

## Lancefield Kindergarten News

# Big Thank you



### Thank you Bendigo Bank.

Lancefield Kindergarten would like to thank the Lancefield/Romsey Bendigo Bank Community Branch for its continued funding support. The 2012 grant received from the branch was put towards the purchase of some fabulous outdoor blinds.

These weather proof blinds, as pictured with James and Leanne from the Bendigo Bank, have created a fabulous outdoor space for the teachers and children to use when the weather is not always outdoor friendly. The children are able to receive much needed fresh air without

getting wet or blown away and it has created another space for the teachers to utilise no matter what the weather. This is particularly useful with Lancefield's chilly winters.

Last year the kindergarten also chose to move all its banking to the Bendigo Bank and we are receiving terrific interest on our Term Deposit. This interest alone is enabling the committee to fund more than one excursion a year for the students.

Thank you to James and the team, we look forward to future dealings with our local Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank.

### Earn and Learn Promotion

The Woolworths Earn and Learn Program is back and we are participating. The promotion runs until Sunday 9 June. When you shop at Woolworths, you can collect points. At the end of the promotional period the points will enable us to purchase new educational resources for use by the children. If you shop at Woolworths and would like to help us by donating some points stickers, we would very much appreciate it. You can drop them off in our letterbox outside the Kindergarten at 16 Dunsford Street.

## Applications Opening For Community Grants, Sporting Clubs & Event Sponsorships

The Lancefield and Romsey Community Bank's annual call for grants and sponsorships for 2013/14 will commence soon. Up to \$25,000 for grants

All Lancefield and Romsey community groups are eligible. Application forms will be emailed on 1st July. Due in Friday 16th August, 2013 For more information please contact Emily Blades - email or 0405 125 156.

### Free Information Evening

To help you with your applications:  
Wednesday 17th July at 7pm - 8.30pm  
Romsey Community Hub, Main St Romsey.  
Please RSVP to Emily [emilyblades@bigpond.com](mailto:emilyblades@bigpond.com)  
Or at your local branch in Romsey or Lancefield.

## Do you have an advertisement in the Lancefield Mercury?

Can you help our volunteer treasurer and check whether you are up to date with your payments? Not sure? Please get in touch with treasurer@lancefieldmercury.org.au



## Deep Creek Landcare Group

Covering Lancefield – Romsey Districts  
Meets second Monday Lancefield Hall 8:00pm. All welcome  
Contacts : Robin 0428 315 846.  
Jayne 0433 251 164  
Website : www.deepcreeklandcare.org.au

### Update:

In the late hours of Monday night, the 20th of May, the Lancefield Park Committee agreed upon locating the skate park within its grounds.

The Lancefield Neighborhood House will have a copy of the Skate Park proposal available for people to view. The Skate Park Committee would like to thank the Park Committee for their support and allowing the young people of Lancefield a place to locate their long awaited skate park.

For further information visit the Neighborhood House.

## ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, ROMSEY ST PAUL'S OP SHOP

will now be open three days a week at the following times  
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Saturday 10-00 AM –1 PM

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Goods may be left at the rear of the op shop  
Contact Glenice Mitchell 54 296418

## Lancefield Mercury Inc.

A0045845D

Items for publication should be sent to editor@lancefieldmercury.org.au"

Advertising should be sent to advertising@lancefieldmercury.org.au

All articles should reach The Mercury by the fifteenth of the month to be sure of inclusion.

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

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee.

### Advertising Rates:

Full page \$140 ½ page \$80  
¼ page \$40 Business card \$30

Editorial Enquiries to Andy Moore 0430 448 120

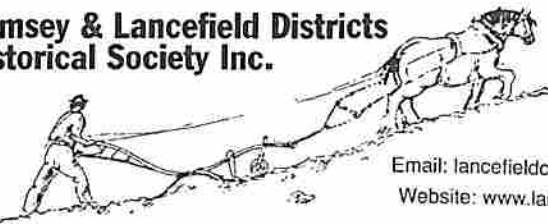
Advertising Enquiries to Kellie Wilson 0438 501 258



www.lancefieldmercury.org.au

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 editor@lancefieldmercury.org.au? Thank you.

## Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society Inc.



Email: lancefieldcourthouse@gmail.com  
Website: www.lancefieldcourthouse.org

We were disappointed not to receive any help with our request for a photo of the Milk Bar if anyone has any please get in contact with us.

Over the next few months we will be having a membership drive. There are always tasks to be done here at the courthouse and every hour put in is of a great help. For as little as \$20 membership you can help preserve today's history for tomorrow, when people will be looking for their yesterdays.

The Courthouse is run by volunteers who work on family research, the history of organizations, houses and businesses that have existed in the old Romsey Shire.

In 2014 the Red Cross will celebrate 100 years in Australia, there were many small branches in Romsey Shire. We have a small file on this subject. If anyone has any information they would be willing to share it would be much appreciated.

We had a visit last week from Noelene Allen the author of the book "Ellen" the story of Ellen Kelly, mother of Ned Kelly. Noelene is now researching the history of Constable Alexander Fitzpatrick who was stationed in Lancefield in 1880. Senior Constable Mayes had Fitzpatrick dismissed from the force. Supporters of Fitzpatrick petitioned to have him reinstated to his former position but to no avail.

Seymour Cottage has now had the water tank installed and we are now hoping to fundraise to get the pump needed to connect it to the toilets to reduce our water usage. We have been told there were several families that lived in Seymour Cottage after the Seymour family until Mrs Allen donated it to us. If you have any information on the names or dates that any of these family lived there please email Sheryl Willett at seymourcottage@gmail.com or ring on 0419 597 947.

On Sunday the 3rd of November we will be having a reunion and get together to install the heritage Victoria plate at Seymour cottage. We are hoping to have descendants of Sidney and Elizabeth Seymour and also the other families that lived in the cottage there on the day.

At the moment we are updating the History of the cottage and its turning into a really interesting journey.

Any further information please contact Shirley 0402 248 540 or Sheryl 0419 597 947 or Robyn 0418 172

## Romsey & Lancefield Probus Club

President: Mr. John Seamons  
5429 3804  
Secretary: Mrs. Jeni Clampit  
5429 5480

## Probus: a mixed club for men and women

Probus Meetings are held at St. Mary's Hall, Main Street, Romsey at 10am on the fourth Thursday in each month.

Probus is a mixed club for men and women

There is a guest speaker at each meeting.

We have an outing on the third Wednesday of the month. (Either a trip or luncheon)

- Friday Morning Coffee
- Musical Afternoons each month.
- Ten Pin Bowling each fortnight.

Persons interested in this club and wish to have more information please contact the

President or Secretary at the above phone numbers.

Members will be visiting the TAA Museum on Wednesday 19th June, 2013.

Our June meeting will be on Thursday 27th June, 2013.

Romsey & Lancefield Probus Club now have a website as follows: rlprobus.org.au

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**Lancefield Primary School**

**The Lancefield Book Swap**

As part of Education Week we held a BOOK SWAP in the library. Last year was our first year and very successful so we decided to follow it up again this year with even greater success. Many students and parents participated. It is a great way to keep great books circulating in our community.

