

CHRISTMAS IN THE COBAWS[®]



Early in November 2015 a fuel-reduction burn near Benloch broke containment lines to burn some 3,000 ha of public and private land, destroying homes, buildings, fences, stock and wildlife. Benloch is a mystical place. People know it exists but only residents know its whereabouts! Officially the fire is identified as 'The Lancefield Fire'. Many were traumatised. Others responded to assist those impacted, including the Benloch brigade, organisations such as churches, the Red Cross, neighbourhood houses from various communities as well as emergency-service personnel and governments (federal, state and local).

This story is just one about that fire.

In December, a Christmas celebration was organised for the brigade and the local community at the Benloch Fire Station, the tin shed that acts as the CBD of Benloch. It was planned and run by the brigade but supported by many organisations and individuals. The scheduled program included a talk about fire safety, a learned explanation from an expert about trauma and the impacts on individuals, live music, a visit by Santa in the fire truck followed by a spit roast for dinner, all concluded by a movie under the stars. The kids had a play area so that grown-ups could get information without being worried about children being further upset by the delivery of objective data. In addition, everybody could have the chance to share stories about their experiences. The presence of professionals to help people to recover was a bonus.

The fire was frightening for fire-fighters as well as the community. The CFA has a volunteer peer-support group to help brigade members and their families cope with trauma during and after any incident and they were active here. The Macedon Ranges Shire organised a committee to co-ordinate the recovery which included a brigade member and a CFA peer. Good-on you, Macedon Ranges.

Others became involved, some by indirect association. Norm Bowen, CFA's Peer Co-ordinator for north-west Victoria had heard about the activities of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Rochester Fire Brigade who had raised money to help CFA brigade members and their families in the north-west. They are located near the Murray River, many miles from Benloch. The thrust of this effort was focused on the weather. It looked as if a significant drought was about to affect farmers and they feared that many families may need welfare assistance in the near future. They were planning to provide hampers when food was lacking. This same situation had occurred in previous droughts and floods and they were determined to be prepared.

While the lack of rain was (and still is) causing hardship, the extent and depth of anticipated difficulties were not as severe as originally anticipated. As a result, Norm thought that perhaps some of the funds could be re-directed to assist others currently in need, such as those affected by the Lancefield fire. As it turned out, hampers for families were

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

already provided, but the welfare of kids was identified as a special need.

The Benloch Brigade had planned for Santa to attend and give kids some lollies and colouring-in-books and crayons. But with this extra funding, perhaps Santa could be made more relevant, especially for older kids who may be past the colouring-in stage but still deserving of recognition. The Rochester ladies were approached who were enthusiastic and personally delivered a very large sack of Santa presents to suit a variety of kids.

Get back to reality. What was originally planned as an event for 100 people soon grew to 170. What's more, the Christmas celebration had hic-cups. Hey – this was a big project for a rural brigade to plan, organise and run. The caterers surprise, surprise got lost and were late. Many areas of unburnt bushland within the fire-controlled area continued to flare up from time to time and the Benloch brigade responded. Unfortunately one of these occurred on the day of the party so that the brigade was busy tackling an outbreak, a peat fire which takes ages to control.

Although the brigade was late to the Christmas party,

Santa did arrive. He guided the kids to a screened area where each selected a present from a big pile. Parents subsequently said that the kids were very excited with Santa and the presents as well as the opportunity to throw themselves around in the jumping castle and play the games on offer. And the families there had a great time. Benloch brigade deserves accolades

The delays to the program meant that both the Rochester representatives and the attending peer had other priorities and could not stay long enough to experience their anticipated reward: the looks on the kids' faces when Santa gave the presents. However, their contributions were publicly acknowledged (the bush-equivalent of a standing ovation, I'm told). The brigade subsequently told them that they had positively contributed to assist the community to recover.

Thinking that you have done something worth-while is wonderful. Having somebody thank you is the icing on the Christmas cake. But to know you have caused kids to smile at Christmas transports you to that magical place where a reindeer has a red and very shiny nose.

George Wright
CFA Peer, District 2

R S L



On Monday 11 January, 2016, RSL President Reinhard Goschiniak and Senior Vice-President John McCosker of the Romsey-Lancefield RSL, presented member, Mr Ron Jackson, with a Smart Care Alert pendant. Ron lives alone at home and has a tendency to fall and hurt himself. He now has a chance to alert five people of his predicament in an emergency.

When the RSL Executive committee became aware of Ron's situation it decided to invest in an emergency device for him. This will enable Ron to remain in his home with help at hand when needed. He can alert Emergency services 'OOO' or family members by pressing the alert button.



DOROTHY SCORES 90

Local resident Dorothy Hayes recently celebrated her 90th birthday with a family lunch at Lancefield golf club, where she has been a member for over 50 years. She is pictured here with Flo Meyer, the current holder of the trophy Dorothy has donated to the club.

Dorothy has been an active member of the community

throughout her life, serving with the CFA, CWA, her local church, Red Cross and Probus. In early years Dorothy was also involved in the Lancefield Primary School and the Swimming Pool Committee.

Her family and friends wish her well in the coming years.

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WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR EVERYONE.

The Christmas Breakup was held on Sunday the 6th of December and it was wonderful to see old members who had driven from Alexandra and new members.

It was a relaxing afternoon under the trees at the park. The first meeting for 2016 will be on Monday 8th February at 8.00pm in the Annex at The Mechanics Hall. All welcome especially new members.

Myna Birds Traps are still available. Contacts are Lancefield; Pat Danko: p.danko01@bigpond.com. Romsey: Cathy Phelps: cathy.phelps@bigpond.com. Number of birds trapped for December 2015: Lancefield 14, Romsey 13

OTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY HELP

Fire recovery / Farm / Town Plantings - Trees will be available in autumn - forward planning and preparation can make for a successful planting program. Contact Ken for information and availability.

