

Lancefield Mercury



Merry Christmas

Another year is almost over, and the Lancefield Mercury will have a break from publication in January and be back in your letter boxes in February 2024. I would like, on behalf of the committee of the Lancefield Mercury, to thank all our advertisers and contributors for their help during the year. The Mercury has been going strongly ever since it restarted as community paper in 1991 and it just keeps getting stronger. I would also like to thank the committee for the many hours per month that they put into making the Mercury the paper it has become. Thanks also go to the cheerful band of walkers who get out every month to deliver the paper to each house in Lancefield. And thanks must go to the Post Office who makes sure that the copies are delivered to our rural addresses and to the mailboxes.

Many hands make light work, so if anyone wants to become involved in any aspect of the production of the Mercury give me a ring or send me an email.

Merry Christmas and have a great New Year.

Andy Moore

LANCEFIELD PARKRUN



COME AND JOIN US

Come and join us on Saturday mornings for a trip around Lancefield Park. Join the runners and walkers for 5km, and do it at your own pace – however fast or slow! The weather is perfect at the moment to get out early and enjoy the new day. Bring the kids, pushers are welcome, as are dogs on leads.

Parkrun is completely free (all you need to do is to register – we can help you to do this) and open to everyone. We have a tail-end-Charlie to make sure

that no-one gets lost, first aid available and a heap of cheerful volunteers to make sure you get the most out of your Saturday morning. You can even join us for coffee afterwards.

If you can't make it to Lancefield, there are parkruns in Sunbury, Woodend, Kilmore and Gisborne.

A great way to start your weekend. For more information on parkrun and your local parkrun, google Lancefield parkrun.

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CWA

MAKE FRIENDS OVER A CUPPA, WHILST YOU SUPPORT PEOPLE IN NEED, WITH WALL-TO-WALL NANNAS ON HAND

You're a woman living locally, with young to teenage kids; kids still at home, anyhow. Or you're an older woman who's just retired or moved from the city. Why would you join the CWA? Really, the question: Why wouldn't you?

Not just a bunch of older women sitting around chatting over scones, bottomless cups of tea, and Anzac bikkies in April, the CWA began in 1922, just over one hundred years ago, in NSW and Queensland, with other state branches soon to follow over the next fourteen years. Its founders saw a huge need for all kinds of support – material and emotional – for women isolated in the rural parts of Australia, having to deal with everything from the usual farm tasks, to crises of drought, fluctuating income and natural disasters.

It's been going now for over a century. Women of all ages are welcomed – in fact for new arrivals to the area, dropping in to make contact with the local CWA group is a sure way to get to know your community quickly, with helping hands at the ready whilst you settle in.

What would we do without the Country Women's Association? When there are local events, you will find the enthusiastic ladies of the CWA in the kitchen making tea, and proffering plates of tempting home-made sandwiches, slices and cakes – celebrations for the footy club, the cricket club, and assorted events at the Mechanics' Institute always include the CWA kitchen goodies backup. On Anzac Day, with biscuits already pre-sold at markets and plenty more freshly baked on the day, the CWA is central to the success of the post remembrance service reunion.

Rural women and children were the original focus for support, and initially, only women whose income was derived from the land could become members; today this

criterion has expanded to include rural and urban members from every walk of life.

Tracy Kemp has been one of the members of our local branch for just over twenty years, and she is keen to encourage new members to join. Here are some reasons why that's such a good idea.

Did you know that the CWA is a powerful lobby group? Social justice, improving access to essential services, offering train fares to the city the medical tests; funding two scholarships for year 6 school children, both girls and boys, who uphold the best values of their community; supplying support from the CWA Emergency Funds for disaster relief in times of bushfires like Black Saturday, floods like Rochester, and other natural catastrophes.

The Victorian CWA has raised over \$30,000 per year for the last three years for disaster relief. The Thanksgiving funds this year go to the Women's Housing Limited, and the state project is disaster recovery.

With the numbers of women and children needing accommodation and support due to domestic violence and homelessness rising steadily, there is plenty of need for a helping hand, access to essential services and Pamper Packs for women, which include toiletries and female-focussed items they wouldn't buy for themselves when funds, and feelings of self-worth, are low.

CWA currently raises money for not only local, but also international women and children in need. Birthing kits are sent to Third World and developing countries. These provide a pack for hygienic birth deliveries, preventing infections

Continued on next page

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and damage that have awful effects on the mothers down the track, and can mean that they are shunned by their communities as unclean.

Gisborne has a Days for Girls group. This group is not run by the CWA, but some local CWA members are in this group as well. They sew sanitary items to send, along with new undies, holders with napkins, and waterproof pouches for discreet disposal, as any references to female monthly cycles are taboo. In some countries, for five days per month every year of fertility, menstruating girls must stay home; many give up going to school altogether. That can lead to early marriage, many pregnancies and fistulas, the damage from which is the beginning of the cycle of shunning, being called “wet women”, and often descent into prostitution. So hygienic birthing kits are a necessity to help handle this avoidable outcome. CWA’s birthing packs can prevent this and save lives.

The branches study different countries each year: this year it’s Namibia, next year Rumania. This is a good way of discovering that women from all parts of the world, no matter what age, colour, religion or economic circumstances, have more in common than may appear on the surface.

There is a yearly Creative Arts Exhibition, but the CWA isn’t about crafts, although knitting and crochet are skills many of them have, which are put to use in the packs that are sent for disaster relief, if people lose their belongings.

Contributions include donations to the Food Bank, bundles of clothes, and knitted blankets sent to places like East Timor. CWA has also knitted and sent for distribution

by outreach groups blankets, hats and gloves for people living rough in Victoria. One of the projects this coming year is “fiddle muffs” for people living with dementia that will be distributed in the next year.

Over the years the CWA has owned property in capital cities where country members stay during city visits, at very reasonable rates. My mum stayed in the Elizabeth Bay CWA building when she came to Sydney, and then in the Toorak house when she travelled to Victoria. The CWA houses allow anyone to stay: families and couples, not just women. More recently, some properties have been sold or leased out, with the interest funding scholarships for young people who want to continue further education after secondary school.

In the Central Highlands, there are eleven CWA groups, most of whom meet monthly. Some branches also hold a chat and craft days between their meeting days.

In our immediate area some meet during the day, some at night, on various days/nights of the week:

Night meetings – Woodend, Heathcote and Sunbury

Daytime meetings – Lancefield, Romsey and Gisborne

The Lancefield branch of the CWA meets on the fourth Friday of the month, in the Mechanics’ Institute annex, from 10.15am till 12.30pm.

You will be welcomed with open arms, a hot drink, interest and support. And some willing “nannas” of every age, waiting to greet you and your children.

Beth Child

LANCEFIELD MERCURY INC.

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Deadline for articles and advertisements is the 15th of the month. The Mercury is distributed by post and volunteer deliverers to all premises with a letter box in the Lancefield postal area at the start of the month. Copies of the paper can also be found at the Romsey Library.

The Lancefield Mercury is produced by volunteers as a service to the people of Lancefield.

The editorial committee reserves the right to edit articles for length and clarity.

Items for publication should be sent to editor3435@gmail.com – enquiries Andy Moore 0430 448 120

Enquiries about advertising: advertising3435@gmail.com – Ken Allender 0404 886 580

Check lancefieldmercury.org.au for general information about advertising and how to contribute articles, as well to see digital back copies.



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Editorial Enquiries to
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Advertising Rates

One eighth page \$35
One quarter page \$55
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Rates for one year – 11 editions (no edition in January)

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

Colour Advertising:

Full page \$240 per edition
1/2 page \$145 per edition
1/4 Quarter page \$80 per
edition

The Lancefield Mercury acknowledges the people of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung as the Traditional Custodians of the Country that includes Lancefield and Wil-im-ee Moor-ring. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all people of the First Nations. We recognise their continuing connection to the land and waters, and thank them for protecting this country since time immemorial.



Maybelle at the CWA stall at the Lancefield Farmer's market.



LANCEFIELD COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

President: Angela Turner, Secretary: Maybelle Briggs, Treasurer: Sandra Stevens, lancefieldcwa@gmail.com

CWA FINISHES THE YEAR ON A HIGH NOTE

This is our last article for this year, 2023. We have held our AGM and we thank Mel Pritchard for chairing our meeting. All office bearers were duly re-elected for the coming 12 months.

Did you buy lots of goodies from our stall at the November Farmer's Market?

School aged children found something for their teachers as a thank you. The white Christmas was very popular. Grandma made it years ago!

We will present a scholarship to a year six pupil from Lancefield Primary School and also St. Mary's at their Speech Nights. Congratulations to these recipients, (no names yet!)

