



Christmas in Lancefield

Carols in the Park

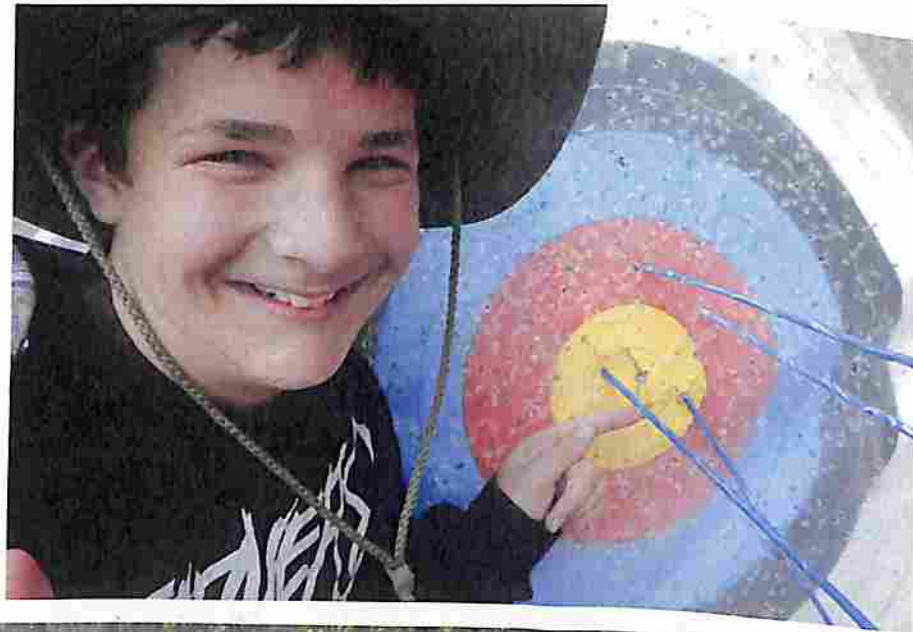
Friday 13 December 6.30 pm
Music by the Kyneton Municipal Band
Jumping Castle, Face Painting, Santa Visit.
The Community BBQ will be there for you to purchase dinner
BYO picnic rug and chairs.

Community Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 17 December 12 noon
Lancefield Mechanics Hall
Everyone Welcome
RSVP by 10 December phone 54291214
Proudly organised by Lancefield Neighbourhood House

Lancefield Primary School Camps

Over the last week all our students in years 3/4/5/6/ have been on camp. The senior camp was to Anglesea where they enjoyed great weather and a range of adventure activities including, canoeing, ropes courses, archery, the high swing and a trip to the lighthouse at Airey's Inlet. The year 3 camp, visited the Victoria Market, The Shrine of Remembrance, Federation Square and then had a sleep over at the Zoo. Our junior students are looking forward to their annual camping day.



Are you fire ready?

Bushfire seasonal outlook

A recent report from the CFA has indicated that the 2013–2014 bushfire season is likely to be average to above average in much of Victoria. High flammability is expected around the Wombat Forest due to the significant underlying dryness and the residual effects of prolonged bursts of heat from last summer. If you live in a high-risk bushfire area, you are encouraged to attend your local Fire Ready Victoria meeting to find out more about current and projected conditions, and get advice on bushfire preparation and survival. Visit the CFA website at cfa.vic.gov.au to find out about a meeting happening in a town near you. If you belong to a community group or club, you can contact the CFA on 1800 735 202 to arrange a tailored fire safety session for your members.



Council service centre and pick up a free Community Emergency Preparation Planner.

Tips for staying safe this summer

To ensure you have a safe and enjoyable time this summer, take the time to prepare now by:

- Downloading the "Can I, Can't I" brochure from the CFA website, cfa.vic.gov.au, to find out what you can and can't do during the fire danger period
- Preparing a bushfire survival plan
- Attending your local Fire Ready meeting
- Downloading the CFA's Fire Ready app from the CFA website to your smartphone or tablet device and use it to stay up-to-date with local Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans

Don't forget to search for Macedon Ranges Emergency Alerts on Facebook and "like" our page. This Council-managed page provides tips on preparing for and responding to an emergency in your town or region, such as fire, flood or heatwave. It does not replace official emergency alerts from the CFA, Victoria Police or SES.

Remember, being fire ready is everyone's responsibility, so make sure you take the time to prepare yourself, your family, your animals and your property so that you can stay safe this summer

Do you have a bushfire survival plan?

Understanding your level of risk is the first step in developing your bushfire survival plan. Research shows that many people living in high-risk areas that are threatened by bushfire will leave it too late to make critical decisions, often leaving them with very few safe options. In high-risk areas, leaving early is your safest option, particularly on Code Red, Extreme and Severe fire danger days.

You should consider:

- Where will you go?
- Have you packed an emergency kit?
- What about your animals? Like people, animals can be extremely traumatised in the event of a disaster, so make sure your plan includes the welfare of your pets and livestock.

To help you to prepare your property and household in the event of an emergency call into a

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Weather Comment 16-11-13

My article this month can be started on a different note to last month. The rain this time came before it was time to write my report so I don't need to be apologetic for any errors I may have made previously. The rain total for the month is 63mm and I would like to say that last week's 26 mm was very timely and has been quite beneficial for pasture growth which I think had been under some stress from small falls of rain and cold winds and in, some places, frosts. Not what we would like to see in Spring.

Another downside is although I would like to get the hay mower out as the grass in the lucerne paddock has gone to seed and should be cut there is no possibility of getting it cured so this is not going to happen until we can get, at least, a week of warm weather. The forecast for the coming week is not looking suitable either. We can be but patient which is sometimes hard to do.

The improvement in pasture growth has seen all the stock maintaining their condition and even improving which is all to the good. I attended the store cattle sale in Kyneton at the end of October where a varied range of cattle were for sale. Good heavier cattle sold well to strong competition and on the same note lighter cattle, on a cents per kilogram basis were also as dear or dearer as the heavy cattle.

The flower garden continues to be a blaze of colour with weeds again being a problem to keep under control. The vegie patch is sluggish and weeds are showing up there also. We have not added anything since last month so it is still a work in progress. I will conclude by wishing everyone the compliments of the season and thank all those who make nice comments about my articles when I see them around the town. All being well I will be back on the job for the February issue of the Mercury

Robert Green

How should Council communicate with you?

Council is inviting residents, ratepayers and businesses of the Macedon Ranges to complete a 5-10 minute survey about your information needs and communication preferences. For example, do you prefer to find out about Council services and activities in your local newspaper, or on our website; are you most interested in Council planning matters, or recreational activities?

By sharing this information with us, you will go in the draw to win a choice of:

- A six month gym/swim membership at Council's fitness and aquatic centres;
- A double annual season pass to shows at the Kyneton Town Hall; or
- A tablet device (your choice of iPad or Galaxy).

You can complete the survey in one of two ways:

- Online via www.surveymonkey.com/s/MRSC-Comms
- In person at a Council service centre, library, leisure centre, kindergarten or maternal & child health centre. For locations and hours, call 5422 0333. The survey closes on Friday 13 December 2013. If you have any questions about this survey, please call Council.

News from the Lancefield Men's Shed

The Men's Shed continues to be very busy with many members attending for woodworking on Tuesdays and social gathering on Wednesdays.

Attendance at the Lancefield Show proved to be very valuable as the prizes for the major raffle to raise funds for equipment for the shed were on display. The tickets have been selling very well and the first prize of a very versatile folding bench and table garden setting, was very popular. (See attached photograph) The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 18th December at the Lancefield Men's Shed at 12 noon. Winners will be notified.

If you like the setting, the Men's Shed will be happy to take orders.

Part of the operation of the Shed is to work on community projects.



The current project in action is constructing Christmas reindeer.

Members of community groups are invited to discuss projects with

the Shed to see if your request is possible.

New members are welcome. Contact Max on 54291729



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.

Supported by



Editorial Committee:

Andy Moore
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Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee.

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Full page \$140 ½ page \$80
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Editorial Enquiries to Andy Moore 0430 448 120

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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.

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Macedon Ranges Community Exchange News*

Find a deal at the second market day

This month the Macedon Ranges Community Exchange will hold its second market day – a day for members, prospective members & interested members of the community to get together & trade items, discuss service proposals, advertise & find out more.

The market will run from *10 - 11am on Sunday 8th December - Piper Street - Campaspe Park - KYNETON* (on the left as you head out of town towards Malmsbury).

It may just be the place to find something special for your friends & family for the festive season.

Phone Linda 0421999228 or check out our website www.mrce.net.au for more details regarding the community exchange & just how it can change the way you trade in the local area.

Find local offerings of goods, services, hire & more. There's even a 'wanted' section for people to seek out help for things that they are looking for.