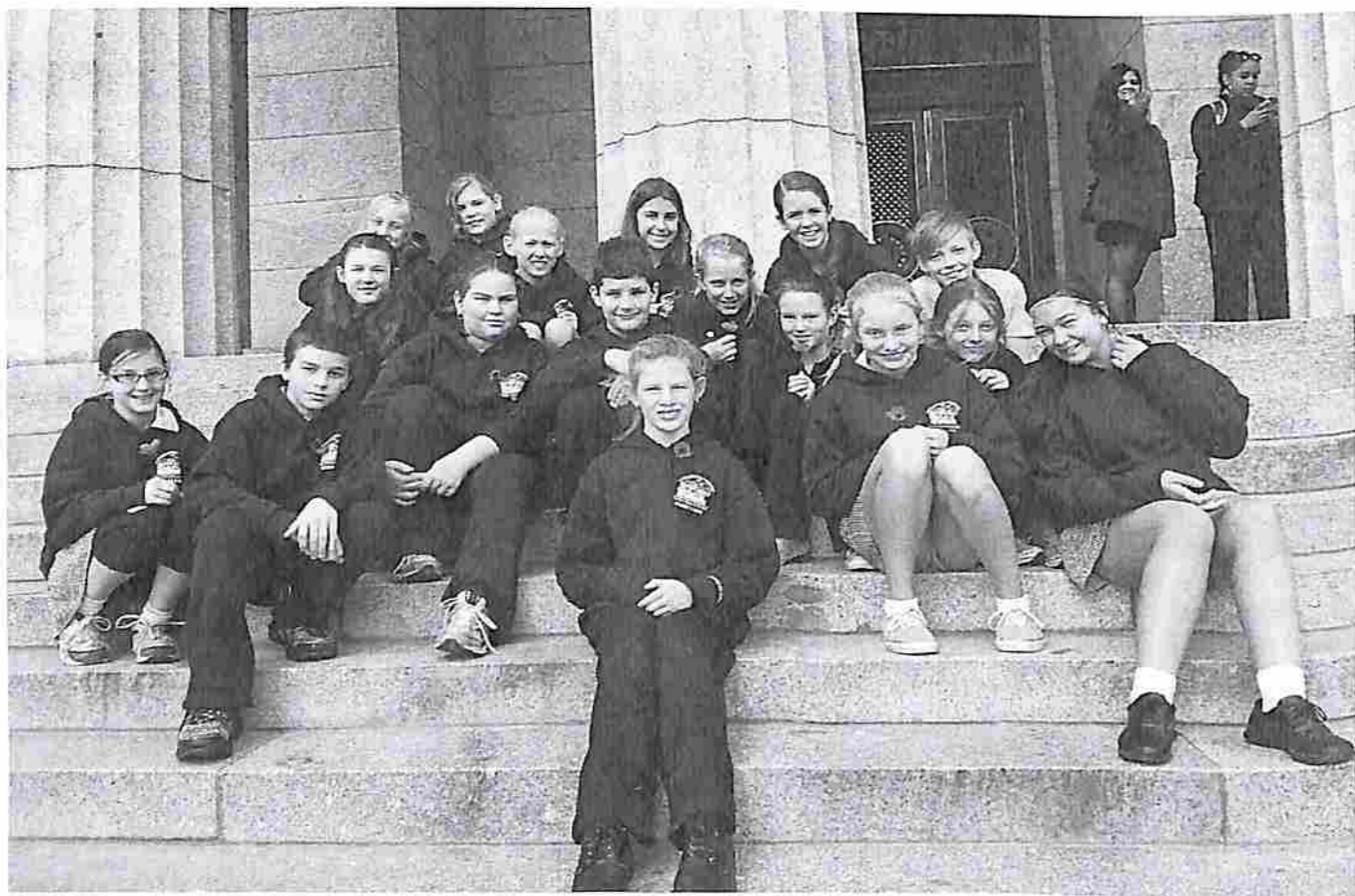
**Hanging Rock Cross Country**

Recently we had 20 students participate in the Cobaw District Cross Country. Congratulations to all of our students for an outstanding effort.

Year 6 excursion to the Shrine of Remembrance, the Anne Frank Exhibition at the Holocaust museum and the Botanic Gardens.

This term our senior students are studying the theme Heroes. As part of the theme the students went on an excursion to the Shrine of Remembrance and the Anne Frank Exhibition at the Holocaust museum.

The students were lucky enough to meet a survivor from Auschwitz Concentration Camp who spoke to them about her experiences. The



students felt very privileged to hear her story.

**ANZAC Day**

This year we had many students and parents from Lancefield Primary School attend the ANZAC Day ceremony. It was wonderful to see that the ceremony was so well attended by the local schools and community groups.

**Volleyball with St.Mary's**

Recently our senior students invited

St.Mary's for a day of volleyball drills and a friendly competition to complete the day. It was great to see the students from both schools working together and having so much fun.

**Tours and Enrolments for 2013**

For parents interested in enrolling their children for 2013 please ring the school on 54 292307 to arrange a tour with the Principal - Diana Ellis

**Nominations Now Open for National Disability Awards**

Federal Member for McEwen, Rob Mitchell MP has called on the community to nominate local residents and organisations for the National Disability Awards.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to highlight and reward the great work that I know many individuals and groups in our community do to improve the lives of people with disability," Mr Mitchell said.

"I encourage people to get their nominations in so the critical work that many in our community do is recognised."

The seventh annual National Disability Awards will help to build awareness of disability issues and recognise the important role that people with disability play in local communities, Australia wide and internationally.

"The call for nominations comes at an important time for the disability sector, with the launch of DisabilityCare Australia, the national disability insurance scheme, from July this year," Mr Mitchell said.

"During the launch phase DisabilityCare Australia will give around 26,000 people with disability increased choice and control over the care and support they receive."

Nominations for the National Disability Awards are open until 21 June 2013 with award recipients being announced at a gala dinner in Canberra on 26 November.

To nominate for the National Disability Awards visit [www.idpwd.com.au](http://www.idpwd.com.au) or call 1800 440 365



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# C.W.A Spring Show Dates Confirmed

We are pleased to announce this year the Spring Show will be held on the 13th & 14th of September.

As with every year, there is bound to be a category to suit everyone from the little ones with their cooking and flower displays, right through to the Over 80's section. Why not use this chilly weather to start planning your entries.

Throughout the year the C.W.A ladies study a country of interest. Last year we studied Cambodia, this year our country of interest is New Zealand. It was with this in mind that we came up with the recipe of the month.

According to "Ladies A Plate, the collection", these Spice Crisps, have been modelled on a New Zealand biscuit Griffin's Gingernut. The Griffin's Gingernut is famous in New Zealand because Sir Edmund Hillary is said to have taken packets on his

climbing and aid expeditions to the Everest region of the Himalayas.

After sampling them at our meeting, we can understand why Mr Hillary might have done so. We thought they were so delicious we'd share the recipe.

## Spice Crisps

Ingredients: 170g butter, 1 cup sugar, 1 tsp vanilla essence, 1 egg, ¼ cup treacle, 2 ¼ cups plain flour, 2 tsp baking soda, ½ tsp salt, 1 tsp cinnamon, ¾ tsp ground ginger, ½ tsp ground cloves, 1 cup extra sugar (for coating the biscuits).

Method: 1. Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy, add the vanilla, egg and treacle and beat well. 2. Add the sifted dry ingredients and mix until a smooth dough is formed. 3. Scrape the dough into a small bowl, cover with

a plate and refrigerate for at least an hour to firm it up. 4. Preheat the oven to 190°C and line two baking trays with baking paper, or butter them lightly. 5. Put the extra sugar in a shallow plate. 6. Take teaspoonful's of the dough and set them out on the bench. Once the dough is all divided up, roll each spoonful into a ball and then roll them in the sugar before placing them in rows on the baking trays. Don't flatten them at all - they'll do that themselves in the oven. 7. Bake for 8-10 minutes. When done, the biscuits will have spread and cracked, and they will smell cooked and delicious. Don't let them brown too much. 8. Transfer the baking paper and biscuits to a cooling rack and leave until they are cold and store airtight. Makes 48

Recipe Source: \* Ladies, A Plate by Alexa Johnston - can be purchased at Red Door Books

## DEEP CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

Covering Lancefield - Romsey Districts

### News from Deep Creek Landcare Group

We wish to thank Melbourne Water for \$974.60 grant toward administration costs.

Bendigo Bank for \$2000 grant to host community presentations which commenced with the Importance of the honey bee presentation on 23/4/13- a very interesting talk was given by local apiarist Jim Sansom with attendees taking home a sample of honey.

On Friday 19th July there will be a presentation on monotremes - platypus and echidnas at the Romsey Primary School in the library. 6.30pm - 9.30pm followed by a light supper.

Friday 30th August there will be a presentation on Indigenous food and fibre at the Romsey Primary School in the library 6pm - 9.00pm followed by a light supper.

More details to follow at a later date.

World Environment Day is Wednesday 5th June 2013.

Melbourne Water in conjunction with Cesar has set up a website platypuspot.org where you can report sighting and see where others have sighted platypus.

National Tree Day is Sunday 28th July 2013. there will be a planting at Sheehan's Crossing 10.00am to 2.00pm.