We will hold our Christmas break-up lunch at the Lancefield Hotel on Friday 24 November at midday. You are most welcome to join us for this casual get together.

Have you enjoyed reading about Namibia?

At the Country Women's Association of Victoria we are very proud of our continuing role as advocates for women, children and families in Victoria. Recently we made a submission to the Senate Inquiry on Bank Closures in Regional Australia which is due to report by 1 December 2023.

The CWA will continue to advocate for those most affected by bank branch closures including rural, regional and metropolitan communities, the elderly, those without access to technology, and the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities.

Now, have a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and best wishes for the coming new year.

Maybelle






Mon 6.00am - 5.30pm
Tues 6.00am - 5.30pm
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LANCEFIE LD POLICE

POLICE REPORT

If you have been watching the news, you may have heard that the Victoria Police members may be engaging in Protected Industrial Action from December 1 as a result of our current Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. As you can appreciate, I am not able to comment about this. I will, however, assure everyone in our community that if undertaken, this action will not jeopardise the safety of anyone in the community. All members of the Victoria Police force took a vow to protect life and property and help those in need of assistance.

A reminder about the ongoing firearms and weapons amnesty, and the recent changes to firearms storage requirements. The amnesty gives you the opportunity if you have an unregistered or illegal firearm, to hand that firearm in to a police station or a Licenced Firearms Dealer without fear of prosecution. The law around firearms storage changed in August 2022 and we are still seeing non-compliance with the new requirements. The firearm safe needs to be “purpose built”, and not the old clothing locker. It needs to be of steel construction with the thickness of the steel no thinner than 1.6mm. I know these safes are available at the hardware’s in Lancefield and Kyneton, and all licenced firearms outlets.

The Country Fire Authority have declared that the Fire Danger Period for Macedon Ranges Shire will start at 1am on the November 27 this year. The CFA and Victoria Police will act under a zero-tolerance policy and any fire lit in the open air within Macedon Ranges will result in a date before the Magistrates. Police won’t be issuing warnings, and the possible consequences to the loss of life or property will not be glossed over. Remember “you light it, you own it”.

CRIME:

Over the last 6 weeks reportable incidents have remained

steady. It has been noted that through the Macedon ranges incidents of burglaries and theft have involved houses, sheds and unlocked cars.

TRAFFIC:

With the warmer weather and increase in cyclist’s on the roads, here’s a timely reminder about the laws that came into force on the April 26 2021, involving motorists and cyclists sharing the roads. The laws state that motorists should pass cyclists at a minimum of 1 metre when travelling in 60 kph zones or less, and a minimum of 1.5m when travelling in speed zones over 60 kph. Drivers should also consider the width of anything that they are towing if it exceeds the width of their car.

The change of speed limit along Kilmore-Lancefield Road to 60kph between Main Road and Doggetts Bridge is not an advisory speed limit, it is an enforceable speed limit.

Don’t forget the School Zones locations, times and the speed limit of 40 kph. Remember the speed zone starts at the first 40 sign, not the second and ends at the 60 sign.

Most of you would know the amount of patrolling that I do along Three Chain Road between Lancefield and Carlsruhe and Lancefield Tooborac Road as an enforceable but also a visible deterrent. I would like to say that the number of speed offences has dropped dramatically. It has been noted the decrease in the traffic accidents involving serious injuries along the main rural roads. This comes after a shocking year where fatalities on our roads Victoria wide are 44 higher than last year and the highest in a decade.

Chris Botwood
Leading Senior Constable
Lancefield Police Station 5429 2000



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Presbytery office hours: Wednesday & Friday 8am-5pm - lancefield@cam.org.au 5429 2130

PLANS FOR A OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASS UNDER WAY

Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 9am and will alternate between Lancefield & Romsey.

First and third Sunday of the month in Romsey; second, fourth and fifth Sunday of the month in Lancefield.

The Healing Mass will be celebrated at 10am in Romsey on the first Saturday of each month.

Baptisms are held at 2:30pm on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. Please contact the office for the next available date.

Bookings are now open for parish children to register for all Sacraments due in 2024. Reconciliation available to Year 3 and above, Holy Communion available to Year 4 and above and Confirmation available to Year 6 and above. Please contact the office if you would like to register your child.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS MASSES

Plans are under way to once again host an outdoor Christmas Eve Mass this year. Fr. Arnold Heredia has kindly agreed to celebrate Christmas Masses at St. Mary's, so Fr. Martin will be able to schedule a further 3 Masses at Woodend.

A total of 5 Christmas Masses will be available to all St.

Mary's & St. Ambrose parishioners so there will be a time and place to suit everyone.




- Wednesday 13 December – 7pm – Advent Reconciliation - Lancefield
- Wednesday 20 December – 7:30pm – Advent Reconciliation - Woodend
- Sunday 24 December – 6pm – outdoor family Mass – Lancefield
- Sunday 24 December – 6pm – indoor family Mass – Woodend
- Sunday 24 December – 10pm Mass (including carols) – Woodend
- Monday 25 December – 9am Christmas Day Mass – Romsey
- Monday 25 December – 9am Christmas Day Mass – Woodend

Should a parishioner want to go to Reconciliation, please contact Fr. Martin directly at Woodend on 5427 2690 to make arrangement.



Please direct enquiries to lancefield@cam.org.au or to the parish office on 5429 2130. For funeral arrangements, please contact Fr. Martin at woodend@cam.org.au or on 5427 2690.

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FIRE DANGER PERIOD AND HEAT PREPARATIONS THIS SUMMER

Residents are being urged to prepare for an increased likelihood of warmer and drier conditions over summer, with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) declaring the Fire Danger Period for the Macedon Ranges beginning on November 27, ending on 1 May 2024 (unless otherwise advised). During the Fire Danger Period, no fire may be lit in the open air without a permit.

Council is focused on working with the community to collectively reduce our shire's fire risk, including undertaking an annual roadside slashing program across Council-managed roads to reduce the likelihood of fires starting from hot vehicle exhausts, mechanical failures and collisions.

Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officers are also conducting property inspections across the shire to check for fire hazards and issue Fire Prevention Notices where appropriate.

Residents are reminded of the importance of being prepared for fires, and to ensure their properties are maintained to ensure there are minimum flammable fuels including stockpiles of green waste and foliage in gutters. Free green waste disposal is available for ratepayers and tenants at Council's transfer stations in Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend.

For more information on:

- preparing for fire and heat – visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/fire-heat
- Fire Danger Ratings and the Fire Danger Period – visit cfa.vic.gov.au
- applying for a permit – visit firepermits.vic.gov.au
- the latest information on current incidents and alerts – visit emergency.vic.gov.au



COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF ROMSEY AND LANCEFIELD INC.

P.O. Box 280, Romsey. Vic. 3434

WHAT IS PROBUS?

The Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club is for active retirees or semi-retired people to meet, relax and enjoy the welcoming company of those at the same stage of life. There is a regular monthly meeting with guest speakers, morning tea and time to socialise with the other members. Each month there is a regular outing for lunch held at different venues around the region as well as short and longer trips throughout the year. There is a coffee morning at 10am every Friday at the Lancefield Corner Store where members meet for a chat and a bit of fun.

At our November meeting 2 members shared their experiences travelling through Northern Queensland. We also revisited the trip to W.A. for those who didn't attend, with a visual presentation of the trip highlights.

The next meeting of the Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club will be early in 2024 and will be the last meeting before the AGM. If you are interested, you can attend as a visitor on February 22 at 10am. We already have a guest speaker organised - Luci Quinn will be sharing her recent experiences of touring the Holy Land in 2023. We are beginning to plan and organise trips and events for 2024, taking advantage of local sites and businesses as well as attractions further afield. We make sure members are consulted and their interested are well catered for.

We are a friendly, welcoming group from diverse backgrounds with a variety of interests and we'd love to meet you! Feel free to attend a meeting as a visitor.

President Noreen 0401 579 180 Secretary Betty 0409359048 www.rlprobus.org.au

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We are a small branch operating in the Macedon State and McEwen Federal electorates, meeting locally. We would like to be larger and more effective, and welcome new member applications. The membership fees are reasonable with some concessional arrangements.

In Australia we have a developing democracy after moving through a colonial era to a modern federation. With a long history of First Nations peoples, mixed with migrants from all nations, we have a great blend of people and essentially a peaceful environment even when we disagree.

Our political structure and voting system is not perfect, but it is much better than most countries. However, local participation is essential in a workable democracy. Joining your local branch gives you an opportunity to get feedback on political matters and an opportunity to inject your ideas into policy making. We sometimes use our voice to raise issues of community concern with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, local state and federal agencies or our local politicians. Currently we have Labor members at state and federal level who do listen and help out wherever possible.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. If you are interested in joining or just need more information go to the Victorian ALP website or contact Guy Walters (guyw4@bigpond.com).

