

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

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Save Our Park Group

Link Road Abandoned

In a unanimous vote at the Latrobe City Council's meeting on 6th April, the 2007 Churchill Town Centre Plan's East West Link Road proposal was abandoned. Members of the "Save Our Park" group compiled a petition of over 300 signatures opposing the link road and 65 submissions were received by council in opposition to the plan. Group members Ron Bunn and Bruce Stephenson said it was against the road as it would provide little benefit to the community

"Open space in the centre of town is a precious commodity and it

should be preserved at any cost," Mr Bunn said.

Cr Darrell white acknowledged the significant amount of work that had been undertaken by the council in the consultation process which he believed examined all aspects of the plan.

'Save Our Park' group members now anticipate that they will evolve into 'Plan Our Park' group, with the aim of co-ordinating a push to develop a central park and gardens on the Walker Parade Site that Churchill can be proud of.

The group are looking to have

the land rezoned as a public park and recreation zone and are hoping for strong community support in this.

For the area to play a future role in Churchill's open space it will require a future vision and a plan for the area. It will need a clearly defined role and a plan to achieve that role, they said

The group will hold a public meeting will be held in the near future to establish community involvement and support and establish a clear function for the park.



How Walker Parade could look

Camp Quality EsCarpade 2009



The Camp Quality EsCarpade 2009 campaign has started. The EsCarpade is a motoring adventure which the Lions Club of Churchill has participated in for the past 16 years to raise funds to help Kids living with Cancer to and to bring hope and happiness to children, their families and communities in ongoing quality educational, financial, hospital

and recreational programs through fund raising and sponsorship of our local businesses.

Major sponsor PowerWorks are great supporters of the club and are very generous in their support for Camp Quality. we The Lions would like thank them for all the support they have given. Look out for the EsCarpade car CAMQ.

New College Principal for Kurnai



Terry Harrington has been appointed as College Principal. Terry has spent the last three years as Principal of Yarram Secondary College. He sees this appointment as an opportunity to develop his experiences further and to learn more about management of schools. Terry has had forty years of experi-

ence in education. He grew up in Bendigo, and began his teaching career in Gippsland. He has taught at Foster, had time at Moe Regional Office, Leongatha Adult Education Centre, Wonthaggi and Yarram Secondary Colleges.

Continued on Page 24

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Churchill & District News

The Churchill News Team is very pleased to be able to announce that the Churchill Festival will go ahead next year. Its future was in doubt due to the enormous amount of work involved but a big thanks goes to Tracey Burr for putting her hand up!

I would like to congratulate the team at the Boolarra Link on their new look first edition. We know only too well how much work is involved in producing a paper of such quality but we also know how much it is appreciated by the local community.

The annual writing competition started this month with a couple of new categories. We have added Ghost Stories and Bushfire Stories and are hoping for some interesting reading. As always there will be some great

prizes so pick up the pen!

On the sporting front our thanks go to team members Carol Scott and Bea Stallbom for organising the Tennis Round Robin held recently. The event was a great success.

For those interested in fishing, Lake Hyland is the venue for a Free Family Fishing Festival to be held on May 2nd. More details are on page 28. Judging by the last event of this kind it should be a great day with loads of activities.

Finally I would like to personally congratulate the 'Save Our Park' Group on their success - I wish them well in the future and look forward to following the development of Walker Parade. ED.

The Churchill and District News is a community newspaper staffed by volunteers.

The Team:
Team Leader/Secretary : Ruth Place
Editor/Treasurer: Val Prokopiv

Advertising: Peter Prokopiv, Tracey Burr
Layout/Design: Val Prokopiv, Tracey Burr
Webpage: Val Prokopiv
Proof Readers: Ruth Place, Olivia Jackson

Photography/Computer Support: Matt Prokopiv
Team Members: Wendy Brown, Charlie Rawlinson, Carol Scott, Allan Larkin, Karen Bradfield, Bea Stallbom

Contributions

The deadline for the submission of articles and advertisements for the May 2009 edition is April 30 2009

Articles for publication and letters to the Editor can be sent to:
Churchill & District News PO
Box 234, Churchill, 3842
Or Email: cdnews@dcsi.net.au

All articles must be submitted by the 30th of each month for publication in the second week of the following month.
Advertising enquires can be

addressed to:
Peter Prokopiv
Churchill & District News PO
Box 234, Churchill, 3842
Tel: 03 5122 2589 or 0402 406 376

**Articles can be left in our Drop Off Boxes Located at:
Cafe Le Mac's, Churchill Primary School, Churchill Library and the Co-Operating Church**

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Festival 2010

Churchill's Own Community Festival

The Churchill and District News Team is pleased to announce that the bi-annual Churchill Festival will take place next year.

Festival 2010 - Churchill's Own Community Festival will be held on Saturday 20th March at Gaskin Park, Manning Drive, Churchill between 10.00am to 3.00pm.

There will be entertainment, sports, food and displays. The festival is a great opportunity for community groups to showcase their organizations. As in previous years Festival 2010 will be a free, non-commercial event.

If your group would like to be involved, either putting up a display,

organising an activity or demonstration please email Tracey on cdnfestival@gmail.com.

Volunteers are also welcome. If you would like to offer any help please contact Tracey Burr on 51223507 or 0422823179 or email her at cdnfestival@gmail.com

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Snappy the croc - star of the 2008 Churchill Festival

Churchill Fire Brigade Rehabilitation Work

The Churchill Brigade can happily report that no member sustained any injury during the recent Black Saturday fires. When writing this report, the brigade was still receiving many call outs to extinguish smouldering logs and stumps. The fires are now officially recorded as "Out".

During a fire of this magnitude, damage is often done to people's paddocks and fences when fire appliance access tracks and fire-breaks are put in. Tracks are also cut around the edge of the fire through plantation and forest areas. Essential water supplies are also often utilised when properties are under threat. In a first for CFA, work is being undertaken to rehabilitate private property where fences have been damaged by the fire brigade or the earth moving equipment putting in containment lines.

Fire breaks will be graded back to their initial state, and other work will be undertaken to ensure that erosion effects will be minimised throughout the plantations and forest. Essential water supplies used will also be replenished. This work has commenced, and will be completed in consultation with landowners over the next few months.

Thank You

At a recent meeting, brigade members were made aware of all the wonderful and generous donations which had been made by the public



to the Churchill brigade. Donations have been made in recognition of the fantastic work carried out by the brigade in the terrible fires which have ravished this region. The donations total over \$7,000. This includes a small boy who walked in off the street and gave \$3.70 which was all of his money.

The brigade wants to say a public "Thank You" to those who have donated. The money will be put to good use, purchasing useful and much needed equipment for future use.

The brigade also received some lovely letters and cards from some of the school children. Much time was taken by all the members to have a good look at the cards and they really appreciated the time put

into their production. Thank you kids and teachers for your kind thoughts.

Smoke Detectors

We have changed our clocks back at the end of Daylight Saving Time. It is time to check your smoke detector, change the battery, give it a vacuum and test it to make sure it is working correctly.

If you are a senior member of our community in Churchill and would like your smoke detector checked and a new battery installed free of charge, please contact Ruth on 51221961. In the near future a timetable will be arranged for this to be done.

REMEMBER WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES!

Boolarra's New Link

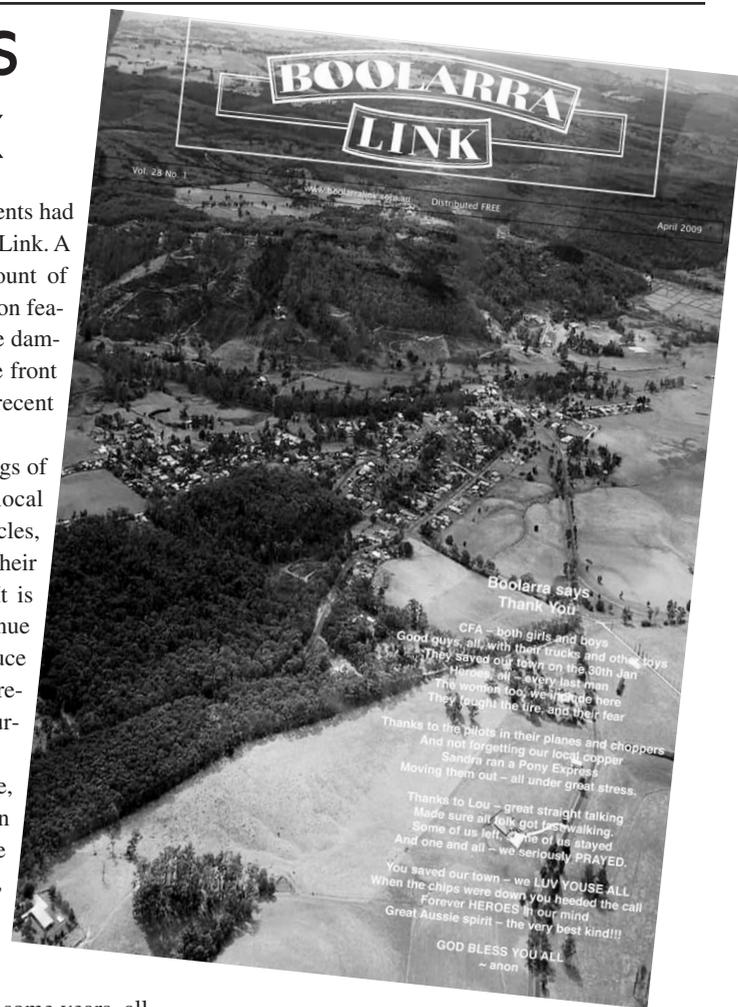
On Monday 6th April, Boolarra residents had their first sight of the new-look Boolarra Link. A bumper edition because of a large amount of bushfire news and information, this edition featured a full colour aerial photo of the fire damage around the Boolarra township on the front cover, and colour photos from the recent Boolarra Folk Festival on the back.

Internal changes include the beginnings of feature pages for gardens and the local churches, and a re-arrangement of articles, with sport-related stories moving to their own section at the back of the paper. It is planned that future editions will continue with colour on the cover, and will introduce new regular features such as a page for creative writing, as well as some more surprises.

Managed by a volunteer committee, "The Link", as it is affectionately known by all in the town, has been part of the Boolarra community for many years, providing quarterly updates on all the local news.

At the end of last year, the committee members, who had worked tirelessly for some years, all felt that they needed to step down. So a call went out for new people who might be interested in taking over the management and production of the Link. Unfortunately, the whole process of recruiting a new committee was interrupted by the bushfires and their aftermath. As a result, the new committee was only formed on 11th March, and hit the ground running to have the first edition for 2009 published before Easter.

The new committee brings with them a wealth of experience, including professional experience in the newspaper industry. Adrian Giannini (Editor) is, among other things, a graphic artist with experience in the areas of design and layout, as well as web-site design. Lynn Fowler (Advertising) has worked in newspapers in both



Early General News

Display and Classified advertising, as a writer in television, a freelance writer for many years, and is also an experienced web site designer. Val Henderson (Features) worked as a legal secretary for most of her life, and then made a change to working as an Integration Teachers' Aid in the early 90's. Rose La Vie (Features) is a prolific writer- poetically, academically and musically, with five published collections of poetry and several in progress.

As part of the new look, the committee has also set up a web site, www.boolarralink.com.au where the paper can be downloaded and which will carry information about the Link and breaking news between editions.

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Community Bushfire Recovery

Cr Darrell White

April at which Tony Ferguson was elected to Chair the Hazelwood/Jeeralang Community Recovery Committee.

Another "Information Session" focussing on Insurance and Legal issues associated with the bushfires has been planned for Sunday 19th April next, at 4.00pm, at the Churchill and District Community Hub. Speakers with expertise in each of these matters will be in attendance. All of our community who have been affected by the bushfires are encouraged to attend to take advantage of this opportunity.

The Hazelwood/Jeeralang Community Recovery Committee will be holding their next Committee Meeting earlier on the day at 3.00pm at the same venue.

For further information, residents can contact Tony Ferguson, (Tel. 5122 1306 or Mob. 0408 562 914). Information is also obtainable by visiting the Latrobe City Council website at www.latrobe.vic.gov.au and follow the tabs to "Bushfire Information". Further information can also be obtained from Latrobe City Council (Steve Tong), Tel. 0407 862 870 or 1300 367 700.

Community Bushfire Recovery - Yinnar/Boolarra

A "Community Workshop" was held last Wednesday 8th April at the Boolarra Football Netball Club Social Rooms at the Boolarra Memorial Park Reserve for the purpose of enabling residents, both those directly and indirectly impacted by the bushfires from Boolarra and Yinnar districts, to have their say on the issues to be addressed and how the bushfires recovery response should be approached. This Workshop attracted a good attendance and was

facilitated by experienced Facilitator, Viv McWaters.

A further meeting of the Group has now been planned for 3rd May next, at 2.00pm, at the Boolarra Football Netball Club Social Rooms.

For further information, residents can contact John Harris, Yinnar (Tel. 0431 972 672) or Colin Brick, Boolarra (Tel. 5163 1212). Further information can also be obtained from Latrobe City Council (Steve Tong), Tel. 0407 862 870 or 1300 367 700.

"Southern Towns" Outdoor Recreation Plan

Part of Latrobe City Council's Recreation Plan for the municipality, which was adopted in 2006, recommended that local Recreation Plans needed to be prepared for all of the townships within Latrobe City. As a consequence, in order to progress this matter, the "Southern Towns" were identified as a group. The group consists of all of the townships and localities that are situated south of the Princes Highway in Latrobe City.

Following on from the extensive community consultation that occurred in relation to this matter, the final draft of the Consultant's Report was considered by Council at its meeting on Monday 6th April last. Council resolved to receive the Report and that it be released for community comment in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and Strategy, which requires that, at least, a 4 weeks period must be provided in which the community can provide feedback on the contents of the Report.

Council Plan & Council Budget 2009/2010

Council, as a result of no community submis-

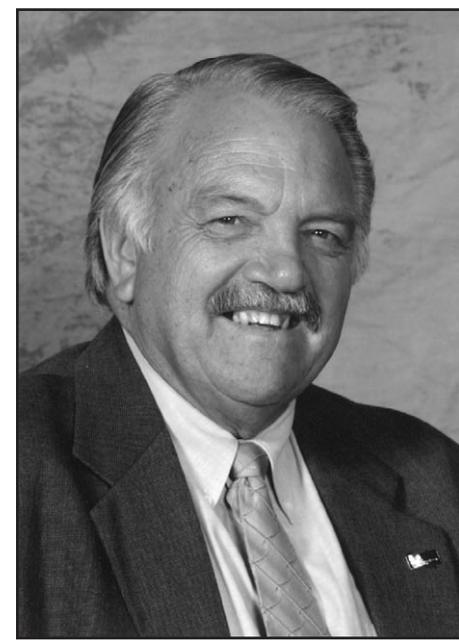
sions being received, resolved at last Monday's Council Meeting to adopt the proposed "draft" Fees and Charges 2009/2010.

During this month Councillors and the Council administration will be undertaking a series of "workshop" meetings to consider the essential elements to include in the Council's Plan for the year 2009/2010. In addition, the Council has commenced the process of identifying and determining the "key drivers" that will inform the preparation of a proposed Council Budget for 2009/2010. Council's clear focus will be the on-going service delivery imperatives for our community, together with the creation of a schedule of proposed capital works for the year ahead in the context of the current financial climate.

Proposed "East West" Road Link (Monash Way to Mcdonald Way)

Council at its meeting on 6th April last considered a very comprehensive Report regarding the proposal of an "East West Link" road. The exhibition and community engagement methods regarding the proposed "East West Link" in the Churchill Town Centre plan have been comprehensive. 65 submissions were received opposing this proposal.

As a result, following consideration of the Report's contents and the community input received, Council resolved to remove the proposed "west link road" from the concept design for Section 1 (the Western Residential Precinct) of the 2007 Churchill Town Centre Plan and reference to the west link road in the Churchill Structure Plan.



Community Bushfire Recovery - Hazelwood/Jeeralang

The development of a "Community Recovery Action Plan" to facilitate the recovery process for everyone affected by the recent devastating bushfires within the districts of Hazelwood and Jeeralang areas has been instigated.

As a result, a "Community Gathering & Information Session" for affected families was held on Sunday 29th March last at the Hazelwood South property of Tony & Bernie Ferguson. Thanks Tony and Bernie. As a follow-on from this event a Community Recovery Workshop was held at the Churchill Town Hall on Friday 3rd April last, with independent Facilitator, Gillian Jones, leading the process.

The aim of this Workshop was to develop a "Community Recovery Action Plan" and to consider the formation of a Community Recovery Committee to oversee the achievement of the agreed "Action Plan" strategies.

A further meeting was held last Thursday 9th



By Margaret Guthrie, President

CDCA has a role as an advocacy body for the residents of Churchill and surrounding district. We are frequently approached by local community groups for support and assistance in project development and funding applications.

