FROM SOCIAL MEDIA!

One of our locals recently had a tool box stolen from the back of his ute at the Sunbury Railway Station over night. On returning to his vehicle early Sunday morning he found the tie downs had been cut and the tool box gone. He reported it to Sunbury Police.

He then promptly put a picture of the stolen tool box

which was a distinctive yellow with a black lid and circulated it via social media to his friends and put it on his wall. At 11 am that same morning one of his friends was at the Lancefield servo and saw a ute with a tool box on top of it that seemed the same. They discreetly took a photo with their mobile phone which was promptly sent to the victim. He identified it as being identical to the stolen tool box and reported it to Lancefield Police.

Upon checking the CCTV footage from the Service Station we were able to not only identify the tool box as stolen but the ute was towing a large tandem trailer that had also been stolen from Gisborne. The CCTV footage also showed the offender getting out of the ute and entering the service station. From this we were able to identify the offender and at a later date we were able to catch up with and charge the offenders with offences relating to the tool box and the trailer. We were also able to recover a second stolen trailer. Unfortunately the trailer from Gisborne has not yet been recovered.

The icing on the cake was that on the same day that the tool box was reported stolen a person who knew both the victim and the offender became aware via social media of what had occurred and arranged for the stolen tool box to be returned complete with its contents.

A great outcome for all concerned other than the offender who will shortly face court in relation to a number of serious charges.

Roger Barr
Officer In Charge Lancefield Police.

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What's on

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For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/rrc or call 5429 5637.

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Come along and increase muscle and cardiovascular strength.

Classes are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.30am-11.30am and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30am-10.30am.

Cost \$65.70 (10 pass card). Classes not transferrable and no classes are held on public holidays.

For more information, contact Debbie on 0412 051 002 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/rrc

NINE WEEK JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

Come along to our nine week program for girls and boys aged 8-14 years and try volleyball in a fun and safe environment.

It's the only junior volleyball program in the area and games are held on Wednesdays from 4.30pm.

Competition will run from 1 February to 29 March. Cost \$87.30 per child.

Register now online, mrsc.vic.gov.au/rrc or call 5429 5637.

IN2 STRENGTH & FITNESS

Classes are held upstairs at Romsey Recreation Centre, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings.

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ROMSEY AND DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION SUMMER SEASON IS UNDERWAY

New players welcome.

Children aged 8 to 12, games played on Thursdays.

Children aged 13 to 17, games played on Wednesdays.

Ladies competition played on Mondays.

To find out more, contact Christine on 5429 5582.

ROMSEY OCCASIONAL CARE

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Sessions operate as per school term on Tuesdays from 9am-1pm, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am-2pm.

Bookings are essential. Contact Rebecca Wilson on 0409 407 696, or romseyoccasionalcare@hotmail.com

MACEDON RANGES SQUASH CLUB

Games are played on Tuesday evenings from 7pm. Social environment.

Formal competitions are held at Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre on Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm.

Coaching can be arranged. Contact Bruce from the Macedon Ranges Squash Club on 0402 595 358 or email sohmorgan@yahoo.com

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KYNETON BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

BADMINTON A REAL HIT

The Kyneton Badminton Association held their break-up night in mid-December which included a Ladies' and Men's Doubles Championships,

Lancefield's Simone Boldiston, one of the top A Grade players, teamed up with promising junior Tegan Hickey to narrowly come away with the Ladies' event.

Competition resumes on 6th February. Games are held on Monday nights from 7:00pm at the Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre. New players are always welcome.