REDUCE YOUR HOLIDAY WASTE

The holiday season is upon us and Council would like to remind the community of the recycling options available in the shire.

REMEMBER TO:

Flatten cardboard boxes before putting them in the recycling bin

Scrunch up foil into a small ball before putting it in your recycling bin

Take the lids off glass bottles and jars before putting them in your glass bin

Excess cardboard, polystyrene, e-waste and textiles can be recycled at your local resource recovery facility for free.

OTHER WASTE REDUCTION TIPS:

When giving gifts, consider using reusable wrapping paper to reduce waste.

Plan your meals and only buy what you need. If you have leftovers, consider freezing them to reduce your food waste.

Consider purchasing gifts from local businesses to support the local economy.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/waste for more waste reduction tips or information about Council's resource recovery services.



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LANCEFIELD FOOTBALL AND NETBALL CLUB

SEASON 2024 PROMISES TO BE LANCEFIELD'S BIGGEST FOR MANY YEARS

The Lancefield Football Netball Club held their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday November 14. In his President's report Joe Schembri spoke about more than \$50,000 that the club had invested this season in 'one-off' and infrastructure costs such as the electronic scoreboard, changeroom improvements, cashless payment systems, lighting repayments, marquees, websites and more. The club was also pleased with their best on-field football performance for a number of years, and given the number of young players that debuted this year, the hope of continued improvement. There was also a focus from the club to put more resources into the netball program, having recently appointed new coaches across each grade. The next season promises to be even bigger with an Under 19s and women's football side being added.

Following the formalities, nominations were taken for the committee for season 2024. The committee will be as follows:

President – Joe Schembri; Vice President – Chris Dynon; Secretary – Kerry Hammond; Treasurer – Bill Balcam

General Committee – Lucas Jowett, Tammie Dalglish, Barry Hunt, Lorraine Krauss, Matt Harrop, Tamara Grischy, Mollie Choate

The AGM follows on from a hugely successful first day of Netball trials on the previous Saturday, where numbers were so large that the club is now looking to field an extra team next year, as well as the first pre-season training session on the Monday, where numbers were up almost 50% on the same session last year. Season 2024 promises to be Lancefield's biggest for many years. The club is looking forward to making a number of exciting announcements in the coming months around both on and off field news that will see the club become bigger and stronger again. Follow LancefieldFNC on all the socials to hear it first.

Chris Dynon



THE LANCEFIELD FOOTBALL CLUB 1873-2023 CHRISTMAS GIFT AVAILABLE

We are pleased to announce that the second edition of The Lancefield Football Club 1873-2023 book is now available for at \$80 per copy (not including postage and handling) and will make a great Christmas gift.

The first edition sold out in the first month. If you were one of the many who missed out on obtaining a copy of the first edition, the second edition will be available for purchase from the Historical Society at 55 Main Road Lancefield. Other outlets include the Bendigo Bank and Red Door Books as you undertake your last efforts of filling the Christmas stocking.

To ensure you don't miss out, you can preorder by contacting Shirley on 0402 248 540. Alternatively on-line orders can be made through romseylancefieldhistorical.org.au.

Postage can also be arranged at an additional cost of \$20.

In addition to acknowledging the generosity of sponsors of the first edition, we now add Central Victoria Conveyancing, Lancefield Hotel, Lancefield Mercury, Lancefield Neighbourhood House, Hindsight Consulting and Property Management Macedon Ranges who have assisted with printing costs for this new edition.



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FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR TIM

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Ph 5429 6327 E: office@encouragechurch.com.au W: encouragechurch.com.au

THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS

Jesus told him, “I am the Way—yes, and the Truth and the Life. No one can get to the Father except by means of me. (John 14:6, Living Bible).

Spoiler alert. If Santa is part of your Christmas tradition, don't read any further.

We have never 'done' Santa in our house. You know, the bloke that brings you gifts; sees everything you do; works out whether you are naughty or nice; and on one night of the year is everywhere all at once.

There were two reasons for the absence of Santa. The first was a selfish reason – I worked really hard for that money to buy those gifts and no one else was getting credit for them – particularly if they didn't exist. The second, and more important reason, was that if we 'did' Santa and then

my children realised the truth about Santa, I didn't want them to then doubt the truth I had taught them about God. I wanted them to hear the truth from the start about God who does see all we do; who will ultimately judge us for our good and evil (thank God I believe in Jesus and I am saved); who is everywhere all at once, all of the time; and who gave the greatest gift of all to us, his son Jesus.

That is the truth about Christmas and the one that I wanted my children to learn.

If you want to learn the truth about Christmas, join us for our Family Christmas Service at 10am on Sunday 17 December followed by a church picnic; or our Christmas Eve services at 10am and 7pm on Sunday 24 December and visit us at 10am on a Sunday morning at 7 Mitchell Court in Romsey.

RURAL LANCEFIELD BIN COLLECTION CHANGES

From the first week of February 2024, properties south of Three Chain Road and some properties north of Three Chain Road (including Institute Road, Wisemans Lane, Doherty Road, Egans Lane, Forest Road, McKinley Track and Croziers Road) will be moving from the 2B collection area to the 1A collection area.

Rural Lancefield properties will now have their bins collected on a Thursday in line with the regular Lancefield township collection.

Affected properties will receive a letter in December detailing the change. The change is expected to improve bin collection service efficiency and reduce the total kilometres travelled by waste collection trucks each week.

For more information contact Council on 5422 0333.

ACVVS - WE'RE COMING TO YOU!

In February 2024, Council staff will be out and about visiting local markets and libraries to invite community members to volunteer with the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS). ACVVS, funded by the Australian Government, aims to tackle social isolation and loneliness in older people.

As people get older, it can get harder to socialise or keep in contact with family and friends. Volunteers are matched with an older person with whom they share a passion or interest for regular visits.

The program started in July and it now has a waitlist of keen older residents looking for a volunteer visitor. Could you be one?

Come and meet us in February next year to find out how you can become involved with this rewarding program or to find out more, visit Council's ACVVS web page, contact Council on 5422 0333 or email volunteervisiting@mrsc.vic.gov.au

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ROMSEY LIBRARY

DIARY DATES

A Curious Circle: Christmas Craft, 6.30pm – 8.30pm, Thursday 7 December.

Join in with a lively and fun group of adult women as we explore our creativity each month with a different activity. No special skills are needed to attend these sessions, and refreshments are provided. For our final session of the year, we will get into the festive spirit, making Christmas related craft. Bookings essential.

Whimsical Weaving Workshop: 1pm – 4pm, Tuesday 5 December.

Join us for this enjoyable craft workshop. Learn how easy it is to create your own whimsical wall hanging – from things you have lying around the house! Discover weaving techniques and knotting styles.

Experiment with colour and texture for a beautiful, unique wall hanging to take home. Bookings essential. Please note a fee of \$10 per person applies to this session.

Final Storytime session of 2023, Tuesday 12 December, 11am.

Final Baby Rhyme Time session of 2023, Thursday 14 December, 11am.

FREE ONE-TO-ONE IT HELP AT THE LIBRARY

Want to learn how to make a video call with Zoom? Need help attaching a photo to an email? Wonder how to make your Google or Facebook settings more private? How to stop those annoying notifications on your Android phone? Romsey Library has free one-to-one IT help sessions, with bookings available most weekdays and Saturdays. The sessions are for all skill levels, including total beginners.

CHRISTMAS HOURS

The Romsey Library will close at 12.30pm on Saturday 23 December and then remain closed throughout the Christmas & New Year period until reopening at 9.30am on Tuesday 2 January.

Our eLibrary will remain fully accessible during this time – visit www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/eLibrary to view. The Kyneton and Gisborne libraries will both be open Wednesday 27 December to Friday 29 December, 10am – 5pm, as well as Saturday 30 December, 9.30am-12.30pm.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

To book any of these activities or for more information, drop by the library at 98 Main Street, or just phone us on 5429 3086.