Last month we were approached by ARC Yinnar regarding an arts event they will be conducting later in the year to coincide with the Melbourne Fringe Festival 'Circuit 15' project. The ARC project combines art, sculpture and drama around a theme of building and reconstruction. The proposal includes community workshops to engage interested local residents prior to the performance event, which will be video linked to other events included in the 'Circuit 15' project.

CDCA was able to provide a letter of support for ARC's funding application to the Regional Arts Fund and is helping collect 2litre plastic milk cartons for the 'sculpture' which is to be created during this event. For further information on this project and other ARC activities and exhibitions, phone 5163 1310. ARC is open from 12 - 4pm each weekday and 11am to 3pm on Saturdays.

Similarly, CDCA has been requested this month to provide another letter of support for a funding application for the estab-

lishment of a "Men's Shed" in Churchill. The Steering Committee guiding this project has identified funding for facility upgrade and infrastructure, such as extraction fans, extra power points and such-like. The space in the lower floor of the Churchill town hall (now known as the 'wet/dry workshop area'), which is proposed as the site for this activity, is in need of further fit-out prior to being equipped with tools and machinery.

We've also been approached to provide support for Churchill United Soccer Club's desire to have their grounds upgraded. The soccer club is hoping that, under Latrobe City's Southern Towns Recreation Strategy, Council will assist the club to upgrade their training and playing fields, particularly if the grounds currently accessed by the club at Monash are developed into a regional hockey facility.

CDCA is also continuing to monitor progress on, and lobby for, the development of a suitable facility for the Churchill Lawn Bowls Association. Many Churchill residents play lawn bowls and currently must travel outside our town to participate in this sport. It is obvious from the level of involvement in the Association's monthly indoor carpet bowls night at Gaskin Park stadium that local residents would support and utilise an outdoor lawn bowls facility in Churchill.

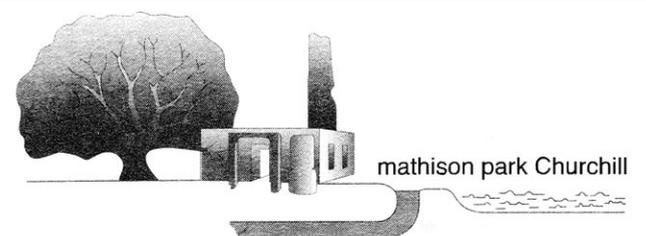
Supporting Community Groups

At our March meeting, CDCA also discussed how we might liaise with, and provide support for, the Churchill Lions Club Australia Day celebrations. Council representative, Karen Tsibelis, raised some further project activity ideas at Glendonald Park for discussion. Another Council officer, Ian Gibson, provided an update on progress of the Churchill Town Centre plan, the status of the 'East-West Road Link' proposal and the likely establishment of a Planning Panel to consider submissions regarding Council's 'Amendment C62' - i.e. changes to the Latrobe Planning Scheme.

Committee members also discussed the purchase of large (pole-mounted) Christmas decorations for the town centre. We'd like to thank Monash University for donating a shipping container for our storage needs and thanks also to Latrobe City Council for providing us with access to their Churchill depot, in which we have been able to locate the container.

CDCA meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7pm. All local residents are very welcome to attend our meetings and hear the latest on Churchill projects and issues. Our next meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 22nd at the Churchill Hub.

Contact CDCA at PO Box 191, Churchill or by phoning the Secretary, Rob Whelan on 0427223602 or via email: robwhelan@efel.net.au



Working Bee

At the recent working bee, a fallen tree was winched into Lake Hyland. Thanks go to Mark Lee for the provision of his 4WD vehicle which helped Tom with his tractor complete the job. Max did some needed repairs to the

new path.

Then it was all hands and tractor on deck to do a clean up in the top plantation where many branches and a couple of trees that had fallen in the recent windy weather, were collected.

Churchill Library in the Hub

Did You Know?

The Churchill Library is now located in the Hub in Philip Parade. It is easily seen as you walk in the front door, to the left.

When Can You Access the Library?

The opening hours are 11am-6pm Monday-Friday.

What services do they offer?

There is a range of services as follows:

- Books for all ages with a specific section for teens and juniors.
- A variety of Magazines
- DVDs and CDs
- Reference books
- Newspapers available daily
- Public Internet access
- Language Course tapes (booking is required)
- Word Processing

• Photocopying,
Do they provide for vision impaired people?

Yes there are talking books and large print books available.

Can I make my normal council payments at the library?

Yes all normal payments such as dog and cat registration. Council rates can also be paid there.

Do I have to pay for any of the services offered?

No the services are free, and the library is open to the public. To belong to the Library service, just take out a free membership to receive your borrowing card.

Does the Library hold any special programs?

During school holidays there is a holiday program run over all the Latrobe City Council Libraries. To

check where each one is happening, consult the advertisement in the Latrobe Valley Express.

Story time for preschoolers is held each Wednesday from 11am-11:30am during the school term.

Does the library have a reservation service if I want a book which is out, or at another library in the council area?

Yes they do. Members are able to access resources from a range of Victorian Public Libraries, not just within our municipality.

I'm interested in family history. Does the library have family history resources?

Yes it does. If you want to know anything more about the Churchill Library facilities please ring 1300 367 700.



Annual Wreath Laying & International Workers Memorial Day

Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc (GARDS) will be holding its Annual Wreath Laying ceremony to coincide with International Workers Memorial Day on Tuesday April 28th in the Centenary Rose Garden, Commercial Road, Morwell at 11.00am.

There will be a free BBQ with the compliments of Gippsland Trades and Labour Council. All in the community are welcome to attend to honour and celebrate the lives of those suffering or who have lost their life to a work related accident or illness.

Invited speakers include, Chris Ireland, NSW photographer, John

Parker Secretary of Gippsland Trades and Labour Council, and a mystery guest speaker from the Defence Forces.

Resident bag piper David Duncan will be in attendance (maybe with extras) and singer/musician Paddy O'Dowd will inspire and delight those attending.

GARDS is a non-profit, non-government, voluntary organisation dedicated to supporting the victims of asbestos and their families. GARDS also works to raise the level of asbestos awareness in the community, industry and at all levels of government.

GARDS Support
GARDS provides support and

information to sufferers, their families and carers. This includes home visits by GARDS volunteers, a telephone support service, and drop-in services at GARDS' office. GARDS Support also conducts meetings where guest presenters are invited to provide information about regional support services and other areas of interest and assistance.

The meetings also provide a gathering place for experiences. GARDS Support is open to anyone exposed to asbestos or suffering from asbestos disease.

GARDS can be contacted by telephoning 03 5127 774 or by email at info@gards.org



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Family Fun Night

Coming Soon..... Keep
this date free

Friday 12th June 2009

More details in the next issue

Church Snippets

By Ruth Place

During the last month, several members of the congregation have joined with Lumen Christi cell groups to do Lenten Studies. It has been a lovely way to get to know our fellow Christians and to share our thoughts on the Bible readings and reflections contained in the study material. Our thanks go to the Lumen Christi folks who have so warmly welcomed us into their midst.

The Ladies Fellowship has had a very busy month with organising the Anglican Women of Australia (AWA) Deanery Rally and the World Day of Prayer service.

The AWA Rally was on Tuesday 3rd March 2009, at 7.00 pm, hosted by Churchill, with 24 in attendance. The low attendance figure was due possibly to the extreme high bushfire alert for that day.

The Rev Dr Bob Brown led the service which was taken from the Anglican Church of Australia "A Prayer Book for Australia".

President of the Ladies Fellowship, Betty Reid, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending, especially Bob and Sylvia (our pianist).

Chairperson Jane McQueen commented on the appropriateness of the service, the readings and prayers, which are so relevant at this difficult period Victoria is experiencing with the devastating bushfires. Jane introduced the AWA Gippsland Diocese executive who each gave a report on the activities for the coming year.

Special Project for 2009

The Anglican Board of Mission - Australia Limited National Auxiliary Project is "Literacy in Vanuatu - a Second Chance". This project will raise money to train literacy teachers in Vanuatu.

Guest speaker

The guest speaker for the evening was Joy Freier from Melbourne. Joy is the wife of the Most Rev Dr Phillip Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne.

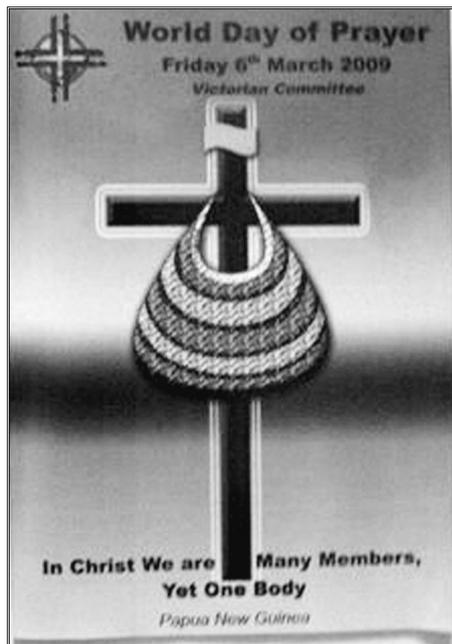
Joy gave an informative and entertaining account of her experience at the 2008 Lambeth Conference held at Canterbury Cathedral and the University of Kent in England. The conference is held every 10 years and is in two parts - the Archbishops Conference and the Spouses Conference.

Joy outlined the logistics of holding such a huge event which goes for three weeks. As a spouse Joy was involved in

workshops, bible studies, worship and study groups with a diverse range of people from all over the world.

Joy met some wonderful people and experienced amazing things such as the "Walk Against Poverty" and a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

A small gift from the Co-Operating Churches in Churchill was presented to Joy.



World Day of Prayer -

Friday 6th March 2009, 7.30pm

The service this year was prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Papua New Guinea with the theme "In Christ We Are Many Members, Yet One Body". Our guest speaker was Joan Cox who was visiting from England.

Papua New Guinea's 600 islands cover 474,000 square kms, the main island being shared with Indonesian West Papua. In the Highlands, 1,000 metres above sea level and a quarter of the country, the climate is cool and wet. In the coastal areas, it is hot and dry, though often very humid.

New Guinea Islands Region, including New Britain, New Ireland and Bougainville, is volcanically active.

85% of Papua New Guineans are subsistence farmers. The drift from rural areas is creating urban squatter settlements. Most squatters are unemployed; many resorting to crime.

Members of the Lumen Christi Parish joined us and took part in the service.

26 people attended and the evening concluded with supper.

An Afternoon Coffee gathering was held on Monday 30th March.

Ecumenical Memorial Service for the Bushfires

By Ruth Place

"Remembering, Honouring and Giving Thanks"

In the late afternoon of Sunday 15th March, a special memorial service was held at the Auditorium at Monash University to remember, honour and give thanks after the bushfires which have so harshly impacted upon our community.

A lone piper escorted the guests of honour into the Auditorium. Elder, Auntie Sarah Morgan, of the Gunai-Kurnai nation welcomed all to her ancestral country.

MC, Ian Needham, the MC introduced the service organised by the churches of the Latrobe Valley and Latrobe City Council.

The service included responsive and intercessory prayers, hymns, poems and Bible readings.

A representative from each area affected by the fires brought forward an urn of fire ashes collected from their area to the front of the Auditorium to a cross. This was a very poignant part of the service.

The Lavalla Catholic College Choir sang beautifully the Taize Community "O Lord Hear My Prayer", as participants remembered those who had lost loved ones, homes, property, livelihood, and livestock, those who seek shelter and food, those recovering from terrible burns, those who have lost everything, those whose lives are shattered.

Father Hugh Brown spoke. His homily is above to the right.

Mary Minchin sang "You Raise Me Up". The Hon. Gavin Jennings MLC spoke showing his concern for the community and reflecting on the special worth

of the service. Rosemary for remembrance was given to everyone on entering the Auditorium. We were requested to rub it and smell the savour its aroma. Organisations and groups who played a significant part in the recovery effort, like the Red Cross, Salvation Army and Lifeline to name a few, were asked to take their piece to a bowl at the front. Others who wished to followed. The choir sang beautifully once again through this.

The very haunting hymn "Amazing Grace" followed.

A slide show of photos from the fires was shown, with the last ones showing the new shoots on the burnt eucalypts, trees blooming and the hope that we have of recovery and a future. The black curtains behind the screen were opened and the lovely green trees outside summed up our

hope. It brought many tears to many eyes. Let us hope they were tears of healing.



Church Service Times

Co-operating Churches of Churchill

Rev. Dr. Bob Brown
Williams Avenue, Churchill.
Tel: 5122 1480
Glenda and Ian Combridge
Tel: 5166 1819
Sunday Service: 9.30am.
Choruses: 9.20am

Lumen Christi Catholic Church

35 Walker Parade, Churchill
Tel: 5122 2226
Rev. Hugh Brown
Saturday: Mass: 6.00pm
Sunday: Mass: 9.00am
1st and 3rd:
Yinnar: Mass: 10.30 am
2nd and 4th Sundays:
Boolarra: Mass: 10.30am

Churchill Christian Fellowship

Maple Crescent, Churchill.
Sunday: 10.00am
Ladies Meeting: Tuesday 10.00am



SERVICE OF SOLIDARITY

BY Fr Hugh Brown

"My soul is shut out from peace; I have forgotten happiness. And now I say, 'my strength is gone, that hope which came from the lord'"

With these words, Jeremiah the prophet spoke of a people in pain.

His words were the cry of a people whose world had been devastated by destruction, a world where lives were lost, homes destroyed and people displaced.

Their devastation was caused, not by nature, but by an empire.

Jeremiah, if indeed he is the inspiration behind the book of Lamentations, spoke on behalf of his people.

His words were the words of a people numbed by a grief that comes from something they didn't understand.

His words came from a people full of anger and hurt because the world they knew was no longer.

His words also came from a people whose emotions were overloaded by anxiety, a shared pain and the sheer exhaustion of facing a calamity together.

Jeremiah was speaking on behalf of a people in exile. We too have experienced something of an exile.

We have experienced a profound grief that comes because our lives have been turned upside down and inside out by a force that is devastating and greater than ourselves.

Many of us now live lives in dread of the well-meaning but heart-breaking question: "How are you?"

What was once for us a garden, not of paradise, but the garden of Gippsland and the valley, has now become a garden of Gethsemane.

Like our lives, that garden has been scorched, and indeed we have been tested by fire.

But no prophet worth his salt will leave us without a future and without hope.

Neither did Jeremiah.

Despite the pain he could say to his people: "this is what I shall tell my heart, and so recover hope: the favours of the Lord are not all past, his kindnesses are not exhausted; every morning they are renewed For the Lord is good to those who trust him".

Another prophet, indeed the greatest of them, Jesus, whom we call Christ, also spoke of the pain and suffering of a people in exile.

When he stood on the mountain and addressed his people, he invited "anyone who has ears" to perceive reality in a new way.

He spoke of those whose spirit was poor and crushed and invited them to know a new reality - the presence

and power of God.

He challenged anyone who would listen to know that gentleness and peace-making are the hallmarks of a people who trust in God and which make them God's daughters and sons.

He affirmed for those who fight for justice that their thirst will not be in vain.

And he spoke to those who grieved and mourned and assured them that even in that space which seems so empty there is the possibility of comfort and peace.

What Jesus did not say was that it would be easy.

What Jesus did not do was to tell us that that we wouldn't experience broken-hearts and disrupted lives.

What Jesus did not promise was to give us a cheap remedy that pretends to make us better.

In fact, what he did do was far more truthful and honest; he taught us how to live, by walking the same path with us.

For those of us who believe, even though our faith can be sorely tested, Jesus said by his words, his deeds and his life, that I will take you by the hand and walk beside you.

For us who believe, he also showed us the real face of God.

God's face is as varied and as craggy and as warm and as strong as the faces of the countless people who have stood beside us during our exile.

God's face is the face of men and women covered in ash and sweat who helped save both our lives and so often our homes.

God's face is the tenderness of someone who puts their arms around us and cries with us.

God's face is face of the person who helps us wade through the nightmare of shifting through the debris of what has been lost.

God's face is the face of a nation who united as one to remind us of the superb generosity and heartfelt feelings of people who could only look from a distance.

God's face is also in the new grass that springs up after the welcome rain and the eucalyptus that will soon spring forth new shoots in even the most desolate of landscapes.

For those of us who believe, there is always hope despite its being bruised and battered and exhausted.

You see, we believe in new life, we believe in resurrection, we also believe that God has the final say and his final word to each of us: I am with you always even as you walk through the valley of darkness.

*This Month's
Saturday
Breakfast is on
page 18*

Linking with many at Boolarra



By ROSE LA VIE

I was emailing people at an Employment Agency, following my meeting with the Principals and Welfare Workers at Traralgon College on Friday the 30th January. Suddenly the radio blurted out:

"The people of Boolarra are preparing themselves for the ember attack that will follow the fire that is heading in their direction!"