## ANZAC Spirit Award"

The Romsey/Lancefield RSL Sub Branch wish to advise the annual "ANZAC Spirit Award" 2013 is open to any resident or organisation in Lancefield and Romsey to nominate a local adult, youth, child or community group who have carried out a voluntary deed with exceptional commitment, unselfishly and with great enthusiasm to the benefit of any section of the local community.

The Award is generously donated by former secretary Wayne Smith and consists of an impressive 20cm high bronze statue.

The winner will receive a Commemorative Medal and a cheque for \$150 donated by Mr Smith. All nominees will receive a Certificate of Achievement from the RSL.

Nomination forms will be distributed throughout the community and are available from secretary Hilary Simpson - phone 0400 833 426.

Nominations close on Monday July 8th. Award night will be on Tuesday July 16th at 7pm in the Romsey Hub.



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## Lancefield Neighbourhood House

78 High Street, PO Box 171 Lancefield 3435  
Phone: 5429 1214 Fax: 5429 2337

Email: lancefieldhouse@tpg.com.au Web: www.macedoncommunity.org

Things are really abuzz around the Neighbourhood House with work on our new Forward Plan happening and with some exciting new projects being discussed after having attended the Neighbourhood House conference in Ballarat.

I also went to a very inspiring community development day in Melbourne in early May – thank you to Sue Birch from the Shire for organising this also.

Op Shop funds – we have now sent seventeen young drivers to the advanced driving course and have had some really positive feedback about what they learnt. Any young person who has recently got their drivers licence and has their own car is eligible to apply to do the course. Phone the House for details.

The Op Shop has just purchased its ninth defibrillator for the town,

this last one will be housed at The Town House and will be available to be borrowed for large events. We hope that we never have to use any of them but they can save the life of a person having a heart attack and to have them located around the town is a great safe guard.

You don't need to be trained to use one – the machine will talk you through what to do, but please call us if you would like to attend a future training session. Also please phone the House if you would like a map of where they are located.

The Op Shop organised a CFA thank you day for the local CFA volunteers and their families. With jumping castles, (for big people too), entertainment, pizza and games, we hope that Sunday 26 May will be great fun for all who attend. As I write this in mid May I hope it is not

a freezing wet day as this is, but we did plan a wet weather alternative.

The Op Shop profits continue to support the community of Lancefield and again we must thank everyone who brings donations and the wonderful group of volunteers who run the shop.

Community Gym – we have applied for funding through the Community Funding Scheme to have someone undertake the research on if, how and where we could set up a gym – fingers crossed!

Boxing classes are still running on Monday nights to raise funds for the gym. We now have a great group of young people attending the early session to really focus on technique and the main class starts at 6.15 pm and is a great way to improve your overall fitness and strength – it's never too late to start.

The Town House – we want the Town House to be a place where people who live in Lancefield (and visitors) can go to find out what is available in the town. We also want

it to be a place where people can leave their ideas and suggestions and let us know of the skills they may have to contribute to the community.

Please drop in and add your thoughts to our wall of 'big ideas' for Lancefield.

New Ideas – there are some amazing projects that small communities undertake around the world. Please get in touch with Vivien at the House if you are interested in pursuing any of these ideas; herb and vegetable planters around the town; a progressive street party or Street by Street – a neighbour support service.

We would also love to hear from anyone who is interested in renovating the front of the pool, would like to join a group to work on having a Lancefield web page created or would like to help set up a community Facebook page.

There are actually too many things to write about here. Please give us a call on 5429 1214, drop

in to 78 High Street or The Town House (next to the Op Shop) or email us at lancefieldhouse@tpg.com.au if you would like to help with any projects or would like to discuss your big idea for the town

Change of Mood to focus on Wellness at Neighbourhood House this Winter

There is a shift in mood at Lancefield Neighbourhood House as more and more opportunities to focus on wellness arise, with topics including naturopathy, .... And increasing intimacy in relationships.

Vivien Philpotts, Co-ordinator of the Neighbourhood House said: "When you get three people in the space of two weeks offering to provide workshops or events on wellness, then you have to think, maybe its time for us all to reflect on our health and go with that".

It's been said that "the currency of wellness is connection" and what better way increase wellness by increasing the intimacy in our

lives? Not just romantic intimacy (although that can be a happy effect) but really getting to know our friends, family members and people in the community so that we feel a meaningful connection to those around us.

Shannon Brown is a counselor and psychotherapist specializing in relationships and sexuality and will be running a workshop in July on increasing intimacy in relationships. She says: "People are happiest when they feel well known, understood and valued by the people in their lives. That can happen best when we share intimate connections with others." The workshop will include skills and techniques for ways to increase intimacy in existing relationships.

Contact the Neighbourhood House for more information about upcoming events, on 5429 1214 or contact Shannon Brown for more information on the Increasing Intimacy in Relationships workshop on 0407 131 252.

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Photograph by J. Duncan, Shop 14/9 Goode St, Gisborne

## Macedon Ranges Farmers' Markets in June

Sat 1st June - Woodend Community Farmers' Market

Sat 8th June - Kyneton Farmers' Market

Sat 13th June - Riddells Creek Farmers' Market

Sat 22nd June - Lancefield & District Farmers' Market

All local farmers' markets continue through the winter in the Macedon Ranges - much tasty produce is exceptionally good from the region at this time including...

Root vegetables from; Somerset Heritage Produce (Seymour), Sandor's Harvest (Kooweinguboorra), Spring Creek Organics (Navigator), Peelman Produce (Bacchus Marsh), Lorenzo Perito (Lancefield) & Shellsley Farm (Kerrie).

Brassicas like brussels sprouts, cabbages & kale are all supposedly

sweeter in flavour after a good frost - these are all grow well in our climate so get on down to one or all of the markets for the tastiest seasonal local produce around.

### Woodend Community Farmers' Market

Cooking demonstration with a local producer TBA. Starting at 10:30am

Home produce exchange - bring your excess produce & trade with others on the day at the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group marquee.

### Kyneton Farmers' Market

The Kyneton Farmers' Market continues to expand with market organisers happy to see the upper level (where the Makers Market

was) almost full of authentic farmers' market producers & community stands. The Makers Market is now located in the church adjacent to the market & includes many quality craft items that are produced locally.

Home produce exchange by the Kyneton Transition Hub up near the church. Bring your excess produce to exchange on the day.

### Riddells Creek Farmers' Market

Anita from Thermomix will be demonstrating in the kitchen showing you simple ways to use your farmers' market produce with the 'Thermomix' machine that is all the rage at the moment - it chops, stirs, beats, cooks, steams & more! Come and see what the fuss is all

about with the world's smallest kitchen in one appliance.

### Lancefield & District Farmers' Market

Laima Paine from Olive Branch Preserves will be in the kitchen using seasonal local produce in one, maybe two dishes that she would like to share with you. Starting at 10:30am.

All markets have free facepainting for the kids, dogs welcome on a leash & live music. Please bring your bags, baskets & trolleys.

Check out the new Macedon Ranges Community Exchange information stand at any of these markets. A local trading place with our own local currency has been established & is waiting for you to join! Check it out at \* www.mrce.net.au \*

Meggs Hannes

## Help celebrate 25 years of the Kyneton Community & Learning Centre

During our 25th Anniversary year we invite you to join us for our celebrations and events throughout 2013

### Creative Arts Competition

This district is a special place for you, your family and the community.

Create a visual or written art work in the theme of 'Why do I love where I live?'

### Generous cash and other prizes.

Competition categories: over 18 years, 13 to 18 years, and 12 years and under. All entries will be exhibited at the Open Day with prize winners announced on the day. Entries due 7 & 8 June. For details and entry forms go to www.kynetonclc.org.au or pick

up from the Centre. Phone: (03) 5422 3433 www.kynetonclc.org.au

Open Day June 16 from 11am—3pm come along and find out what is happening at the centre See the creative Arts Competition exhibits and the announcement of prize winners

### Sunday Afternoon Lectures

Join Dr Christopher Snedden, an internationally recognised politico-strategic analyst, author, and thought leader on South Asia, for Sunday afternoons at KC&LC and develop your understanding of Afghanistan, 26th May, Pakistan 21st July and India 18th August 3.00 pm start, Tickets \$10 at the door



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## Vanessa's garden

### Winter Flowering Plants

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Salvias are a great choice for winter colour in the garden. They are a prolific and successful plant family with over 900 varieties which are adapted to a wide range of climate conditions. Salvias can be grown as an annual or perennial and they come in sizes ranging from small, compact bushes to large shrub varieties. They are easy to grow, will thrive in the dry AND cope with heavy rain.