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Lancefield Fire Brigade

"Fridge" magnets and Facebook

This month our report will be in a different format from the usual one. Included on page seven, is a copy of our Brigade information card which we suggest that it be cut out and attached to your refrigerator with a "fridge" magnet so as it will be easily located if the information is needed.

The Brigade is adopting this method of distribution in the hope that it provides a more certain delivery to the residents of our area and also takes a load off brigade members who in past years have spent considerable time in travelling through the area to deliver them to each household. Please follow this method and assist the Brigade in this regard.

The other item of importance this month is that at our Brigade meeting held on Tuesday 12th November it was decided to establish a Facebook page. This page will be used to promote the Brigade and allow us to undertake community education via social media. For those with Facebook you can view the page on www.facebook.com/LancefieldFireBrigade. I would also appreciate it if you would "share" the page on Facebook or for everyone to pass the message along to the Lancefield community that we now have a Facebook page.

This page is an initiative of the Lancefield Fire Brigade and does not replace official warnings from emergency warnings from emergency services including CFA, and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries. The community has been told to refer to the relevant agencies web site or social media channels for the latest information and warnings.

*Stuart Mustey
Captain*

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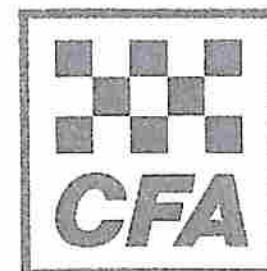
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BURN OFF NOTIFICATION LINE P: 1800 668 511
giving exact location **before** burning off

For further information please contact one of the following Lancefield Fire Brigade Officers listed below:

Captain	Stuart Mustey	0407 509 859
Lieutenants	Jenny Davis	0448 656 426
	Steve Winks	0407 006 140
	Peter Kendray	0427 055 936
	Jason Amos	0431 125 289
	John Gibson	0404 192 027
Communications Officer	Harriet Metz	0412 939 411
Secretary	Vicki Davis	0430 240 966
Fire Equipment Maintenance	Jenny Davis	0448 656 426

Training 8.30am Sundays

Vanessa's Garden

Pretty Pelargoniums for summer colour

You can't beat brightly coloured pelargoniums for adding masses of summer colour to any garden. You can pop them into border gaps or mass them in patio pots and window sills where space is limited. Trailing varieties look fabulous tumbling over walls, trellises and fences.

Geranium or pelargonium?

There's often confusion between the two because the plant that so many of us commonly call a geranium often turns out to actually be from the botanical family pelargonium. I'm not sure why they are so often misnamed, but it was certainly the case in my family. True geraniums generally sport more delicate flowers and leaves than pelargoniums.

There's a pelargonium for every garden

If you like frills and furbelows go

for 'regal' pelargoniums because they have frilled flowers and a wide variety of leaf colours and shapes.

The pelargoniums with highly patterned leaves are either the 'zonal' or 'ivy-leaved' varieties. The zonal group has been bred for leaf patterns in yellow and cream as well as green. They tend to make a compact bush and if you can keep them in a frost-free situation they can flower year-round. The ivy-leaved varieties often have a trailing habit which makes them ideal for covering fences and trellis.

Scented Pelargoniums

These beauties will give you a double hit of flowers and boldly scented foliage. Crush a leaf and you'll be delighted with scents ranging from rose, to silvery peppermint, lime, cinnamon and orange. More scented varieties are being bred all the time and for added garden interest they also display an intriguing variety of

leaf shapes from fans to curls and delicate lacy-edges.

In a frost-free location, with good drainage, scented pelargoniums can stay green all year round. My rose-scented geranium is in an open border and although it dies back every winter, it always comes back strongly around November.

Scented pelargoniums have another trick up their sleeve too. You can use the leaves to flavour stewed fruit, syrups, sauces and jellies for a noticeable but subtle hint of flavour in the finished dish.

Easy cuttings

If you've never taken cuttings before, pelargoniums are a great place to start being very easy to propagate. Cuttings are a wonderful way to multiply your plants almost for free. All you need is a few glass jars, water, some hormone rooting powder and a bit of time.

With most plants you need to

take cuttings at the right time of year and from the right place on the plant but with pelargoniums it's all very simple. Simply find a strong, healthy leaf with a good stem. Pinch it gently off the mother plant by grasping the leaf stem close to the main plant stem and bending back until it snaps off. Dip the base of the leaf stem into the hormone rooting powder and then pop it into the jar of water and place on a bright window sill. The leaf will soon start to grow roots. Keep the water fresh and your new baby pelargonium can be potted up once its roots are growing strongly. I'd suggest starting it off in seed mix and when it is growing away strongly and has made more leaves you can progressively move it into a bigger pot and standard potting compost.

Easy care

While pelargoniums are easy to look after, easy care doesn't mean no care!

Simple neglect is the main reason for failure with pelargoniums, even with varieties bred for sturdiness.

How to choose a healthy plant

When buying a young pelargonium at a nursery look for compact plants with healthy green leaves. They are likely to do much better than any tall, straggly-looking ones.

Where to put your pelargonium

Pelargoniums love the sun but will still get stressed when temperatures soar over 30°C and they will thank you if you can provide some mid-afternoon shade. Well-drained, healthy soil is ideal, so add lots of compost if you think your soil might be a bit lacking.

Water

Pelargoniums are a touch fussy about where and how often they

get watered and they don't wilt so you may need to keep an eye on them, and more so if they are in pots. They like to be watered well but they hate wet feet. The solution is to let the soil become touch dry between watering and although they'll tolerate rain, avoid wetting the leaves if you can when watering. Over-watering shows up as a yellowing of the leaves. Sometimes this is all over, at other times it's just a sprinkle of yellow dots across the leaves.

Food

Pelargoniums like a feed but, again, they won't let you know right away. Without food you'll see fewer and smaller flowers and, eventually, a sad yellow looking plant. You can either add a slow-release pellet to the compost/soil or use a water-soluble version around every third watering. <http://www.growinggranite.com/>



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Paint The Town Purple In January For Cancer Awareness

Businesses in Romsey and Lancefield are being encouraged to decorate their shop windows from Monday, January 20 until Friday January 24 to highlight the Lancefield/Macedon Ranges Relay For Life in March.

Windows will be awash with the event's symbolic purple, displaying cherished shirts and collectables from years past and a host of informative posters.

"Please encourage and support these businesses by way of a purchase, donation to the Cancer Council Victoria, donation to the Relay For Life teams nominated by the businesses, or even by noticing and encouraging the effort taken on their display," said event chairmanager Ken Wiltshire.

Winners will be announced at the Relay For Life committee's Lancefield Farmers Market stall on January 25. Prizes for the best dressed windows have been donated by Black Range Business Group, Lancefield Mercury & Romsey Rag.

Team and individual registrations will be taken at the January market. There will be more information about the event as well as Cancer Council Sun Smart items for purchase.

Anyone who would like to walk but has not found a team yet is urged to talk to a committee member. Joining a team is a great opportunity to meet people who share a commitment to fighting back against cancer.

The 2014 Lancefield/Macedon Ranges Relay for Life event will be held on the weekend of March 1-2. The event would not be possible without the assistance of committed volunteers. Those able to assist during the weekend can register their interest at <http://www.relayforlife.org.au/> or speak to a committee member at the market stall.

The event recently received a much appreciated financial boost from the Lancefield & Romsey Community Bendigo Bank, which has donated \$2000.

CWA News

Wow, the last entry for the year.

As a group we have had a mixed year. We sadly lost some dearly loved members, we've lost family members, we've battled serious illnesses and all while managing to put together a successful Spring Show and donating \$800 back into the community.

A large part is the hard work of our members but we would also like to thank the Bendigo Bank for the generous grant acceptance. With this money we are able to hold the Spring Show and our meetings for the whole year.

We have one more event in the year with the Grade 6 students from both St.Mary's and Lancefield Primary to announce the scholarship winners for 2013.

Good luck to all involved.

Now as this is our last entry – and of course the Christmas season – we thought what better time to share with you a CWA Gingerbread recipe.

We have taken this recipe from our CWA Victorian Magazine and hope that you all enjoy it.

Gingerbread Shapes

Ingredients: 125g butter, 50g brown sugar, 3 tablespoons of golden syrup, 1 teaspoon bi-carb soda dissolved in 1 tablespoon of boiling water, 250g flour, 2 teaspoons ground ginger, pinch of salt.

Directions: Combine butter, sugar and golden syrup in a bowl and blend well until creamy.

Add bicarb soda, then the sifted, dry ingredients. Roll out between two sheets of baking paper until about 5mm thick.

Remove the top sheet of baking paper and cut into shapes as desired.

Grease the baking trays and cook for 20-30minutes at 180C. Leave on the tray to cool.

We would like to wish everyone in Lancefield and surrounds a very safe and Merry Christmas and look forward to sharing more recipes and news with you all next year.