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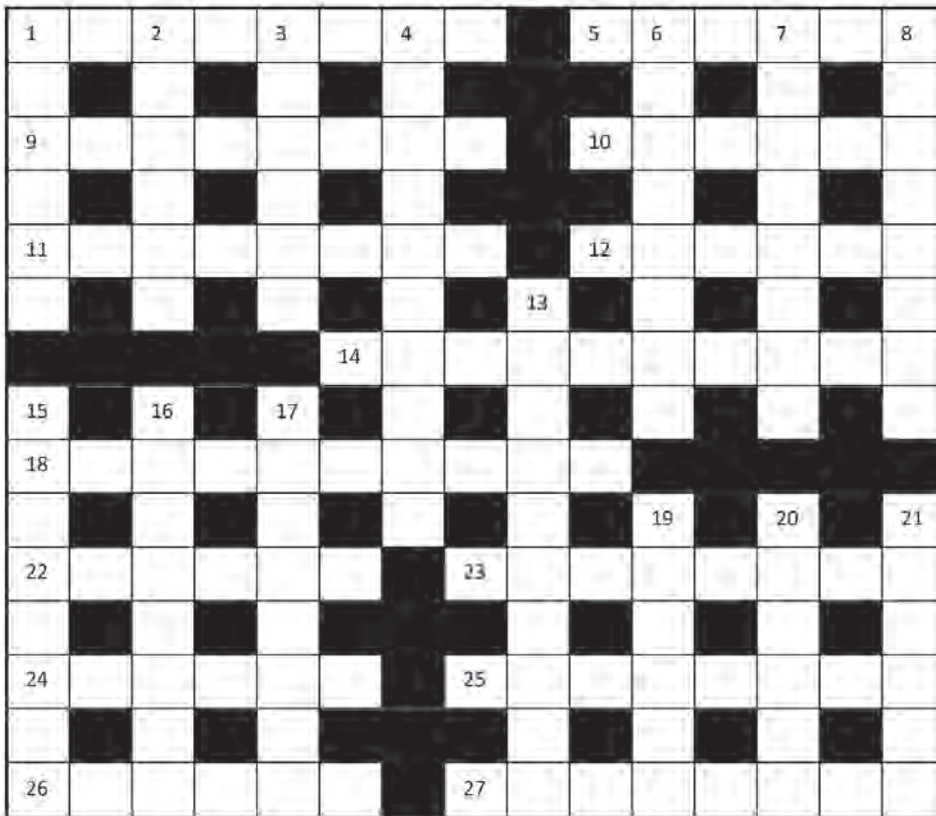
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Solution on page 34



Kevin Moysey the cross word maker

ACROSS

- 1 Propositions for buildings (8)
- 5 Looked for gold but criticised (6)
- 9 Detain, or arrange for controlled consumption (8)
- 10 It sounds like what we have five of but only one detects them (6)
- 11 A coven den could be where witches met (8)
- 12 It may mean good luck for first car lover (6)
- 14 Presence at a dance starting late in the evening? (10)
- 18 Don't ask enough or under/over price (10)
- 22 Detail to enlarge (6)
- 23 Helmsman's display requires a clean bin
- 24 It's how you are or what the world is (6)
- 25 Treading before stone is a safe place to do it (8)
- 26 Sounds like boring advertisements for tree-dwelling nymphs (6)
- 27 Ten press together for awards, or gives them (8)

DOWN

- 1 Private investigator is lewd but discovers theft (6)
- 2 Range used to be a tent? (6)
- 3 Maybe decreased(?) before out is fully resolved (8)
- 4 Junior school is the only explanation for Watson (10)
- 6 Would you believe a lace cod constitutes a special award? (8)
- 7 It's nothing - well at least nothing important (3-5)
- 8 Tactful sounds separate (8)
- 13 Could be adjective, noun or name or all of them (10)
- 15 Loaded down a bird's tail? (8)
- 16 Give an idol a try, but it could lead to excessive admiration (8)
- 17 Every night we see evidence of being hit a lot (8)
- 19 Makes nasty remarks or even shoots at birds (6)
- 20 Take some if you want to get something done (6)
- 21 Unites the end and germs (6)

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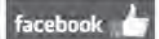
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Are you 55 years or older, residing in the Macedon Ranges and looking to connect with others in the shire?

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- pop-up activities and events to support you to connect with others locally
- opportunities to learn new skills such as navigating digital technology
- a quarterly newsletter containing information about programs, events and health and wellbeing services for over-55s.

MAHJONG - COME AND TRY

Learn the strategy and skills required to play Mahjong, a popular tile-based game originating from China. Come and try sessions, held at 3 pm, all guided by an experienced Mahjong teacher.

Dates: Monday 4, 11 and 18 December, Romsey Community Hub, 96 Main Road.

This event is free. Registrations essential. Light refreshments provided.

VILLAGE COFFEE GATHERING

Sparkle up with a touch of tinsel to gather, meet and keep connected with other like-minded individuals in our community over the age of 55. Join us for some complimentary coffee and cake at our last village coffee gathering for 2023.

The next gathering is on 14 December, 11am-12pm, Dromkeen Gallery, Riddells Creek. Seating is limited, so bookings are essential.

Registration is for Pathways for Carers, Mahjong, and coffee gatherings are essential - visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect or call the Village Connect team on 5422 0333.



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HIGHWAY CLEAN UP AND PLAQUE RESTORATIONS

Members of the Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club Inc. spent Saturday 4 November cleaning up the Melbourne Lancefield highway (between Hutchinsons Lane and Cemetery Road) cutting, trimming and mowing around all the Avenue of Honour plaques. Two trailer loads of rubbish were collected and all plaque areas on the western side of the road were successfully mowed and whipper snipped. Restoration was also completed to the damaged plaques.

Special thanks to the members Anne Collins, Peter O'Rourke, Shane Pettingill, Dr Diane Powell, Brendan Meyer and Dr Greg Powell as well as one community member (who wishes to remain anonymous) for their services to the community. Brendan Meyer was able to bring his tractor to mow certain areas of extremely long grass and remove wattle tree suckers along the walking track.

The Rotary Club also wishes to thank the owners of properties along the walking track who have been able to keep the grass down regularly in support of the Avenue of Honour.

This clean up, restoration of plaques and mowing

Continued on next page



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From Previous page

was in preparation for Remembrance Day (Saturday 11 November) where the RSL and the whole community came together to remember the sacrifices that countless people have made in service of their country. Remembrance Day has evolved since it was first initiated by allied countries after World War I, in which more than 60,000 Australians lost their lives.

The Avenue of Honour plaques have been placed along the walking track in remembrance of all Australians who fought in wars or peace keeping missions. The Avenue of Honour was initiated by the Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club and the Romsey Lancefield RSL and continues to develop each year with new plaques being added.

The Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club meets every fortnight on Thursdays (7 pm – 9 pm) at Soltan Pepper Restaurant. Community members interested in becoming Rotarians are very welcome to join us.

For further information please contact our Club Secretary - Anne Collins (anne.collins@outlook.com.au)

Dr Greg Powell
(Past President)
The Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club Inc.

ACCESSIBLE CARE

The Victorian government is delivering on its promise to improve access to health care for more Victorians, with community pharmacists across Macedon able to provide treatment and advice for a range of common conditions.

The 12-month pilot will give Victorians more choice about where and how they access basic primary care, especially for people struggling to access an affordable or bulk-billing GP close to home. Services include advice or treatment for women with uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs) or a resupply of their existing contraceptive pill without needing a prescription – with a broader public health vaccination offering, travel health consultations and treatment for mild skin conditions to roll out in coming months. Part of a \$20 million investment in the Victorian Budget 2023/24, around 400 pharmacies across the state have signed up for the pilot, with another 200 set to join the program. Pharmacies who have not yet joined are encouraged to sign up.

Victorians won't be charged for a pharmacy consultation for UTIs, mild skin conditions or a resupply of the contraceptive pill – pharmacies may charge a fee for a travel health consultation and vaccinations, while the cost of medication will remain the same as a prescription from a GP. At its conclusion, the pilot will be evaluated, and any recommendations will help inform longer-term decision making around the role of community pharmacists.

Romsey Pharmacy is part of the trial, as are pharmacies in Riddells Creek, Woodend, Gisborne and Kyneton.

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tcole@rtedgarmr.com.au

RT Edgar



A FABULOUS YEAR

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

We had a fabulous start to the term with our Bollywood extravaganza in week one. Everyone really embraced the opportunity to learn all about India and the seasons of the year through dance and music. Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting children by bringing them along to the whole school concert and enjoying the fabulous evening.

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

We are really pleased to announce that our recent Trivia Night raised \$9231 which is an amazing effort. We are so grateful for the generosity shown towards our school by our community, families and LPS friends. School Council have decided that funds raised will be spent in the following ways: supporting the purchase of new chrome books for the use of all students, much needed new library shelving for the class atrium area and the provision of a whole school experience for our students in 2024. The Lancefield Uniting Church have also very generously donated \$2,500 this year to go towards our ICT purchases. This along with our fundraising efforts has really provided us with the opportunity to update our aging bank of chrome books.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Our Prep, Year 1 and 2 classes have recently enjoyed sharing a very special morning with their grandparents and special visitors. The students were so excited to share their classrooms and learning with their grandparents. They loved hearing stories of what school was like for grandparents and shared special time together outside reading stories and showing off our school.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Thank you to Charlee and Lucy for representing our school at the Remembrance Day service. It was a lovely service conducted by the RSL with many community members coming along to take part.