When flowering they typically throw up spikes which can vary from blue and purple tones through to white and orange; and while most put on their best show from spring to late autumn, there are important winter flowering varieties too.

Winter-Flowering Salvias  
Winter salvias originally came from the cool mountainous regions of Central and South America and they start coming alive in autumn, ready to flower in winter and early spring.

These winter-flowering salvias can form quite large shrubs but this means they easily fill any gaps in your borders, providing interesting contrast when summer plants die down for winter or lose their leaves. Then as other plants start to fill out



in spring, the winter salvias can be cut back.

One interesting winter salvia is fruit-scented sage (*salvia dorisiana*) which has bright pink flowers and a fruity scent. It grows to between 1.5m and 2m in height and copes with sun or shade. Another winter possibility is *salvia madrensis*, which is unscented but has masses of yellow flowers on long spikes. Where to plant Salvias  
These versatile plants can be used in a number of situations and

combinations. Single larger plants look striking in borders or you can use some of the smaller ones to edge borders and paths where they will act as living mulch. Many of these smaller salvias have the additional bonus of scented leaves, which gently release their scent as you brush past.

True sage, garden sage, meadow sage and common sage

These are all names for *salvia officinalis*, my favourite, and the one I call 'official' sage. This edible and medicinal herb is a must for any

garden.

Sage has been respected wherever it grows as a native species. The ancient Mediterranean civilisations as well as the Native Americans, are well documented as having regarded sage as an essential culinary and magical/medicinal herb. In fact the word *salvia* derives from the Latin *salvare*, which means to heal or to save and a recipe for sage pancakes has been traced to the 5th century B.C.

Over the centuries sage has accrued an impressive résumé including the reported ability to help conception, treat the plague, protect against witchcraft and spells, enhance memory and bestow immortality. Sounds like a classic example of an inflated résumé to me!

Nevertheless, just as many myths and legends have some distant historical basis, the praise for sage is not entirely unfounded. Sage contains phytosterols which are said to have a cooling action. In one study, using an infusion of the leaf reportedly reduced excessive

perspiration by as much as half.

These properties may also make it useful for treating colds. Sage can help to dry up phlegm, and medical herbalists sometimes advise gargling with a sage tea to assist in the treatment of coughs and tonsil or throat infections. Supporting this usage is the fact that the essential oil extracted from sage contains alpha and beta-thujone, camphor, and cineole, which are antioxidant and antimicrobial.

For safety, any medicinal use of sage should be undertaken under the guidance of a qualified medical herbalist and as a complement to mainstream medical treatment.

#### Thumbs Up

Versatile, tough and good to look at – salvias get a thumbs up from me as a plant for all gardens.

Salvias are easy to grow from cuttings, which makes them ideal for the beginner gardener too and because of the ease of propagation you'll often find them for sale at plant stalls and in nurseries.

Vanessa

[www.growinggranite.com](http://www.growinggranite.com)

## Creative Arts Competition

The Kyneton Community & Learning Centre is celebrating 25 years in the community.

This district is a special place for you, your family and the community. We invite you to celebrate with us by creating a visual or written art work on the theme of 'Why do I love where I live?'.

Generous cash and other prizes will be given to outstanding entries in three age categories: 12 years and under; 13 to 18 years; over 18 years. All entries will be exhibited at the KC&LC's Open Day on Sunday 16 June with winners announced on the day.

Guidelines and an Entry Form are available at [www.kynetonclc.org.au](http://www.kynetonclc.org.au) or pick them up at the Centre, 34 Mollison Street, Kyneton.

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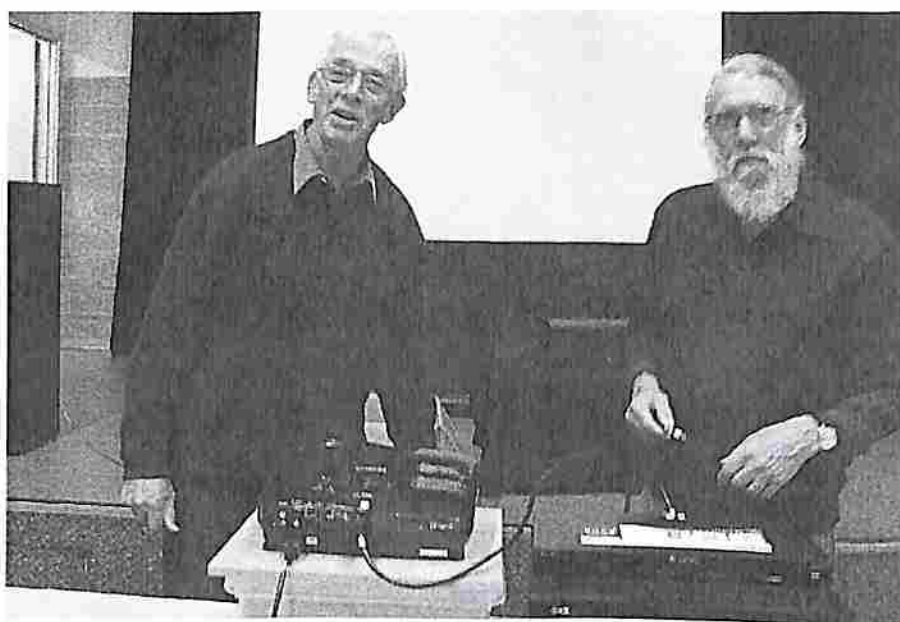
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## No Tears For Film Society

The screening of entertaining films continues for the Macedon Ranges Film Society. In the May meeting of the Society, members were treated to director Neil Jordan's much-acclaimed film, *The Crying Game*. This psychological thriller/drama explores many themes including nationality, race and sexuality. The film centres around IRA member, Fergus (Stephen Rea). When ordered to keep watch over prisoner Jody, a British soldier (Forest Whitaker), Fergus is surprised to find himself experiencing sympathy for Jody. After Jody's death, Fergus carries out a promise to get in touch with the soldier's girlfriend. The making of this film was fraught with difficulty. Raising money was a constant problem and studios ignored the film saying the twist in the plot would deter audiences. When Miramax finally decided to show it in the United States, quite



the opposite turned out to be the case. Audiences in fact, because of the twist in the plot, flocked to see the film.

In June, members will view a film of an entirely different genre. *Nosferatu*, released in 1922, is an unauthorised adaptation of

Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. Names and other details for the film had to be changed because the studio could not obtain the rights to the novel.

Count Dracula, for instance, became Count Orlok and Nosferatu was the name given to the vampire. A court ruling ordered that all copies of the film be destroyed when Stoker's heirs sued over the adaptation.

Luckily for the world and MRFSS, however, one print of *Nosferatu* survived and this will be screened on Wednesday, June 12th.

The Macedon Ranges Film Society meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Woodend Community Centre. Film notes are supplied and for those who wish, there is discussion following the screening, with supper kindly supplied by members.

Email [mrfilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mrfilmsociety@gmail.com) or call Lorraine on 5427 0921 or Vicki on 5427 2323. *Christine Caley.*

## Weather Comment 15-5-13

When I wrote the weather comment last month I was writing mostly optimistic remarks which proved, at that stage, to be wrong. However during the last few days we have seen a change in the weather with a small amount of rain and chilly winds. The rain, although light, has restored my optimism a little bit. The last three days we have measured 19-5mm and since I last wrote 29-5mm and it is raining gently as I sit at my computer today. There was no doubt that the spell of pleasant weather was easy to live with but the down side, particularly from a farming point of view was that pasture growth stopped and hand feeding became a necessary option. The stock are continuing to hold their condition so we should get through the winter reasonably well.

I have not been able to get to any stock markets but the reports in the rural press show that prices have fallen quite considerably and with large numbers coming on to the market and with the high Australian dollar and the closure of some markets this is unlikely to change for some time. The other side of the coin is that anyone in the unlikely position of having feed available it would be a good time to buy.