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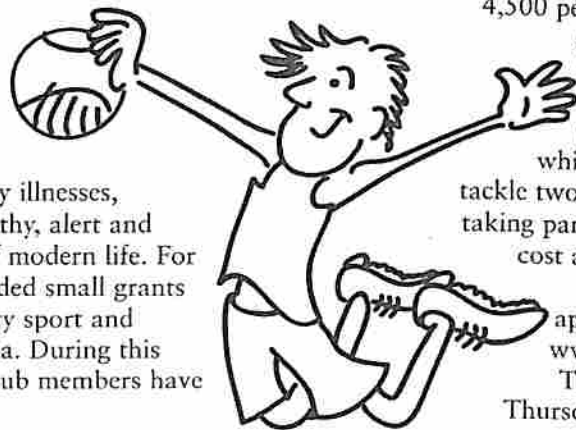
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Vichealth's \$1M Funding For Active Clubs Now Open

Sports clubs are encouraged to apply for VicHealth grants of up to \$3,000 each for essential sporting, and injury prevention and management equipment. Applications for the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) 2013-14 Active Club Grants funding can be submitted now until 5 December 2013.

Over \$1 million is available to community sport and active recreation clubs across Victoria.

Regular physical activity not only protects against many illnesses, it also makes us mentally healthy, alert and resilient against the stresses of modern life. For 25 years, VicHealth has provided small grants to more than 9,700 community sport and recreation clubs across Victoria. During this period, more than 1 million club members have benefited from this program.



VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter said this year's Active Club Grants have been modified from previous rounds.

"The Australian Sports Commission lists cost as the biggest barrier to organised sport, while the Sports Injury Prevention Taskforce estimates around 4,500 people drop out of organised sport due to injury each year in Victoria."

"To address this, the amount of each grant has been increased, while the focus of the grants will tackle two major barriers preventing people taking part in sport and active recreation - cost and injury," Ms Rechter said.

For further information or to apply for this grant online, visit www.sportsfocus.com.au.

The funding round closes 4pm Thursday 5 December, 2013.

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TAC funds Major Cycle Safety Campaign for Macedon Ranges

Drivers are the focus of a new summer campaign aimed at keeping cyclists in the Macedon Ranges safe. Road Safe Central Victoria and Bike Safe Macedon Ranges are set to launch a major on-road summer campaign which asks drivers to watch out for cyclists on the road and pass them with care.

This campaign is funded by a community grant from the TAC. Drivers can expect to see large billboards throughout The Ranges urging motorists to pass cyclists with care.

President of Bike Safe Macedon Ranges, Margaret Douglas explains: "This campaign is about education and awareness, commonsense and respect; it is targeted at both motorists and cyclists, they both are legitimate road users but the cyclist is more vulnerable. We want both to get home safely to their families'.

We are beholden to Road Safe Central Victoria for partnering with us in this campaign, which is a first for the Macedon Ranges, and are most grateful to the TAC for recognizing the importance of this safety initiative and for providing the



Photo by Jo Upton

funds to make the campaign a reality in our beautiful region."

Simple messages will be promoted to motorists to allow sufficient safe space when overtaking cyclists, including driving with courtesy.

Cyclists will be reminded of their obligations to comply with relevant road rules and to ride with commonsense and courtesy towards motorists.

"Waiting until it is safe before passing a cyclist takes just a few seconds out of a driver's day, those few patient seconds could save a life," Mrs Douglas said.

The campaign is fully supported by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

For more information contact Margaret Douglas, President, Bike Safe Macedon Ranges, 0407759860



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Lancefield-Tooborac Road to receive \$1 million boost for road safety

Amanda Millar, Member for Northern Victoria announced a \$1.047 million Victorian Coalition Government investment for road safety improvements on the Lancefield-Tooborac Road near Lancefield.

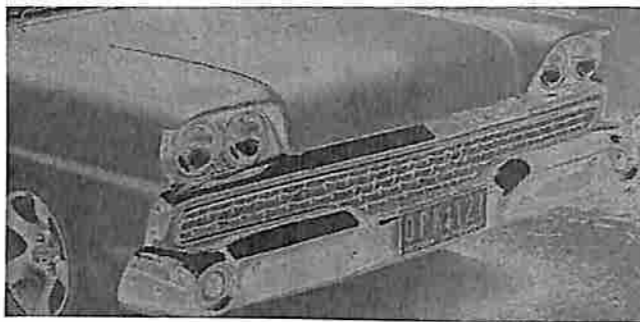
Mrs Millar said the Lancefield-Tooborac Road is an important transport and tourist route linking Melbourne and the north-central parts of the state, so ensuring the safety for all road users is very important.

This section of the Lancefield-Tooborac Road is a two lane, two way road, mostly with a 100km/h speed limit and with sections of steep hills and high speed curves.

It has a history of crashes with four serious incidents in the five year period ending November 2012, with one of these crashes resulting in a fatality.

The \$1.047 million works program will be carried out on sections of the road in the vicinity of Sherwood Court, approximately five kilometres north of Lancefield.

The safety improvement works include road shoulder widening and sealing, new guardrails, drainage works and some hazardous tree removals. These works will improve the road safety of this



section of the road by treating the existing roadside risks to minimise 'run off road' type crashes.

It will be funded through the TAC Safer Road Infrastructure Program (SRIP), an unprecedented \$1 billion investment, an increase of more than 30 per cent a year on the previous road safety program.

An evaluation into the effectiveness of SRIP by the Monash University Accident Research Centre has identified that the program is producing a reduction of 31 per cent for all casualty crashes.

The planning and design works are expected to be completed within 8 months and works on the ground expected to begin late 2014.

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For more information contact Emilie,
your local thermomix consultant

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Cricket Club Life Members



Life Members that attended (from L - R: Bill West, Bernie Shannon, Peter Burns, Peter "Farmer" Shannon, Russell Pattinson, David Crozier, Robert Parks and Michael Graham).

On Sunday, 17 November, the Lancefield Cricket Club inducted its 14th Life Member. Peter "Farmer" Shannon was greeted into this exclusive club at a function held at the Cricket Clubrooms with many friends, family, club members and existing Life Members in attendance.

Farmer's achievements and contributions to the LCC were highlighted in several speeches, with his Uncle Bernie Shannon presenting him with his Life Membership medallion.

Farmer debuted in senior cricket at the age of 9, when he filled in for the A grade team. Over the next few years he regularly played A grade cricket for the LCC, before taking over as Captain/Coach in his early twenties.

Farmer also spent 8 years playing for the Kilmore Cricket Club where he was Captain/Coach for 5 years. He played for a season at North

Melbourne and spent a season playing in Wales for the Wick Cricket Club.

Over his career he played in many representative teams, often as Captain and notched up 6 A grade centuries.

Farmer was also a solid contributor at committee level for the LCC beginning as secretary in 1979/80 and more recently returned to the club as senior coach in 2011/12.

He was an integral part of the club's First XI premiership last season and continues to work with the current senior players in an effort to guide the club back into the higher grades of the Gisborne District Cricket Association.

The Lancefield Cricket Club is honoured to have Peter "Farmer" Shannon as a Life Member and looks forward to his ongoing involvement in our proud club.



Peter "Farmer" Shannon

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James Kelleher Lawyers celebrates 30 years in Romsey.

Maureen Wiltshire celebrated the occasion with family, friends, business colleagues and clients in the Newnham Rooms at Romsey on Wednesday 23rd October 2013.

Maureen told the assembled audience a few humorous stories about herself and her staff. She also told the audience the history

of the name James Kelleher which was Maureen's father's name and the business name she still operates under. There was an interesting

Maureen Wiltshire

Russell Pattinson, long time Lancefield resident, gave a humorous introductory address speaking of the four F's which describe Maureen; Family, (Ph)ilanthropy, Firm and Friendship. Maureen responded, "Tonight I would like to thank each and every one of you who had helped me to get to 30 years and let us celebrate together." Maureen was joined by her staff, Kirsteen Milne, solicitor and Kerry, Andrea and Elizabeth, James Kelleher Lawyers' experienced administrative assistants. 'At James Kelleher Lawyers we like to think we are always working for the right outcomes' said Maureen.



Bronwyn Wilson, Lyn Renfree and Robyn Stevens catching up.