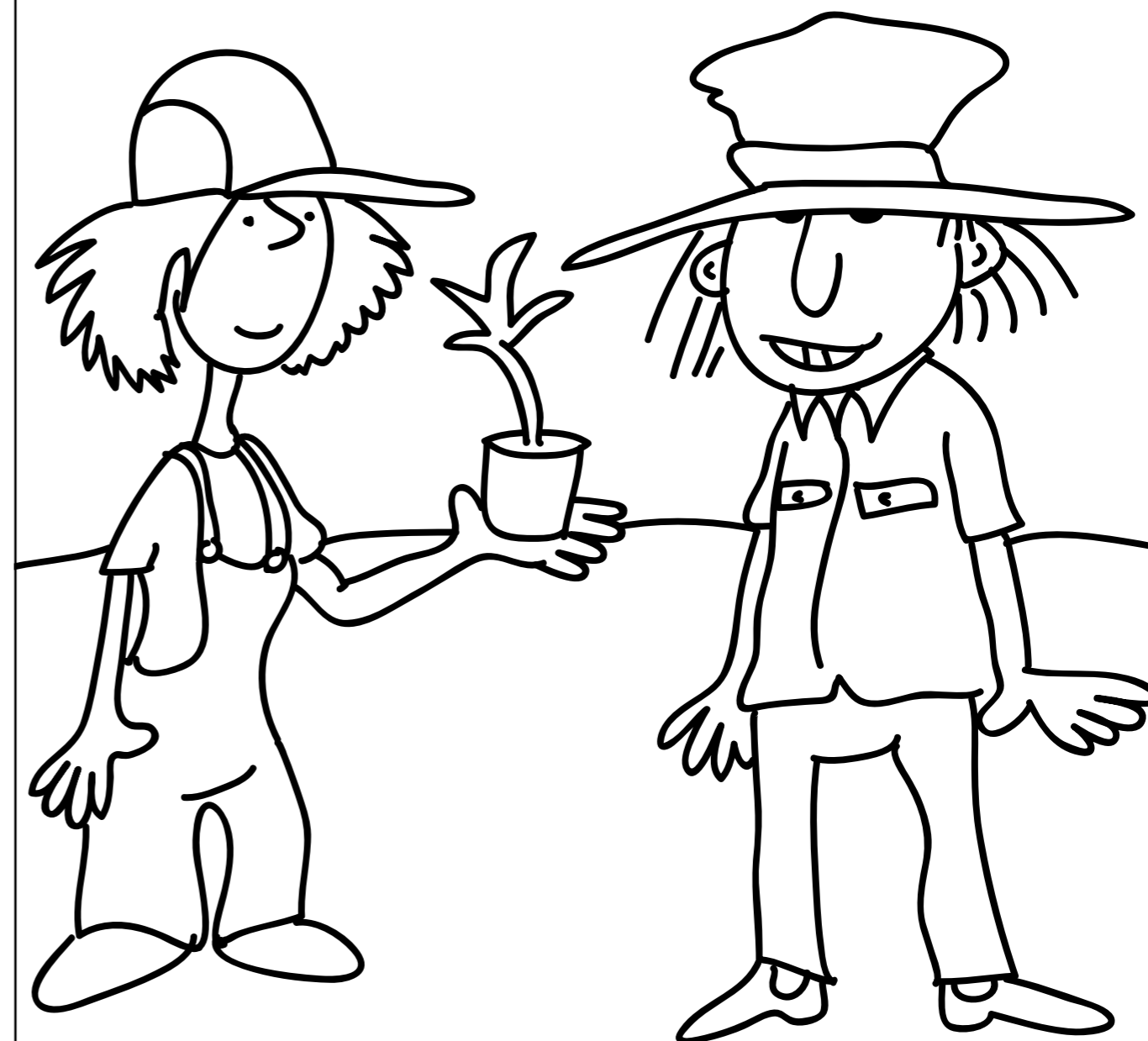
For more information contact Kevin Roberts on 5422 3057.

Graham Smith



Tegan and Simone

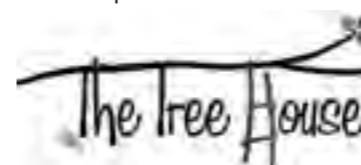
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Contact phone number: _____



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WHAT'S ON

For a full listing of 'what's on' in Lancefield go to www.lancefield.org.au for the latest news and dates.

DISCOVER A WORLD OF ARTS AT YOUR DOOR

Be the first to find out what music, comedy, dance and culture is headed to the Macedon Ranges this year as Council launches its Arts & Culture events program for 2017 on Friday 10 February at Kyneton Town Hall.