The garden is in shut down mode, Autumn leaves are very much in evidence and it will require some work with the rake and the barrow to get them to the compost bin. Carrots and silver beet is all that remains in the vegie plot.

*Robert Green*

### Tai Chi Classes

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# What Education . . . . ?

It is a pity that education is such a political football. Most parents strive to give their offspring a good education. Parents demand a right to education while others neglect their responsibilities.

Because of those parents, schooling is made mandatory. Children need equal opportunity but also direction, to grasp literacy, numeracy, history, geography, communication, personal competence and ethical behaviour.

Education is not just school-training. It is also about certain common standards of values, and children with stable parents are likely, to understand those values better. Teachers can't do all the education. It is the responsibility of

the parents.

Everybody in Lancefield, will receive the notices from our Neighbourhood House, "the heart of our community".

Apart from the activities in art and craft, it also offers training in all sort of things. Nothing is for nothing and education is no different. It costs not only time but also effort and of course money. Some parents are able to spend more on their children's training, than others. However, according to the education expert Ben Jensen, of the Grattan Institute: "The world best school systems, are rarely the expensive ones."

Schooling in Australia has been dismal. When I came to Melbourne in 1951, there were only a handful

of High schools. A few years later there was a brisk building program of schools, but no teachers to fill them. We haven't learned much from history. Now, it is called, the Building Education Revolution. This time it is building gym halls, canteens, libraries and meeting halls. But again a shortage of good teachers.

Mr. Peter Turner, director of Catholic schools said: "With good and dedicated teachers, one can even teach in a tent". Children can't face the future, if we don't make use of our experiences of the past.

Cicero, said: "Not to know what happened in former times, is to continue as a juvenile".

Nowadays, there is less and less teaching. The latest cop-

out is, "Personalized learning", "Agile learning" or "Self-directed learning", where children do their own thing. My eldest son experienced one of these, in the seventies, with very poor results.

It is now even argued, that in modern times, a scanner will do the reading, a computer will do the writing and a calculator will do the arithmetic, history we'll find at Wikepedy and geography we find at Google. So what are schools for? To promote low intelligence?

Some of to day's students do not respect adults and/or teachers. Because of that, teachers operate in a difficult world. Misbehaving sports-people are looked upon, as national heroes.

Hong Kong, Singapore and Korea have reformed their schooling, which ranked them, at the top in international assessment of literacy, numeracy and science, in a matter of 10 years.

It is not just their schools that check on literacy, numeracy, communication and personal competence, most Chinese parents teach their children these faculties, as well as ethical behavior, even respect for teachers. There is a difference between education and school-training.

Some successful people never fitted in schools. Richard Branson suffered from dyslexia, but it doesn't deter him from achieving his goals. I think we can be proud of our Victor Chang and Sir Arvi Parvo, neither of them, could even speak English, when they came to Australia.

The latter escaped the Russian occupation as a refugee, studied on a scholarship in Germany, migrated as a 20 year old to Australia, had to study again, for his Australian university degree and became head of Western Mining Co. Later chairman of BHP and several other

Australian companies.

And what about Lindsay Fox, who was told to leave Melbourne High School, because of his lack of interest in his school. These people had to re-educate themselves over and over again and learn the hard way.

To grade people as to whether they have been, at a good school or a bad school, is a no-no. Education is not "one size fits all", controlled by bureaucrats in Canberra.

Human beings are genetically endowed with the ability to learn by imitation. Not all children have the same ability and the teaching of children should be a priority duty of parents. However we must understand, that it requires both effort and humility. I believe we are not born, wise, rational and good. We have to be taught those things.

One is only as good as the things we ultimately do.

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The Watering Can is Western Water's new newsletter jam packed with great ideas about sustainable gardening in Lancefield.

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**Aged care services set to expand**

Kyneton District Health is set to introduce a wider range of services to elderly people in the community following the decision to close the Thomas Hogan Residential Aged Care facility.

The additional services will be aimed at keeping residents in their homes as long as possible, before they need to enter residential aged care. There will also be additional in-hospital services.

‘The most important people involved in this decision are the residents of Thomas Hogan and their families, and we will work closely with them to enable a smooth transition of residents to a new home and ensure every resident receives the best care possible,’ said KDH Chief Executive Officer Jennifer Gale.

‘This change is part of an Australia-wide trend for public hospitals to move away from operating nursing homes to instead providing a range of services available to all elderly members of the community.’

Ms Gale said while KDH had licences for 30 beds, there were only 15 residents at Thomas Hogan.

‘In recent years we have seen a steady decline in the number of residents,’ she said. ‘At the same time there has been a growth in the number of beds provided locally by both private and not-for-profit operators, to the point where there is really no need for us to provide a nursing home.’

‘We believe aged care is a service that we should provide to the whole community, and this will be a much better way for us to deliver that service.’

Ms Gale said additional services would be developed that aimed to keep elderly residents in their homes longer. ‘It is more rewarding for people to stay in their own homes, with appropriate support, for as long as possible, and we aim to ensure that is delivered in our region.’

The Thomas Hogan Centre is expected to cease operating by mid-2013. More information: Jennifer Gale, 5422 9920

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**Free heritage advice for residents**

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is encouraging residents and businesses to take advantage of its free heritage advisory service, which has a newly appointed Heritage Advisor.

‘If you own a building affected by heritage overlays, or are looking to make improvements to a heritage building, you can book an appointment with our heritage advisor for free, expert advice,’ said Rick Traficante, Council’s Manager of Planning and Development.

Mr Traficante said that Council’s new heritage advisor, Ivar Nelsen, is a professional architect and comes highly recommended:

‘Ivar Nelsen has been appointed to provide expert heritage advice

to Council and our community. He has been involved in heritage for over 40 years in nearly all states and territories across Australia,’ he said.

For 11 years Ivar was the Principal Heritage Architect for the Commonwealth’s Australian Construction Services, and for another 11 years he was the Manager of the Historic Buildings Section of the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment.

In 1995 he was awarded an Australia Day Medal for his conservation work at the Old Parliament House in Canberra.

Ivar is currently heritage advisor for Mansfield Shire Council, Alpine Shire Council and Surf

Coast Shire Council. He also runs his own heritage practice from Surrey Hills in Melbourne.

Council’s heritage advisory service is funded by Council and Heritage Victoria. Heritage Precinct Overlays currently apply in Kyneton, Romsey and Lancefield, and there are proposals to introduce overlays in Woodend and Riddells Creek.

Mr Traficante said that anyone can seek heritage advice from Council, regardless of whether they are affected by a heritage overlay.

Ivar Nelsen works from Council’s Gisborne office every Tuesday. To make a booking or discuss a heritage matter with him, call (03) 5421 9676.

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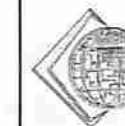
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Charles Swindoll calls it "verbal pollution" passed around by grumblers, complainers and criticisers. The poison of pessimism creates an atmosphere of negativism where nothing but the bad side of everything is emphasized.

A group of people became concerned about this form of pollution and their personal part in it. So they made a pact to avoid critical words for a whole week. They were surprised to find how little they spoke!

As they continued the experiment, they actually had to relearn conversation skills.

Many people go to University, take TAFE courses etc. to improve their knowledge and hence their

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These courses are often extremely costly, and require huge investments of time, and are not always convenient for family life. We at Encourage Church have discovered that we can ALL be re-educated and improve our lifestyles without the huge costs and investments of time.

God's word is full of encouragement for a new and better way of living. In order to implement this new life, we need to learn the Encouraging language of the Kingdom of God. The bible says . . . "Ephesians 4:29 (NLT)

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

This is not always instantaneous, but takes practice through the renewing of our minds. It can be done with God's help. And the

benefits are awesome!

Why don't you join us and help stamp out pollution in this wonderful Community that we live in?

Together with us, take the Challenge . . . clean up your Speech. Encourage Church ~

"Encouraging one another to be ALL that we can be in life and in God".

If you would like to know more about faith in God please contact the Encourage Church Office on 5429 6327. We would be happy to assist you in your search for the true meaning of Life.