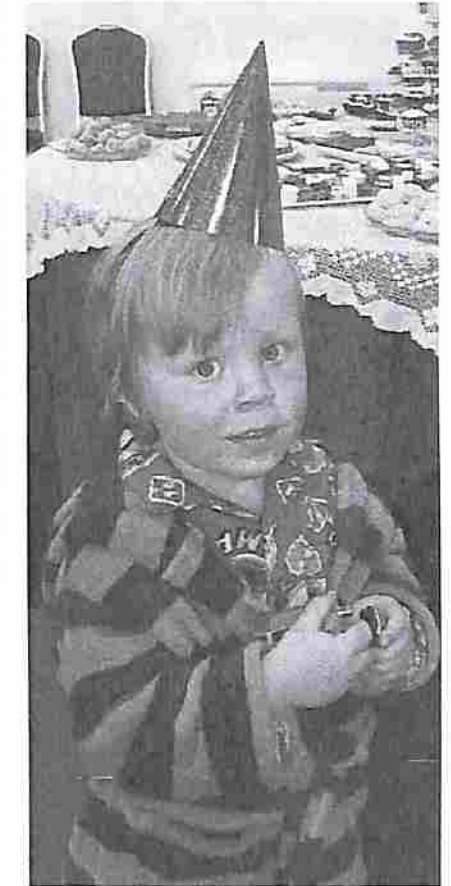


display of historical memorabilia including photos of the construction of the Romsey office.

Maureen said "I am delighted to see Bronwyn Wilston here tonight as she was my first staff member and was with James Kelleher Lawyers from 1983 to 1997".

Maureen said "I am passionate

about James Kelleher Lawyers and the Romsey/Lancefield community. I love the challenges of private practice and the autonomy of my own business and I particularly love working in the community." The evening concluded with Maureen's two year old grandson, Reuben, singing Happy Birthday.



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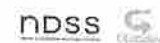
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Farmers' Markets

Woodend Community Farmers' Market - 7th Dec - 0407 860 320
 Riddells Creek Farmers' Market (Special twilight market) - 13th Dec (Friday night 5-8pm) - 0419 523 324
 Kyneton Farmers' Market - 14th Dec - 54 221 025
 Lancefield & District Farmers' Market - 21st December - 0407 860 320

This Christmas, Support A Local Producer...

Our local farmers' markets are fantastic places to shop anytime, but when Christmas comes around

we encourage you to spend local on some high quality ingredients for your special meal & purchase delicious & handmade goods for your loved ones Christmas stockings...

Pasture grazed meats - beef, pork, Christmas hams, organic turkey, goat, lamb & chicken. Organic & spray free vegetables. Fine regional wines.

Handmade cheeses. Smallgoods & snacks. Taste the difference when you buy fresh & local! (All markets have a different range, call market managers to check selection at each

market on the numbers above.)

Gift ideas include; award winning Macedon Ranges, Heathcote & Sunbury region wines, fresh pressed extra virgin olive oils, preserves with flavour, cordials, cut flowers, rare plants, hand knits, quality honey, sweet treats, skin care items, essential oils & more.

Macedon Ranges Farmers' Markets host many local farmers & producers each week in our region. Show your support - ditch the factory farmed, mass produced, chemical laden items & try hosting an 'ethical' Christmas this year.

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Tel: 5429 2464



Aussies visit Belgium

I accidentally met some Aussies 10 years ago taking some pictures for the Fire Brigades website and rolled into a friendship for life...

It's been several years since we heard of the plans of Bob, Pauline, Barry and Karen coming back over to Belgium, so Michiel and I made some arrangements to let them see and taste as much as possible, but considering their already long journey, it was the "light menu"...

On Tuesday August, 20th, the day was there... The train was going to arrive around 3 pm. Due to works on the tracks, Pauline and Barry had rearranged their trip from Lille Flanders to Roeselare, now they were going via Brussels... From our point of view that's traveling from Melbourne to Sydney via Alice Springs. On top of that, they missed their connection in Bruges, so it was even later, but eventually they got here.

They got a warm welcome from us and we helped them to their hotel, just in front of the railway station. When they were settled, we took them to my place for a beer and a light supper: butter room potatoes and eggs or steak, a local dish. Apparently it was a big surprise for the Aussies, they never heard of that combination.



The next day we went on a trip organised by Michiel. We first visited a military graveyard, which you find a lot in south-west Flanders. There we found the grave of the youngest soldier, died in action at the age of 14. Afterwards, we visited a war museum where we were able to go through trenches. And while we were in those trenches, the people of the museum located the spot where Bob's relative died during the Second World War. After a dinner, with local beer, in the museum's restaurant we went out searching the field where Bob's grandfather's cousin died. We had a

moment of silence on that spot.

Later that evening we visited the ceremony at the Menin Gate, the crowd made a big impression on us all...

On Thursday the weather was typical Belgian... after the visit to the Fire Brigade, it started to rain and we went to the holy grail for our visitors: the chocolate shop. After buying almost the whole the stock, it was really raining cats and dogs so we couldn't visit the typical Belgian frites shop. Instead we went to a "less typical" frites shop where we were served very well. In the afternoon

we made a tour in the Rodenbach brewery with the 168 oak barrels, which still impresses me, and I've worked there for 3 years as student.

On Friday I had arranged a guide for a tour through Ghent. Our visitors were really surprised by all the historical buildings, speechless is actually more the word for it... They had to drink a beer to process it all. In the evening I had made reservations in a well known restaurant in Roeselare, Saint Georges, where the cook made a specialty of the region: Pork cheeks in Rodenbach with frites. We told our friends afterwards what they had eaten and they were pleasantly surprised :-)

Michiel and his wife were celebrating their wedding anniversary on Saturday and we all got together for champagne and aperitif till late afternoon. As a last surprise we came up with 2 plates with pieces of over 40 different French and Belgian cheeses. As Barry told us, he wouldn't survive here more than 2 weeks because of the heaps of food! Later that evening Michiel, Sophie, Delphie and the kids had to say goodbye, because we had to leave early to Brussels Airport.

But we made a promise to see each other again within 5 years. So I hope to be on Aussie ground one day in the near future...

Gunther Braekevelt



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Get healthy and active this summer

Take advantage of the warmer weather and make use of Council's pools, fitness and aquatic centres this summer to get healthy and active!

Summer intensive Learn to Swim program

Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre and Gisborne Aquatic Centre will be offering intensive swimming lessons over the summer. These half hour lessons are run over 5 days and are designed for children who need to improve their technique and to develop their skills further. These lessons are suitable for children aged 3 and up and cater to all swimming levels and abilities. The dates are:

Week 1, 6-10 January

Week 2, 13-17 January
Week 3, 20-24 January

The cost of the five day program is \$71 and bookings are essential, please contact the Learn to Swim administrator on 5421 1477 (Kyneton) or 5421 1452 (Gisborne).

Outdoor pools open for summer

The Woodend and Lancefield Outdoor Pools are set to open on Saturday November 30. The outdoor pools operate on a temperature policy and will only open if the weather (as per the Bureau of Meteorology forecast at 4.30pm the day prior) is forecast to be above 24 degrees. For more detailed information on the

operating hours, the temperature policy and prices, please visit mrcs.vic.gov.au/leisure.

Gym and swim membership specials

Get fit and save money this summer with one of our special membership offers available until 24 December at Gisborne Fitness Centre, Gisborne Aquatic Centre and Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre.

Offer 1 - 25% off all 12 month memberships

Offer 2 - buy any 3 month membership and get the 4th month free

For more information please contact Council on 5422 0333 and ask to be put through to the relevant centre.

St Mary's Carols Night.



Our Carols night will now be held on the 18th of December. A big thank you to Mrs Joan Drago who is spending Wednesdays at school organising the night.

School Board

AGM - 13th November

Last night we welcomed Sophie Banon and Natalie Cleve onto the School Education Board.

Thank you to Andrew Memmolo and Trinton Smith for their efforts.

Remembrance Day:

On Monday the 11th the year 5/6 students attended the Remembrance day service held at the Cenotaph in Lancefield. Emily and James Phillips spoke about the "Unknown Soldier" that former P.M Paul Keating brought back to Australia 20 years ago.

At assembly in the morning John Horan from the Romsey/Lancefield R.S.L presented Emily Phillips, Kate O'Sullivan and Shannon Faria with awards for their writing about the 'Australian Lighthouse'.

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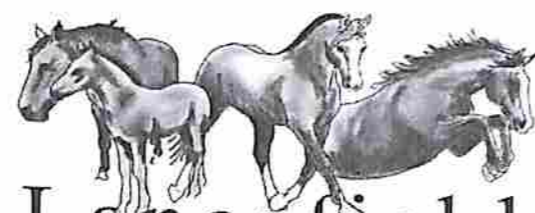
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St Mary's Catholic Parish

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Mass Times

Saturday:
6 p.m. Lancefield
1st & 3rd Sunday of the month:
8 a.m. Lancefield and 10 a.m. Romsey
2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the month:
8 a.m. Romsey and 10 a.m. Lancefield

Reconciliation

Saturdays 9.45am Romsey & 5.45pm Lancefield.
BAPTISMS
February, April, June, August, October, December.
For more information, please phone 5429 2130.

Regular Events

SVDP Drop-In: First Thursday of

each month, 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Mary's Church Hall, Romsey. All welcome to come for a game of cards/chat and free lunch.