Quickly, I gathered up my emails and headed across to the Traralgon CFA Fire Station across the road. Shortly thereafter I telephoned the Victorian Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667 and "Jenny" confirmed that the Churchill to Boolarra Road was the only road into Boolarra and that it was still open. A Fire Officer said: "You'd better be quick, I've just heard that in an hours time the whole town will be sealed."

Thanking him I quickly headed out the door, enquiring where the nearest mop and bucket store was, as I filled my car with petrol. Coles didn't have any, but K Mart had 16 buckets and two young shop assistants quickly located four mops with me. All my money spent, a Baker's Delight lass simply gave me a loaf of bread as I headed on out the door of the Mall. As I approached the Churchill road corner smoke was billowing in the distance. At Churchill it was even thicker...

As I approached Boolarra, a policeman beckoned me to stop. However, I yelled: "I am a resident!" and he let me pass. I braked when I saw an elderly woman walking by, thinking to offer her a mop and some bread. However, she was too far down the road by the time I'd stopped, so I turned into Penaluna Street, where the sky was burning apricot red... Noticing a group of neighbours, ten houses down from mine, I pulled in beside them, offering mops and buckets.

However, they were departing so I quickly U-turned and backed my tiny Ford Festiva up my gravel driveway and into the garage, leaving its door open. I opened up, unlocked the front door, left the keys in my ignition, grabbed a water bottle and automatically went into preparation mode. Firstly, I ensured all my windows were locked and curtains and blinds down, closing all doors, except the back one, which I shut firmly behind me. Then I instantly set to work, hosing down the front garden, filling urns, buckets and my green waste bin full to the brim with water.

This was made easier because I'd soaked my entire garden the previous night, for I'd seen the fire burning at Fish Creek when I'd left to drive into Mirboo on Thursday afternoon. Calling in at the Post Office I'd asked Gwenda: "What's going on?" "Well we might be in for a big one, if Fish Creek gets away!" she replied... "and I certainly wouldn't drive into Mirboo North as there's another blaze up there and they've sealed the Strezlecki Highway between the two fronts!"

"Okay," I gulped, "so how do I get to the bank there?" "I'd forget it," Gwenda replied, before remembering she could process it for me. I mentioned I had facilitated 22 CFA Bushfire Blitz community education meetings in 2000-2001 in Regions 15 & 16 and to call on me if needed. "However I'll be attending a meeting at Traralgon

College tomorrow morning at 8:45 am... to meet staff, before school resumes on Monday," I added, as I opened their sliding flyscreen door.

Then I turned back and said: "It's probably not going to be needed, but where is the evacuation point, if it turns nasty?" "Well that's a good question!" exclaimed her CFA Volunteer husband, "where WILL we meet? It's usually the Footy Oval, but that's far too close to the Fish Creek front!"

Gwenda and he exchanged questioning glances. "I guess it will have to be the oval next to the Primary School just up the road, on the way out of Boolarra to Mirboo North."

"THANKS!" But let's hope not, I am about to start work as a chaplain next week, as soon as my new National Police Check comes through!" So I headed home and totally wet down my garden that night and briefly the next morning.

That was nearly 22 hours ago and NOW I was back to stand with the people of Boolarra, who remained, to defend the home I'd just moved into on December the 4th. Ensuring my cat, Khadr, was safe under the couch, I locked the garage door and continued watering the backyard with the helicopters overhead and the CFA Brigades at the firefronts, to ensure the town of Boolarra - and my home in particular - remained standing after the firefront passed over us, my legs not stopping, until an hour after a timely wind came and blew the fire back up the hill, saving our town!

This was my initial story, but the depth of feeling is so profound, the subliminal shock waves still resounding, that much has remained locked within me, silently photographed, recorded within a cocoon of aftershock. Neighbors listen to one another, but it is what is not said, now two months on, that reveals that we truly escaped the inferno," by the grace of God. Now when we see tree ferns sprouting, pass the redness of trees, blackened earth and burnt gums, we are constantly reminded of the miracle of our survival, of the miracle of life.

This grace itself is unpalatable, to those without faith, including a minister and social workers, I de-briefed with at Traralgon College. For I later discovered many who found my brief testimony to how the fire clouds changed direction, as they came towards us on Black Saturday, disconcerting... As though somehow this was passing judgement on those who later succumbed, to the fire as it turned towards Yarram. It was not. It was my experience.

All I KNOW is that there was a critical mass of people who stood to fight the initial fire in Boolarra and the whole downtown area was saved, as a wind blew the fire approaching it back up the hill. Whether it was that the people

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who stood there that day, myself included, by their faith and solidarity of united will and resistance, persuaded the angels to turn the fire around, or it was pure chance AND the incredible work of the CFA and the helicopters that ensured our survival, I do not know.

From my own CFA experience, I'd say it was fortunate that our fire was on a very different day with far less extreme conditions to that of Black Saturday and that we had the whole resources of the state of Victoria with us that day. That the angels were there too, honouring us and working with us, also fits with my kingdom theology and experience from previous fires. We are woken, we are alerted, we act and we are not alone, either humanly or spiritually speaking, for we are one.

On both weekends, within days we also received rain and on Black Sunday, as one of five women of different faiths praying for the whole of Victoria at our tiny Boolarra and Yinnar Anglican-Uniting Church building, where the holiness of God is etched around the altar, rain pelted down at significant moments in our psalm reading and communion. We have been transformed and irrevocably changed by our experiences and we will continue to grow and change and offer our thanks for the

grace of this life and honour the first nations people, whose loss and pain, as well as their connection to Mother Earth and Father Heaven, we now understand a little better now.

Thank you Rose for sharing your story with us. If you have a story you would like to share please let us know. Stories can be submitted by email at cdnews@dcsi.net.au or mailed to PO Box 243, Churchill. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on 0411 053 546 or Ruth on 5122 1961. Ed.



NEW CHILD CARE CENTRE



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Come and have a look at this purpose built childcare centre

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Call Jodie or Bronya to arrange an inspection or appointmernt on 5122 6227
or Email: pooh.corner@general.monash.edu.au
www.mugsu.org.au



Pooh Corner

Child Care Centre

Churchill Hub, Phillip Parade, Churchill Vic 3842

“Whilst the centre is new and furbished with new toys and equipment, one thing remains the same and that is the high level of caring and professionalism practiced by all our Staff at Pooh Corner”

Northe's Natter



Royal Commission has announced it will hold three community consultation sessions in the Latrobe Valley in early April. By the time this goes to print these meetings will have been conducted and I do hope that residents made the most of the opportunity to have their say.

Any individual or organisation can make a written submission to the Royal Commission prior to Monday 18 May 2009. Your submission may be based on data, experience or opinion and can take the form of a letter, summary paper or research document. Supporting materials including photos or videos can also be provided.

All submissions must relate to at least one of the Royal Commission's terms of reference. These are available online at www.royalcommission.vic.gov.au or by contacting my electorate office.

Residents can lodge their submissions electronically using an

online form available www.royal-commission.vic.gov.au. Postal submissions require a cover sheet, again available on the Royal Commission website or from my office. Postal submissions can be sent to:

Submissions
2009 Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission
GPO Box 4358
Melbourne VIC 3001

It is apparent that a number of fire-affected residents are falling through the cracks when it comes to accessing financial assistance. I urge these people to stay in contact with recovery centre staff and their case managers where applicable, as funding programs are regularly evolving. Further, I encourage you to write or email me with details of your circumstances so that I may make representations on your behalf.

The events of late January and early February will continue to affect our community long after the trees regenerate and we replace bricks and mortar. Tragically for some, that which has been taken can never be replaced and for them and with them, we grieve. There are so many lessons to be learned from the experiences of locals during both the Boolarra and Churchill complex fires. We must give voice to our concerns and experiences to ensure government protocol and policy prevent such terrible occurrences in the future.

The 2009 Victorian Bushfires

Morwell RSL Sub Branch Inc

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Entertainment for April

Friday 17th	Flatliners
Saturday 18th	H.B.T.
Sunday 15th	<i>Old Time Dance</i> <i>Featuring</i> <i>Ken & Alice Rae</i>
Friday 24th	Hound Dogs
Saturday 25th	Reckless

Telephone: 5134 2455



Thanks to BransTrans

BransTrans Pty Ltd was recently awarded a certificate of appreciation by Latrobe City Council to thank them for their generous support of the relocated and refurbished Churchill Skatepark.

Pictured above is Simon Clarke of LCC and Nola Bransgrove, co-owner of BransTrans receiving the certificate.



DID YOU KNOW?



Not a single one of the gorillas in zoos around the world is a mountain gorilla - they are all lowland (western) gorillas. I have trekked through the treacherous mountain ranges of Annapurna South in Nepal, dog sledged through the spectacular mountains of Banff in Canada, swam with the elephants in Malaysia, challenged myself too the black diamond ski slopes in Queenstown NZ, cruised the waterways of Venice by gondola and in 2009 went in search of the Great Mountain Gorilla's of Uganda and the Big 5 on the plains of the Masai Mara, Serengeti and Ngorogoro Crater in Kenya & Tanzania.

Ask yourself have you ever dreamt of being:
*Only feet away from a wild Mountain Gorilla?
*A guest at the breakfast table in the

company of a giraffe?
*Out under the stars of the Serengeti with only canvas between you and the wild animals?
*Witness to a hyena or cheetah hunt?
*Given the opportunity to experience the taste of banana beer?
If you wish to turn your dreams into reality as I have, please feel welcome to contact myself at Jetset Morwell on 03 5134 3388 and we can start planning your African safari or upcoming holiday today!

Safe Travels, Kim
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My All Body Needs

Kate Myall is please to announce she is now operating from Churchill Chiropractic Pty Ltd.

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*Churchill Chiropractic Centre Pty Ltd
Hazelwood Village, Georgina Place
Churchill Victoria 3842*

ART Classes at ARC Yinnar

Basic Drawing, Still Life & Portraits with Graphite, Charcoal & Pastel.

5 Sunday afternoons from May 3rd 12.30-4.30 pm.

Sharon Anderson (of ArtFX) will be teaching basic drawing skills using pencil, charcoal and pastels. Aspects of still life subject matter, including balance, line, and perspective will be covered. Participants will also be introduced to pastel colouring techniques such as blending and textures. Students need have no experience, but will be able to adapt these foundation skills in the development of a finished portrait study for folio. Course fee of \$85 (or \$75 concession) includes some paper to start.

Botanical Illustration with Laurie Andrews

7 fortnightly sessions on Saturdays beginning May 2nd from 11- 1 pm. Although this is an introductory course, some confidence in drawing is an advantage. Talented Melbourne artist Laurie Andrews will show students the skills to observe and portray plants with pencil and watercolour. An emphasis on botanical accuracy and the appreciation of the beauty and complexity of nature will be understood during the process. Course fee of \$140 / \$120 concession, includes some watercolour paper to start and a small potted plant.

Blacksmithing, Foundation and Toolsmithing with Bruce Beamish

Over three weekend days.

This extremely popular course will be offered again this year. The three day course offers participants an overview and feel for the craft by producing a number of items including your own pair of tongs to suit the job at hand. Participants will gain experience in firing the forge, basic pointing, drawing out, making an eye, hot cutting, making scrolls, twisting and bending, forging non-ferrous metals and more. Blacksmithing Full Weekend dates:

May 23 & 24th, June 20 & 21st, July 11 & 12th, August 29 & 30th
Day 3 Toolsmithing Sat 1st August & Sun 2nd August (Fee for entire course \$260 or \$240 concession). All materials are included. This is an excellent course for anyone interested in Metallurgy at any level.

By popular demand an additional printmaking weekend workshop on the Etching technique has been created for June 13th/14th with artist and tutor Kate Zizys, places are still available.

Contact arc Yinnar for more details and to reserve your place. A full list of classes on offer up until July 2009 is available now by phoning 5163 1310, or calling in to the office in Main Street, Yinnar. Business hours 12-4pm Mon-Fri, 11-3pm Sat

Pictured above right: Laurie Andrews *Correa Study*, and right a Blacksmith Workshop



A cheque for \$7,000 is presented to Christine Lynch and Lisa Twigger from Latrobe Regional Hospital by Churchill Lions President, Tom Quinn, surrounded by Lions members.

Lions Club Back to Business

The Lions Club of Churchill are getting back to normal business after the destructive fires of Black Saturday. The club has been hard at work catering and assisting with the many fire relief projects in the district, with members putting in long hours of voluntary work.

The Club this month has:

- Provided Lunch at the Churchill Mourning Day Ceremony
- Provided BBQ lunch to the Boolarra community fire relief meeting
- Assisted Boolarra Festival organisation
- Assisted at the Churchill Soccer Club GERF fund raisers
- Provided Sausage Sizzle for Churchill Primary Sports day
- Catered BBQ lunch for the Churchill Bushfire Relief meeting
- Supported the GERF appeal

The Club presented a cheque for \$7000 to the Latrobe Regional Hospital for the purchase of a Blanket Warming Cabinet for the Hospital's Operating theatres

Club contributed \$1000 to the Lions Ride for Sight. This event is a 400 km fun / social bicycle ride on sealed roads to raise funds for vision research and to

spread the word about preventable blindness. Norm Hall from Churchill Lions Club and Herb Smith from Yinnar Lions Club participated on the ride and fund raising

Once again the Club has provided financial support for:

- The Lifeline Community leaders SleepOut appeal
- Lions Australia Spinal Cord Fellowship
- Children's Mobility Foundation
- Lions Hearing Dog
- Australian Lions Drug Awareness Foundation

Coming up for the Club is:

- The Lions Biggest BBQ to raise funds for Cord Blood & Childhood Cancer
- Cystic Fibrosis Bangers & Cash Appeal

If you are interested or have thought about joining Lions please contact President Tom Quinn on 51661448 or Secretary Bill Hurenkamp on 51744221 for more details.



Lions Tom Quinn and Bill Hurenkamp are shown what the Blanket Warmer does by Christine Lynch

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Churchill Neighbourhood Centre Term 2 Only Days Away!

**Term 2 Monday 20th April to
 Friday 26th June**

It is only days until we again start our classes and lots more activities. Read on!

Not only are we running classes in all of the basics of using a computer, we now have classes in E Learning - internet use, E Bay, email, down loading of information, photos from camera to computer, study English, maths, learn to draw, basically whatever you need to learn.

Our tutors are only too willing to teach you and enhance your ability to master the computer, to bring you up to date with the latest technologies, encourage you to progress into further education and give you self confidence in the workplace.

All the usual activities, folk art, lead lighting, creative writing, patchwork and craft classes, Yoga- an evening class, Stitch and Chat, MS Excel and MS Digital Imaging and Photo Editing, are still ongoing. Come on down and join in on the fun, make new friends and learn new skills at the same time.

What's New!!

New classes to begin in Term 2 - Tutors have been sourced and evening classes will be held in, patchwork for beginners, cake decorating, and if there is enough interest, more computer classes

in the evening, but you must ring and register your interest in doing evening classes.

A class for the younger set / schoolies is Writing Workshops that will focus on - creating believable characters and realistic settings, voice, and writing with your senses, beginning, middle, and end.

Craft Bonanza

A plethora of crafty people will be exhibiting and demonstrating their wonderful crafts, to entice you to join in and take up a craft of your choice, and continue the wonderful art of craft.

Most demonstrators will also have items for sale, something for that special person in your life, family and friends.

WHEN - Saturday 27th June and Sunday 28th June 2009 at the Neighbourhood Centre and Town Hall. Keep an eye out for posters and more information as time for the Craft Bonanza gets closer.

Anthology Launch

On Tuesday April 28th, our Creative Writing Class will be launching their 2008 Anthology,

CLASS ACT - an anthology of stories and poems. Dr Tony Hanning, School of Art, Monash University will launch the book - all book lovers and writers welcome.

New Location for Toy Library



The Churchill and District Toy Library will be re-locating to the old Watson Park kindergarten building situated in Heesom Crescent, Churchill. Open dates for Term 2 this year

are: May 2nd, May 16th, May 30th, and June 13th. Hours of operation are between 10.00am and 12 noon. Membership remains at \$40 per year (\$10 per term) or \$20 per year (\$5 per term) for concession card

holders. The range of items suit children aged 6 months to 8 years. New members are most welcome. Please contact Jo Whitelaw on 51631629 (AH) for further information.