STREAM FRONTAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

If you own land that fronts onto a river or creek, you may be eligible for funding to help you manage the land. The

Melbourne Water Stream frontage management program supports work that protects or enhances riverbanks, such as weed control, fencing and planting native vegetation. For more info and to find out if you are eligible and how to apply, <http://www.melbournewater.com.au/getinvolved/applyforfunding/pages/stream-frontage-management-program.aspx>

CFA ONLINE TOOL

The CFA has launched a new online tool to make it easier for people to check whether they can clear vegetation, including trees and branches around their home, without a permit. A two minute video and online information will also assist people to better understand what they can and cannot do without a permit depending on where they live, and whether the 10/30 and the 10/50 vegetation clearance rules apply. To check it out visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/vegetation-clearing-tool/

CONTACT

Anyone wishing to contact the group can do so thru Secretary Ken 0404 886 580, ken.allender@bigpond.com or www.deepcreeklandcare.org.au

THE MOUNT PLAYERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mon 15 Feb - Annual General Meeting of The Mount Players

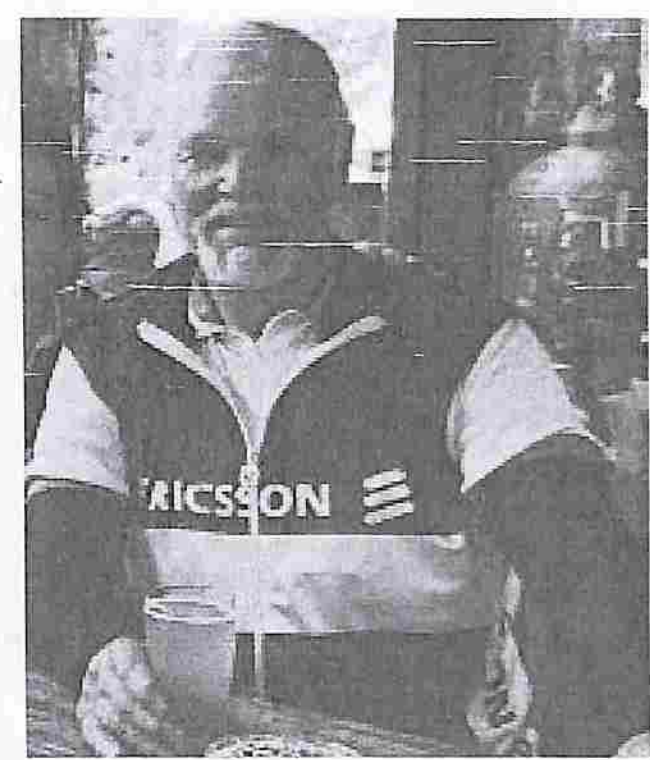
OPENING NIGHT

Fri 26 Feb - opening night of The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie By Jay Presson Allen. Adapted from the novel by Muriel Spark 26 February - 13 March 2016 Rebellious, romantic schoolteacher Jean Brodie is determined to teach her pupils her own approach to life and mould them via her personal beliefs.

Her ruthless over-confidence, however, brings tragedy and heartbreak. The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie is one of the great tragi-comedies of theatre and film, told with classic Scottish wit and brevity.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The Mont Players 'Employee Of The Month' is Lancefield local Leo Vandervalk, for spending close to 60 hours at



the theatre in one week. Among other things, Leo has built a properly-extending ladder from the bio-box ceiling into the theatre's loft. This has been done largely for access to the new lighting bar winches.

LANCEFIELD MERCURY INC.

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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.



Editorial Committee:

- Andy Moore
- Craig Longmuir
- Karen Barr
- Meryl Green
- Robert Green
- Kellie Wilson
- Murk Schoen
- Marjorie Dobbs
- Fay Woodhouse

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee.

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Advertising Enquiries to Kellie Wilson 0438 501 258

www.lancefieldmercury.org.au

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- One eighth page \$35.00
- One quarter page \$45.00
- Half page \$90.00
- Full page \$150.00

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

- Annual 1/8 page \$250.00
- Annual 1/4 page \$300.00
- Annual 1/2 page \$580.00
- Annual full page \$920.00

Colour Advertising:

- Inside back page: Full page \$220 or 1/2 page \$150.
- Back page: 1/4 page strip \$75.

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 Thank you.

SPLIT RED GUM FIREWOOD February Prices PRICES FOR ROMSEY LANCEFIELD AREA

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HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

A regular financial advisor in one of our daily papers always ends his article with the words -

"Tread your own path", a path we all will be treading as we enter into this new year. But what path will we take, who or what guide will we use? In Pilgrims' Progress, 'Christian' was confronted with two pathways, one broad, the other, narrow, which one to choose? Jesus declared, "Enter through the narrow gate, For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life and only a few find it. (Matthew 7:13..)". He also said, "I Am The Way.....no-one comes to the Father except through me".(John 14:6). 'Christian' chose the narrow one but found he could not go through the narrow gate-way because of the big load he was carrying on his back. This big load was his load of SIN. No matter how big or little a sinner we feel we are, we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. By faith, Christian found Jesus as His Lord and Saviour, Who had borne his load of sin on the Cross, lifting that great burden from him,

so opening the way on to the narrow path leading to life eternal. Like Christian we have to choose which path to take but by God's love and grace, may we choose the narrow way leading to LIFE. As we near Ash Wednesday and the forty days of Lent leading to His Crucifixion and Resurrection, this is a good time to take that first step on to the narrow way. Many twists and turns and stumbles on the way but always upwards!

"Thy way, not mine, O Lord, However dark it be; Lead me, by Thine own Hand, Choose out the path for me."

FEBRUARY 2015 - DIARY

Tues. 9Th...Shrove Tuesday ... "Pancake Day". Wed.10Th... Ash Wednesday. 9Am. Holy Communion Service. St.paul's Romsey
7Pm. Christ Church Lancefield
Thurs.11Th Feb..7.30Pm..Ams (Anglican Men's Society) Meets 7.30Pm At

Christ Church Hall Lancefield..Enq. Max 5429-1597. Tom 5429-6060.

Thurs.18Th Feb 1.30Pm..Parish Guild Meets 1.30Pm At Christ Church Lancefield Hall.

Welcome To New Members. Enq. Glenice 5429-6418.

Sun.21St Feb 7Pm Healing Service Christ Church Lancefield Rev. Bill Carroll.

MARCH 2015

Fri. 4Th Mar.11Am. World Day Of Prayer Service. Combined Churches & Community.