Sacramental Program 2014

Parents of children not attending St. Mary's Parish School wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (grade 3), Eucharist (grades 4 & 5), Confirmation (grade 6) in 2014, are asked to contact Joanne Reuther, the Pastoral Associate, at St. Mary's presbytery on 54292130 by Friday 28th February 2014.

Advent Reconciliation

Tuesday 10th December Lancefield 7 pm

Anointing Mass -

Wed 11th December - Karinya Nursing Home 2 pm

Combined Community Christmas Carols

Sunday 15th December - Romsey Mech Hall
6pm BBQ & entertainment
7pm Carols

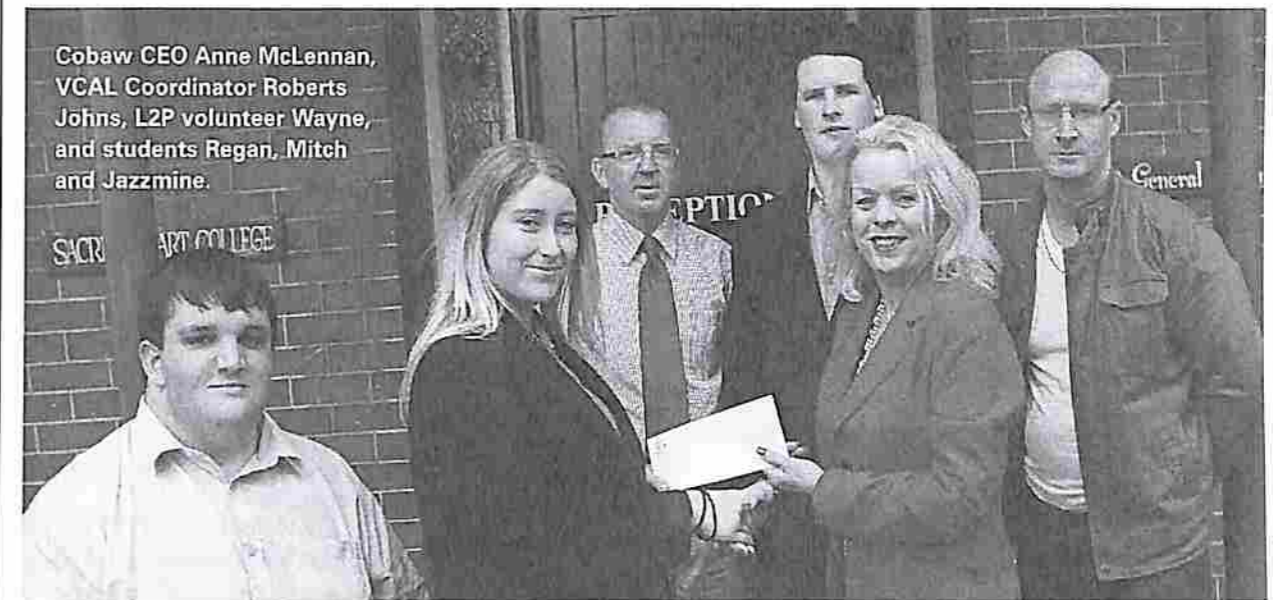
CHRISTMAS MASSES 2013

Christmas Vigil Family Mass
Tuesday 24th December - Romsey Church 6.00pm - Nativity
Midnight Mass: 11.30pm Carols - Lancefield
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Wed 25th December - Lancefield 9.00am

Students support Cobaw's Learner Driver Program



Cobaw CEO Anne McLennan, VCAL Coordinator Roberts Johns, L2P volunteer Wayne, and students Regan, Mitch and Jazzmine.

Sacred Heart College VCAL recently supported the Cobaw Community Health L2P Learner Driver Program donating all proceeds from their black tie dinner. The dinner on Friday 13 September was organised by Sacred Heart's VCAL students as part of their Certificate III studies in Events and catering was prepared and served by VET Certificate II Hospitality students. The evening also entailed a silent auction with proceeds donated to L2P, and entertainment by local musicians Taylor Sheridan and Charlotte McKinnon.

"The L2P program relies on

the additional support from the community. The funds generated from this event will contribute towards providing professional lessons for young drivers prior to heading out on the roads with an L2P volunteer," stated L2P Project Officer David Norris. "It's great to see the young people at Sacred Heart College supporting other young people in their community to get their licence."

Thanks to Sacred Heart College for supporting this vital program and in turn the community.

The L2P Program is a Victorian Government road safety initiative that aims to help drivers under 21

who do not have access to a car or supervisor, to gain the on-road experience they need to prepare for solo driving. The program uses a mixture of professional lessons and driving sessions with volunteer supervisors to help the learners.

You can help a young person to get their car licence, by donating to the L2P program. Donations will pay for additional driver training sessions and ensure as many young people as possible get to safely enjoy the freedom and opportunity that comes with a car licence.

To make a donation, please visit <http://www.givenow.com.au/macedonrangesl2p>

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Red Door Book Reviews Christmas Books

Children's Fiction: Children's Christmas Picture Books:

Santa Koala by Colin Buchanan and Glen Singleton RRP \$6.99 Reviewed by Alice



Another story replacing reindeer with Australian animals, this time with "Waltzing Matilda" thrown in!

A Guinea Pig Nativity by Bloomsbury RRP \$14.99 Reviewed by Alice



The traditional Christmas story illustrated with guinea pigs in drag may hold the attention of some, and lose the attention of others.....

If you love guinea pigs, this is a must!

Kangaroo for Christmas by James Flora RRP \$19.95 Reviewed by Alice.



An imaginative tale about a Christmas present and the resulting chaos caused by a kangaroo in a city environment. Lots of good drawings to invite discussion.

The Greatest Gift - the story of the other wise man.



Retold by Susan Summers RRP \$24.99 Reviewed by Alice

Most will know the story of Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, the three wise men. Few will know about Artaban, the fourth wise man, and his journey to seek the

King of Kings. Gently told and beautifully illustrated, this book underscores the importance of faith and determination. Suitable for Christians and non-Christians, and even for those with no formal belief.

Christmas Non-Fiction:

100 Snowflakes to Crochet by Caitlin Sainio RRP \$39.99 Reviewed by Alice



Six weeks to Christmas, so you'd better get cracking!!!! These handmade gems will look gorgeous on your tree and next September you can enter them in the Lancefield Spring Show and take home a blue ribbon! Fun and inspiring for the experienced, and something to aim for if you need a bit of practice!

Maggie's Christmas by Maggie Beer RRP \$49.99 Reviewed by Nielson Book Data



If you have ever wondered what Maggie Beer's lucky guests are treated to for the Christmas feast, New Year's Eve celebrations or after a day's crabbing at Port Parham, then you'll find the answers here. In this sumptuously illustrated cookbook, Maggie shares her favourite recipes and menus for entertaining friends and family for all the festive events surrounding Christmas-time in her beloved Barossa.

Non-Christmas Reading: Children's Picture book:

Rules of summer by Shaun Tan RRP \$24.99 Reviewed by Emma



Beautifully illustrated with just one

message per page. The most important rule is on the back cover. My kids have given this the massive thumbs up...! One of them has even started his own Shaun Tan Retrospective in the corner of his bedroom!

Young Adult Fiction:

The Big Dry By Tony Davis rrp \$15.99 Reviewed by Abbie Bennetts



The Big Dry is about 13 year old George and his 6 year old brother Beeper. On George's thirteenth birthday, their father goes to the shops to get groceries and gets caught in one of the frequent dust storms that sweep through the city. With him gone, George is left to fend for himself and Beeper. Unsure about when their father will return, the two young boys have to worry about how they will get food and water, keeping safe from strangers and avoiding the dangerous dust

storms. This book explores strength, courage and love during their fight for survival.

Adult Fiction:

The Winter King by Bernard Cornwell RRP \$19.95 Reviewed by Nielson Book Data



In the dark ages, a legendary warrior struggles to unite Britain. Uther, the High King of Britain, has died, leaving the infant Mordred as his only heir. His uncle, the loyal and gifted warlord Arthur, now rules as caretaker for a country which has fallen into chaos - threats emerge from within the British kingdoms while vicious Saxon armies stand ready to invade. As he struggles to unite Britain and hold back the Saxon enemy, Arthur is embroiled in a doomed romance with beautiful Guinevere. Will the old-world magic of Merlin be enough to turn the tide of war in his favour?



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Dear Friends

You may have read in the local papers that it is my intention to retire from the Victorian Parliament at the next State election in November 2014. It has been a privilege to serve and represent the Macedon electorate and before that the electorate of Gisborne.

This is a decision that I have not taken lightly and I confess I have mixed feelings about leaving a job I love, one that I never dreamed I would have the opportunity to do. But I believe after 15 years the time will be right at the next election to retire.

We have many unsung heroes in our community and I have had the good fortune of being able to meet and work with many of you, on projects big and small, to make a positive difference for our local area. I will continue to work hard for you to serve the Macedon electorate up until the election next November.