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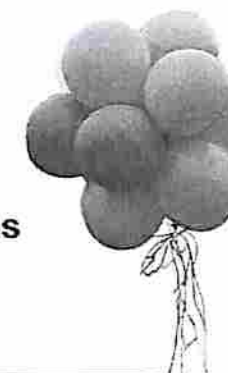


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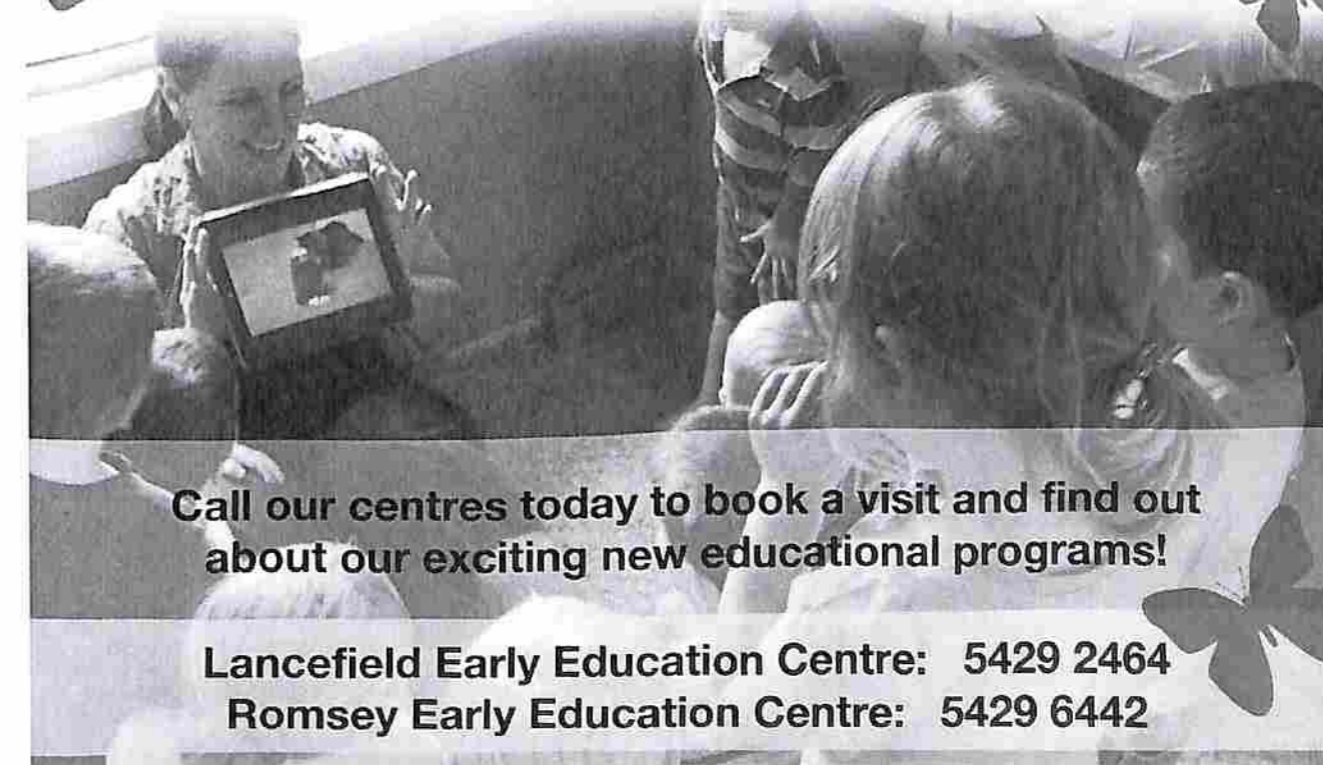
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Book Reviews

Children's Picture books:

This Is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen rrp \$24.95



Naughty fish shouldn't steal hats from bigger fish because you can swim but you can't hide...that's all that really needs to be said about this gorgeous Caldecott Medal winner. A happy ending (sort of) and a lesson well learnt!

Children's non-fiction:

Pirate Time by Ladybird Books rrp \$16.95



Can your children tell the time? If not, this book is for you (or, rather, them) Follow Toolbox Tom through his day and keep track of his movements

by setting the time with the clock inside the book! The instructions are clear and the pirate story helps to maintain focus on times of the day!

Young Adult Fiction:

The shock of the fall by Nathan Filer RRP \$29.99. Reviewed by Abbie Bennetts



The Shock of the Fall is written from the point of view of 19 year old Matthew Homes. He tells us of the struggles in his life since the death of his brother Simon, 10 years earlier. Battling against mental illness, we read about how he spends his days in the psychiatric ward and what drove him there. It is an engaging book, and took me on an emotional rollercoaster. It is written very well and the content of the novel is very realistic.

Adult fiction:

The Demonologist by Andrew Pyper rrp \$29.99



Professor David Ullman is renowned as a world expert on demonic literature – despite his disbelief in what he teaches. When offered a 2 day consultancy in Venice, his world is thrown upside down when his daughter disappears – and the voices of hell start taunting him.

He begins a search for his daughter that challenges everything he has ever believed in. This creepy book is set in modern New York and Venice, and is guaranteed to make you feel strangely paranoid at 3:00am when you need to get up and go to the toilet and the house is dark and quiet.....

Adult Non-fiction:

Bike Snob Abroad – Strange customs, incredible fiets, and the quest for cycling paradise. By Bike Snob NYC RRP \$22.95



Bike Snob NYC is fed up with the disapproving looks received when cycling with his toddler on the streets of New York – so he decides to head to pushbike friendly Europe! This travelogue shows how the wheels come off (excuse the pun) when 2 wheels, 4 wheels, and Smartphone-obsessed road users have to share the thoroughfare! For all those who love their deadly treadly!

Biography:

"A Century of Wisdom: Lessons from the life of Alice Herz-Sommer" Written by Caroline Stoessinger



At 108 years of age, Alice Herz-Sommer is the world's oldest living Holocaust survivor. An accomplished pianist, Alice was a soloist with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra prior to her imprisonment in Theresienstadt. Despite the murders of her mother, husband and many friends by the Nazis, Alice remains optimistic.

Caroline Stoessinger has managed to write a memoir that brings Alice's wisdom, tolerance and rich spirit to each page. What a unique woman, so humble and interesting. There are many lessons to be learnt throughout this book, the importance of friendship, living without bitterness and most significantly the part that music has played in the survival of Alice. There is no doubt she is a true living treasure, one that no matter what your age, you should take the time to read about and learn from.

Children's Fiction:

"My Happy Life" written by Rose Lagercrantz

Reviewed by Amber Ryan - Aged 7.



Dani is so excited because she is going to start school! But then she realises she doesn't have any friends. At play-time she sees another girl alone called Ella. They become best friends. But at the end of the term, Ella has to move schools. Dani is so upset.

Her dad tries to cheer up Dani, by taking her to the pet shop. Dani finds two hamsters and her dad says she can buy them. She enjoys playing with her new friends the hamsters. But she still misses Ella.

A few weeks later Dani gets a letter from Ella. She has been invited to Ella's new house for Easter. Dani is so happy.

I liked this story because it made me feel happy. I enjoyed the story and the illustrations. I hope there will be more books about Dani& Ella.

Before

After

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 Adaptation: Marc Blitzstein  
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 Musical Director: Peter Weerts  
 Producer: Sonja Prater  
 Brecht and Weill turned to John Gay's 18th-century "The Beggar's Opera" to fashion this savage, biting commentary on bourgeois capitalism and modern morality. Set in Victorian London, the bitter tale is told of the predatory outlaw known as Mack the

Knife. He secretly marries the daughter of Soho's underworld boss, but is soon betrayed by his sinister in-laws and sent to prison.

After being freed by the police chief's daughter, he is again betrayed- this time by a prostitute-and sentenced to death. At the final hour he manages a reprieve from Queen Victoria herself, thus providing a menacing finale of ferocious irony.