Fri.25Th March. Good Friday

Sun.27Th March. Easter Day

"Not mine, not mine the choice, In things or great or small;

Be Thou, my Guide my Strength, My Wisdom and my All."H. Bonar.

Minister. Rev.W. Carroll

Mrs. D. Morgan Correspondent

Office 5429-1380. 0427-918-607. .

HOW TO CONTACT THE MERCURY

We are going through a few changes in the 'office' at the present time and the best way to not miss out is to use the following email addresses - editor3435@gmail.com or advertising3435@gmail.com to contact us. You can also ring me on 0430 448 120.

If you have any queries re invoicing send an email to Marje at treasurer3435@gmail.com

Happy New Year

Andy

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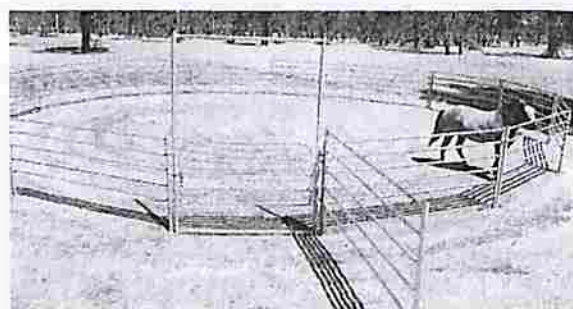
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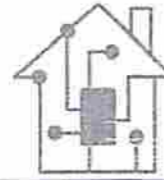
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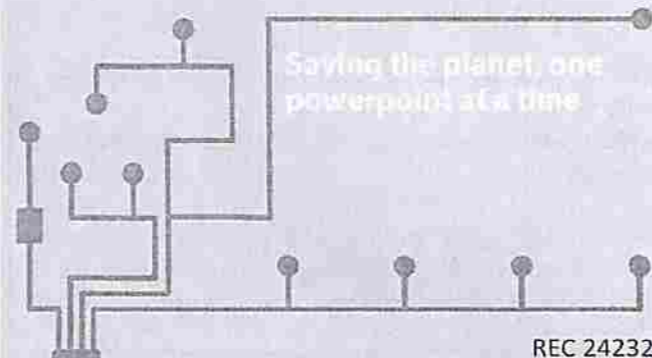
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Tickets are \$25 per adult, \$10 per child and \$60 for a family. Gates open at 7pm with the film beginning at dusk—at around 8.30pm. The café will be open for coffee and light snacks before the film begins.

For bookings visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/film-night. For enquiries, phone 5421 1468.

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If you are aged 14–25 and interested in learning a range of new skills in areas such as event management, sound and lighting, publicity, media, photography, film, hospitality, and live and studio recording—then Music in the Sticks (MITS) is where you need to be in 2016!

MITS is a program for young people in the Macedon Ranges Shire with an interest in the music industry. The group meets approximately twice a month and has been running for over 15 years.

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



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WHAT'S THE HOUSE ALL ABOUT?

There are still a lot of people who don't know what the Neighbourhood House is all about so we thought we would start off the year with a refresher.

Lancefield Neighbourhood House is run by a volunteer committee of management - people from the community who are interested in making Lancefield a great place to live. The Committee receive some funding from the State government so they can employ a coordinator for 20 hours a week. Other funding for projects comes from grants, including an annual amount of just over \$3000 from the Shire.

The Neighbourhood House team have instigated and managed a number of community enterprises including the Farmers Market, the Mens Shed, The Op Shop and The Town House. We are also involved in a number of community projects including the skatepark for which we hope to see some real action for this year. All of these

activities are run by volunteers and there are positions available to cover all interests.

The enterprises, activities and courses the Neighbourhood House runs all aim to increase opportunities for people, to provide advice support and help or bring people together - all things that strengthen the community of Lancefield.

Of course these things can't be done without input from people who live in the area. As a society we are all becoming less involved in our communities. The Neighbourhood House hopes to provide options that will change that so we can have a strong, connected community where people care for each other, are healthier and enjoy being part of life in Lancefield. We are open to any suggestions you may have.

2016 will be a busy year with us continuing to work on sustainability and domestic violence projects with the rest

of the Neighbourhood Houses in the Macedon Ranges Shire. We will also be launching the Lancefield website and the Lancefield Stories page - more details will be in the next Mercury.

To start off the year with plenty of energy we will be running an Adrenal Fatigue Syndrome workshop. Many of us will discover that a lot of symptoms we have are a result of this syndrome but the exercise you will learn in the workshop strengthen your adrenal system. The workshop is being run on Saturday 20 February and bookings must be made by 13 February. Cost is \$25 and we strongly recommend it for anyone who has had a stressful time where you were surviving on adrenalin for a while or anyone who has a hectic lifestyle.

On the health and exercise front we also have our gentle exercise classes running on Wednesdays, meditation and Reiki on Wednesday nights and you can join the bike riding group on Friday mornings.

On the social side of things you may be interested in joining the Friday Theatre Group or joining the Bus Trip to Watergardens on Friday 15 February.

If you would like to join the Neighbourhood House community Relay for Life team please let us know by February 20.

For the full list of activities being run check the program brochure - phone the House on 5429 1214 if you haven't received a copy.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Mrs Lorraine Kraus who has received the great honour of being named Macedon Ranges Shire Citizen of the Year.

Lorraine will be known to many because of her ongoing support and fund raising efforts for a very large and comprehensive range of local groups and committees. Her ability to organise helpers is remarkable as is the amount of goods that come from her kitchen for stalls etc.

Some of her support is not so easily noticed as she quietly works away. For example her love of gardening is a prime example where she spends much time in the Vicarage garden and the Neighbourhood House garden. Lorraine is a great community member and thoroughly deserves to be the current recipient of the Shire's Citizen of the Year.

Meryl Green

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SERVING LOCAL PEOPLE WITH LOCAL HISTORY

The Romsey Lancefield & Districts begins 2016 with new president Noreen, and some old and some new office bearers. We would like to thank all previous committee members, especially Robyn for all the work she has put in at the Courthouse for many years helping everyone who has been researching their family tree.

Our volunteers are looking forward to continuing to serve the local people with local history. The courthouse is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am till 2pm or by appointment. Membership is \$20 single or \$30 couple.