Thank you to everyone that has made this job an absolute pleasure.

May I also wish you a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year, and I will see you around Lancefield 2014.

Warm regards
JOANNE DUNCAN MP
STATE MEMBER FOR MACEDON

Deep Creek Landcare Group

Covering Lancefield - Romsey Districts

Season Greetings from Landcare

2013 has been another busy year with the additional plantings at previous projects.

A grant from Western Water for the purchase of endangered Dianella planted at Doggett's Bridge in January.

Continuing the plantings at Sheehan's Crossing, the new planting for the Macedon Ranges Council on Three Chain Road and National Tree Day.

Three information nights were held for the community and were well attended.

The Lancefield Show was a wonderful day with 3 shows from Chris Humphrey of Wild Action Zoo Chris brought with him a wonderful array of native animals - lace monitor, Tasmanian echidna, swamp wallaby, koala, kookaburra and dingo to name a few. Safe to say a number of adults and children thoroughly enjoyed the show. 900 plants were given to members of the community along with literature regarding plants and weeds.

If you are interested in Landcare and wish to attend a meeting, the meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at the Lancefield Mechanics Hall - drop in centre at 8.00pm.

There is no December meeting and the first meeting for 2014 will be the 10th February 2014.

President Robin 0428 315 846.

Simon Gillett of the Amy Gillett Foundation, Guest speaker at Cycling Club Xmas function

Cycle Safety is top of mind at the Macedon Ranges Cycling Club and it will be delighted to welcome Simon Gillett of the Amy Gillett Foundation as guest speaker at its end of year Christmas celebration.

The Club extends an open invitation to the community to join members at its Christmas celebration and fundraiser at the Albion Hotel, Kyneton, on Friday 13 December 2013 at 7 pm. Guests will have the chance to win a premier entry ticket to the 2014 Amy Gillett Gran Fondo event as well as other fabulous door prizes generously donated by local business.

Families are most welcome; the ticket cost is \$15 for children and \$45 for adults which includes meal and door prizes entry. Bookings are

essential and can be arranged by contacting the club secretary Chris Karopoulos on 0404854100.

The Club appreciates the importance of kids learning safe cycling skills as well as having fun on the bike. Two junior training clinics are planned to be run by the Club before Christmas at the Kyneton velodrome. Track bikes are supplied by the Club and the cost per child is a modest \$5 plus the cost of insurance through membership of Cycling Victoria or Bicycle Network Victoria. The Club would love to see lots of local kids attend the clinics. Contact the club secretary for dates and to register your child.

Submitted by Chris Karopoulos, Secretary Macedon Ranges Cycling Club

Lancefield Kindergarten AGM

Purpose: To present annual reports from 2013 and elect new committee for 2014

Date: Wednesday 19th February 2014

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start
Place: Lancefield Kindergarten



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Treble "F"

TREBLE'F' is a 'Carnivale' of colours this Christmas. As usual, every year we search for that faaabolous outfit for the Big Day along with the summer holiday gear to keep us cool. Helena is ready for summer and to show off her delicacies, inviting everyone to get in early with some 'Late Night' shopping! From 6pm till 9pm on Friday the 6th and 13th of December, the doors will be open at 136 Main Road, Lancefield. Pop in for a glass of Bubbles, chat and shop not forgetting to book in for your Cuccio Manicure or Pedicure before Christmas. The new colours are amazing. Enjoy this most festive time of the year and to all of my loyal clientele, stay safe and well. Ho, Ho, Ho!

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The Neighbourhood House is organising two community Christmas celebrations in Lancefield.

Carols in the Park - Friday 13 December - a wonderful family evening with the Kyneton Municipal Band, free children's activities including jumping castle, face painting, entertainment and a visit from Santa. The community BBQ will be there for you to be able to purchase dinner so BYO picnic rug or chairs. The evening starts at 6.30pm at the Park on the oval.

Community Christmas Lunch - Tuesday 17 December 12 noon - everyone is welcome to our annual Christmas Lunch. RSVP by phoning the House on 5429 1214 by Tuesday 10 December.

Courses for 2014 - next year we are offering a range of courses aimed at giving people experience and skills that are needed by our local businesses. We will form a partnership with some businesses to design the courses. When they need staff they will source from the list of people who have completed the course first. Details will be in our program brochures.

Closing times - The Op Shop and Townhouse will be closed from Monday 23 December, reopening 20 January.

The Neighbourhood House will reopen on Tuesday 28 January.

Defensive Driving Course - remember to contact the House on 54291 214 if you have just got your licence and would like to attend a Defensive Driving Course. Funds from the Op Shop are paying for any young Lancefield resident to do the course.

Incredible Edible - our first edible landscape has been held up due to the TV filming in town. We hope you will be viewing our first garden before the end of the year and enjoying some of the produce early in 2014. There are lots of ways you can be involved in the project - designing, planting, watering, maintaining, donating materials. We really hope to see a transformed main street next year.

Farmers Market - The last market for 2013 will be on Saturday 21 December. A great opportunity to purchase wonderful local produce - ideal for a hamper for those difficult to buy for gifts. A great opportunity to do all your Christmas shopping locally - it's a great challenge and you'll never go back to those huge shopping centres after exploring what's available in Lancefield and surrounding towns.



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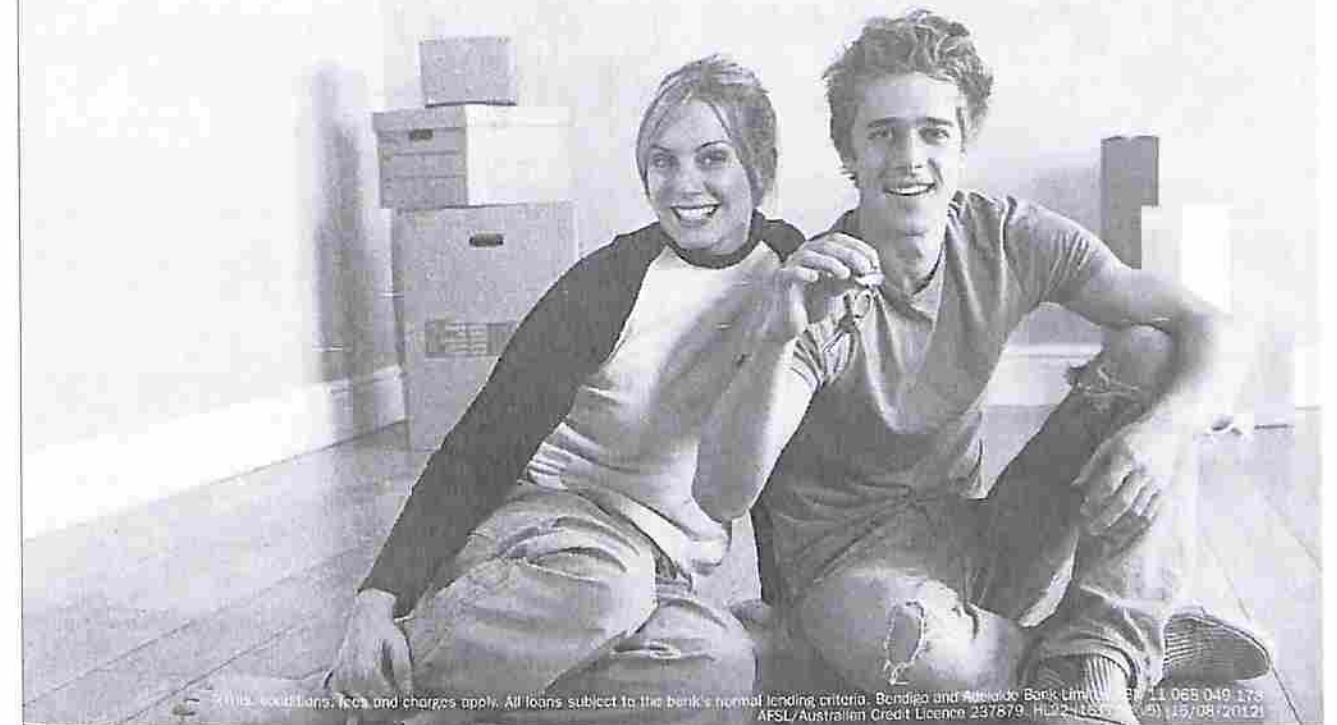
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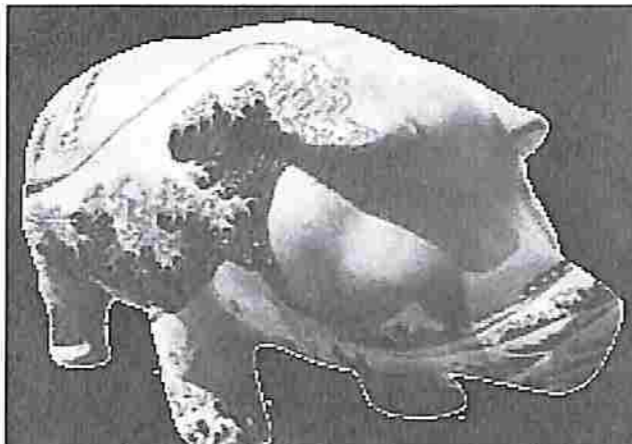
O PIG!