CAMPS

Our 3/4 students loved their time at Anglesea on camp experiencing all types of outdoor activities, a visit of course to the beach and their favourite thing was the time spent at the Great Ocean Road Chocolatier and Ice creamery!

Our 5/6s explored Melbourne at their City camp with highlights including ten pin bowling, visiting the Old Melbourne Goal, a tour of the MCG, enjoying a Yarra River Cruise and exploring the State Library.

END OF YEAR EVENTS

We are looking forward to our end of year family picnic and concert on Friday 1 December held at LPS. Fingers crossed for a lovely sunny evening.

Our year 6 students are looking forward to their special *big day out* and are busily raising funds with a cake stall and toy raffle to pay for this event. The year 6 graduation evening is a highlight of the year and is coming up on Monday 11 December.





MRODC

WHAT A GREAT YEAR IT HAS BEEN FOR US

Our last induction for the year saw 20 new members. Our next induction will be on Sunday 4 February.

Wow, I can't believe Christmas is almost here. What a great year it has been for us with many new members. Each year we have an interclub trial, called Rocky Shield, between Melton Obedience Dog Club and Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club. The day was beautiful, Riddells Creek put on a fine weather display for us, not too hot.

We had approximately 45 entrants in classes 1 to 4. Unfortunately for us, Melton took the Rocky Shield home with them - we will try to win it back next year.

Congratulations to all our winners, and well done to all the competitors. It was a great day, and everyone had fun.

Lastly from our family at MRODC to yours have a Merry Christmas we'll see you in 2024.


Visit our website www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au email to info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au or check us on our Facebook page.

Remember a dog is for life not just Christmas.

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The self-nomination period for the Josh's Rainbow Eggs Macedon Ranges Business Excellence Awards 2024 is now open!

We want you to tell us how great your business is and about your wonderful customer service, innovation, products and professionalism. So dust off your business plan and start your nomination by Friday 15 March. You then have until 24 April to complete it.

We are running a face-to-face mentoring session on Wednesday 31 January at the Macedon and Mount Macedon Community House, 47 Victoria Street Macedon from 6pm-7.30pm. This is an opportunity to discover ways to make improvements to your submission and give your business the best chance possible. Please RSVP to businessawards@mrsc.vic.gov.au by Friday 26 January. Find out more at mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-awards


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SWAP MEET CO-ORDINATOR WANTED

The Annual **Lancefield Car & Collectables Swap Meet** hosted by the Lancefield Football & Netball Club is one of our major events each year bringing huge crowds to spend the weekend in town and one of our clubs major fundraisers for the year.

The opportunity has arisen for someone, or some people, to take over as our Swap Meet Co-ordinator. You will be ably supported by a vast array of established and knowledgeable volunteers as well as the support of the LFNC committee.

This is your chance to play a major part in Lancefield's social and tourism calendar.

To express your interest, or to seek further information, please email lancefieldfnc@gmail.com

Be a part of something big!





A TOUGH YEAR

It has been a tough year for many Australians and people around the world. Our planet has endured the hottest 12 months in recorded history, climate change induced floods, droughts and bushfires. Also, wars in the Middle East and Ukraine and inflation have wreaked havoc.

Australia is not immune from the devastation; add in the despair of many of our indigenous people following the “voice” referendum debate and ensuing result, our housing and cost of living crisis. Hopefully, sooner rather than later, the higher interest rates set by the Reserve Bank curb inflation and governments across the country act to reduce the impact of the housing crisis on the most vulnerable and are able to come up with solutions to a problem that has been developing over many years.

On the cost-of-living front there is some good news, I hope, on energy prices. I think we are all aware that a number of factors combined last year to push up gas and electricity prices. The encouraging news is that the wholesale price of electricity in the September Quarter this year was half of that a year before. Win! Win? It is a win for the environment as the penetration of renewable power, particularly through rooftop solar, has reduced the reliance on fossil fuels and was a major reason given for the lower price. Hopefully the lower wholesale price feeds through to consumers when retail prices are set next year!

On a personal level, despite higher tariffs, our total energy bill has gone down. Our house is all electric. Firstly, we installed a standard 5KW rooftop solar system, secondly, we stopped buying wood and relied on our inverter split system for heating, thirdly, we replaced our outdated electric hot water system with a heat pump which uses 80% less power and I finally got rid of the 1996 Falcon and replaced it with a more fuel-efficient car. As we continue to “Rewire Australia”, greenhouse emissions will decline and the cost of energy to households and businesses is expected to eventually decline. Maybe we can get to Net Zero by 2050.

Another source of hope is the good news coming through

with regard to electric cars. We have seen sales of new electric cars increase from 33,410 in 2022 to 46,624 in the first half of this year. Looking ahead, the rapid improvements in battery technology and the economies of scale in electric car production in China, Korea, the US and Europe should lead to better, more affordable cars. Also, the “Fuels Emission Standard” that the Federal Parliament is expected to legislate should lower prices and increase the range of electric cars available to the Australian market. In the near future electric car ownership will be less costly than petrol/diesel alternatives.

This will be a welcome development as Melbourne’s population is expected to surpass Sydney in the mid 2030s and become a megacity (over 10 million people) in the 2050s. In New Delhi the air quality has been so bad recently that local government has brought in an “odd-even” vehicle rule to mitigate pollution. In Singapore, to reduce pollution and congestion locals must bid for a 10-year Certificate of Entitlement. Combined with other fees the cost of a new Subaru Forester is now more than \$230,000!

At the local level, it was great to see the return of the Lancefield Show and people streaming through the gate. The show increases the visibility of volunteer groups like us. We signed up 13 new members who hopefully will enable us to take on more projects and gather new ideas on how we can enhance the environment and liveability in the Romsey/Lancefield area.

Deep Creek Landcare Group has nesting boxes for bats, birds and phascogales for sale from \$25. We also have Myna bird traps to lend out. Annual Landcare membership is \$20 per family. You can follow us on Facebook, contact our President, Phil Severs (0476 324 000) or attend our monthly meetings in the Lancefield Mechanics Hall. We would love to see you!

Phil Severs

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

Good news is that on November 1, Victoria’s container deposit scheme, CDS Vic, commenced. The scheme rewards Victorians with a 10-cent refund for every eligible can, carton and bottle they return. The network of refund points will grow to more than 600 by August next year. Visy operates the scheme in our area, the Northern Zone.

Eligible drink containers display the 10-cent mark. Locals can pop along to 8/8 Mitchell Court Romsey where Andrew will be in attendance from Monday to

Saturday between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm. Participants can elect to receive cash or support a charity or community organization with a donation.

We hope that this eagerly awaited scheme will reduce litter and landfill and be part of a progression toward a more circular economy.

Phil Severs



ENJOYABLE, BUT BUSY YEAR

YEAR 3 HEALTH & WELLBEING EXCURSION - KYNETON BOTANIC GARDENS

On Wednesday 25 October the students in Year 3 attended the Kyneton Botanic Gardens for a Health & Wellbeing Excursion. The purpose of the excursion was to explore the physical, mental and emotional benefits of nature and spending time outdoors. Through a playful exploration of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, our students were encouraged to see themselves as part of the natural world and consider how being in nature could contribute to positive emotional and physical wellbeing.

We began by tuning into nature with our senses, exploring with magnifying glasses, getting a close-up look at nature. Listening to the sounds around us, birds singing, the wind whistling in the trees. Rubbing parts of plants between our fingers to smell the different scents, as well as smelling the array of beautiful flowers on offer. We then collected what we could find in nature: leaves, gumnuts, sticks, flowers etc and explored how we could use these natural objects to make patterns.

It was great to see the different patterns that students

created. Using the natural objects, students were able to choose one or two to create an artwork piece. Using water colours, students drew their piece of nature and coloured it. These artworks were most impressive, and students should be very proud of the works they produced.

It was a fantastic session that showed us how nature can assist us with our mental and physical wellbeing. Students were very happy to finish with a 10-minute play on the playground.

A huge thank you to staff from Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens for taking us for this free session.