Following the recent Megafauna festival the collection of bones which were on display during the celebrations will be housed at the Lancefield Courthouse.

WEATHER COMMENT

NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED

I probably wrote this last year if not in other years but two months seem to have flown and it is time to start another round of weather comments. Not much has changed, the dry conditions are affecting both gardens and farms. Rainfall a total of 96mm for the two months has been very patchy with one good fall of 31mm around Christmas which was the heaviest individual fall for all of 2015. We sold the last of our ewes at Kyneton Special sale last Friday and that leaves only the bulk of last year's lambs to sell. The agents reported that the early pens sold well but after that it was hard work to get good prices for the rest. The cattle markets, reading from the rural press, are still strong and as we are now in the season of calf [weaner] sales it will give an indication of things to come.

Toby is back on sheep pellets and never fails to call out when he hears some movement around the house.

The gardens are showing the effects of the dry season although some of the flowers in particular the roses, are still quite colourful. Well mulched gardens seem to be coping with the heat but there is still a lot of Summer to come. With reports that the EL-Nino is waning I hope to be able write a more positive report next month.

Robert Green



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CAMPASPE FAMILY PRACTICE RELOCATION

Campaspe Family Practice has now relocated to their newly renovated rooms at the Kyneton Hospital. The move is the result of the Campaspe doctors' desire to work collaboratively with the hospital to improve patient and medical care for the town and the region.

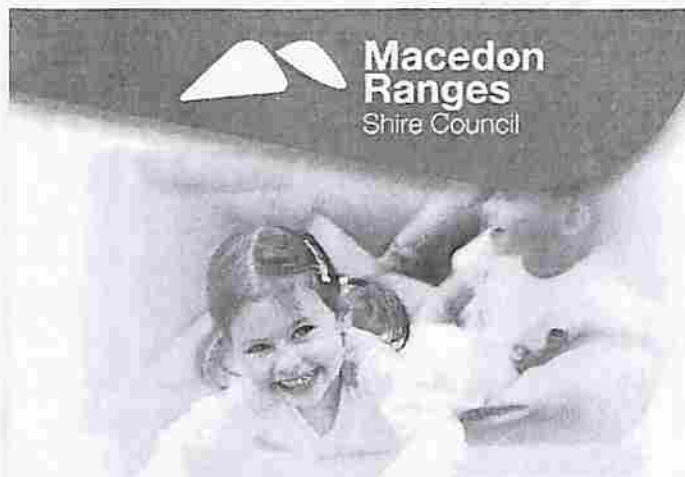
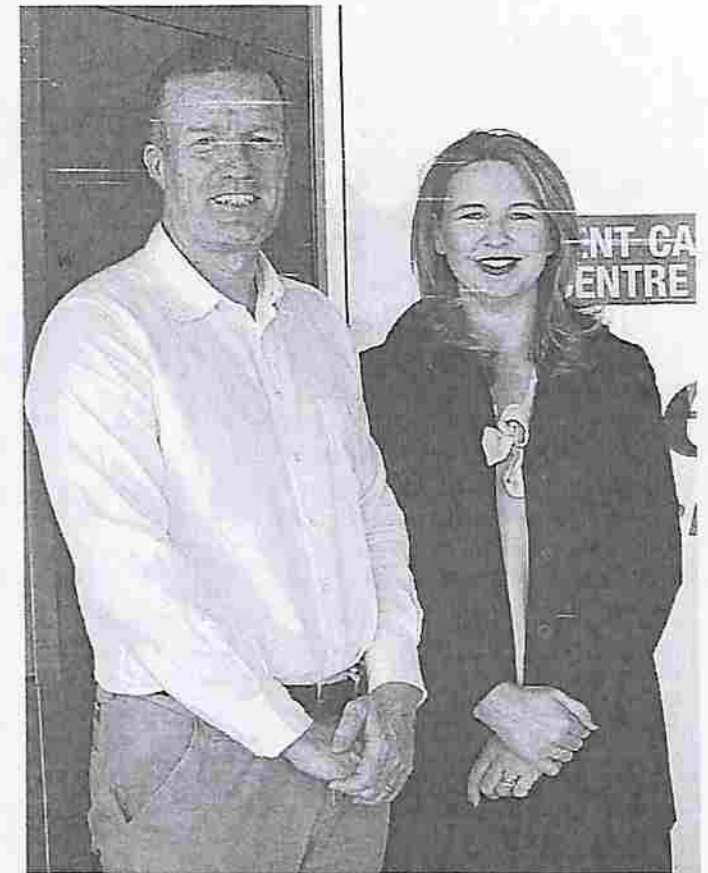
The new rooms will enhance delivery of medical services including a move towards a seven day service, extended opening hours and the introduction of new health services to the town.

These entail a comprehensive cardiology service available in the Macedon Ranges for the first time, a pulmonary lung laboratory with onsite physician, ophthalmology, dentistry, GP obstetrics, and skin cancer medicine. These new services will be supported by a diverse array of allied health including sports physiotherapy, dietitian, exercise physiology, podiatry, diabetes nurse specialist and psychologists. In collaboration with Ambulance Victoria, the practice aims to provide comprehensive care through the Urgent Care Centre.

"We are putting our resources back into the hospital to ensure its sustainability and to provide a first class medical service in the Macedon Ranges," says Dr Robert Power.

The practice is providing extended hours from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and Saturday from 9am to 5pm. Sunday surgery is planned to commence soon.

An onsite pharmacy to support the new endeavour is also planned to open later in the year. Contact details remain the same: 54222877



Kindergarten enrolments

Limited places are still available in our 3 and 4 year old programs in 2016 at locations across the shire.

Forms are available online and at Council service centres.

Contact 5422 0239 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/children

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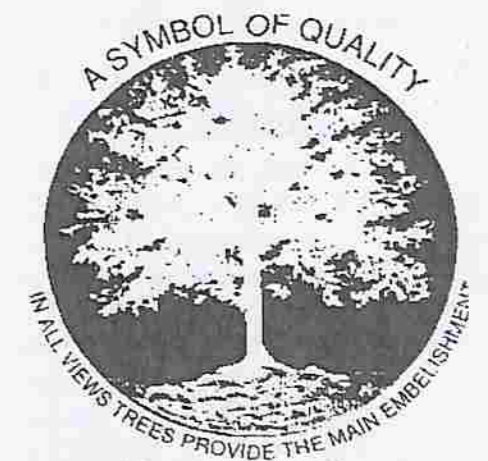
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MACEDON RANGES SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS

Macedon Ranges Scottish Country Dancers meet every Thursday 1-3pm at Buffalo Stadium, Forest Road, Woodend.