Churchill Neighbourhood Centre Inc. Ph: 5122 2955

Term 2 Monday 20th April - Friday 26th June 2009

Monday 10am - 12 noon	Tuesday 10am - 12 noon	Wednesday 10am - 12 noon	Thursday 10am - 12 noon	Friday 10am - 12 noon
Room available for meetings Room 1	Creative Writing A wonderful & stimulating group. Discover your hidden talents by putting pen to paper, and have your writings published. Room 1	Room available for meetings Room 1	Patchwork (advanced) Gum Leaf Quilters Group Learn quilting, material choice, Technique & design Rooms 1 & 2	Lead Lighting Popular & creative class. Create your own designs. Lamp Shades, butterflies, dragon flies, window and door inserts. Studio 1
Intro to Digital Imaging & Photo Editing. Create, edit & manipulate images. Remove scratches, adjust colours.	MS Excel Learn work processing, formatting of text, create files & folders, edit & save documents, create templates, tables & charts & much much more.	Computer Lab Time for internet/computer use for general public morning only	Computer Lab Time for internet/computer use for general public morning only	Computer Basics Gain confidence to turn computer on & understand the basics of the operating system. Learn to use the mouse, open & close programs, create files & folders.
Stitch & Chat craft activity sessions Finish UFO's, socialise, have a Cuppa/chat. Plenty of help and advice from many experts	Room available for meetings Room 2	Room available for meetings Room 2	Craft Activities/ Patchwork For the beginner & novice art/craft worker, come & develop your skills in a friendly & happy environment. Studio 1	Room available for meetings
Monday 1pm - 3pm	Tuesday 1pm - 3pm	Wednesday 1pm - 3pm	Thursday 1pm - 3pm	Friday 1pm - 3pm
Room available for meetings	Room available for meetings Room booked from 1.00-3.00pm 4th Tuesday each month. Maternal & Child Care.	Beginning Writing Having trouble with spelling, reading, writing or maths. These basics are so much a part of your everyday life. Let us help you get up to speed Room 2	Patchwork (advanced) Gum Leaf Quilters Group Learn quilting, material choice, Technique & design Rooms 1 & 2	Room available for meetings
E Learning Study areas that suit your needs: English, Maths, E-bay, internet, learn to draw, improve your job enhancing skills	Night Class - 6pm - 8pm Cake Decorating Learn to decorate cakes for all occasions.	Night Class - 6.00-9.00pm Patchwork Learn quilting technique, design & material selection. Friendly & happy atmosphere. Room 2	Night Class 6pm - 7.15pm Yoga with Heather A holistic approach of postures, breathing practices & relaxation - assist with balance, strength, flexibility Room 1	Become a volunteer at the centre or join the Committee of Management
Room available for meetings Room 2	Room available for meetings Room 2	Folk Art Learn different brush techniques, create beautiful & functional items for your home, or gifts for family and friends. Studio 1	Craft activities/patchwork For the beginner and novice art/craft worker, come and develop your skills in a friendly & happy environment Studio 1	Show your support for the Centre Become a member - only \$2.00

Churchill & District News

Short Story and Poetry Competition 2009

THE Churchill & District News invites you to enter our Short Story and Poetry Competition. There are two special categories this year is - 'Phantoms and Spirits - A Ghost Story' and 'Bushfire Stories', we would like to here about your experiences. The cate-

gory is open to writers of all ages and we are looking forward to some extra scary stories! There are some great prizes, with all entrants under 12 receiving a certificate of participation and a small gift.

If you have any queries or require information, conditions of entry and entry forms please do not hesitate to contact us by email at cdnews@dcsi.net.au or tel: 03 5122 2589 Entry forms and conditions are available online at www.cdnews.com.au

Categories & Conditions of Entry

CATEGORIES

1. Children's 7 and Under Short story/poem or picture story
 2. Children's 8 - 10 yrs Short Story (illustrations welcome)
 3. Children's 8 - 10 yrs Poetry (illustrations welcome)
 4. Children's 11 - 13 yrs Short Story (illustrations welcome)
 5. Children's 11 - 13 yrs Poetry (illustrations welcome)
 6. 14 - 18 yrs Short Story
 7. 14 - 18 yrs Poetry
 8. Adult Short Story
 9. Adult Poetry.
 10. Local History - My Story. (This category will be judged on content alone and there are no restrictions on length of story, i.e. they can be under 1000 words.)
 11. A Children's Story: A story written for children
 12. Phantoms and Spirits - A Ghost Story
 - 12a. 8 - 12yrs
 - 12b. 13 - 18yrs
 - 12c. Adult
 13. Bushfire Stories
- *Categories 1 - 5 will include prizes for best illustration and best presentation

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. All stories must have a completed entry form attached to the manuscript with a paper clip (no pins or staples)
2. The author's name must only be on the entry form and not on the manuscript
3. Entries must be original, previously unpublished work.
4. Each entry must include a title.
5. Multiple entries will be accepted.
6. Unless otherwise specified, permission to reproduce entries in the Churchill &

District News or for publicity purposes will be assumed. Copyright remains with the author.

7. Writers will be credited whenever their writing in reproduced
8. Entries must be received by 19th June 2009
9. All pages should be numbered
10. Length of stories/ poems are to be:
 - *Adult: 1000 - 2500 words
 - *Under 18: 500 - 2000 words
 - *Children: up to 500 words
- Poetry, free or rhyming verse to be:
 - *Adult: min 8 lines and max. 48 lines.
 - *Under 18: min 8 lines and max. 48 lines.
 - *Children: up to 20 lines
11. Entries will not be returned and participants should keep a copy of their work.
12. The Judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into
13. Signing of the entry form for this competition constitutes acceptance of these conditions of entry

Entries to be mailed to:

Churchill & District News Writing Competition, PO Box 234, Churchill 3842
Closing Date: 19th June 2009

Entry Fees:

\$3.00 Per Short Story/Children's Story - \$2.00 Concession or Student
 \$3.00 Per Poem - \$2.00 Concession or Student
 Children, Under 7, Under 12 and U18 Categories - 50c.
 Special Categories: Local History and Bushfire Stories - no entry fee

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS SHORT STORY & POETRY COMPETITION 2009 ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I have entered: _____ Short Story(s) _____ Poem(s)

Title of Story(s): _____	Category _____
_____	_____

Title of Poem(s): _____	_____
_____	_____

I have read and understood the conditions of entry and agree to abide by them. I certify that this is an original unpublished story or poem, written by myself. This entry form can be completed on behalf of U12's by a parent, guardian or teacher.

Signature _____

Entry Fee to be included with Entry Form. Please make Cheques or Postal Orders Payable to the Churchill & District News. No cash please: Mail entries to: PO Box 234, Churchill 3842

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Letter to the Editor

POOR FELLA, MY CHURCHILL!

Where did our happy little village go?

Somewhere amid a major construction site, we have the remains of a friendly, busy town.

And how do you like our fab, new "Community Hub"? Along with the Post Office, the Hub is practically inaccessible to all but the able-bodied amongst us.

David Welch (Director of Child & Family Services at Latrobe City, tel. 51285603) is the Project Manager for the Community Hub. In conversation with him, he told me the present access arrangements are "temporary". He tells me, plans "...are close to approval." for the reconstruction of Phillip Parade; raising the roadway by a meter so as to eliminate the need for the (tortuous) dogleg path that presently leads to the door.

What a "dog" is that path? Its relentless rise, the sharp turn halfway up, and the (is it?) decorative pillar at the very top, pose a major obstacle to gaining access to whatever is located within The Hub.

I have a disability that makes walking difficult and painful on level surfaces. Without a handrail or staging point, access to The Hub doesn't exist for me. I know I'm not alone in this frustrating situation. How many frail/disabled/wheelchair dependent citizens of our town & district are also battling to arrive into The Hub?

Contact Mr Welch, let him know this is for real and that "temporary" (which could mean many months!) is far too long. Let us have a "Whole Community Hub".

Catherine Nugent
Churchill

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Mothers Day Lunch - Sunday 10th May

Lunch: 11.30 am - 2.00 pm

Evening: 5.00 pm - 10.00 pm

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea helps locals in need

One Australian is diagnosed with cancer every five minutes, but with the Cancer Council Victoria's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea coming up this May, it could take as little as five minutes for Latrobe residents to help save a life.

"Every year, according to the Victoria Cancer Registry, approximately 344 Latrobe residents are diagnosed with cancer," Australia's Biggest Morning Tea Coordinator Barbara Fernandez said.

She said that while many people want to help their friends and neighbours facing cancer, at times it could be difficult to know where to start.

"Hosting an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea this May is an easy way to show you care," Ms Fernandez said.

"More importantly, even if you just take five minutes for a cuppa, the money you raise will make a tangible difference to people facing cancer in the local community," she said.

Five of the ways Australia's Biggest Morning Tea impacts local lives include funding:

1. The Cancer Council Helpline (13 11 20). In 2008, 955 Latrobe residents facing cancer used the Cancer Council Helpline to access free practical and emotional support from qualified oncology nurses.

2. Clinical trials at leading Victorian cancer centres. These clinical trials are open to residents, and take learnings from laboratory research and translate them into real treatments that save lives.

3. Small assistance grants to help local

residents experiencing financial distress as a result of their cancer experience cover immediate needs like petrol or electricity.

4. The Cancer Connect Peer Support Program, through which Latrobe residents facing cancer can access support from a volunteer who has been through a similar experience.

5. Subsidised bowel cancer screening tests so that people in Latrobe have access to potentially life-saving screening tests at a reduced cost.

As well as impacting local lives, through Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Latrobe residents can help people facing cancer throughout Victoria. Every dollar raised will fund life-saving cancer research, education programs to help prevent cancer and support programs for people in times of great need.

"The fantastic thing about Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is that making a difference is easy," Ms Fernandez said.

"You simply register as a host, then invite your friends or workmates around for a cuppa during May - guests donate to the Cancer Council to raise funds," she said.

This year, one lucky Australia's Biggest Morning Tea host will win a Silvia coffee machine and gourmet Grinders coffee pack kindly donated by Grinders, when they register online.

To register for the competition, or for ideas, resources, and your free host kit, visit www.biggestmorningtea.com.au or call 1300 65 65 85 today.

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or at Ryans Hotel, Cargo Lounge, Star Bar or Saloon Bar, Traralgon.



Arrive Alive 2008-2017 is the Victorian Government's new 10 Year Road Safety Strategy. It is designed to keep Victoria at the forefront of Australian and International efforts to reduce road trauma, to deliver further major improvements to our transport system, and to improve safety for all Victorian road users.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT LATROBE CITY ON 1300 367 700

Inaugural Medical Education Symposium

Maureen Kutner

The Gippsland campus of Monash, at Churchill, became the command centre for the CFA during the recent disastrous Victorian bushfires. As evidence of a welcome return to normality, as well as a celebration of the vibrancy and enthusiasm of staff of the Gippsland Medical School, the Inaugural Annual Medical Education Symposium was held at the campus on March 20/21.

In his welcoming address, Professor Chris Browne, Dean of the GMS, acknowledged the Gunnai Kurnai people, the original owners of the land. He spoke of the central role the campus played during the fires as a practical example of the importance of engagement with the community.

Gippsland Pro Vice Chancellor Helen Bartlett then provided a context for the role of the Gippsland Campus within the community, emphasising the need for ongoing communication and consultation in its relationship with local agencies, in the pursuit of mutually advantageous goals.

Associate Professor Robyn Hill, Director of Curriculum of the graduate entry MBBS program at Gippsland said "This symposium has been designed to bring people together to share ideas and expertise around areas of medical education, particularly in relation to community. We recognise that the GMS is part of the community; we offer many programs to the community,

and that we are training medical students for the community. We want to explore ways in which we can enhance these relationships, to make them more meaningful and more beneficial to people."

Some 60 participants, including many from the Gippsland region, as well as a number from metropolitan Melbourne and interstate, heard Keynote Speaker Professor Paul Worley, Dean of the Flinders University School of Medicine, talk of the 'continuity agenda' for medical education, stressing that community and relationships are integral to this new direction. Citing the Riverland Pathway Program in South Australia as evidence, he argued that rural education and educational outcomes could be, and should be, the equal of their metropolitan counterparts.

Professor Liz Farmer, Dean of the Graduate School of Medicine at Wollongong, described the enviable technological facilities available to students at her university. She said that continuity was a keynote of their curriculum, where third year would involve one-year placements, providing longitudinal contact at the same site, allowing students the time to become embedded in, and of real benefit to, the community.

The Monash MBBS Community Based Partnership Program, as it operates at Gippsland, has already proven an excellent way for the University to engage with the local community. Ms Susan Whyte described how the CBPP at

Gippsland provided the opportunity for students to build more personalised relationships with partner agencies in the program than was possible in the metropolitan area, with its much greater student numbers. This claim was validated by two current Gippsland MBBS students, Dora Alexiou PhD and Sam Dortmans, who described with clarity and humour how each has been actively and productively involved in local population health programs.

Other speakers, including Associate Professor Shah Yasin from Monash Malaysia Medical School, and Professor Steve Trumble from the University of Melbourne, agreed that medical programs must be designed to deliver a positive result to the community and, above all, must be relevant to the community's needs. It was also necessary to face the challenge of involving local GPs and specialists in the teaching and delivery of medical programs, while avoiding any tendency to exploit or induce 'burn out' in this invaluable resource.

Symposium participant Margaret Bearman, Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Medical and Health Sciences Education at the Clayton Campus, said "There are many of us in the Faculty involved in medical education, and the symposium provided a rare opportunity to exchange views and learn new things in a collegiate way, which is actually rarer than one might think."

Behind the news: Monash author explores newsroom culture

In the first research of its kind in Australia, a new book by Monash Gippsland academic Dr Louise North (pictured right) explores the experience of journalists in the newsroom through a gendered lens.

In her book, "The Gendered Newsroom: how journalists experience the changing world of media", Dr North looks at the Australian print media and reveals how male and female journalists are experiencing the newsroom differently at a time of rapid industry change.

"While the industry considers new horizons and adjusts to dramatic technological change, gender politics in the newsroom remains stuck in another time: it is the forgotten issue which has a profound impact on the lives and careers of journalists.

"For example, the male dominance of senior editorial positions remains unchallenged, yet this impacts significantly on a wide range of issues such as the allocation of particular stories to male and female journalists, promotional opportunities, sexual harassment and the ability of women to continue their careers after having children," Dr North said.

In her research, Dr North interviewed a

number of print journalists from around Australia who varied in age and industry experience, but who spoke of similar influences and experiences based on their gender.

"The male journalists interviewed were predominantly more self assured and confident in their career choice, whereas female journalists in the research were more circumspect and in many cases disenchanted by the realities of the newsroom culture," Dr North said.

In the book, Dr North calls for more discussion of gender politics within the industry, and in the training of journalists in universities.

Dr North is now extending her research as part of a global project with the International Women's Media Foundation in the United States.

Dr North is the newly appointed Deputy Head of Journalism and is based at the Gippsland Campus.



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New perspective to teaching

Monash University Gippsland has welcomed Associate Professor Bruce Waldrip as the newly appointed Associate Dean of Education.

Associate Professor Waldrip has taught secondary science and mathematics to students in a range of communities throughout Australia and the South Pacific region.

He said that his interaction with people from a range of cultural backgrounds has enhanced his awareness of students' preferences for differing learning styles.

"My particular interest is to consider the impact of the interaction between culture and learning," Associate Professor Waldrip said.

"A great deal of research has been completed in the area of classroom learning, especially in science laboratory classrooms and the subsequent relationship with learning outcomes that can be related to teacher confidence."

Associate Professor Waldrip said educators needed to be aware of student progress as it is necessary to know they are learning effectively and

understanding the new knowledge they are gaining, not just adopting learning methods that are based on repetition or habit.

In his work, Associate Professor Waldrip proposes an approach to teaching science that is literacy based. He uses symbols to assist in the explanation of processes and representations through mediums such as photographs and role play activities.

"Students respond to these methods through increased reading, improved vocabulary, providing longer but more coherent responses and improved exam results," he said.

Students report that they need to work harder with this approach, but the work is more interesting.

Associate Professor Waldrip has been highly successful in securing competitive grants funding to conduct his research. He is looking forward to continuing his research work at Monash Gippsland as well as working with students to prepare them for their careers in the classroom.

Vale

Bonnie Gilbert - a Gippsland Girl Mostly

Bonnie Gilbert was born Evelyn Beryl Goldsworthy in 1920 at Northcote, Melbourne. Her grandfather was a postal clerk who had ridden the first trains to Sale sorting mail between 1888 and 1903. Her father was born in Sale and married Minnie Evans; the Evans's being coach builders in Northcote.

Bonnie was one of four children to Minnie and Frank. When Bonnie was 4 years old the family moved to Loch in South Gippsland where father Frank was a hairdresser. They soon moved onto Poowong and subsequently to Leongatha. Bonnie's schooling mostly occurred there. She and her brothers and sister grew up playing around the back of the shop and near the railway

line.

When quite young Bonnie had an accident in which a cream can fell down upon her head after she had jumped off a high deck. She was lucky to survive. Her young days in Leongatha were days she always enjoyed talking about, with the numerous locals that frequented her father's business and chatted as is the way of the hairdresser; she came to know of most people in the district of the time.