DAY FOR DANIEL

On Friday 27th October our students came to school wearing something red and they brought in a gold coin donation. Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful families we made a total of \$262 for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. As part of Day for Daniel we gathered together on the basketball courts to make a giant D (not sure you can tell that's what it is from the photos, but we tried!) and then the Year 1s - 6s walked up to the park, had a discussion about safety and



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were able to play on the playground for 10 minutes. The Preps did a walk around the school and discussed safety. Once all students were back in their classrooms, they all watched an age-appropriate video about child safety and participated in activities around the topic. A worthwhile afternoon of learning about a very important topic.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

On Friday 10th November we held a special Remembrance Day Service at school to honour all those that have served our country in the past and those that continue to serve. We were very privileged to have many members of the Romsey

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Lancefield RSL attend and be part of our service reading 'In Flanders Fields' and 'The Ode'. Our Year 6 students led the service, reading beautifully. Students also participated in a procession, placing a candle (representing the eternal flame), soldier's hat (in memory of all that have served) and poppies (symbol of remembrance, service and sacrifice). We thank the Yr 3/4 students for also contributing the poppies and wreaths that they had made in class.

At the conclusion of the service, the President of the Romsey Lancefield RSL, Reinhard Goschiniak presented our school with a magnificent trophy which will hold the name of the Yr 5/6 RSL Essay Competition winner each year moving forward. We were thrilled to be presented with this work of art and have displayed it in pride of place at the office reception. Students are already keen to get their name forever engraved on this trophy, so we look forward to reading their essays for this year's topic which is 'Nurses in the Field'.

The members of the Romsey Lancefield RSL stayed with us for morning tea after our service and we discussed them coming in to speak with students in 2024 leading up to both ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. It is wonderful to have this partnership with the RSL and we look forward to continuing to work together for many years to come.

On Saturday 11 November, our School Leaders Molly, Maggie and Illiana attended the Remembrance Day service at the Lancefield Cenotaph. They had the job of lowering and raising the flags during the ceremony. It was a very windy day and they did a great job. Thank you also to Isla from Yr 5 for placing our school wreath. It was a lovely ceremony and

one St Mary's was very proud to be part of.

YEAR 6 MEN'S SHED VISIT - GROUP 3

Our final group of Yr 6 students attended the Men's Shed on Friday 3rd November. We were especially grateful to the volunteer men as Friday was not normally their day to be open. We were very lucky to have so many volunteers on this day with one-to-one for each student. Once again, the students absolutely enjoyed the experience, the men at the Men's Shed are extremely patient, helpful and full of fun. They guided our students and taught them what they needed to know to carefully create their pencil and bird boxes. It was another great session, with the sweet biscuits (I think they cleaned them out this time!) and cordial being a big hit as well.

We'd like to say a HUGE thank you to Graeme for organising our 3 visits and to all the men (and women) that volunteered their time to work with our students over the past month. It's such a wonderful experience for everyone involved and we look forward to continuing this tradition in 2024.

ROMSEY MEN'S SHED - THANK YOU

As part of the Parents & Friends Student Grants this year, one was awarded to Josh McCarthy for Cricket and AFL scoreboards. The PnF generously approved the making of these boards for both the Junior and Senior yards along with some blackboards for students to draw on and be creative.

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Contact: Buster Richmond
0419-334507 Lancefield

The Romsey Men's Shed was tasked with making the various boards for us and they were delivered to the school this term. They look fantastic and the students can start using them. Thank you to the Romsey Men's Shed for their hard work in creating these fantastic scoreboards and blackboards for our students to use. Thank you also to our PnF for giving students the opportunity to apply to have these wonderful additions in our yard for everyone to use.

MINI VINNIES - LUNCH WITH WILLOWMEADE RESIDENTS

On Tuesday 14 November our Mini Vinnies had their final visit of the year to Willowmeade Aged Care in Kilmore. They've had a wonderful year getting to know the residents and sharing craft and games with them.

This visit was to share a lunch of hot chips and potato cakes together. We were hoping to meet at Hudson Park for a picnic style lunch, but unfortunately the weather didn't agree with this option. So after we had picked up the food, we met the residents at Willowmeade. They had set the tables up with red and white checked tablecloths, and a lovely rose in a vase on each table. Students and residents shared each table and spent the lunch talking, eating and laughing. It was a lovely way to spend our last visit and one to be cherished. St Mary's will continue to visit Willowmeade next year with a new group of Mini Vinnies. We are taking the school choir over in December to sing some Christmas songs to the residents, so that will also be a lovely way to end the year. I want to say thank you to our Mini Vinnies for their

exemplary behaviour throughout our visits, their ability to get to know the residents and share a little about themselves along the way. It has been a wonderful experience for all of us.

ANOTHER YEAR GOES BY...

As the end of the year quickly approaches, we must sit back and reflect on the year that has gone by. And what a year it has been! A huge number of events, activities, learning experiences, student growth and change. It's been an enjoyable year but certainly a very busy one. I'm very grateful for the wonderful connections we have made within our community and the number of opportunities this has brought the students at St Mary's. So, I'd like to thank everyone we have worked with throughout the year, the community groups, businesses and individuals that have given us their valuable time to provide amazing opportunities for our students. We are so very grateful for every single one of you and all that you do.

Our Year 6s enter that exciting and daunting time as they transition into secondary school. We've watched them grow from little preps to the amazing young men and women that they are today. We wish them all the very best for their future endeavours and hope that they are able to dream big and achieve all that they desire.

A very Merry Christmas to everyone in our community and here's to many new and exciting endeavours in 2024!

Jo Shannon (Community Liaison Leader)

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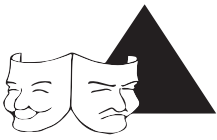
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THE MOUNT PLAYERS WIND UP ANOTHER YEAR

Our final production for 2023 “Peter Pan - A Musical Adventure” has been a resounding success, playing sixteen sell out shows. This production was the epitome of community theatre with almost everyone who put up their hand to be involved being catered for. It has been a wonderful opportunity to showcase the young talent we have in this area. Backed, of course, by our unseen heroes working so hard behind the scenes - our scenic artists, set builders, lighting designers, costume designers and makers plus everyone who helped backstage and front of house. Without their efforts none of this would have been possible. And thank you of course to everyone who attended. We truly appreciate your support.

Mount Players Youth Theatre Showcase – Saturday 9 December 4pm. A showcase of the different acting skillsets that have been developed in weekly classes over the semester in a performance evening presented to parents/carers and friends of the Mount Players Youth Theatre (MPYT) students. This opportunity provides a platform for students to showcase the progress they have made in their acting skills and celebrate their hard work, dedication and growth as performers. If you or someone you know would like to be involved with The Mount Players Youth Theatre, we invite

you to go to our website www.themountplayers.com for full details on enrolling for Term 1 in 2024.

Our first show for 2024 “Wild” by Mike Bartlett, directed by George Benca is a dark comedy that explores the unexpected, bewildering and life-changing consequences of challenging the status quo at a global level. Last week, Andrew was that guy with his girl lunching at KFC discussing their plans for the future. Today he’s in Moscow, in an undisclosed hotel room, on the run and at risk of assassination. Last week a nobody. This week, America’s most wanted. The season runs from 23 Feb – 10 March. Tickets via our website.

The Mount Players sends out a huge thanks to everyone who comes to our shows and of course to our wonderful Sponsors – Bendigo Community Bank Gisborne, Office Barn Gisborne, Bradleys Curtains & Blinds Woodend, Jellis Craig Woodend and Hanging Rock Winery for their ongoing support.

We wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas season with friends and family.

See you at the theatre in 2024.

By Karen Hunt

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EMRBATA

THRIVING VILLAGES FUNDING SUCCESS

EMRBATA has been successful in its application to the State Government Flood Relief Grant Program. With the assistance of a professional consultancy (www.villagewell.org), "Town Activation Plans" will be developed for Romsey and Lancefield. These will identify and address deficiencies in both towns as they relate to visitor economy product, economic leakage and identification of opportunities. It will ultimately aim to build business resilience and thriving communities. The Romsey and Lancefield projects will dovetail into Tourism Macedon Ranges' Thriving Villages Project (also funded through this State Government Grant Program) which addresses the broader regional situation. The project will commence in May and be completed by November. Stay tuned for further developments on this exciting opportunity for our eastern region.

SUBMISSION TO MRSC BUDGET

EMRBATA has made a submission to the 2024-2025 MRSC Budget to support a Specialist Horticulture Position to be responsible for the specialised parks and gardens in the Shire. Of particular interest to the eastern corridor is the Romsey Ecotherapy Park which (along with

the Shire's Botanical Gardens) needs specialised care in order to retain its visitor and local appeal. The Romsey Five Mile Creek was acknowledged as an important local asset in the Draft Romsey Structure Plan. As such, EMRBATA will be lobbying for the implementation of Stage 2 of the Five Mile Creek Master Plan. The Lions' proposed skate park upgrade in Romsey is an important project for both locals and visitors to the region and is also worthy of Budget consideration. With skateboarding now an Olympic sport, the appeal and need (especially amongst younger people) is not in doubt. Congratulations to the Lions' Club for pursuing this important infrastructure project.