This year we are offering a "Beginners Class" starting Thursday March 3rd from 1-2pm, the experienced dancers will be there to help the beginners learn the basic steps and formations and easier dances will taught during that hour.

Scottish Country Dancing is great fun, it is great exercise for the body and the brain and no we don't dance over swords (that's Highland Dancing). It is also very sociable so it's not necessary to bring a partner.

For more information please phone Meg 5427 1100 or Elizabeth 5429 6470

MACEDON RANGES SHIRE 2016 ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAM LAUNCH

Everyone is invited to attend a free evening of entertainment at the Kyneton Town Hall on Friday 12 February when Macedon Ranges Shire Council officially launches the 2016 Macedon Ranges Arts & Culture program.

Compered by comedian Rod Quantock, the event offers guests an opportunity to be the first to hear about the upcoming shows for 2016. There will also be door prizes, entertainment, refreshments and 25 per cent off ticket purchases for one night only.

The launch will commence at 5.30pm. To RSVP call 1300 88 88 02 or email khtickets@mrsc.vic.gov.au

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SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVAL EXPANDS IN 2016

The annual Macedon Ranges Sustainable Living Festival empowers participants to tread lightly on our planet. This year's festival will be bigger than ever, filling several venues and running across the last weekend in February.

On Saturday 27th, from 10am to 4pm, a Sustainable Design and Technology Expo will be held at the Black Forest Timber Mill. Simultaneously, a Sustainable Food and Gardening Expo will occur at the Woodend Community Garden and Hub. Free shuttle buses will run between the two Expos.

'The highly interactive Expo at the Hub will include beekeeping, drought and fire resistant gardening, vegetarian cooking and food preservation,' said Jon Morgan, Festival Coordinator

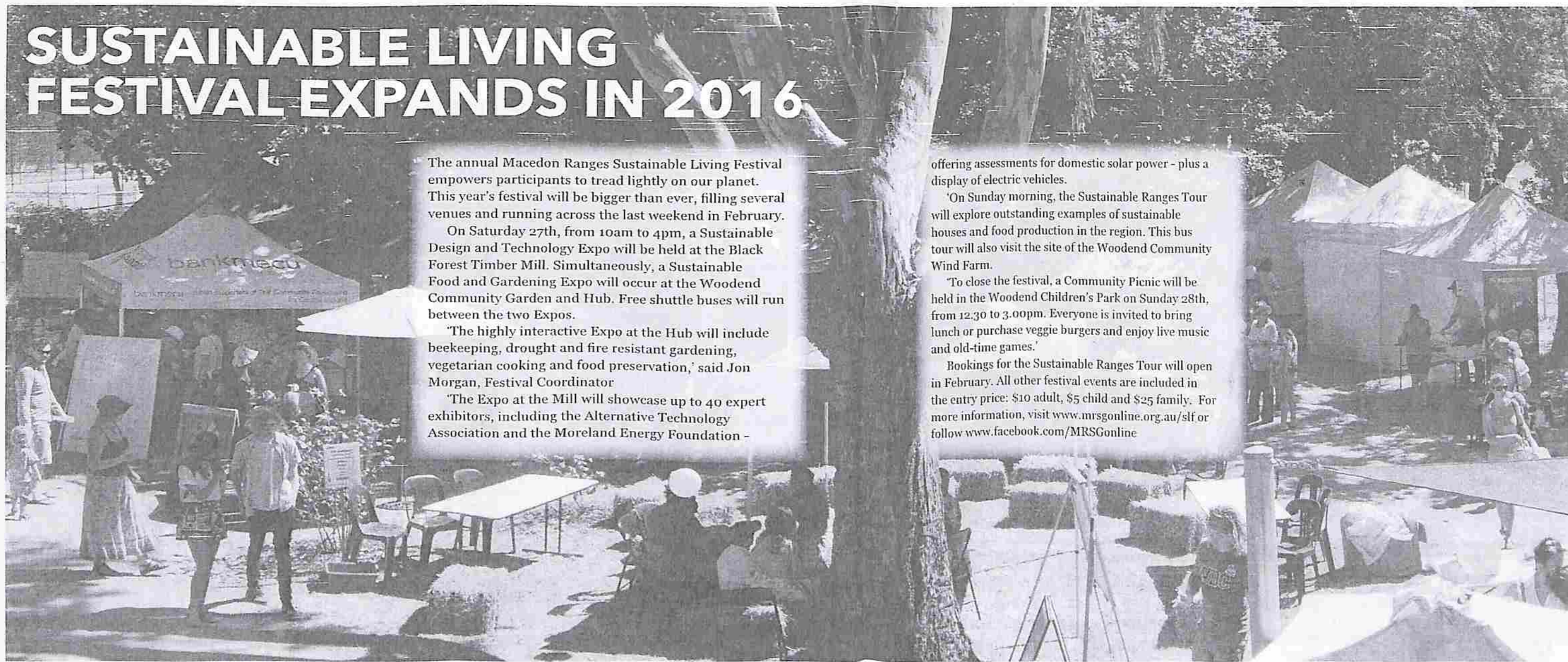
'The Expo at the Mill will showcase up to 40 expert exhibitors, including the Alternative Technology Association and the Moreland Energy Foundation -

offering assessments for domestic solar power - plus a display of electric vehicles.

'On Sunday morning, the Sustainable Ranges Tour will explore outstanding examples of sustainable houses and food production in the region. This bus tour will also visit the site of the Woodend Community Wind Farm.

'To close the festival, a Community Picnic will be held in the Woodend Children's Park on Sunday 28th, from 12.30 to 3.00pm. Everyone is invited to bring lunch or purchase veggie burgers and enjoy live music and old-time games.'