125 years ago, the village of Newham, which nestles in the shadow of Hanging Rock, was the home to a bacon factory, an early settlement industry.

In recognition of this achievement and to honour Newham's little pig mascot, Chin Chin, who lives on the stone wall outside the Newham General Store, the Newham Mechanic's Institute successfully applied for a community grant from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council for a Sculptural Pig Project.

10 fibreglass almost life size pigs will be manufactured and decorated by local artists of note, community groups and pupils of local schools. All ten pigs will be displayed in strategic locations around Newham, where for a month before the culmination at a Pig Festival on Saturday 22 March 2014 at the Newham Mechanic's Institute (next to Wesley Park bang in the centre of Newham) and at the Newham Primary School, the local community and visitors will vote to select three pigs to be placed permanently around the village.

Other pigs will be offered for sale by silent auction at the Festival and there will also be local produce stalls, various arts and crafts, information booths, live



music, and food and wine available at the Festival and at the Newham General Store.

Keep Saturday 22 March 2014 free for a visit to Newham to celebrate all things Pig and marvel at some beautifully decorated sculptures. Who knows, you might be inspired by the legend of Chin Chin and be one of the lucky ones who takes home for display, to the marvel of your neighbours, one of the magnificently decorated, almost life size pigs.

Contributed by Sue Massie, Member Steering Group Newham Sculptural Pig Project

Combined Probus Club Of Romsey And Lancefield Inc.

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For Active Retirees.

President: John Seamons 5429 3804

Secretary: Jeni Clampit 5429 5480

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

Persons interested in this club and wish to have more information please contact the President or Secretary at the above phone numbers.

Christmas Breakup

Our Christmas Breakup will be on Wednesday 18th December at the 'Australiana' at Wandong

We really enjoy Christmas at the "Australiana", they have a beautiful meal in lovely surroundings.

Meetings in 2014.

We will be having a get together lunch at 12noon at the Hanging Rock Café on Wednesday, 15th January.

Our first meeting for 2014 will be on Thursday 27th February at 10am

Community Carols event.

The Combined Churches of Romsey & Lancefield invite you to celebrate Christmas at the annual Community Carols event.

Come and enjoy a BBQ, fun activities, singing and supper. Community Carols

Sunday 15th December

6pm - BBQ & family fun activities

7pm - Carols Followed by Supper @ Romsey Mechanics Hall

Everyone Welcome

For further details

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Telehealth Consultations from the Medical Centres with your Melbourne based specialist is now available.
Bulk billed Quick Clinic appointments are available every weekday at both centres, for urgent/lost repeat prescriptions.

Remembrance Day

It was wonderful to see students from Lancefield Primary, St. Mary's Primary School and Romsey Primary School attend the Remembrance Day Service In Lancefield and reflect on the sacrifices made for our freedom.



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Lancefield And St. Paul's Romsey

"Be still and know that I am God"
Psalm 46:10

"I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 8:12

So claimed Jesus, Son of God. God in the flesh, whose birth as the Babe of Bethlehem over 2000 years ago we are about to celebrate and whose return in glory we await expectantly. John the Baptist said of Him that "He, Who was the true Light, was coming into the world." John 1:9. Why did He come? To reveal to us the true nature of God, the wonder of His holiness, greatness, love and what manner of persons we are in our sinful fallen natures. He came to die for our sins which separate us from God, granting us forgiveness and transforming us into His likeness; to have the LIGHT OF LIFE.

So as the busyness of these coming days come upon us, let us take some time out and follow the Psalmist's words, "Be still and know that I am God. May we take time out in quietness and think on Jesus, the Saviour, and rejoicing, embrace Him anew in our hearts and minds.

"O, may we keep and ponder in our mind, God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind,

Trace we the Babe, Who has retrieved our loss, from His poor manger to His bitter cross,

Tread in His steps, assisted by His grace, Till our first heavenly state again takes place." J Byrom

November In Retrospect. The

AMS (Anglican Men's Society) met and remembered our Fallen in past and present wars, especially, the Army Chaplains, whose service of 100 years officially was spoken of.

Romsey Guild, following the AGM, now has a new President: Mrs Betty Dansey (Lancefield) and a new Secretary: Mrs Glenice Mitchell (Romsey).

The Healing Service on the third Sunday of each month brings blessings to those who attend. The Church AGM was held and as we go into a new year we thank all our office bearers and others who keep our Church running smoothly.

We praise and thank God for His blessings and the faithful and wise ministry of our vicar, Rev Bill Carroll. We welcomed into our Church membership, Emelia, who was baptized, and pray that she will be "God's faithful soldier and servant until her life's end."

Diary - December 2013

Please start collecting Christmas gifts for Anglicare - for children and teenagers, unwrapped. Donations of gift wrapping paper welcome

Service Times for Sun 1st December:
9.00am, ST PAUL'S ROMSEY
10.30am, Holy Communion - CHRIST CHURCH LANCEFIELD
Saturday, 7th PARISH STREET STALL - Outside IGA, Romsey. Cakes..Gifts..Plants etc.

RAFFLE. 1st prize: Barbie Doll Car; 2nd Prize: Coffee Maker; 3rd Prize: Quality Toaster. Tickets @\$2

each
Thurs 12th - 12 noon: GUILD CHRISTMAS LUNCH at 58 Ewing Drive. Small plate to share.
- 8pm: AMS Christmas Carols and Supper - 69 High St. Lancefield.

Sunday 15th COMBINED CHURCHES CHRISTMAS CAROLS - Romsey Mechanics Inst, 6pm onwards - Kids' games & BBQ, then Carols
Tues 24th CHRISTMAS EVE. Midnight Service, 11.30pm - CHRIST CHURCH Lancefield.
Wed 25th CHRISTMAS DAY 10am - ST PAUL'S ROMSEY
Sun 29th Services at: 9am - St Paul's Romsey; 10.30am - Christ Church Lancefield.

NOTE SERVICE TIMES: 8.45am Prayers, 9am Holy Communion - St Paul's Romsey
10.15am Prayers, 10.30am Holy Communion - Christ Church Lancefield.

AND WE HAVE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY OF THE ONE AND ONLY, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH." John 1:14b

May God, our Heavenly Father, richly bless our Community this Christmas and throughout the New Year 2014.

Minister: Rev W Carroll - 0427 918607, Office 5429 1380,
D Morgan, Correspondent

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Protection

In the year 1930, at prepschool, I had to practice learning the alphabet. For some reason, I always got stuck at the letter "P".

Some time ago I wrote about "property". Which is a possession owned, either privately or by the general community. This time I write about protection which is a bit further down the alphabet. Property is obtained by means of effort and most people protect their property. In Lancefield this is just as much so, as in Victoria or in the whole of Australia for that matter. We protect our car and what's in it (we lock it, I hope). We fence our plot of land and lock up our houses to stop intruders. We object if authorities let others destroy our community property, whether that is our environment, our standard of living or whatever.

Nobody should use physical force against somebody else's property and defence is protection against attack. When somebody attempts to deal with

somebody else's property by force, only then in defence, can we reply with force. This is a natural instinct. It happens with birds, animals and even insects (just stand on an ant's nest and see what happens).

Protection is necessary for countries, states, people, businesses, knowledge and other possessions.

In a democratic society our leaders must defend our country (landmass, airspace, mining rights, territorial waters and coastline), hence we must not just have an army, but a complete Defence Force. Our laws should protect our knowledge (with patents and trademarks), our communal finances (with taxation, rates and budget spending) and our lifestyle (cost of living, minimum wages, support for the under privileged etc.).

If defence is low or lacks sophistication, the resistance against attack usually fails. This is evident with the historical wars in Persia,

Rome and early Europe.

Some countries just take land as their colonies. Aborigines and American Indians had no hope, against the guns of their conquerors. The United States of America is an exception, to this rule of survival. With enormous effort, the Americans threw the colonials out.

Even with all its shortcomings, the lifestyle in Australia is the envy around the world. Hence the desire of many people to live, not just in our cities but some even prefer to live in a country town, like Lancefield.

We all protect our own belongings and our leaders whether in Canberra, in the States or Municipalities should not only lead is, but equally so, protect our common possessions.

Only if we are able to defend ourselves, are we able to protect what we have, whether it is our property or our life style.

Murk Schoen

Tai Chi Classes

Saturdays at 11am. Beginners are most welcome at any time. Passive exercise & meditation for all ages that offer balance of mind & body for health, vitality and wellbeing.