Season until June 23. Phone 1300 463 224 for tickets

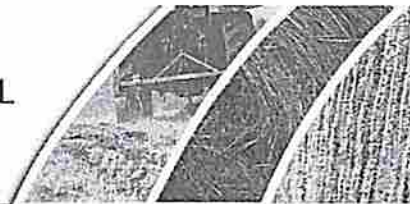


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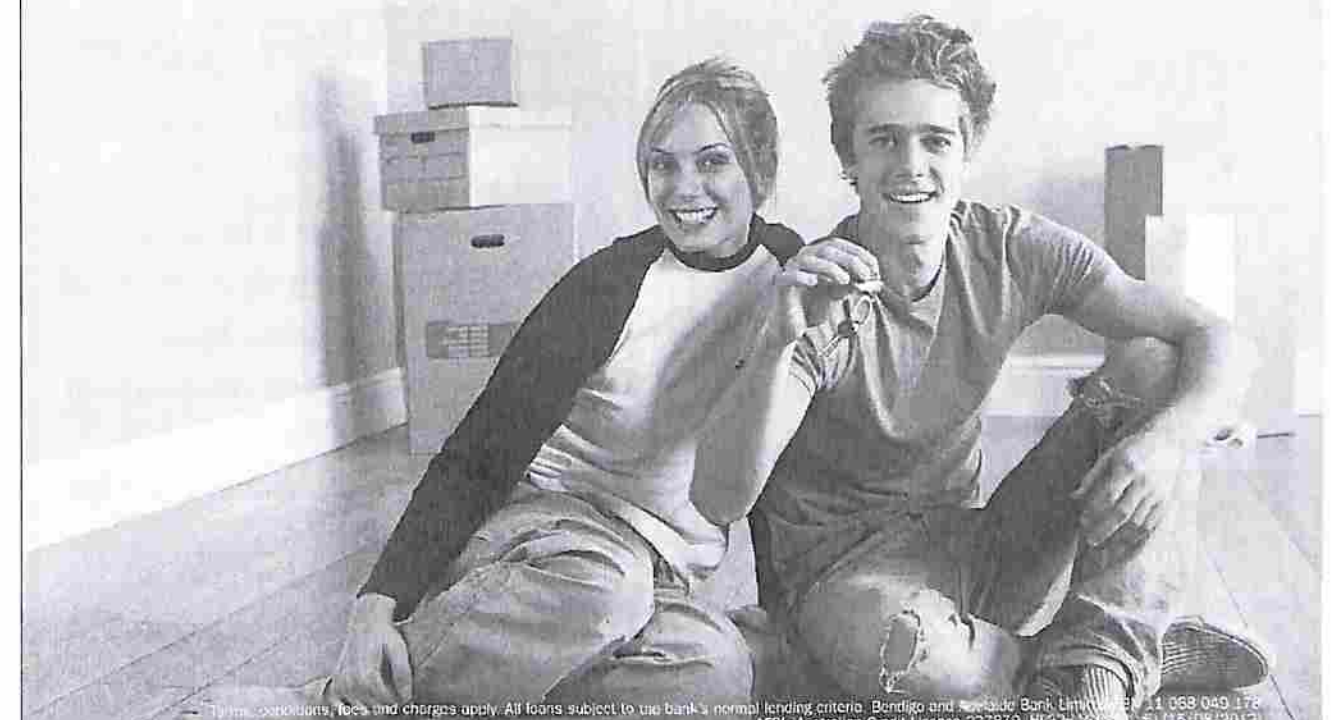
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Dear Editor

Now that the Federal Election has been announced we yet again get to pretend we have a choice, whereas, we really only again get to chose between tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum.

But this election there is a least one important difference between the parties on the key issue that many Australians consider vital and most Australians for the sake of their children should place the greatest importance.

I am talking about the quality of the National Broadband Network or NBN. Now it doesn't really matter what side of the line one's political views fall on, what really matters is that we should build the best network that money can buy to help future proof our economy.

The Internet has already manifestly changed our lives and the nation's economy and it will continue to do so. In fact it if one looks back at the last 10 years for guidance it is clear that in the future the Internet will revolutionise the world and its economy in ways that have not even been thought of yet.

The words 'nation building' are kicked around by polities and their ilk far too readily for all manner of government decisions but a fast, first rate Internet network really is nation building. Its effects on our economy will be profound and can be compared to the

positive value adding to the nation's economy of the likes of the national highway network, modern aviation infrastructure or the Snowy River Scheme.

So for the sake of our children and their children let's not consign Australia to be a technological backwater and let's build the best internet network that is possible and we can be a real player in the 21st century world's information based connected economy.

So between now and September whenever a pollic comes looking for your vote, please ask them do they support the first-rate network of fibre-optic cable connected to every home and business or does he /she support the second rate fibre to the node that is being offered as a cut price alternative.

Yours Sincerely  
David Kemp

Dear Editor

I enjoy thumbing thru the monthly edition of the Lancefield Mercury whenever it arrives, but I must say I was concerned when I read an opinion piece published on page 30 of the May edition.

The article in my view was cleverly designed to promote support within your readership for the liberal/conservative political position. The message was clever and subtle but the obvious give away was the reference to the right wing think tank Institute of Public Affairs. Although the author was careful to appear balanced by

making mention within the article of some former non-conservative prime ministers.

I had always viewed the Mercury as a non-political community information paper but the item published titled 'How to be successful' primarily was a pro Rupert Murdoch puff piece, which unto itself should have not been political. But as Mr Murdoch and his media organisations both here and abroad strongly lean to the political right its message could have easily been mistaken for something produced by chief cheerleader for the conservative right Mr Andrew Bolt. But as it was attributed to a 'Murk Schoen' whom I note is on the editorial committee therefore I am not sure if it was his own opinion or the official position of the Mercury's editorial team.

Unfortunately the net result was the politicisation of the Mercury, which in this contributor's opinion takes it away from its primary community role in providing unbiased community information.

Yours Sincerely  
David Kemp

*Editor's note: I refer Mr Kemp to page 2 of the Lancefield Mercury which states that 'views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee'. Murk is indeed on the Editorial Committee of the Lancefield Mercury but is stating his own views. Membership of the Editorial Committee is open to all community members and new members are welcomed.*

St Paul's Anglican Guild Romsey

Pie Drive

We have organized with TONY'S PIES of ESSENDON to conduct a Pie Drive.

There is a wide range of freshly baked pies, pasties, sausage rolls, quiches, lasagne rolls, spinach and cheese rolls etc. Variety of pies, savoury and fruit.

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Betty 5429-1597 (Lancefield)

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL ORDERS: Sunday, 23rd June 2013

ORDERS TO BE COLLECTED: 30 June 10am at St.Paul's Church Hall, ROMSEY  
30 June 10.30am at Christ Church Hall, LANCEFIELD

Now with winter almost upon us, you will welcome a TONY'S TASTY PIE (or two)!!!  
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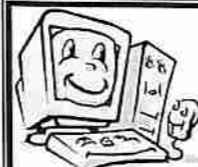
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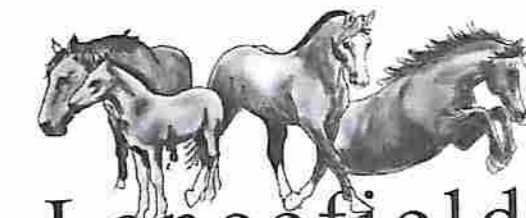
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**Romsey Uniting Church**

Pohlman Street, Romsey. 3434 Supply Minister Rev. Max Woolcock  
Church Council Chairperson: Noel Shaw - 5429 5509  
Secretary: Jeni Clampit - 5429 5480

You are most welcome to come to the Romsey Uniting Church Services and share in fellowship and worship

The Romsey Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Invites you to join us for our annual Winter Luncheon  
What Time: 11.45am  
When: Wednesday 12th June, 2013  
Where: Romsey Uniting Church, Pohlman Street, Romsey 3434  
Cost: \$10.00

"Come and enjoy food and fellowship"

Our speaker this year will be Jenny Hayes - Prison Chaplain Trading Table and Door Prizes. RSVP.

Hazel Allen 5429 5395. Jeni Clampit 5429 5480. or mail to P.O. Box 264, Romsey. 3434. By 30th May, 2013

**Services and activities during June 2013**

2nd 9am. Worship Service conducted by Lay Worship Team

9th 9am Holy Communion Service conducted by visiting Preacher

12th June: 11.45am Romsey Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Winter Luncheon.

16th 9am Worship Service conducted by visiting Preacher

23rd 9am. Worship Service conducted by Lay Preacher Jay Brooks.