Bookings for the Sustainable Ranges Tour will open in February. All other festival events are included in the entry price: \$10 adult, \$5 child and \$25 family. For more information, visit www.mrsgonline.org.au/slf or follow www.facebook.com/MRSGonline



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THE IMPORTANCE OF FARMERS' MARKETS.

Lancefield is fortunate to have a 'Farmers' Market'. For many it is an icon on the monthly calendar. It is recognised for its local produce. The producers are personally present, to stand behind their produce. One only has to observe the trucks of lucerne hay to see what is going on. This gives the customer a feeling of confidence and also creates a relationship between buyer and seller, about hay or honey and a discussion about wine and weather.

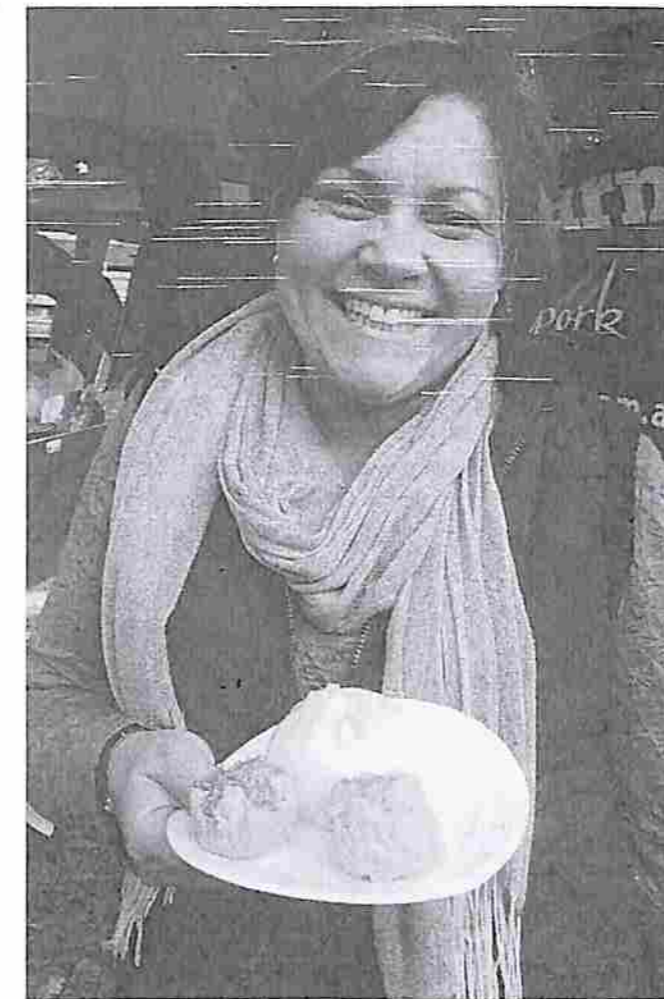
In many countries these markets are the way of shopping and become a social event. Some towns have weekly markets and others even daily markets. It was no wonder that there was an outcry in France when the first 'Super market' came about and products became sold in packages, for a self-serving public. This altered shopping into an impersonal task, with the main contact being the person collecting your money and an equally impersonal conversation of "how are you to day" or "have a nice day". Most people like interaction with others. That is why farmer's markets are preferred by many. It gives feedback to the producer as well as the buyer and creates a combined interest.

The Lancefield Farmer's market, being close to Melbourne and yet in the country sphere, is on a nice day the perfect outing for city families. For many such outing is also a regular event, with local gossip thrown in. It also gives



children the knowledge where produce comes from. Our "Farmer's Market" is important to us.

Murk Schoen



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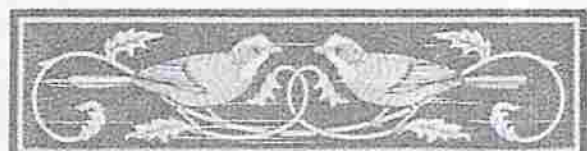
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Situated approximately 15 kilometres north of Lancefield the Merindoc Café and Cellar Door is nestled beneath the beautiful foothills of the Tooborac Granite Ranges in the delightful gardens and grounds of the Merindoc Vineyard. For the past ten years a group of very dedicated people have turned what was once the tractor shed into a place where you can come for an intimate meal for two or a gathering of family and friends. "Many years ago someone asked where they could go in Tooborac to enjoy a meal with our beautiful wines" said Kitchen Manager Heather Lowe, so the seed was sown, the tractors reversed out and we have what you see today: a lovely establishment for everyone's enjoyment.

Merindoc Cafe and Cellar Door is the place for wine and we have a wonderful range starting from our whites of Chardonnay, Riesling, Viognier onto the Rose and then our reds of Nebbiolo, Syrah Grenache, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and our Sparkling Shiraz. Our Cellar Door team lead by Briana Doyle, are more than happy to tell you the story of each wine, answer any questions that you have and also let you know the Wine Specials for that weekend.

Our Cellar Door is open Saturday and Sunday 10am - 4pm, and Friday and Monday 10am-3pm for wine tastings

and sales.

As well as wine Merindoc makes its very own produce and has a great selection of onion jam, zucchini pickles, quince paste and dukkah to name a few. Produce is all made in house and should guests come to Cellar Door do take the opportunity to read our "Story of Merindoc Produce".

Our Café is open from 10am -4pm for Coffee/Tea and a selection of slices and cakes. Lunch is served from 11.30am - 2.30pm and the kitchen team lead by Heather have a menu that uses produce from the Merindoc vegetable garden and from locally sourced suppliers.

Dishes are made from locally grown produce and the beef/lamb Farmers Pie is a popular dish. The ever popular Tasting Platter and Polenta Fries is an absolute must to try and Merindoc's signature dessert is Panna Cotta with Rose Strawberries. Every weekend we have blackboard specials of mains and desserts. Bookings are recommended and can be made on 5433 5188.

For more information visit the Merindoc Cafe and Cellar Door at 2905 Lancefield-Tooborac Road, Tooborac. Call on 54335188. Email at cafe@merindochq.com.au or find the Merindoc facebook page.

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SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

As the holiday period ends and everyone settles back into their normal weekly routines, Council would like to remind residents that February is the time of greatest fire risk in our shire and it's important to have a plan and to know what to do in the event of an emergency such as a bushfire.