When she was 17 she went to live with her Aunt May and Uncle Hughie back in Northcote where they owned grocery stores and she temporarily worked with them. Her uncle purchased a bicycle for her and she commenced work in a Collingwood shoe

factory, riding the bike down St George's Road.

On one occasion, when riding to Collingwood, her bike became caught in the tramline and being thrown off the bike she was then run over by a horse and cart. The cart driver was terribly shocked and threw the buckled bike in the gutter and picking her up (fortunately unhurt) returned her to her Aunt and Uncle on his cart. This was towards the end of the depression years and things generally had been pretty tough.

When grandfather died in 1939 Bonnie moved back to Leongatha to be with her mother, Minnie and there Bon met Gil, her future husband. Her brother accompanied her to the Leongatha South, Mardan and other local dances. Gil had accompanied his sister too and the brothers had swapped partners.

When the war came along, Minnie and Bonnie moved to Bletchley Street, Caulfield where Bonnie worked along with other women in the war effort. Towards the end of the war she became engaged to Gil and they were married in 1944 at the Anglican Church in Murrumbena. After the war Gil had also lived at Bletchley Street for a time and grew vegetables, besides learning the trade of stone-masonry.

About 1946 they all moved to Essendon into a house purchased off their affluent grocer relatives. Brother Fred and Minnie all shared the house till the family started to come along. The first son died soon after birth, but in 1947 Greg arrived, Murray came along in 1950 and Denise was born in 1953. Gil had ridden his bicycle each day across to Footscray to work at stone masonry in the Footscray Cemetery and later changed jobs to work as a re-fueller for TAA at Essendon Aerodrome.



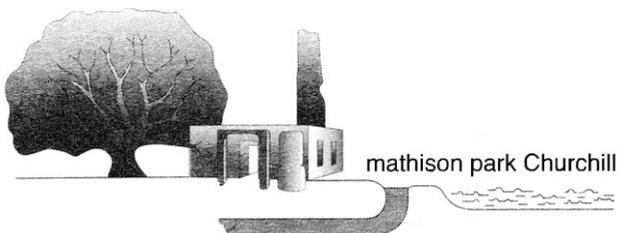
In 1957 the family finally moved back into the country to a farm at Jumbuk. Cold weather became the norm with the new location some 2000 feet above sea level and the country very open and devoid of trees in those first years. The southerly winds would howl up the gully and pierce into the house. For Bonnie this was great learning curve and there was a certain amount of difficulty faced by the family in these years as cows and sheep died in severe winters and drained the family coffers.

Dairy, pigs, sheep, horses, chooks and turkeys were the means to the family capital development. Gil ultimately worked outside the farm to put his children through school and college. Bonnie held the fort at home, cooking, cutting ferns, helping with the milking and other chores. The farm improved markedly over the years before Bonnie and Gil retired to

Churchill around 1979.

A whole new life of bowls, social outings, church, Legacy and RSL fund raising and occasional travel entailed. Each winter Bon and Gil would journey to Forster in NSW for the winter bowling and the social connections. In 1997 Gil passed away after an earlier operation for bowel cancer. Bonnie was left alone and continued on at Manuka Street, Churchill with family her emphasis.

In January 2008 she moved into Hazelwood House after health issues meant that being alone were more concerning. There she continued her wonderful local friendships into her 88th year. On the 7 March in 2009 she passed away peacefully, her heart finally running out of strength. She had a tremendous life and is survived by her children, their families and connections.



Cockatoos in Churchill



Calyptorhynchus funereus

By Ken Harris

The cockatoos are outstanding among the parrots and we are privileged to have 5 different cockatoos as regular visitors to Churchill.

The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo is perhaps the best known. They are beautiful pure white birds, with a sulphur yellow crest, but with the most raucous of voices. These lovely birds have often

been seen around Churchill, but much less often recently. I have not seen one in Mathison Park since I began keeping regular records.

I wonder whether they have been partly displaced by the latest arrival, the Little Corella. Little Corellas are the smallest cockatoos were hardly seen west of Melbourne until recently. The first time I saw them in this area was 2003. Then in 2006 they appeared in Mathison Park, feeding on the cones on the slender cypress beside the ruin. Their numbers have built up and this year I have counted as many as 110. In the park they have fed on pears and black wattle seeds, as well as the cypress cones.

Perhaps the most regular in the park are the galahs. These deep pink and grey birds are resident in the area and are frequently seen in the park. They mostly feed on the ground and one of their favourite foods is the bulb of the

onion-weed, so they perform a useful function.

Gang-gang Cockatoos are less common, but still frequent visitors in the park. The male is beautiful, with dark grey plumage contrasting with his bright scarlet head and crest. The female is duller, lacking the scarlet head. They feed on seeds of eucalypts and wattles. I have often seen them in the park feeding on the seeds of the Black Wattle which is common along Eel Hole Creek. The picture is of a female feeding on a black wattle seed pod, which they like to eat before the seed are ripe (perhaps to avoid the hard coat that the ripe seed develops). These birds have a harshish call, but not as raucous as the Sulphur-crests. To me it sounds like a creaky gate hinge and enables me to identify them long before I see them.

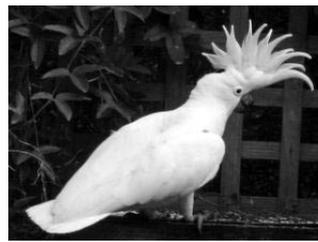
Finally the park is also often visited by flocks of Yellow-tailed black cockatoos. These are the biggest cockatoo in the area and are often seen in quite large flocks. They have a lovely ringing call

and they often call in flight (perhaps to keep the flock together). They have not so far been seen feeding in the park. Their natural food is seed of banksias, hakeas and she-oaks and they use their powerful beaks to easily split open these tough cones and seed capsules. They have also learned to feed on pine cones and this huge food source has helped them to build up their numbers. I have seen flocks of up to 200 in the vicinity of pine plantations. None of these food sources are available in any quantity in the park, so we mainly have to be content to watch them fly over. In my garden they come to feed on hakea seeds and they do some rough pruning of the bushes, biting off a small branch and then holding it in one claw while they extract the seeds from the tough woody seed capsules.

All the cockatoos nest in holes in large mature trees and there are very few such trees in the park, so it may be a while before we ever get cockatoos nesting in Mathison Park.



Cacatua roseicapilla



Cacatua galerita

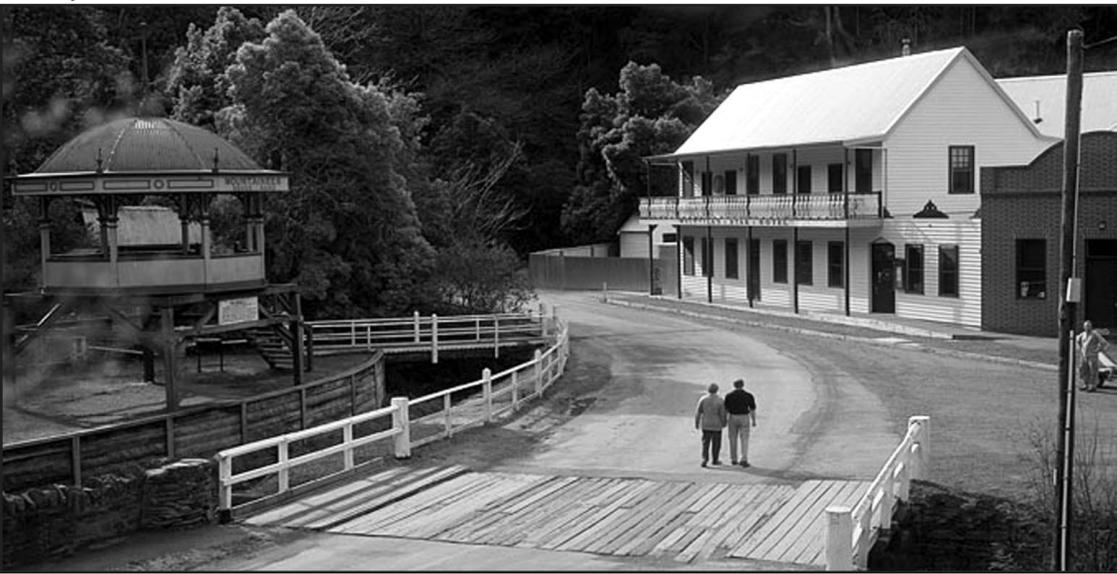


Callocephalon fimbriatum



Cacatua sanguinea

Walhalla Mountain & Rivers Region



Walhalla Mountain and Rivers Region is only 30 minutes north of the Latrobe Valley, which is home to the towns of Erica, Rawson and Walhalla. It also includes the localities of Moondarra, Coopers Creek, Aberfeldy and the ski resort at Mt Baw Baw...our closest ski resort.

Walhalla Historic Township is the jewel not only in our local area's crown. The mix of the township's beautiful location in a deep mountain valley and gold-era heritage gives Walhalla the "wow" factor that draws people from all over the world to visit Australia's "Valley of the Gods".

The region is blessed with natural beauty in the Baw Baw National Park, Tyers State Park, Moondarra State Park and state forest makes up nearly all of the area in addition to the towns.

There's plenty of to see and do. Below is an Events Calendar which we hope you will find useful if you are planning to visit the area.

Walhalla & Mountain Rivers Tourism Events Calendar

Date	Event/Function	Venue	Time	Cost	Organisation	Contact
April						
Saturday 18th	Road Cycling Classic	Walhalla			www.mountbawbaw.com.au	5165 1136
Saturday 25th	Anzac Day Dawn	Walhalla	6.00am		Walhalla Museum P/L	5165 6250
Saturday 25th	Anzac Day Breakfast	Stringers Park	6.30am	\$3.00	1St Mountain Rivers Scouts	5165 3374
Saturday 25th	Anzac Day Service	Erica	11.00am		Tanya Nelson	5165 3101
May						
Friday 10th	Harriers Race	Walhalla			Traralgon Harriers	
Saturday 16th	Latrobe Community Concert Band	Walhalla Rotunda	11.00 am	Donation	WH&DL	5165 6250
June						
Friday 5th	DJ Robbie/Band	AH Sports Bar	9.00pm-late	No Cover	Mt Baw Baw	5165 1136
Saturday 6th	Alpine Outdoor Launch Party	Village Square	6.00pm-8.00pm		Mt Baw Baw	5165 1136
Saturday 6th	White Season Welcome Dinner	VC Sea to Sky Restaurant	6.30pm - 7.30pm	\$39.50 - 3 course	Mt Baw Baw	5165 1136
Saturday 6th	Raging Hormones - Band	AH Sports Bar	9.00pm - late	No Cover	Mt Baw Baw	5165 1136
Sunday 7th	Wine Tasting/Lillico & Wild Dog Wineries - VC		Noon - 4pm	Free	Mt Baw Baw	5165 1136
Saturday 20th	Champagne/Champagne Run	Champagne Slope			Mt Baw Baw	1300651136
Saturday 26th	DJ Robbie/Music	AH Sports Bar	9.00pm - late		Mt Baw Baw	5165 1136
Saturday 27th	Launch Pad	Village Square	2.00pm		Mt Baw Baw	5165 1136

Hazelwood House Happenings

Bep Zomer celebrates her 97th birthday with residents and staff



Leslie Creati celebrates his birthday with family and residents



Bob McEwan reads poetry that he has written himself. Bob's poetry is fun, light hearted and all about his life growing up in N.Z

The residents enjoy making a chocolate slice which is then shared with everyone for afternoon tea.

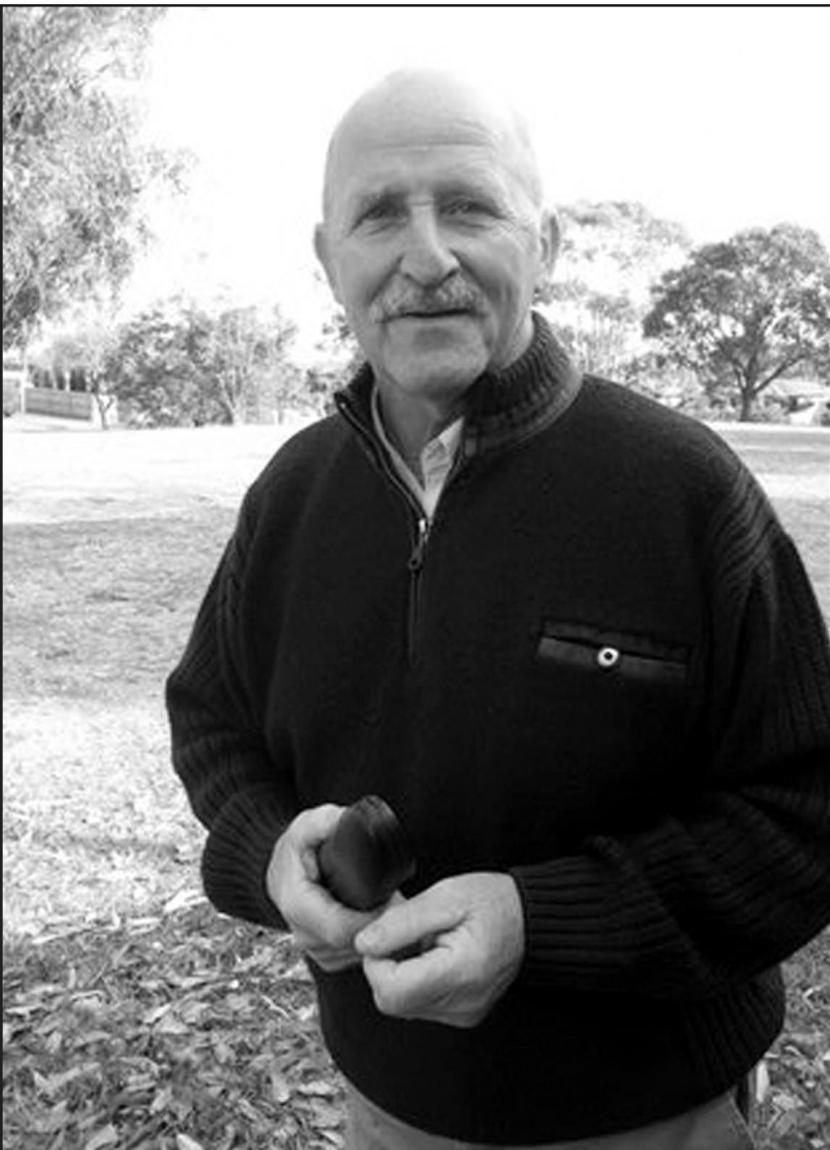


Family Fun Night

Coming Soon..... Keep
this date free

Friday 12th June 2009

More details in the next issue



Saturday Breakfast

By Keith Enders

The March Breakfast was held on the 28th and Bob Lowick from Churchill Lions Club was the guest speaker.

Bob outlined the basic philosophy and beginnings of Lions and described what the local Club does. This included a great effort in supporting the CFA during the recent fires by providing meals at the Monash Gippsland base.

He spoke about his involvement in Lions, his reasons for participating in the Club and some of the activities the Club carries out. These include running camps for children, helping folk with disabilities

and other projects to help the local community.

Bob also gave some of his own personal history and experiences which included his time in National Service in the army in Vietnam and as a member of Victoria Police and being located in Churchill.

The next Breakfast will be held on the 18 April at the Co-Operating Churches at 7.45 am. Jim Saddington, President, Traralgon RSL will be the guest speaker. People interested in attending should contact Keith Enders on 5122 148 or at kbenders@net-tech.com.au

HAZELWOOD HOUSE AUCTION

Auction Friday April 17th

The auction starts at 1.30pm sharp.
Most of the items are new and would
make lovely gifts.

Lots of Bargains to be had.
To be held in the Dining Room.

Afternoon Tea Supplied.

Free Entry

Green Thumbs: Plants and Bush Fires

THE selection, arrangement, location and management of plants will help to improve your home's resistance to fire.

When planning your garden and property for fire protection, it's important to consider plants as an integral part of your overall fire protection plan. Yet no plant is completely fire-resistant. Some are more flammable than others but given the right conditions, all plants will burn.

Plant characteristics that provide protection from fire include:

- *High salt and moisture content of leaves
- *Low volatile oil content of leaves
- *Thick bark protecting conductive tissues and dormant buds
- *Seeds enclosed in woody capsules
- *Dense crown
- *Lowest branches out of reach of ground fire.

introduced plants that are hard to burn.

Common Maple	Acer campestre
Norway Maple	Acer plantanoides
Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum
Evergreen Alder	Alnus jorullensis
Cape Chestnut	Caladendron capense
American Chestnut	Castanea dentata
Sweet Chestnut	Castanea sativa
Hackberry	Celtis occidentalis
Carob	Centonia siliqua
Judas Tree	Cercis siliquastrum
Camphor Laurel	Cinnamomum camphora
New Zealand Laurel	Corynocarpus laevigatus
Laurel	Larus nobilis
Tulip Tree	Linodendron tulipifera
Red-leaf Photinia	Photinia glavra
Chinese Hawthorn	Photina serrulata
Algerian Oak	Quercus canariensis
Turkey Oak	Quercus cerris
English Oak	Quercus robur
Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia
Linden	Tilia vulgaris

Elms

Ulmus spp.