By the time you are reading this, the EMRBATA Annual General Meeting will have occurred and a new Committee installed. This has been an incredibly busy year for EMRBATA, with much work going into development of a Strategic Plan and Governance process review as well as the usual activities and ongoing advocacy. As a result, the organisation has clear direction and a renewed commitment and strategy to engage its members and advocate for the region. EMRBATA is looking forward to 2024.

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A MESSAGE FOR MCEWEN

As we approach the end of the 2023, I wanted to take a moment to send my warmest wishes to each and every one of you in our vibrant and resilient community.

When reflecting on the year gone by, I am filled with gratitude for my role as your representative. Our shared commitment to supporting one another and working together to overcome challenges and make improvements to our world truly sets our community apart. I have enjoyed a number of visits to Lancefield Park this year as part of the Queen's Jubilee Planting program and also following Federal funding to repair flood damage to the Park. The Park Committee and the local Landcare continue to serve this area dutifully for the benefit of all users and residents and my thanks goes to them. I have also enjoyed congratulating the Lancefield Bowling Club and the Lancefield Mechanics Institute on successful grant applications. Thanks to Volunteer Grant funding the Bowling Club have been able to install extra seating and safety access to the green, opening activities to all abilities and the Mechanics Institute received much needed flood damage funding following the storms last October/November.

The unity of this community makes McEwen a wonderful place to call home and has inspired me as your representative. The countless stories of kindness, generosity, and selflessness that I have witnessed throughout our electorate are a testament to the exceptional people who make up our community. As we gather with loved ones to celebrate the joy of the season, let us also take a moment to appreciate the bonds we share and the collective resilience that has seen us through the highs and lows of the past year. Your dedication to each other and the well-being of our community has not gone unnoticed.

May this Christmas be filled with joy, warmth, and the company of loved ones. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Here's to a fantastic 2024 filled with continued collaboration, prosperity, and the shared spirit that makes McEwen truly special.

Warm regards,

Rob Mitchell MP Member for McEwen

NUTRITION

CHRISTMAS TIDINGS

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year for sharing delicious repasts with family and friends. Followed by the requisite New Year Resolutions of post-Christmas pound shedding with weight loss at the top of many of our agendas. Given this is the last edition for the year I thought I would end with an explanation of a little-known fact that carries much wonderment when revealed - where does excess weight go when we lose it?

Drum roll - the majority of weight loss occurs via breathing. The mass that you lose doesn't simply disappear, the majority of the "lost" weight is actually breathed out as carbon dioxide, making your lungs the primary excretory organ for weight loss.

When you lose weight, the carbon atoms from the fat molecules you are burning are released in the form of carbon dioxide (CO₂). This carbon dioxide is then expelled from the body through the lungs when you breathe out. So, as you burn fat for energy, you are essentially exhaling the majority of the by products in the form of carbon dioxide. Thus, when you lose 10kg of fat, 84 percent of that will be breathed out as carbon dioxide from your lungs. This is why, in terms of mass, a significant portion of weight lost is expelled through the breath.

It is worth noting that this doesn't mean simply breathing more will make you lose weight. The body needs to be in an overall calorie deficit for weight loss to occur, but the excretion of carbon dioxide through the lungs is a fascinating aspect of the metabolic processes involved in losing weight. And on that note, Happy Christmas and New Year to all.

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ROMSEY STORM WASTE FACILITY WINS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Council’s flagship storm waste facility now has a trio of awards to its name, having been recognised at the 2023 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Tidy Towns & Cities Sustainability Awards. Taking out the EPA Waste Prevention and Reduction category, it is the facility’s third award following recognition in the Health & Safety Excellence (Small to Medium Enterprise) category at the 2022 Australian Workplace Health & Safety Awards (in partnership with Tree Mason and Action OHS Consulting) and the Special Projects Initiative category at the 2023 LGPro Awards for Excellence. Located near Romsey, the Council-managed facility was developed out of the need to respond quickly to the severe destruction caused by storms in June 2021, with a focus on eliminating green waste by creating repurposed products for impacted councils and communities. CEO Bernie O’Sullivan said Council was thrilled that the storm waste facility had been recognised for another award and that it again highlighted the benefits of regional scale, upcycling products back to affected landowners and a strong partnership between local and state government.

“This invaluable project was made possible through a

strong collaboration between Council and a number of hard-working Council staff, Emergency Recovery Victoria and the community,” he said. “We were not only able to act swiftly to solve a major problem in a very practical and cost-effective way, but the most pleasing thing is to have been able to give back to affected communities.” Since its implementation, the facility has processed over 65,000 tonnes of tree and storm debris, while returning recycled or repurposed products back to impacted communities with a total market value of over \$35 million, including: timber for community projects, fencing supplies and retaining wall sleepers, stakes for Council tree planting programs, free firewood for nearly 2,000 Macedon Ranges residents, 90 truckloads of root balls to enhance fish breeding habitat within rivers and water systems, hundreds of cubic metres of sawdust for local pig farmers, and over 180,000 cubic meters of mulch.

“The facility sets a new standard for post-disaster clean up and is a model that could be easily replicated anywhere, so hopefully our learnings will also help give other councils an idea for a practical solution for emergency recovery, should they ever need it,” Mr O’Sullivan said.

ROMSEY LANCEFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS

CHRISTMAS LUNCHESES AND THANK YOU.

Firstly, a big thank you to the Lancefield and Romsey Community Branches of the Bendigo Bank. We received \$5,000 sponsorship to help subsidise our monthly bus trips next year. Thank you very much for your wonderful support.

Our Monthly Bus Trip for December is our Christmas Lunch at the Highlands Hotel in Craigieburn. This will be on Tuesday 5 December. The cost will be \$50

Bus pickup from Lancefield at 10:30 and Romsey at 10:45.

We will also be having our Christmas Lunch in our

rooms on Monday 11 December, at a cost of \$10. We will be finishing up on this date and will be back in mid-January. If you are interested in joining us for either of our lovely Christmas lunches, please contact Helen or Jan for catering purposes.

We would love to see you.

For further information please contact Helen on 0409 064 303 or Jan on 0408 338 759.

Hope to see you soon.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

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However you celebrate, whoever you're with, may your Christmas be merry, always. From the Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey team.

During the festive season our branches will close at 5pm on Friday 22 December, and reopen Wednesday 27 December.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CELEBRATION

Congratulations to our 27 local groups who were successful in their grant applications in our most recent round of funding. Keep an eye on our Facebook page (CommunityBankLancefieldRomsey) for full details on our successful grant projects.

Along with members of our local community, our Community Bank team enjoyed a fabulous evening on November 2 at our 2023 Community Investment Event. On the night, we announced an unprecedented investment of \$483,070 into Romsey, Lancefield and surrounds for 2023-24, consisting of:

- \$362,870 in grants to 27 local organisations
- \$18,000 in donations to 9 local emergency services groups
- \$42,000 in sponsorships, including our continued investment in our local ShareRide vehicle
- \$52,200 in scholarships for 2024
- Plus \$8,000 in Small Change Grants, \$500 each and now available via our two branches

We are extremely proud of this amount, as it brings our total investment in the local community to over \$3 million in our 22 years of Community Banking!

Our next grants program for events will open in March/

April 2023 – email cip@lrcfsl.com.au to ensure you're on the list to be notified when the program opens.

2024 TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Our 2024 tertiary scholarship programs are now open for applications.

Lancefield & Romsey Community Scholarship Program – 4 Scholarships available

Three year scholarships for first time tertiary students in 2024, \$3,500 per annum totalling \$10,500 over 3 years.

Rebecca Harrison Memorial Scholarship - 2 Scholarships available

One year, \$1,500 scholarship for second year (or beyond) tertiary students under 25.

Contact our branch for more information or for full eligibility criteria and to apply online head to: <https://www.bendigobank.com.au/community/scholarships> and select 'Community Bank Scholarships', then search for Lancefield & Romsey under 'Community Bank scholarships currently available'.

TEAM NEWS

After 22 years at Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey, Leanne Showler has moved across to a new role at our neighbouring Community Bank Wallan, Kilmore and Broadford. On behalf of us all at Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey, thank you Leanne for all you've done for our branch, helping countless customers, participating in many community investment evenings and representing the branch across the community.