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

Understanding your level of risk is the first step in developing your Bushfire Survival Plan. Research shows that when threatened by a fire, many people living in high risk areas will leave it too late to make critical decisions, leaving them with very few safe options.

WHERE WILL YOU GO?

It's important to identify where you will go on high fire risk days e.g. to family or friends, in Melbourne or elsewhere. Remember, in high-risk areas, leaving early the safest option.

Neighbourhood Safer Places—Places of Last Resort should not be your 'go-to' place when you decide to enact your fire plan. These places are a 'last resort' option when all your plans have failed.

They are not staffed, may not have electricity or other services, and there is no guarantee that the CFA or other agencies will be able to defend the building if it is threatened by fire.

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

If an emergency such as a bushfire occurs and you need to leave your home, Council will open an Emergency Relief Centre. This centre is located well away from the affected area and the location will be broadcast on radio, social media and online, www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Services available at emergency relief centres:
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 Information

A place to bring your pets (make sure you bring a leash or cage, food, water bowls and anything else they may need).

CODE RED FIRE DANGER DAYS

Garbage, recycling and green bins will not be collected on Code Red days. If your collection falls on one of these days, your bins will be collected the following day, or as soon as possible after the Code Red day—even on weekends.

In Woodend, Macedon and Mt Macedon all Council services and facilities will be closed on Code Red Fire danger days.

For more information about Code Red Fire danger days and fire ready information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/fire-ready

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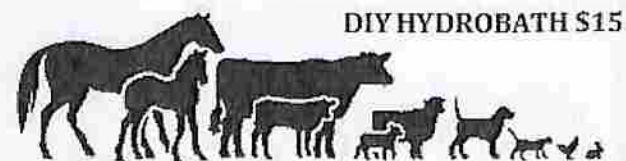
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2016 - February, April, June, August, October, December
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REGULAR EVENTS

St. Mary's Drop-In: First Thursday of each month,
10:00 a.m. Mass - Romsey Church - all welcome.

10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - St. Mary's Church Hall,
Romsey. All welcome to come for a game of cards/chat
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SACRAMENTS

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Now is the perfect time to join the Romsey Toy Library! Come down to one of our open sessions and let the kids have a play. Choose a few toys to take home, then bring them back and swap them for something new!

Did you know we have a brand new jumping castle available for hire?

We also have a brand new balance bike along with oodles and oodles of other fun toys.


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As of February 3rd we will be open: Wednesday 3:30 - 4:30pm, Thursday 11:00am - 12:00pm, Saturday 10:00 - 11:00am

For more information, please contact Jodie on 0419 588 162 or romseytoylibrary@gmail.com

Romsey Medical



Lancefield Medical

LANCEFIELD MEDICAL CENTRE

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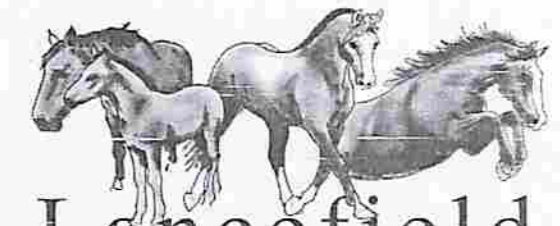
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Romsey Medical Centre
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Phone: 5429 5254

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LANCEFIELD GOLF CLUB REPORT

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR OF FRIENDLY, COMPETITIVE GOLF

Happy New Year to all our happy golfers at Lancefield Golf Club. We hope everyone is recovering from the holiday festivities and getting themselves in shape for another great year of friendly, competitive golf.

We have been blessed with 2 episodes of drenching rain over the New Year period and as a result the course is looking in particularly good shape for this time of the year. Our greens and their surrounds are in wonderful condition due in part to the on-going hard work of Brett Lockens, the advice we received from our 'sister' club of Yarra Yarra and the commitment from our new green keeper David Brown. Thank you to you all.

Our Christmas Raffle was once again a great success as a solid fund raiser for the club and the winners were: Whole Lamb-Jimmy Mathews, Hamper 1-Simon Dickie, Hamper 2-Vicki Smith. Congratulations to you all and thank you to all the members who were so generous with their donations.

The Ladies and Men's golf has not seen a slow down over the summer and even on the predicted 41 degree day there was a good turn up of ladies who decide to beat the heat by playing 9 holes at 8.00 am. This month's Monthly Medal winners were Florence Meyer and Dennis Linehan both with a net score of 69. Well done to you both. The bar has been set and now it is up to all competitors to 'up the ante'!

There are two important events coming up at the club over the next few weeks and we hope for good turn outs at both. On Friday February 26th there will be a social night at the clubrooms where our own Jodie Kefford will be entertaining us with his wonderful voice as he sings all the songs we know and love. The food on the night will be Pasta, Pizza and Pastries and the cost is a mere \$25 a head. Please phone Carole on 54291206 to book a table.

On Sunday March 6th the club will be hosting the annual Lancefield 1000 Golf Challenge. This is a 4 person Stableford event and there will be prizes for the best men's

team and the best mixed team on the day. Contact Glen Cook (0413 700 6280413 700 628) to book in your team for a great day of golf. The prize is \$500 to each winning team and we would like to thank our sponsors Lancefield Hotel, Frontier Garden Supplies and Oscar Electrics for their on-going financial support of this event.

The committee here at Lancefield is once again all geared up to provide our members with another year of solid competition and fun social gatherings. We are committed to increasing and improving the facilities here at the club and the support of our members is always much needed and greatly appreciated.

It's hard to believe that we are already into February when it only seems like yesterday we were busy buying Christmas presents. With that in mind we hope all our members and visitors alike are ready for another great year here in the country at one of Victoria's best kept secrets, The Lancefield Golf Club. Happy golfing!!

A NEW APPROACH IN REAL ESTATE

Local residents and Company Directors of Central Ranges Real Estate, Colin Smith and Helen Milner, have embraced technology and enhanced marketing initiatives in a contemporary way of looking at real estate and are excited to announce the launch of their new business.

Their business venture aims to offer the local community 'value for money options' when selling their properties. Marketing options include; the use of the latest in image and drone technology, home staging advice, virtual tours, listings on major real estate portals and property signage, complimented by good old fashioned customer service.