Native trees and shrubs that are hard to burn include:

West Australian Coastal Wattle	Acacia cyclops
Hairy Pod Wattle	Acacia glandularis
Hairy Wattle	Acacia vestita
Lilly Pilly	Acmena smithii
Juniper Myrtle	Agonis juniperina
Apple Jack	Angophora costata
Karrajong	Brachychinton populneus
Belah	Casuarina cristata
River She-oak	Casuarina cunninghamiana
Moreton Bay Fig	Ficus macrophylla
Cattlebush	Heterodendrum oleifolium
Pyramid Tree	Lagunaria patersonii
Moonah	Melaleuca lanceolata
White Cedar	Melia azedarach
Boobilla	Myoporum insular
Brush Box	Tritania conferta

Ground cover plants that are hard to burn:

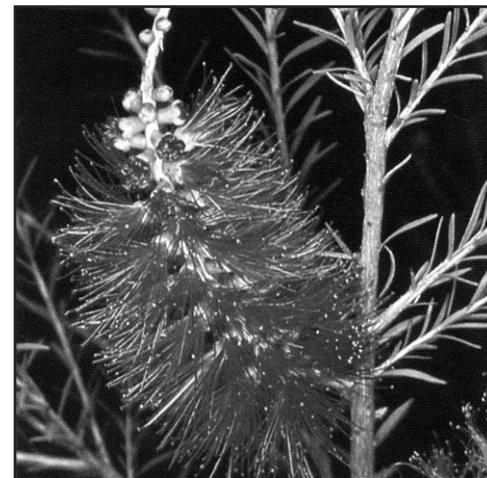
Bugle	Ajuga reptans
Saltbush	Atriplex supp.
Pigface	Carpobrotus spp.
	Coprosma "krikii"
	Delosperma "alba"
	Drosanthemum floribundum
	Helianthemum spp.
	Kennedia spp.
	Kochia spp.
	Lampranthus multiradiatus
	Myoporum parvifolium
	Portulacaria spp.
	Rhagodia spp.
Sunroses	Rosmarinus officinalis
Coral Peas	
Bluebushes	
Noonflower	
Creeping Myoporum	
Jade Plants	
Saltbush	
Rosemary (prostrate form)	
prostratus	
Lavender Cotton	Santolina spp.
	Verbena peruvian

During a bushfire, a well-designed garden will provide a green safety zone around your home.

The **Moonah**, pictured right, is a native shrub that flowers best in full sun.

The **Tulip Tree**, pictured below, is a flowering deciduous tree. Growing tall, to 60ft, it is ideal for a large garden. The flowers are sweetly scented and shaped like an open tulip.

The **Ajuga** is a ground cover with purple-bronze leaves and lilac-blue flowers in spring



Information on plants that are hard to burn was reproduced with permission from "Living in the Bush", published by the CFA, Victoria.

1978 Churchill Primary School Grade 6 School Re-Union



By Ruth Place

The hard work was done, all was in readiness. At 10 am Helen Dyson, Leading Teacher, opened the front door of Churchill Primary School. Debbie Camp (nee Birse) welcomed those she had contacted from Grade 6 of 1978, most of whom had been together all their primary school life.

One by one they arrived to excited shrieks and laughing hugs as recognition was made, sometimes easily, sometimes with some prompting. People do change after thirty years!

Debbie, who has lived in Queensland for a long time, is married with 8 children, and fosters others, had kept in touch with several of the friends made in those school years. The idea of a get together dawned and was accepted by them. Debbie, with help from the friends, and others who were able to, organised a gathering of about 60, on Saturday 14th March.

It started with the gathering at Churchill Primary School where Helen and Ruth Place, (a former teacher who had taught at the school during these folks Grade 5 and 6 years), conducted a tour of the school, which has changed a lot since the days these ex-students had been there. There was plenty of "Remember where the staff room was?" or "The principal's office was there, then!" "How did you remember that?" "The dark room was there?" "No there!" "Then it went to the other building." "The G.P. Room had a wall here." "We had our school photos taken in here."

That was the cue to have another school photo taken, with the customary 2-3 students on the floor in the front row.

They could remember principals, Mr. B. Henshaw, Tom Malone and Vice Principal Kevin Barr. They asked if Mr. Barr's memorial was still there. It was pointed out in its position at the front gate.

There was also talk of when the main building had a wavy floor and had to be jacked up and lots of stabilising concrete poured under it. In that time there were many portables on the oval, where the basketball court is today and at the eastern end of the school. Many could remember a time capsule being buried, but no-one could remember where. There was a dental unit too, someone remembered. Yes, and they could remember Debbie the dental nurse.

On the oval, one young man disclosed that over the back of the oval was where he had started smoking! Happily he has given up. The Sensory Garden drew many positive comments.

Ruth asked many, what they could remember of Churchill in the early days, from kinder and

school. The following are some of the comments.

Pauline. Grade 6 with Mr. Henshaw; dancing to the music of 'Grease' and Abba, between the two portables at the eastern end of the school; school fetes with sticky jaw-breaker toffees.

Chris. Injections with continuing horror; making daisy chains.

Heather. She used to cry every day when she first started school. Also remembers yonnies (stones suitable for use in sling shots). She has four brothers!

Craig. Milk crates. Milk in bottles. Grade Six. Portables. Teachers- Chris Bremner and Ian Robertson.

Steve. Mrs. McIntyre. Finger painting. Playing cricket and basketball where the carpark and garden is now.

Sean. There was a garden along the front of the school where the concrete path running beside where the building is now. After the building was jacked up and concrete poured in, the path made, the bottom windows were lower to the ground than before, and children running along there when windows were open ran into the windows and were injured. From then on only the second row of windows could be opened.

Students were allowed to walk to the street to buy their lunch.

Craig says he just had a ball.

Steffi recalls that assembly was held on the northern side of the main building, where the playground is now. You sat or stood when the Principal spoke. She remembers the portables too. Steffi attended Churchill Primary School for Prep- 4, then went to Churchill North Primary School

Julie. Playing British Bulldog in the shelter sheds.

Karen. Detention with Mr. Robertson. Heather and Sandra climbed out the window and went home leaving her. The strap!

Deb. We had to line up very straight before we could go into the classroom or we didn't budge. The threat of the strap.

Diann. Mr Lyle. In Grade Three the fire alarm went off at the fire station. Diann predicted that it was at her place. Mr. Lyle thought not, but it was. The whole school was outside our house after school.

Monika. Bottled milk. Foil top. Mr. Koedijk's delivery van. Afternoon play-warm milk with the milk and cream separated. Had to drink through the cream before you got you got to the milk. Learning to speak English as she started school.

Classmates remembered Monika's special red

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coral earrings. You were only allowed to wear plain sleepers or studs she recalls.

Other memories followed including - swap cards, singing "God Save the Queen" at assembly on Monday mornings. Mr. Henshaw's times tables races, with his ladder at the front of the room. The visit of Kevin Heinz, and the fact that he taught you had to tickle the roots, and give the plant three cheers. Charlie the strap in Mr. Cameron's cupboard. You (RP) teaching us "Advance Australia Fair".

Teachers that were remembered included:

Mrs. McIntyre in kindergarten, Mrs. Alderson/ Miss Pickburn, Miss Conwell, Mrs. Ingram, Mrs Rushton (Miss Pickburn got married), Miss Sherry, Mr. Lyle, Mr. Tony Colwell, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Donaldson, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Henshaw, Mr. Robertson.

After much talk and catching up, looking at albums of old school photos over morning tea, the morning drew to a close. The re-union began again at the Gaskin Park Football/Netball Clubrooms at 6:30pm

Catching up with other ex-students they shared the following comments: Kevin. It was fantastic. He says he was a terrible kid, and gave the teachers hell, but finished by saying primary school was good. He remembers going to Watson Park Kindergarten and using finger paint and play dough.

Max. Remembers nearly everyone's faces now, but didn't straight away. He loved the re-union, saying it was good fun to catch up and see what everyone is up to now.

Darren. He also said the re-union was fantastic. It was good to meet again, the people he didn't recognise in the morning session, and work through the memories to recognition. Thirty years seems like nothing.

Nick remembers he was always late. That was because he went to Paul's place before school. He had a good time at school. He recalls the big slide and swings in the park which he thinks were a great idea.

Keith said it was good to see old faces and put names to them. Paul said it was a bit of a gas. He

didn't think he would have so much fun. He recalled crow pecks and said no-one liked them. At kinder he remembers the shared oranges, bananas and milk.

Brett says Mr. Malone gave him the strap. Andy says he was an import from South Australia. He remembers faces. He once took a huge lollipop to school and had it taken. You were not allowed to eat huge lollipops at school.

Brett can remember Woorabinda School Camp; Mrs Brown in the Library, and Mrs Bremner, as well as walking to school and back. It was lots of fun. We always found something to do. He recalls when they first put the swimming pool in. There were strict rules. He remembers seeing the Bini-shell going up, and riding his bike round and round it. He played Army in the bush. He says the majority of the boys in his year wanted to, and did go, to Morwell Technical School.

Ange loved the times tables races in Mr. Henshaw's grade. She also loved singing with his guitar accompaniment. It was lots of fun she recalls. She and her mates would go to Watson Park and play British Bulldog and Hide and Seek. There were lots of kids, and all the parents knew each other. We didn't have one toy, but we enjoyed ourselves so much. The family could go and leave the doors unlocked. Mum and Dad did not worry about you being out. You could walk through the park at night. Parents would never let kids do that now. Everyone knew everyone.

Ange enthused, "I didn't mind coming to the re-union dinner tonight, because we knew all the kids. I was looking forward to it."

Suzanne said she couldn't believe how many people had turned up. There were lost faces in the memory, but some remembered. It was great to see how everyone had grown up and what they had become.

It was a privilege for me to share the memories with these happy, out-going ex students, and to see their excitement as they re-lived those precious school days' experiences. They were all appreciative of Debbie for the trouble she had taken from such a distance to make it happen. Well done Debbie.

I have a feeling this may not be the last re-union for this 1978 Grade Six. In fact a little bird has told me that several get-togethers have happened already.



A Churchill & District History Series

Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



Jessie Holt

By Ruth Place

Jessie Holt and I have been friends for around twenty eight years. Jessie, or Mrs Holt as she has always been known to me, is a wonderful lady. Jessie is ninety-six years old and it was her family who named Holts Road at the back of Monash University.

Jessie Beale's grandparents, Jack and Sophie, came to Australia, from England in about 1870, paying their own fare. They had daughters and two sons, Matt (Jessie's father) and James. Jessie's grandmother died while they were living in Melbourne, and Rachael, who came from England later married her grandfather. Jessie remembers her as 'Granny' who always wore black.

They made Melbourne their home for a while, then, when Jessie's father Matt was about nine years old, the family moved to the Jeeralang Hills. The journey was by bullock wagon drawn by horses. Only tracks through the bush existed. The family set up camp on the Tyers River but it flooded so they decided to head for the Jeeralangs. There they, with many other farmers, selected about 300 acres each.

The land had to be cleared for farming which was a huge task. Jessie's Grandfather and Matt were good axemen and cross cut saw users. Clearing took many years. In about 1910, James was killed by a falling limb. He was on horseback and was returning from a funeral. The family cleared enough land to run some cows and sheep. The sheep proved unsatisfactory. The cows were milked by hand.

Jessie's mother's family came out to Australia via New Zealand, and it was in New Zealand that Ethel, Jessie's mother, was born. When the family first moved to Australia, they settled in Sydney for a while, where Ethel attended school. When Ethel was nineteen, the family moved and also began farming in the Jeeralangs. Ethel's brother was a builder. He built the family home at the back of the Jeeralangs.

He obtained work in Morwell, so he would walk to work and walk home again for the weekend. Walking great distances to work, the football or dances in those days was common. Matt and Ethel met, and Jessie believes they fell in love. They were married in Melbourne about 1904. They lived in the hills with her Grandfather and Rachael until he died in about 1921. Rachael returned to England. Matt and Ethel's ten children were all born in the time they lived there.

Washing at the Spring

Ethel was a brave and steadfast woman who had no amenities to make life easy. Washing was done in cold water at the spring. Jessie says there were many beautiful springs in the hills at that time. To help Matt had concreted the front of the spring and that is where she washed. Ethel used her own handmade soap to wash the clothes, as did the family members, to wash themselves.

A washing line was a long wire strung between two posts, with a prop to hold up the line in the middle so it would not sag and allow the clothes to drag on the ground. Wooden dolly pegs were used to hang out the clothes. The soap was made in an old kerosene tin, outside over a fire. Jessie says her Mum was frightened that the tin might boil over and be dangerous, or cause a mess in the house. The ingredients were boiled up and mixed together, then tipped into flat tins, and allowed to almost set. Then they would be cut into pieces for use.

The only lighting was by kerosene lanterns.

Matt grew all his own vegetables including parsnips, carrots, pumpkin and potatoes. They bought peas and beans for Christmas- a special occasion! For meat they bought meat from the butcher shop in Morwell.

This would usually be a side of lamb. Groceries were also bought in Morwell, in bulk amounts for example, 72lbs of sugar, 140lbs of flour. Jessie remembers beautiful roasts of beef on Sundays.

Ethel was good on the old treadle sewing machine, making most of the family's clothes. Milking of the 30

cows was done by all the family.

The dunny (toilet) was straight out the back door and down the path. It was far enough away to avoid nasty smells. Phenyl was used to scrub out the dunny and reduce the smell. There were a few fruit trees, but Jessie remembers that the family bought plums and made jam. Ethel was also required to make the family's bread, which Jessie described as beautiful.

Jessie and her brothers and sisters went to Jeeralang School. They walked or ran to school (no horse) after they had milked until 8:30am. They were often late, but Jessie doesn't remember getting into trouble. She says that the teachers were fairly strict. She remembers some but prefers to forget others!

Farmers Leave the Hills

Life was very hard. There was not enough money to be made in the hills, certainly not enough to make a living. The farmers had supported and helped each other, but the general feeling was negative towards staying longer.

For about 20-25 years the families had worked extremely hard to make ends meet, but it was so difficult. A decision was made by most of the farmers to leave the hills and try elsewhere. Some went to Tinamba area, one to Rochester and Jessie's parents moved to Yinnar. Australian Paper Mills bought most of the hill country and used it to grow pines and later eucalypts, for pulp and timber.

The Beale's settled on an established farm in Yinnar, milking eighty cows. Their way of life continued much the same, but the bigger herd allowed for an adequate living to be made. One difference was that and horse and cart bought bread from the baker about twice a week and the children attended Yinnar State School.

Jessie grew up and continued her schooling leaving in 7th Grade. She stopped at home then and helped her mother with the cooking, gardening and cleaning. Jessie particularly remembers cleaning the wood stove with Zebra Polish, which was in a small round black and white striped tin. Jessie's early experiences with gardening fostered a life long interest. Wherever she has lived her garden has been an important part of her life.

She loves to share cuttings with you. Many times I have returned home with Impatiens which she has had in water until they have grown roots, ready to share with someone. "I just can't help myself" she once told me.

This life that she loved, went on until Jessie was nineteen when she met and married Tom Holt. Two years before, Jessie had met Tom who was a farm labourer, and a worker on the railways. They met in a group of friends. After the marriage, Tom continued to work on the railways until a decision was made to go farming on a share farm.

Jessie has fond memories of Tom and his Sunday drives they took after milking was completed. Tom was an avid prospector, and would welcome anyone who would come along with him and share his passion. Many drives to Tanjil or Walhalla were made, with traces of gold found, but never enough to make his fortune.

Jessie's parents died and they are buried in Hazelwood cemetery, as were her grandparents.

Jessie and Tom had two sons, Maurice and Ian. The boys grew up on the farm, attending Yinnar Primary School and then Yallourn Technical College, travelling by bus.

Milking on Contract

The Holts were milking on a contract which meant that they had to send milk to the factory all year round. Spring was the busiest time. The milking shed had machines and they had about 70 head to milk.

Jessie remembers preserving lots of fruit. Three cases of apricots would arrive by train on Christmas Eve. They would keep and ripen them for the next two days ready to be preserved. Then it was flat out work by Tom and Jessie using the Fowlers Preserving Kit. A little apricot jam was also made.



A Churchill & District History Series

Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



Tom had a sweet tooth, so he kept Jessie busy making biscuits and cakes.

The dunny was out the back beside the wash house. There was a copper in the wash house, to begin with, and concrete troughs and wringer. Later a washing machine was purchased.