CHRISTMAS 2023 BIN COLLECTION

If your normal bin collection day is Monday (Christmas Day – 25 December), your bin will be collected on Tuesday 26 December. If your normal bin collection day falls between Tuesday 26 December and Friday 29 December, please put your bin out as usual and leave it

out until collected (this will likely be delayed by one day including a Saturday collection).

Collections will not be affected on all other public holidays and will resume as normal from Monday 1 January 2024.



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Lancefield Cricket Club \$2,000
Romsey & Lancefield Historical Society \$4,095
Lancefield & Districts Pony Club \$4,500
Edgars Mission \$5,000
Romsey Lancefield Senior Citizen Club \$5,000
Romsey Mechanics' Institute \$5,000
1st Romsey Scout Group \$5,000
Lions Club of Lancefield Romsey \$5,625
Cancer Council Victoria \$6,640
EMRBATA \$7,500

Romsey Playgroup \$10,000
Lancefield Bowling Club \$11,500
Lancefield Mechanics Institute \$12,132
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BE INVOLVED IN SETTING A NEW VISION FOR LANCEFIELD PARK

The Lancefield Park Committee of Management and the Macedon Ranges Shire Council have commenced a planning process to prepare a new master plan for Lancefield Park. The master plan will be a review and refresh of the 2012 master plan, and will set a new vision for Lancefield Park that will help us guide future use and development.

Simon Leisure, a recreation planning company, has been appointed to assist the Committee and Council with the preparation of the master plan. A building architect (Brand Architects) and a landscape architect (MEMLA) are also members of the consultant team. The consultant team undertook a comprehensive review of Lancefield Park facilities and buildings on in November, with the Committee.

Workshops for the CoM and representatives from all user groups are being planned for December 5. The workshops will be facilitated by Richard, from Simon Leisure. They will provide an opportunity for each user group to meet with Simon Leisure individually to share their ideas for future use and development at Lancefield Park. Richard will also circulate a short questionnaire to each user group to collect base data on club membership and numbers of teams (or numbers of participants for non-sporting groups), and facilities/ spaces used and frequency of use, etc. The workshops will be an 'Open Forum' for the CoM and user groups to raise other issues and opportunities for the park in general.

The Committee and Council share a view that the new vision for Lancefield Park will embrace new ideas and suggestions from the Lancefield community; we want to strengthen residents' sense of belonging and ownership of the park. To help progress this, a Community 'Drop-In Session' will be scheduled in early December to encourage local residents and community groups to tell us their ideas and suggestions to improve the park, particularly if there is an activity or setting that they believe could make Lancefield Park even more attractive as a destination for community recreation and socialising.

There will be more opportunities early in 2024 for Committee members, user groups and the broader community to contribute to the development of the master plan, when a draft master plan is completed and ready for review. The Committee look forward to working with the community to develop the new Lancefield Park master plan.

FRIENDS OF LANCEFIELD PARK

Many thanks to our friends who attended our first event in November. We had 7 from the Committee of Management attending along with 5 from our clubs and community. Friends of the Park is a way for our club's members and the broader community to come together to learn more about our beautiful Lancefield Park. It is a good opportunity to



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have a regular working bees, share a little history of the park, explain how the Park is managed totally by local volunteers and share ideas around improving our Park environment for the community. More events will be planned in early 2024.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY TO BE POWER READY IN AN EMERGENCY

The storms of 2021 demonstrated the importance of many services made possible with electricity and how crucial a resilient energy back-up is to keep them available during and after emergencies.

An advanced backup energy system has been installed at Lancefield Park; it includes solar panels, batteries, and a backup generator. The Victorian Government has funded the program at the Park along with 23 others across the state. Lancefield Park will act as a hub for the local community during any prolonged power outages providing some limited access to electricity for the community. The backup energy system will also provide considerable carbon and electricity savings for the Lancefield Park Laurie Green Pavilion.

For more information you can read the Victorian Government Media Release - Strengthening Electricity Network Resilience And Safety | Premier of Victoria

Lancefield Park - General Inquiries: lancefieldpark@hotmail.com. View our calendar: Lancefield Community Site under Calendars.

Kathryn Lewis – Chairperson. Committee of Management.
Lancefield Park Recreation Reserves

PETANQUE CLUB

Our summer season continues with great gusto from our members, gathering to play petanque at the Old Racecourse in Forest Street Woodend on Monday afternoons, and of course, on Thursdays at our beautiful Hanging Rock. Last Thursday was no exception, with 31 members gathering to play three competitive games of petanque. All teams are picked out of the hat, so we all play with different members each game, giving us the opportunity to play and chat with many of our club members. It was a cool evening and jackets were required. Each week is different, but one must always be prepared for weather changes at Hanging Rock. Last weekend was a big one for our club with some members forming teams with other clubs' members to play in the Victorian Triples Championships at the Weird Entertainers and Petanque Club, Endeavour Hills. Our Ruth Giddings joined with two members from the Mount Martha Club and they won the over 60s division. Then our Shirley Marshall joined with two friends to form her team, which came third. Well done, ladies! And also, our Rod Gell joined with two members of the Ballarat Petanque Club and came equal fifth in the Principal. Well done, boys!

This is the perfect weather for a game of petanque, whether it be at Hanging Rock or in the middle of Woodend at the old racecourse. We also welcome new members Sheena and Barry. We would love to see new faces to join in our game. If you think you would like to share in the fun call Louise on 0438302218.

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COUNCIL WORKS UPDATES

MARTINS ROAD CULVERT UPGRADE TO START NEXT YEAR

Preparations are underway for works to upgrade a key culvert in Baynton near the northern border of the Macedon Ranges.

The Martins Road culvert is located over Todds Creek in Baynton, about one kilometre east of the Feeneys Lane intersection.

Works are set to include:

- the replacement of the existing culvert
- erosion prevention measures upstream and downstream to improve the waterway
- installing new guard rails and signs for road users' safety
- road repairs and drainage improvements.

The project is currently in the procurement stage, with works expected to get underway in early 2024.

Road closures and detours will be in place during the works.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/works to find out more about some of the other works planned across the shire.

LIONS CLUB

GLAD TO HELP

Recently, the Lancefield/Romsey Lions have helped out the Romsey Neighbourhood house, by donating \$1500 for the repairs to their refrigeration problem. This network of good people helps the Community who are struggling to make ends meet by supplying meals, and the list goes on. This has helped them to keep up with supplying good meals to the people who need help.

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If you live in the Macedon Ranges and are looking to meet people whilst visiting local attractions, the Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health social support bus trip program could be for you. The program offers small group outings to galleries, gardens, shopping centres and other regional and metropolitan destinations. This year trips have included the Garden of St Erth, The Great Stupa in Bendigo, The Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, Edgar’s Mission in Lancefield and Living Legends in Bulla.

The groups run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and door-to-door pick-up and drop-off is available from a number of towns including Romsey and Lancefield.

“The program is ideal for those wanting to socialise, but may need support accessing the community,” says Roz Walton, team leader of the program. “We vary the destination depending on what group members want to do, the weather or what’s on locally.”

The cost of the program depends on your funding eligibility, and for many the cost is fully funded. Examples include those who are over 65 and have a My Aged Care referral or Home Care Package that specifies social support, adults with a disability under 65 and not eligible for NDIS, and NDIS participants. If you want to find out more, email admin@scchc.org.au or call 5421 1666.



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NEW NATURE GUIDE

Introducing our fifth Nature Guide: The Grasses of Central Victoria, an easy reference guide for beginners to use in the farm paddock or your local bushland reserve. The guide includes over 50 local species and information to help you on your way to being an expert. Copies are available at Council offices or visit mrsc.vic.ov.au/grass-guide to download.

ENVIRONMENT EVENTS

GRASS IDENTIFICATION

Thursday 7 December, 10-11:30am, Malmsbury
Friday 15 December, 10-11:30am, Clunes

Join us for a practical session for beginners to learn more about the grasses that populate your property and surrounds. Using our newly designed Grasses of Central Victoria Nature Guide, our skilled grass identification practitioner will show you how to put our guide to use.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events to register.

Book your Christmas Parties @ The Lancefield Lodge!

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gww.com.au/bushfires Phone 13 44 99 Translation & Interpreter Service 13 14 50



Lancefield Community

Christmas Lunch

You are invited

Our annual Christmas lunch to celebrate the season
Tuesday 12 December 12.30pm
at the Lancefield Hall.

Bookings are essential:

phone: 5429 1214

email: admin@lancefieldhouse.org.au

scan the QR code:



Lancefield

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENT

Friday 8 December

Lancefield Park 6.30 - 8.30pm

**BBQ
FOOD TO
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**FREE
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Phone: 5429 1214

Email:

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