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COMING EVENTS

7th & 8th December 2013

Womens Intensive Self Defense Empowerment Weekend

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Book early as places fill quickly

23rd & 24th November 2013

Karate Training Camp

For children and adults

10th, 11th & 12th January 2014

Intensive Tai Chi Workshop

All welcome

Bookings may be made through www.wulinretreat.com go to coming events/programs.

Barefoot Bowls Xmas Family Day

This month the Romsey Region Women's Network would like to kick off the festive season by extending an invitation to all members and their families for a relaxing Sunday afternoon on the bowling green. No prior experience is necessary, basic coaching is provided. Just bring some flat-soled shoes (runners or thongs) or bare feet, and your sense of humour!



If you are wondering what the RRWN is about, we are a group that aspires to connect local women in our rural communities in a warm and welcoming environment in which they can exchange ideas, share about their lives and have some laughs. It's a great way to meet new people in the local area, tap into the wealth of knowledge local women have to offer and not only network in a business/professional

sense but meet like-minded women and form new friendships.

We will resume gatherings to the usual 3rd Thursday of each month at 7pm in January, the venue has yet to be decided. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Where: - Lancefield Lawn Bowling Club, Lancefield Park Recreation Reserve, Chauncey Street.
Date: - Sunday 1st December 2013
Time: - 12pm to 4pm
Cost: - Adult - \$15 / Kids - FREE
Food: - BYO picnic hamper, BBQ facilities available
Licensed bar on premises - basic alcoholic beverages and soft drinks available at bar prices.
Please note this facility is NOT BYO
RSVP: by 30th November to info@rrwn.org.au.
Payment required with confirmation of acceptance.

Enquiries: - Romsey Region Women's Network Inc.
111 Main Street, Romsey VIC 3434
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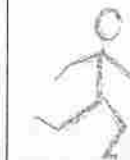
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Lancefield Golf Club Report

Our picturesque golf course is in excellent condition at the moment due to good rains this month. The greens have benefitted from their yearly coring and are now reaching their peak condition. With beautiful, sweeping views of the surrounding district and improving weather now is a great time to have a hit of golf.

We are all looking forward to our next major event kindly sponsored by North Western Real

Estate on Sunday 15th December. We would like to invite all golfers to join us as this is an important day on our golfing calendar.

It is a great way to wind up the year enjoying 18 holes of golf, a social get together over a delicious barbeque lunch with an open bar.

Get a team together or come along and join others to make up a foursome.

North Western 4 Person Ambrose Event

Lancefield Golf Club
Men's, Ladies, Mixed
Sunday 15th December 2013
11.00am Shot Gun Start
\$20 per person includes BBQ Lunch
To register your team or for other enquiries please ring Glen Cook on 0413 700 620

Lancefield Golf Club offers opportunities for everyone to have a hit. Thursday twilight golf is a friendly, relaxed game over 10

holes. We tee off between 5 and 5.30pm and enjoy a barbeque dinner every fourth week. Please ring Barry on 0419150349 for more information. Everyone from beginners to experienced golfers are welcome as you don't need to be a member to join us for a social hit. Mid week golf is on Tuesdays and the players hit off at 9.00am. Saturday golf begins at 12.30pm each week and we generally have 35 -40 players.

Both ladies and men are welcome. Our lady golfers meet each Wednesday at 9.00am and we would like to offer an invitation to any ladies who would like to join us for a great day of golf. Please ring our Lady Captain Di Rohde on 0419372130 for more information. If you would like more information about our fantastic golf club please go to our website at lancefieldgolfclub.com or friend us on facebook.



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Father Christmas will write to you!

If you are old enough to read this we thought you ought to know that Father Christmas has appointed your Lancefield Romsey Lions Club as one of his agents in Australia.

Why not let your little boy or girl have the thrill of writing to Father Christmas and receiving a personal non-committal letter by return mail direct from the grand old gentleman's North Pole workshop.

If your child is too young to write to Santa, write a letter for him/her and tell them what you have written.

Or, if you would like your grandchildren, niece, nephew, etc. to receive a letter from Father Christmas, just give us their name and address and we will see that he writes before Christmas Day.

It's easy! Here is all you do:

Write to "Father Christmas", (c/- address below)
Be sure your child's full name and address is written legibly in the letter.

Enclose a gold coin donation per letter.

Your donation will be used towards our local community projects.

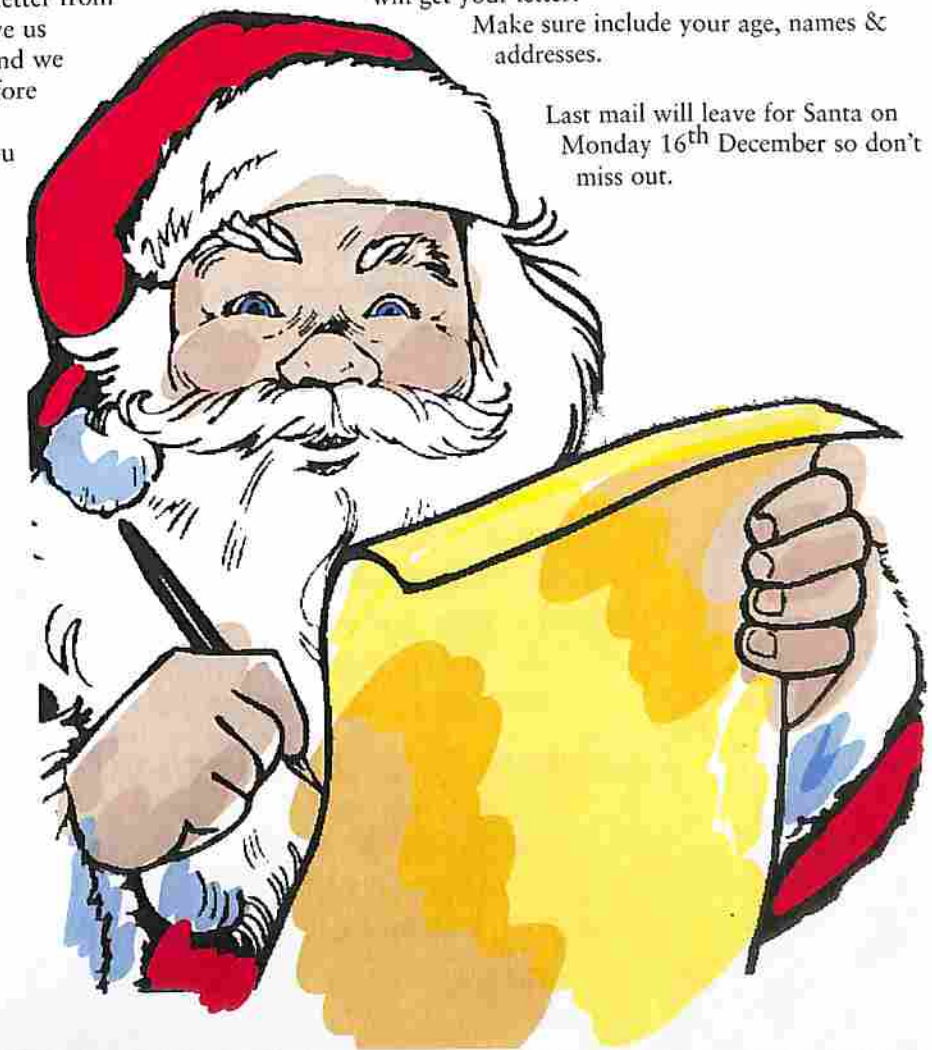
ADDRESS YOUR LETTER TO

Father Christmas
c/- Lancefield Romsey Lions Club and drop it in to the Lancefield Post Office

The Lions Club guarantee that Father Christmas will get your letter!

Make sure include your age, names & addresses.

Last mail will leave for Santa on Monday 16th December so don't miss out.





Southern Cross Cultural Exchange Program

Erin Barr, of Lancefield, will travel to the USA next February as part of a Southern Cross Cultural Exchange program.

She will be away for about 3 months. Erin, 14, is pictured here with Braemar College Principal Russell Deer (left) and Member

for McEwen, Rob Mitchell, who made a surprise visit to the school to present Erin with Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, a booklet on Australian flags and a copy of the Australian Constitution to take as a gift to her host school in

Bemidji, Minnesota. Mr Mitchell congratulated Erin for taking on the challenge to experience life in another country.

"Full credit also to Braemar College for supporting young people to expand their Horizons," Mr Mitchell said.

Christmas in Lancefield

Carols in the Park

Friday 13 December 6.30 pm

- Music by the Kyneton Municipal Band
- Jumping Castle, Face Painting, Santa Visit.
- The Community BBQ will be there for you to purchase dinner
- BYO picnic rug and chairs.

Community Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 17 December 12 noon

Lancefield Mechanics Hall

Everyone Welcome

RSVP by 10 December phone 54291214

Proudly organised by Lancefield Neighbourhood House