Jessie followed in her mother's footsteps and made the boys clothes when they were little.

Jessie joined the CWA and Mother's Club in Yinnar. Jessie was a CWA member most of her married life. She was great at crocheting. Some of her beautiful fine work decorated her home.

In 1956 Maurice married Jean and started his own family.

Share Farming

The Holt family continued to share farm for ten years. In that time they made enough money to purchase their own farm at Hazelwood in 1957, just behind the university.

The farm was run down and it was a lot of hard work to clean it up, getting rid of blackberries, tussocks and thistles. They milked 60 head. Life went on much as it had when they were share farming.

Ian met Faye Tumney and they married. Ian eventually bought the adjoining farm and cut it up into building blocks. He had to put in roads calling one Holt's Road and the other Tumney's Road.

In around 1978, Jessie and Tom retired from the farm and moved into Churchill. Jessie became involved with sorting of the Fossick and Find bin at the Co-Operating Church.

In 1980 Tom died. Jessie had always been Anglican. Archdeacon Frank Lowe buried Tom. Frank described Tom as one of Nature's gentlemen. That was how I met my friend Mrs. Holt. I visited her and then took her to St. Mary's Anglican Church in Morwell. My fond remembrance is of taking Mrs. Holt home and having a late morning tea and delicious goodies which she had cooked for our pleasure.

Several years later, Jessie sold up and moved to Traralgon to be near her family, but all these years later we continue our friendship.

In Traralgon, Jessie was very lonely. She joined the ADDAS Group, and the St James' Day Care on Fridays, and attended St James' Church, where she met some lovely people. She continued these activities. The Friday St James group however had to close.

Jessie loved having a furry friend for company, around the

house and cared for two cats at Traralgon.

Jean and Maurie had two girls and one boy - Sheryl, who has two girls, Debbie who has two boys and Glenn who has a girl and a boy.

Ian (dec.) and Fay had three boys - Daryl who has one boy, Trevor who has two girls and Peter who has two boys, a total of 6 grand children and 11 great grand children.

The grandchildren were always welcome to visit and stay whether on the farm, or in Churchill, then Traralgon.

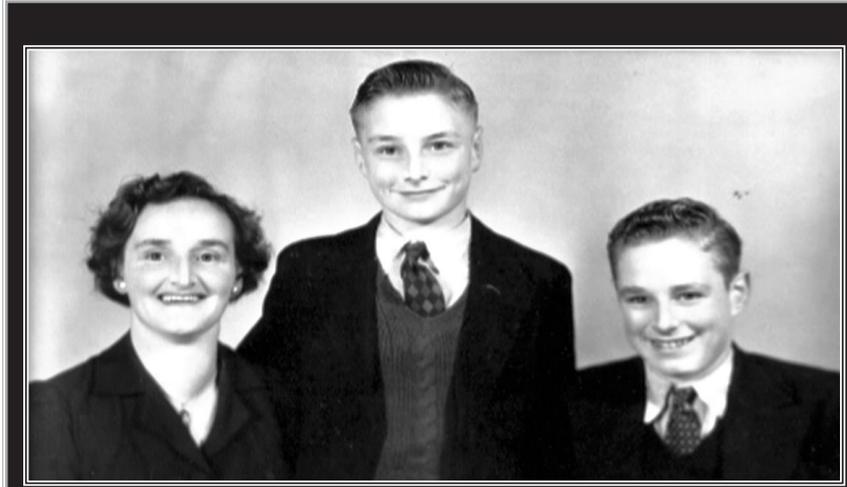
Jessie looked after herself, even though her sight is failing, with some help from family, close friends and council services, reaching the grand age of ninety six and a half. Sadly on 3rd March 2009, after a short time in hospital, suffering from kidney failure, she said her good-byes. She said we should not be sad for her as she was ready to go and God was ready to receive her. It is we who are sad as we lose a wonderful friend and role model. She died peacefully with close family by her bedside.

In all the time I have known her, Jessie remained the same sweet, generous, modest and humble person, whose welcome smile and hug were warm and genuine. She was like Tom, one of Nature's gentlewomen. What a wonderful legacy she has left for family and those with whom she shared her life.

We can only wonder at is all the changes in this world, Jessie has witnessed in her long life!

Jessie Holt belonged to a generation of people, the likes of which we will never see again. She was a person, whose way of life and values included modesty, hospitality, good manners, working for what you have with grit and determination, not complain-

ing but just getting on with the job. She, along with her generation, is a great example to our country, especially in its present state, whose work ethic of toiling hard and being satisfied, should be noted, valued, honoured and adopted.



Gippsland Medical School - Community Based Placement

As part of their first year medical course, students are required undertake a placement with a community agency. Last year's intake did twelve days and this year they will do eight days, spread over several weeks.

The aim is to give students a sense of the social factors and disadvantages which impact on health through a whole range of issues. It also creates ties between the student doctors and the Gippsland community and give students an insight into factors that influence health in this region.

Last year a range of agencies came on board to give the students experience firsthand experience. Students were required to undertake a small research project. Placements included the George Gray Centre Inc. at Maffra and Sale, who cater for people with intellectual disability by providing support.

In specialist schools the students participated in classroom activities. At Heyfield Community Resource Centre the students were involved in preparing and serving lunches for community members. At Berry Street, two students participated in a mentoring program and encouraged further participation of other students.

The students placed at Latrobe City Council (LCC) showed through their research that there was a need for a bus service between Monash University and the train station in Morwell. This is now in operation which is a fantastic outcome.

At a gathering at Monash of the agencies to be involved this year, four agencies that participated last year were interviewed and they reported on how positive the program is for themselves and the students. Kerrie Miller of the George Gray Centre Inc. in Maffra/Sale says this program is fabulous. The medical students develop skills to communicate with people who have intellectual and physical disabilities. This ability to communicate is an excellent skill needed for their future as doctors. They come to understand how to ask questions and not be intimidated by the person's communication difficulties. They will be able to look beyond the disability and see the person. The project undertaken last year by the students was to create a Communication Board using pictographs in areas of health, for example a person with a "sore" head. The Communication Board will help doctors better understand people with a communication disability. It was an opportunity for aspiring doctors to meet the agency and the people they support. The students were able to interact in the various programs.

Rebecca and Bev of the Salvation Army said the students helped out in all aspects of their welfare work, providing food, clothing furniture, money to pay bills, glasses, bus tickets help with school needs etc. The students sat in with the interviews with the client's permission, were involved with meet and greet as well as some administra-

tion work.

The Salvo ladies said it was wonderful having that extra assistance to be able to help their clients, which relieved some of the pressure.

For the students, the experience was real eye opener, seeing how a lot of people live from day to day and meal to meal. They came to realize that the Salvos see a lot of sick people. They do not go to a doctor as a script will be the result, and they just cannot afford to buy fill it.

The project worked on by the students was to calculate the amount of money an average family/individual would spend each year on health care. Many clients would have to make the choice between eating and health care.

From the Salvos point of view, this contact experienced by the students, helped develop empathy and gave them insights into how they might treat patients in these circumstances.

Lyn Simmons of Berry Street said that for their agency the placement was incredibly successful. The two students involved referred to their time at Berry Street as their "humanizing days" as it allowed them to be part of a process not just a program. The Mentoring Program in which they were involved is a program to build relationships. Lyn was able to model the process to the students who could then use it with the young people. They also had the opportunity to use Lyn to debrief. The students said that it had "inspired them to get more

involved in the program and after a presentation at Gippsland Medical School (GMS) so were several other medical students. So the GMS/GEP (Gippsland Education Precinct) mentoring program was created. Six medical students were paired with 6 adolescents from the high school, for weekly meetings and activities. Friendships were born and a great time was had by all". (1) The GEP was very supportive of the program and found it successful with students having "improved retention rates at school, improvement in academic achievement, and enhanced self-esteem and personal growth. Also there was a reduction in truancy, alcohol and illicit drug use and a decrease in aggressive behaviour and mental illness. It is hoped that each adolescent that participates in the program will have broader education and therefore improved job prospects and thus better health outcomes"(2)

Monash University has a program called Wildfire which aims to help indigenous and rural people. The students who were part of this program were able to use the research they had learnt at Wildfire to apply to the Berry Street placement. In turn the students were able promote mentoring in the Wildfire group and to involve Associate Professor Elmar Villaneuva. Several more students have joined the mentoring program through this means

Lyn looks forward to the next two

students being placed. Moe Life Skill Community Centre is an adult and community education centre that provides meaningful day activities and further education programs for people who have a disability.

Carole Burkett said she was very keen to have a range of students on placement- not just the medical ones. She wanted to raise the community's awareness of people with disabilities and change their perceptions. By allowing the medical students an opportunity to participate in the agency's programs and services and to develop a project which would help those involved with the programs, was a very positive activity.

The medical student's project was to research a program which would be effective in the area of disability and sexuality. This is an area which is often overlooked, ignored or put in the too hard basket. The two students undertook an extensive literature review in the area as a first stage of an overall project. This was followed by staff development time and a parent information session. Education in safety was the main aim of the project.

Both of the medical students were invited to speak at the agency's AGM. This included board members, parents, community representatives and members of other agencies. They are very thrilled with the outcome and hope to build on it with the next student placements

[1 and 2. First Edition Gippsland Medicine article Feature Profile Page 6]

Yinnar Primary School

SUCCESSFUL SPORTS DAY

The Yinnar Recreation Reserve was the venue for a fantastic Yinnar and Districts School Athletics sports day.

The students from eight neighbouring schools competed in all age groups and all events. Yinnar Primary School students performed extremely well, showing great determination and sportsmanship.

Yinnar Primary were the winning school and school captains Maximiliano Gerales and Joelly Firmin accepted the trophy on the school's behalf.



when to start. Everybody was yelling and shouting. We have a sports day to see which school is the fittest. It is fun versing other school.. We think Yinnar won because we were fit and we had lots of energy to win.

It feels good to win.

3/4 F'S THOUGHTS ABOUT THE

DAY:

The sports day was fun, they were held on the 27th March.

The day was nice weather, a bit cloudy. Teachers and parents set everything up. The football club let us use the ovals.

There was a gun that told us

CELEBRATING STORIES

Students at Yinnar Primary School had a special 'S' day celebrating stories.

The importance of good story writers and readers was highlighted during the day.

Students wrote and shared their own books with their peers.

The school turned 'spotty' as students wore spots and stripes and enjoyed a special snack of 's' food.

The day concluded with a visit by popular children's

author, Michael Salmon who entertained the students whilst speaking about his experiences as an author.



THANKS TO OUR CFA

The staff and students at Yinnar Primary School said a big thank you to the local CFA volunteers, with a special School Fun Day.

The aim of the day was to thank the local heroes for their superb efforts in fighting the local bushfires.

Students enjoyed lots of fun activities whilst raising money to donate to the Yinnar CFA.

Fun activities included throwing wet sponges at the principal and teachers, pin the nose on the fire truck, fireman obstacle course and a delicious

cake stall.

The CFA were well represented on the day, making the time to walk around and chat to the students.

All enjoyed a sausage sizzle lunch before a special visit from the fire trucks, sirens and all.



STUDENTS IN TOP GEAR

A group of 5/6 students at Yinnar Primary School have been working on an exciting extension program contract called 'Top Gear'.

Students have been required to design and make a motorize wind powered all terrain vehicle.

The vehicle must successfully travel across an 'all terrain' track.

After testing this vehicle the students must graph their results in km/hour.

They have also had to make and dec-



orate a papier mache crash helmet as well as write a very detailed coroner's report.

Hazelwood North Primary School

YINNAR AND DISTRICT SCHOOL SPORTS

On Friday the 27th of March we went to the annual Yinnar and District School Sports at the Yinnar Football Ground.

There were 6 events which were long jump, long distance, sprints, high jump, shot-put, discus and some people did relays.

The little kids did beanbag accuracy and beanbag distance instead of discus and shot-put.

The whole school participated and our school came 4th overall.

We all had fun co-operating on this sports day. Mrs Vesty's Grade Prep/One said they liked the high jump and long distance because it was great fun.

Mrs Jones' Prep grade enjoyed the running and high jump because they want to keep fit. They enjoyed having fun together.

Ms Rule's Grade 4 enjoyed running the sprint, they liked cheering other people on and seeing friends from other schools.

BY Liam and Tony



NEW BUILDING

The magnificent Hazelwood North Primary School is looking forward to getting a brand new library, computer, cooking room and more class rooms. The Federal Government is giving us money for the new class rooms and the State Government is giving us money for the new library.

It will be a massive improvement for Hazelwood North because we haven't changed the buildings since 1994.

The new and improved computer lab will fit a whole class in. All the kids at Hazelwood North Primary School are looking forward to getting the bigger computer lab.

The Library will be extraordinary when it is bigger, it won't be so squashy. It won't be so stuffy on hot days.

The cooking room will be amazingly great because we haven't got a cooking room and it will be so different. We won't have to disturb the teachers in the staff room. The new building is worth half a million dollars. This does not include the things that go in it. We will have to get all new cooking equipment and a few more computers.

The principal is looking forward to seeing the new buildings being built and says "It is very exciting to know we are getting a change to the school. We are still unsure where to put the rooms at this stage. Our new

buildings make new exciting educational possibilities."

We anticipate that the buildings will be completed by the end of the year.

The Hazelwood North Primary School community is very excited about the building.

STUDENT & WORK EXPERIENCE TEACHERS

Just recently we have been very lucky and have had three student teachers- Miss Hillier, Miss Tatterson and Miss Watson. We also had two work experience people, Madeline and Wittney. They have been a great help for the teachers.

We are lucky to have such wonderful people coming around and helping out students with work. We appreciate the work that they have done. We are confident that one day they will make great teachers. We would like to thank them dearly for all their efforts. BY Molly-Rose and Mikayla

PREPS EASTER EGG HUNT

On the 30th of March 26 Preps did an Easter egg hunt at the hall across the road from the school.

The playgroup children hid the eggs for the students. The Preps said that they liked eating the colourful eggs and that they liked the different flavours. Our student helper Miss Watson helped the Preps find the eggs. They all had a really good time and enjoyed interacting with the play group kids. BY Sophie and Jessica.

VISITING SHOW- MONSTERS IN MY WARDROBE

Recently we had a visiting show called "Monsters in my Wardrobe." It told the story of a young boy named Mark who thought there was a monster in his wardrobe.

One day when the monsters stole his belongings he made a journey into the land of the wardrobe!

The students enjoyed the show and thought it was really funny! We enjoyed the funny faces the performer made and the different sound effects. The puppets were really creative and one of our favourites was the caterpillar. One popular part was when he tried to hide under his tiny nightgown that didn't

even cover him! We really enjoyed the show and we recommend the show to others! BY Zoey and Caitlin



Churchill Primary School

It has been another busy month for the students and community at Churchill Primary School.

NEW PRINCIPAL

We are very pleased to announce that Mrs. Susan Gilmore has been selected as our new Principal. Susan has been with us for the term and we look forward to working with her in the years to come. Susan has extensive teaching experience in Gippsland and will be a great asset to our school.

A VERY THOUGHTFUL GIFT

After the bush fire crisis, we were heartened by a monetary gift from Linwood North Primary School in Christchurch, New Zealand. The Linwood North Primary School students had a "cap" day. This was a novelty for the students who usually wear Broad brimmed hats.

They paid for the privilege by donating money for a coin trail. Rather than donate to a general bush fire relief fund, the school wished to give the money to a school in a fire area. This New Zealand money was sent to our school, to be given to our students affected by the fire.

Around the same time, a new girl, Chloe, arrived at our school. She has come to live in Churchill because her family home in Flowerdale was burnt. We all decided that Chloe could have this money so that she could buy some new clothes.

She was very excited, and surprised, when Mrs. Gilmore presented her with the money at assembly. After the students from our school had seen the "funny" money, we had it changed to "real" Australian money.

SPORTS DAY.

Churchill Primary School held its Sports Day on March 18th. We started the day at 1:00p.m and went until 7:00p.m. This gave working parents the chance to see their children participating in the Sports and after the events were finished we had a BBQ. We thank the Churchill Lions Club members, who did a fantastic job of feeding the 300 or so parents, children and teachers and the sports went off without a hitch. It was a warm day and the students put in a wonderful effort.

Our age champions were as follows: 5 & 6 year olds, Kayla Welsh and Dylan Kamphuis, 7 y.o, Shayla Smith, Caleb Bell and Michael Pendlebury, 8 y.o, Tayla Kelty Roberts and Bailey Flanigan, 9 y.o, Breeanna Langhans, Ayen Anyieth, Toby Thain, Bailey Shirreff and Ryan Lowrie, 10 y.o, Bonnie Kearns, Jayden Scott and Bradley Sands, 11 y.o, Kalisha Henshaw, Tristan Turpin, Andrew Maxwell and Riley Flanigan, 12 / 13 y.o, Lani Murdoch, Tyler Holdsworth and Ben Lewis. The winning House was Yellow House.