Come along to the launch at 5.30pm and enjoy cheap tickets, entertainment, door prizes and complimentary drinks and nibbles. There may even be a few surprises! To book call 1300 888 802 or email ktickets@mrsc.vic.gov.au

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LANCEFIELD MACEDON RANGES RELAY FOR LIFE

PAINT THE TOWN PURPLE

Businesses have again been asked to decorate their windows and shop displays purple this month in a competition to promote the Lancefield/Macedon Ranges Relay For Life.

Lancefield, Romsey and Riddells Creek traders are expected to highlight the 15th birthday event that will be held at Lancefield Park on March 4 and 5.

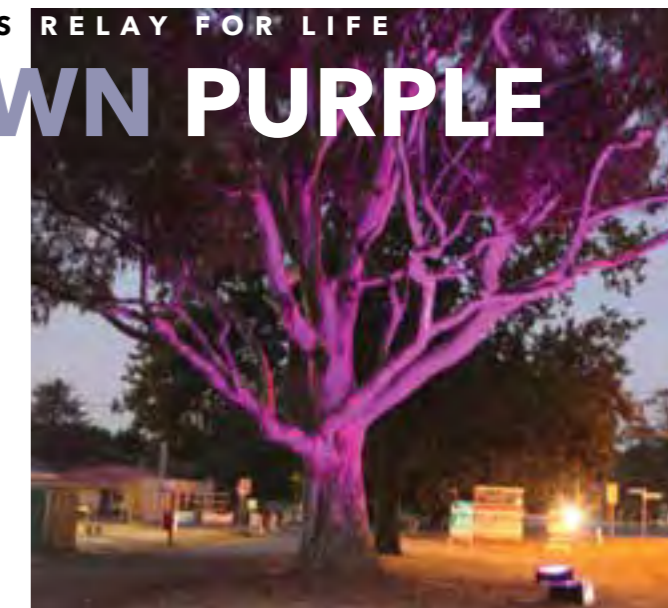
This year's winners will be determined by their popularity among the Relay's Facebook page followers. Photos of all participating businesses will be posted and the judges will be monitoring how many Likes they receive.

Meanwhile, six hotels have thrown their support behind the Relay For Life by collecting donations. They include Lancefield, Riddells Creek, Clarkefield, Macedon Railway Hotel, Victoria Hotel Woodend and the Telegraph Hotel Gisborne.

More than 18 teams have registered for this year's event which is expected to bring the overall amount of money raised locally for the Cancer Council Victoria since 2003 to \$1.3 million. All of the money raised supports cancer research, education, advocacy and support services.

Organisers are looking forward to a memorable weekend with a party theme, while many participants plan to continue fundraising until the Relay closes on the Sunday morning.

An Early Bird \$20 per person registration fee offer closes on February 5 at midnight. Individual and team registrations for \$25 per person will be accepted up until the event weekend.



Cancer survivors and carers are warmly invited to walk the opening lap and attend afternoon tea. Anyone interested in participating can contact Kathy on 0419 644 688 or email lancefield@relayforlife.org.au. More details at www.relayforlife.org.au.

Nadine Hartnett
Volunteer Committee
Lancefield Macedon Ranges Relay For Life
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On January the 2nd the Brigade hosted a Fire Ready Victoria Information session followed by a sausage sizzle where the community could ask questions and meet with local brigade members. We had approximately 30 community members from Lancefield and Benloch Township and surrounding property's. Doreen Raven, a CFA presenter from district 2, came along and passed on information to the locals about

- Know your Total Fire Ban District
- What the Fire Danger Ratings mean
- Understanding warnings Advice, Watch & Act, Emergency Warning
- Keeping Informed – were to get information from
- Personal safety Options
- Leaving Early

- Staying to actively defend property
- Last Resort
- Bushfire Planning
- What is your plan
- What is your trigger to enact your plan
- What will you do with your pets/livestock
- Which way will you go if the route you plan to take is blocked
- What will you do if some members of the family aren't home
- How will you know when to leave
- Where will you go
- What is your back-up plan
- All the above information can be found on the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- Burn off notification: 1800 668 511,**
- Bushfire Information Line: 1800 240 667**

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