Vendors who list exclusively with Central Ranges Real Estate, are offered a combination of marketing options to sell their property at 'no cost' before or after the sale of a property. Central Ranges Real Estate also provides well-priced services, options and advice to property owners who are considering selling their own property.

Those thinking of selling or seeking some friendly advice, can contact Helen or Colin at Central Ranges Real Estate on 1300 979772 for a no obligation chat or alternately email info@centralrangesrealestate.com.au.



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Oil painting "Wu Lin Retreat" by Shou Mei Sumarac



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VIC 3435

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Mob: 0417 350 398

Email: james@jamesumarac.com

COMING EVENTS

WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND LANCEFIELD

Compiled by Fay Woodhouse

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday 07	8.00 am	Mass, St Mary's Lancefield	Friday 12	5.30 pm	Macedon Ranges Arts & Culture launch, Kyneton Town Hall
Monday 08	8.00 pm	Deep Creek Landcare, Lancefield Mechanics Institute Annexe	Saturday 13	8.00 pm	Peter Weir's, Picnic at Hanging Rock, Valentines Day Hanging Rock
Tuesday 09		Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Tuesday Christ Church Lancefield	Monday 15		The Mount Players Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 10	9.00 am	Ash Wednesday, Christ Church, Lancefield	Friday 26	8.00 pm	Jay Presson Allen's, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, The Mount Players
Thursday 11		St Mary's Church, Monthly Drop-In	Saturday 27	9.-1.pm	Lancefield Farmer's Market
			Saturday 27	10.-4.pm	Sustainable Gardening Expo, Woodend Community Garden



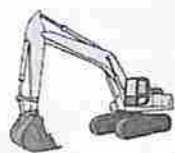
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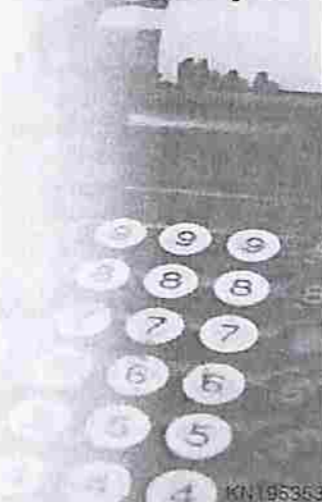
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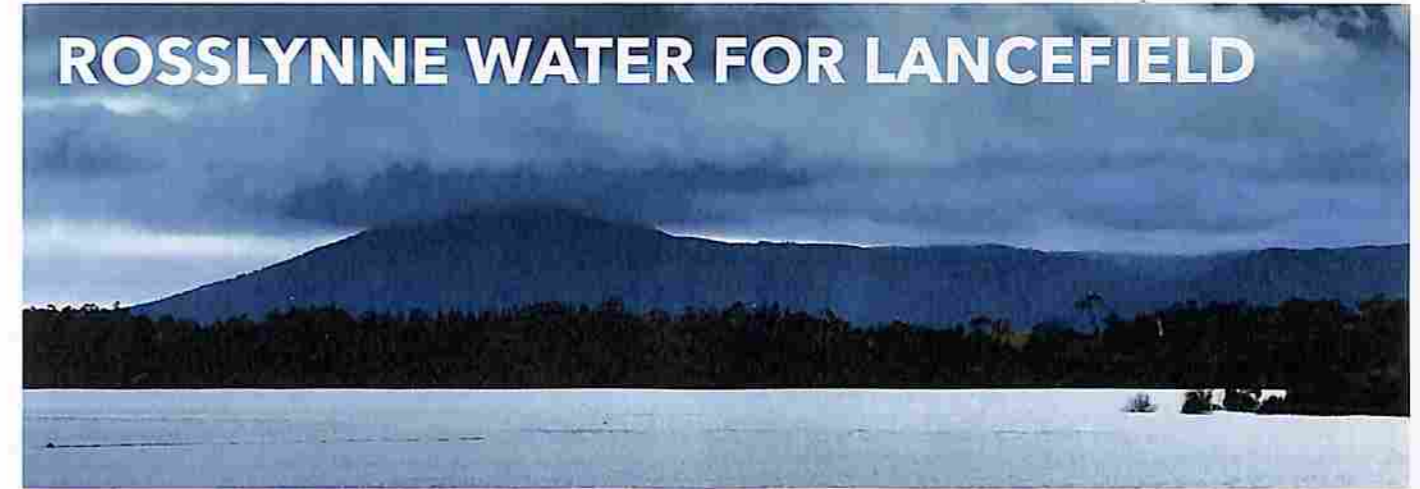
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ROSSLYNNE WATER FOR LANCEFIELD



Rosslynne water topping up town's supply system

Drinking water supplies for Western Water customers in Lancefield and Romsey are now being supplemented with water from the Rosslynne supply system due to low levels in local reservoirs.

"Our system inter-connections make us well-placed to cope during periods of high demand," Western Water's Acting General Manager, Customer and Community Relations, Nicole Laurie, says.

"We are able to move water between reservoirs as needed, and if necessary draw on water from the Melbourne system to supply our region."

Until recently, Romsey and Lancefield have been supplied from smaller local reservoirs, supplemented with a small

proportion of bore water.

Unlike local water sources, Rosslynne water is fluoridated in line with Department of Health and Human Services requirements.

Customers who have any questions about water fluoridation can call the department's Water Fluoride Information Line on 1800 651 723, visit www.health.vic.gov.au or speak with their dentist or doctor.

Customers may also notice a change in the taste of their water, as water from different sources has different characteristics.

"As always, we are encouraging customers to be careful with their water use and not waste this precious resource," Ms Laurie says.



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Oscar, Matilda and Patrick at the Lemonade stand

MARKET STALL FUN

The Lancefield Primary School has been running a market stall for a couple of years now. We sell hand baked goods made by parents and students as well as goods that are grown in the school's vegetable patch. All the money raised goes towards our reading, literacy and mathematics programs.

The expected high temperatures won't deter us. This February we will be running a lemonade stall. We also encourage our instrumental music program students to busk for the market, giving them valuable performance experience.



Chloe and Clair staff the market stall



Mirabel and Olivia on woodwind instruments