30th 9am 5th Sunday Combined Worship Service at Romsey conducted by Lay Worship Team

Supply Minister Rev Max Woolcock will be away during the month of June.

**Bore water still on tap as dry continues**

Lancefield has had no respite from the dry weather, leading to an increase in bore water being fed into the town's drinking water supply.

Bore water levels are now up to 80%, with water from the Garden Hut Reservoir making up the remaining 20% of Lancefield's drinking water.

If dry weather continues, the percentage of bore water will continue to rise and water restrictions are likely.

"The Bureau of Meteorology's rain outlook for central Victoria in June and July predicts a 60-70% chance of below average rainfall," Western Water's Managing Director, Neil Brennan, says.

"This means the Garden Hut Reservoir is not likely to recover

from its current low levels any time soon," he says.

"Western Water is currently investigating options to ensure Lancefield's water supply is secured into the future. In the meantime, residents need to continue to be careful with their water use."

Western Water began adding bore water to Lancefield's drinking supply earlier this year, and is regularly monitoring the water supply to test levels of hardness and ensure it meets all drinking water guidelines.

Bore water is typically harder than reservoir water as it contains higher levels of dissolved minerals. This can reduce the effectiveness of soap and detergents, and can have an impact on some household appliances.

More information about hardness can be found at [www.westernwater.com.au/wsservices/Pages/WaterHardness](http://www.westernwater.com.au/wsservices/Pages/WaterHardness).

**Australian Red Cross Lancefield Unit/Branch**

**Thankyou**

Firstly I would like to thank all the generous residents who donated to our "Red Cross Calling" in March. We raised over \$1000.00.

This year we are celebrating our branch's 40th Birthday and we will be holding a Luncheon on August 14th to celebrate. We are very proud that we have 2 of our members, June Martin and Dorothy Hayes who are celebrating 40 years with our branch.

Next year World Red Cross is celebrating it's Centenary And we will be celebrating with a special Luncheon and selling a special Rose.

We meet bi-monthly and we welcome new members

For enquiries please contact me on 5429116 or Pat Ryan on 54292133.

Australian Red Cross Romsey/Lancefield "Redisupport" is an active emergency team and we have attended several local incidents this year. If you would like to join this team please ring Trish Dunn for details on 0409862046, you would be most welcome.

Jean Buist  
Hon. Sec.

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**Power**

Mao Tse-tung wrote - "POWER comes out of a barrel of a gun" - by contrast Jesus proclaimed - "All POWER is given to me in heaven and on earth". Jesus taught that - ..when He, the HOLY SPIRIT comes, He will give you POWER to be My witnesses here and to the uttermost ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit's Power is seen in His transforming work, as lives bear evidence of this, in lives that are filled with His love, joy, peace, patience, long-suffering, faith.

As all the great festivals of the Christian year culminate on Trinity Sunday, (26 May) we now enter into the months of personal growth, becoming more and more like unto our Lord and Saviour and being His witnesses to His saving grace and POWER.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

**May In Retrospect**

Our Romsey Guild Afternoon with speaker, well known pharmacist, Mr Greg Gibson, was a very pleasant and informative occasion. Insights into the effects of anti-obesity

drugs and the future prospects of our pharmaceutical needs were highlighted.

The Garage Sale (part of the Lancefield Community Sale) was very worthwhile. It resulted in many items sold and the unsaleable being taken to the tip. Rev Bill can now get his car in the garage!

The men of AMS enjoyed their snooker night at Mrs F Carter's home even though the competition was fierce.

The ALPHA Course finished this month after 10 weeks of meeting in fellowship together over a meal. 19 million people in 169 countries have completed the Alpha Course.

We were privileged to welcome members of Romsey C.W.A. sharing worship with us on Sunday 5 May.

**Diary - June 2013**

**Service Times**

ST PAUL'S ROMSEY (Main Street)  
8.45am Prayers; 9.00am Holy Communion

CHRIST CHURCH LANCEFIELD (Chauncey Street)  
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Thursday 20 June, 1.30pm - the Guild meets at Mrs F Carter's home, Monegetta. Enquiries: Doreen 5429-6060.

Our OP SHOP continues to flourish, a "Collins Street Boutique" at Bargain Prices, plus many other quality items!

Save us, O Lord, waking, and guard us while sleeping;  
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. Amen.

Minister: Rev W Carroll -  
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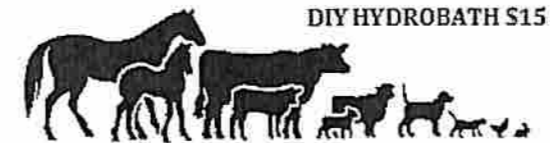
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**Romsey Lancefield Senior Citizens**

Come and enjoy a light luncheon and a friendly cuppa at The Romsey Lancefield Senior Citizens' Club. We meet in our Romsey rooms (rear of Mechanics Hall) every Monday. We enjoy a game of cards or indoor bowls. On the first Wednesday of each month we have a great bus trip (or event) and visit many interesting places around Victoria. These trips are available to anyone in the community.

Our July outing is "Christmas In July Lunch" at our local Lancefield Hotel on Wednesday, 3rd July. Cost is \$20 per head. We will be very pleased to see you there if you can join us. Young and not so young are very welcome. Please give us a call if you would like to join us. Support our wonderful club and our local venue.

For further information please ring Rae 54291602. We would love to see you.



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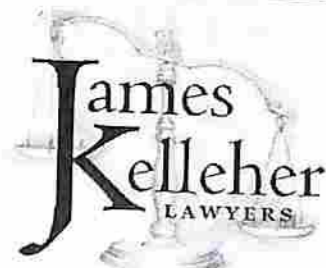
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## Incorrect use of heat bags prompts warning

CFA is warning the community about the dangers of incorrect use of heat bags which could be fatal.

CFA Loddon Mallee Region Community Education Coordinator Paul Tangey said for your own safety, you should only purchase heat bags with instructions and ensure they are used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

"Contents of a wheat bag can be much the same as grass or crops that are heated daily during summer and in most cases cools down overnight. The constant change in temperature may cause the material to become flammable and ignite and for this reason, heat bags should not be used as a bed warmer or while you are in bed," he said.

"You should also never leave the microwave unattended while heating the bags – the same principal as cooking with stove tops, grillers and ovens."

"They are no different to any other electrical appliance in the home – faulty wiring is dangerous."

"The kitchen is the room of the house which is the single largest cause of fires. A fire in your kitchen can cause extensive damage."

"Kitchen fires are also responsible for a high level of personal injury so pay attention in the kitchen."

Some safety tips to help prevent electrical fires:

- Ensure that all switches and power cords are in good working order and wires are not exposed;
- All repairs need to be carried out by a registered electrician. Do not attempt to do it yourself;
- Using multiple power boards can overload power points, as can the use of double adaptors without overload protection;
- Don't place extension leads under carpet or furniture;
- Install safety switches in your home - these isolate power instantly from your switchboard if a short circuit is detected; similarly a surge protector will isolate your power if a sudden surge of power is detected.

Further information on Residential Fire Safety is available from:

- [www.homefiresafety.com.au](http://www.homefiresafety.com.au)
- Your local CFA brigade
- CFA website - [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)
- Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667

## Lancefield Fire Brigade

There are two main items this month, the first that shortly after the last report work started on the new Station and is continuing at a good pace although the weather may have had an impact over the last few days.

The builders are confident that they can be finished by June 30th, again the weather may have some control over this. This means that the Brigade can organise itself in plenty of time before next fire season.

The second main item centres around the appeal for funds to help pay the Brigade's share of the cost of the new Station. Letters have been distributed to the Lancefield residents and there has been a pleasing response to date.

The appeal is still open for the next two months and if you are in a position to help it would be welcomed by the Brigade. Please refer to your letter for details.

Now that we have had some rain it is safer to consider burn offs but as mentioned last month take the weather conditions into consideration when proposing to light up. During last month there were a number of burn offs out of control. Please be careful as conditions can quickly change.

Brigade activities at this time of the year involve training and associated areas and as always there is an open invitation to residents who would wish to meet up with us on Sundays at the temporary Station at 6 Oakleys Lane Lancefield.

*Stuart Mustey  
Captain*



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