MICHAEL SALMON VISIT

Michael Salmon, the well known author of

children's books, visited our school on March 3rd. He talked to the students about his work and showed his illustrating skills. He entertained the students with caricature drawings of our own students. Ben (our school captain) is shown below). There has been renewed interest in his books from the Library and many students bought books to read at home.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

In early March, we cleaned the school and park area. It was great to see that most students were able to contribute to the clean up and have some fun at the same time. The wind and the wild weather had felled branches and tree bits, so there was a big pile made which was duly taken to the green waste disposal.

FOOTY CLINIC

The grades 3 - 6 were lucky to have a footy clinic run by Churchill Football Club members. They learned the skills needed to be a footy player including kicking, handballing and bouncing. Each class had 30 minutes with the Footy Club members and practised a lot of ball handling skills. Our Grade 3 - 4 teacher, Mr. Brandon Mahoney is a member of the Churchill Football senior side, so we will be following their progress closely this year.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our Annual General Meeting has been held and we have some new members on the School Council.

It is with regret that we farewell outgoing President, Mrs. Peta Whelan. Peta has put in an extraordinary effort as our President and she will be missed.

We thank her and Mrs Natalie Wilkins and Mr. Mark Medew who also served the Council for many years.

The incoming council consists of the following members: President, Mr. Paul Comber, Mrs. Susan Gilmore, Mrs. Carmel Shields, Mrs. Donna Miller, Mrs. Helen Dyson, Mrs. Vicki

Right: Friday Night Fever

Duffus, Mrs. Donna Turpin, Mrs. Jacquie Johnson, Mrs. Gena Flanigan, Mrs. Jodie Davern, Mrs. Kelly Phillips, Mr. Steve Mayer, Mr. Justin Clissold.

SCHOOL REUNION.

On Saturday 14th of March, a group of ex students came back to school. It was great to see and hear the greetings and laughter as these adults recounted stories about their days at Churchill Primary School. They toured the school and had pictures taken on the playground and in the GP room, all the while chatting and reminiscing. It is a reminder to us all that school is a great place to meet lifelong friends.

FRIDAY NIGHT FEVER

We found out that Mr. Mahoney was not only a talented and skilful footballer, but an aspiring DJ as well.

On Friday the 13th, Mr. Mahoney wowed the students of grades P - 2 from 4:30 to 6:00 and from 6:30 - 8:00 the students of grades 3 - 6 as they danced to the fantastic music. Prizes were given for dancing and we had lots of fun activities. There were plenty of glow sticks, glow glasses and glow arm bands to add to the atmosphere. Some students dressed up in the theme of Friday the 13th and many were unrecognisable. Our thanks go to our dedicated fundraising group who organised the disco.

The following Friday, we had a crazy hair and casual clothes day.

On the Wednesday in between these events, our school photos were taken. We

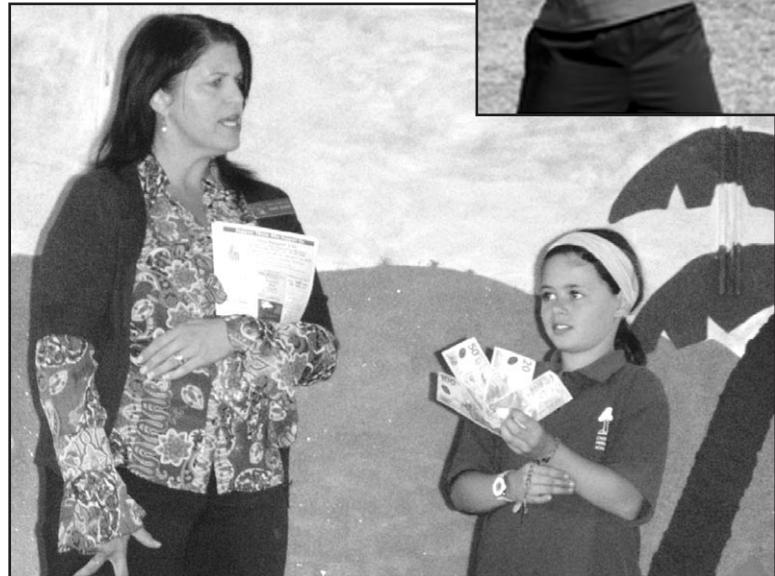


Sports Day



Sports Day

Michael Salmon



were relieved to see that none of the students mixed up the dates.

Left: Monetary gift from Linwood North Primary School

Hazelwood North Primary School



Sports Day



Preps Easter Egg Hunt

Sheep

The sun is rising
The sheep are jumping around
Like snow that is falling
By Chelsea

Dogs

The bright sun is up
All the dogs are out playing
Jumping like rabbits
By Nelly

Turtles

The sun is rising
Like floating rocks
The turtles swim out again
By Christina

Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs, dawn, dusk
Eating lots of flesh or herbs
Lizards similar
By Charlie

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jessica Norwood of grade 6 who won the 50 metre Breaststroke and Butterfly events at the Regional Swimming Championships held in Morwell.

This success means Jess will progress to the state finals on the 27th of April. All the best Jessica, this will be a wonderful experience competing against the best in the state.



Kurnai College Churchill Campus / Gippsland Education Precinct

Year 8's Medieval Fortnight

This integrated project involves all subjects studied by the Year 8's, using the theme.

The project began with watching a Medieval history film called 'Timeline', which transports the students back in time to see what life was like then.

Deb Sheppard cooked a medieval banquet for the students so they could experience the food of the times. The meal consisted of roast lamb and beef, with honeyed carrots and parsnips, and pea and ham soup. No there were no potatoes. They didn't have them then! Some staff came dressed in medieval costumes.

The students have also participated in an archery competition in physical education. They have made chain mail, and applied this technique to making jewellery in art classes.

English classes produced a magazine of styles of dress of medieval times. There were also articles on the problems the people faced and news articles.

In Information and Communication Technology (ICT) the students designed and constructed a medieval manor with a castle, village area and farm paddocks with the 3 field system of crop rotation. All this was done to scale.

The maths teachers had the students design a board game using problem solving strategies to progress across the board.

For Science, the students had to construct a trebuchet or catapult.

All these tasks have focussed on the students com-



pleting the work as a group effort. In some cases the students were called upon to work with students they wouldn't usually work. The aim of this was to increase social, co-operation and communication skills, and inclusiveness.

Kurnai College- GEP- New Principal

Matt Jobling has accepted the position of GEP Principal. He is a former student of Morwell High School. He was born in Melbourne and moved to Darwin when he was eight years old, the year after Cyclone Tracey. When he was twelve he moved to Morwell.

After completing secondary education, Matt went to Monash G.I.A.E. where he gained a Bachelor of Business Accounting. He worked in this field for three years then returned to University to do a Graduate Diploma of Education, starting his teaching career at Kurnai in 1991.

Matt has taught at every campus of Kurnai, and also worked at the regional office as a Curriculum Consultant. Before he was appointed Campus Principal, Matt was a Leading Teacher for ten years.

Matt wants to continue to develop the pathways offered by the GEP and further build relationships with the other partners in the GEP, to maximise the opportunities for the local students



Student Representative Council (SRC)

The elections have taken place to choose the year level representatives for the SRC.

The Year 10 reps become the School Captains.

The representatives are:

Year 7: Isaac Van Rhine, Kurt Holt, Ainsley Browne and Kaitlin Lugton. Year 8: Jackson Chin, Nathan Noblet, Jess Hillenaar and Amy Fanke. Year 9: Brad Holcombe, Ryan Pither, Cassie Hill and Jayne Quigley. Year 10: Luke Hamilton, School Captain, Dan Hale, School Vice Captain, Jaelyn

Quinn, School Captain and Jame Day, School Vice Captain.

These representatives are already thinking of ways to help improve their school environment.

The Year 8s have set up an interactive discussion forum on Wik Space, as a way for the representatives to interact and communicate ideas. This is a special access facility for use by these young people only.

The Year 10s have ideas to enhance the motivation of students to attend school and be engaged

while present. They are trying to think of actions e.g. lunchtime activities, which will encourage the kids to come to school and benefit from their attendance.

They would definitely like to reinstate recycling bins in the school yard to recycle cans and PET bottles. These would match the system already existing at the GEP.

The school captains will represent the school at the ANZAC Day Yinnar service.

Bushfires

A number of the staff, students and their families were heavily impacted by the recent bushfires, defending their homes and helping others. One of the students deserving particular mention is Jack Sandy who, as a qualified CFA member, spent numerous hours over the four days fighting the fires.

The school would like to com-

mend all those people involved who were able to provide a terrific effort to minimise the impact of the most ferocious fires in the local area for many years. Many of the fire fighters transported into the area set up base at Monash University and shared a range of facilities which the students access for the first few days of term. The school thanks the stu-

dents for their respect and understanding displayed towards the fire fighters in giving up areas for them to rest and recuperate.

Fire affected students are able to access support or just have a chat with the Advocate located in Student Services.

Congratulations

Two GEP students were awarded Citizen of the Year at Australia Day celebrations.

Ben Huke was named Young Citizen of the Year for Latrobe City, being recognised for his contributions to student leadership, charity

and fund raising activities, and his involvement in the Rotary Club. Ben is currently studying Year 12 at the GEP Campus.

Dale Murphy was named the Churchill Young Citizen of the Year. Dale was Dux for 2008, represented

the college in public speaking engagements, and participated in local sporting teams including a senior premiership in the Mid-Gippsland Football League. Dale is to commence his University studies this semester.



Kurnai Music Program



Students are coming out of the woods, fields and classrooms and are making their presence felt loud and clear. Approximately a tenth of the college population are participating in the music program, with Churchill campus leading the way with one quarter of the campus population actively learning a musical instrument at Kurnai College.

The Music program at Kurnai College is an optional subject that is in high demand. Over half of the current year 7 enrolments at Churchill campus have submitted in 2008 their Expression Of Interest forms to participate in music program for this year. The structure of the Music Program has been carefully designed to prepare all music students on their instruments for VCE Music.

Music tuition is available across the entire college on all woodwind, brass, percussion, string, keyboard instruments and voice. The Music team are all Kurnai College employed staff. The team consists of Ian Hopkins - teacher of guitar and bass guitar; Courtney Wood and Paddy O'Dowd - teachers of flute, clarinet and saxophone; and Joseph Bonnici - Head Of Music and teacher of trumpet, french horn, trombone, tuba, voice, piano, drum kit, tuned percussion and VCE Music class.

The Music Program comprises of a variety of teacher directed campus based groups that include Concert Bands, KP NoiseMakers (percussion band) and Pop/Contemporary bands including a

Blues Brothers Band. Students are also encouraged to form their own groups at all campuses. This year sees the commencement of the College Wide Concert Marching Band, which rehearses after-school on a weekly basis, and students from all three campuses participate in this unique group.

The Music Department also organises the annual Kurnai Idol, a vocal/music competition held during term 2 which is available to all Kurnai College students. Auditions at each campus determine the finalists. All finalists from all three campuses will meet and compete for the ultimate prize late term two. Up for grabs is a first prize of a \$200 voucher, name inscribed on the Kurnai Idol Champion Shield and a possible recording of the winning song. Names can be left in the Music Rooms at both Morwell and Churchill Campuses or at the General Office of the Precinct Campus. Entry fee is merely \$1.00 per student.

The Music Department at Kurnai College is a major supporter for local community businesses. Initiatives with firms that are currently in place include: the collection of the Don Louie Pizza tops; Ritchies Community Benefits Card for Kurnai-Music; and A & P Electronics in Traralgon.

For further information about the Music Program, Sponsorship and Advertising, contact Mr Joseph Bonnici - Head of Music on 041 7355 048.



New teachers Vashon Weaver and Amy Kihl-Larsen with Nello Carbone

New Principal - continued from page 1

He has a Master's in Education which focussed on the Middle Years and had Educational Leadership Training as a coach and mentor. He has spent eight years conducting professional development for teachers, this being a special interest of his. Terry is married with three children and five grandchildren- all boys.

In the twelve months he will spend at Kurnai he will focus on walking with the teachers to further improve practice and therefore student learning practice. In this he will use his considerable background experiences in coaching and mentoring. This also fits in very well with the school's current focus on teaching and learning.



Yinnar and District Athletics Day

The whole school was bussed to the Yinnar sportsground to take part in the annual Yinnar and District Sports Day. Children took part in a

variety of activities including long jump, long distance, discus, relays, sprints and bean bag activities for the juniors.

It was great to see children cheering on others in their team and putting in their best effort in each activity.



After School Care

The Active After School Care Program continues to be run each night and is proving to be successful. Children have enjoyed taking part in craft

activities as well as group games. A great display of some of their work can be seen in the Multi-Purpose Room.



Sound of the Week

Children in Grade Prep continue with their creative and fun ways to learn the sounds of the alphabet. The last few weeks have been F

- with Frogs in a pond and D- with guest speakers talking about Dinosaurs, making Dancing Dinosaurs and a Dinosaur Cake.

Tabloid Sport Day



Learning new skills

All grades took part in an afternoon of fun, fitness and team work with a Tabloid Sports Day. Children were split into mixed groups named after Australian animals. Children then took part in activities such as ball skills, mind and thinking

games, juggling and circus activities, hurdles and obstacle courses and relays.

The day proved to be such a success that another one is planned for later in the year.

Water Tanks

The school has recently welcomed the addition of 8 new rain water tanks. These tanks are currently in the process of being installed and will be fully operational by term 2. It is planned that the water collected will service all toilets within the school.

Crazy Hair Day

The whole school arrived at school with some unusual hair styles; this was to help raise money for the cystic fibrosis foundation by colouring or wearing their hair in 'crazy' hair styles. The day was organised by our Junior School Councillors who awarded prizes to four children in each grade with the 'craziest' hair. The day was a great success and much fun was had by all.

Bright Sparks

Bright Sparks is up and running. So far two groups are being offered to students - Press Club and Sports. Children have been collecting information, filming and taking photos for presentation at assembly. Mrs. Hanratty our Blue Earth teacher has taken the opportunity to strengthen the skill development of children in physical education.

The program will continue next term with the introduction of science and extension in physical education.

Grade 5/6 Leadership Camp

A very rewarding 2 day leadership camp was held for all students in grades 5 & 6, students participated in team initiative activities, kite making, sports sessions and worked cooperatively on developing a movie reflecting the schools core values of trust, courage, patience, team work, cooperation, respect, listening and responsibility.

Instructional Leadership Project

Staff were instrumental in piloting a regional initiative with Dr Tom Fowler-Finn from America; this program involves principals learning more about student learning by visiting classes and observing high quality practise.

It was both exciting and overwhelming to be one of the first schools, 28 principals arrived at Churchill North Primary school and visited all classes. It was fantastic to receive such positive feedback. Some of the comments include

- *All classes were stimulating and engaging
- *The school grounds were neat and tidy
- *It was evident that staff had positive relations with their students
- *It was evident that staff cared about students, with examples of positive praise
- *Students were polite and courteous

CHILDRENS CORNER



LIONS BIRTHDAY CLUB
Lions Club of Churchill and District



Hi Kids,

If you are under 12 years old "JOIN THE CLUB". Ask Mum, Dad, Guardian or Carer to ring the editor of the CHURCHILL AND DISTRICT NEWS on 5122 2589 or fill out the application below.

Each month two lucky Birthdayites get to win a \$15.00 voucher to spend as they like at the Churchill Newsagency. Its that easy. Join up now and be in it

We apologise to all the February & March Birthdayites for being late in publishing names and winners.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYITES

Hayley Beyer, 12	Sam Flanigan, 12	Toby Thain, 9
Hannah Dal Pazzo, 8	Corey Kootstra-Denton, 11	Madeleine Turpin, 12
Bailey Flanagan, 8	Page Rowley, 12	Nathan Slusser, 11

THE LUCKY BIRTHDAY WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY WERE:
TOBY THAIN & HANNA DAL PAZZO

MARCH BIRTHDAYITES

Jay Berry, 9	Rowan Flake-Farrell, 11	Natalie Butler, 9
Jack Bennet, 12	Jye May, 12	Joshua McCord, 11
Cameron Bianconi, 9	Thomas Hayes, 7	
Megan Burgess, 9	Jarrod Henderson, 12	

THE LUCKY BIRTHDAY WINNERS FOR MARCH WERE:
MEGAN BURGESS & JAY BERRY

APRIL BIRTHDAYITES

Keene Griffiths, 10 on the 3rd	Darrein Johnson, 9 on 14th	Ruby Smith, 3 on 27th
Allanah Shankland, 6 on 7th	Liam Antonelli, 10 on 18th	Olivia Morgan, 12 on 27th
Teresa Simpson, 9 on 12th	Brenton Clissold, 9 on 19th	
Damian Toward, 11 on 12th	Shuhrat Rafia, 8 on 25th	

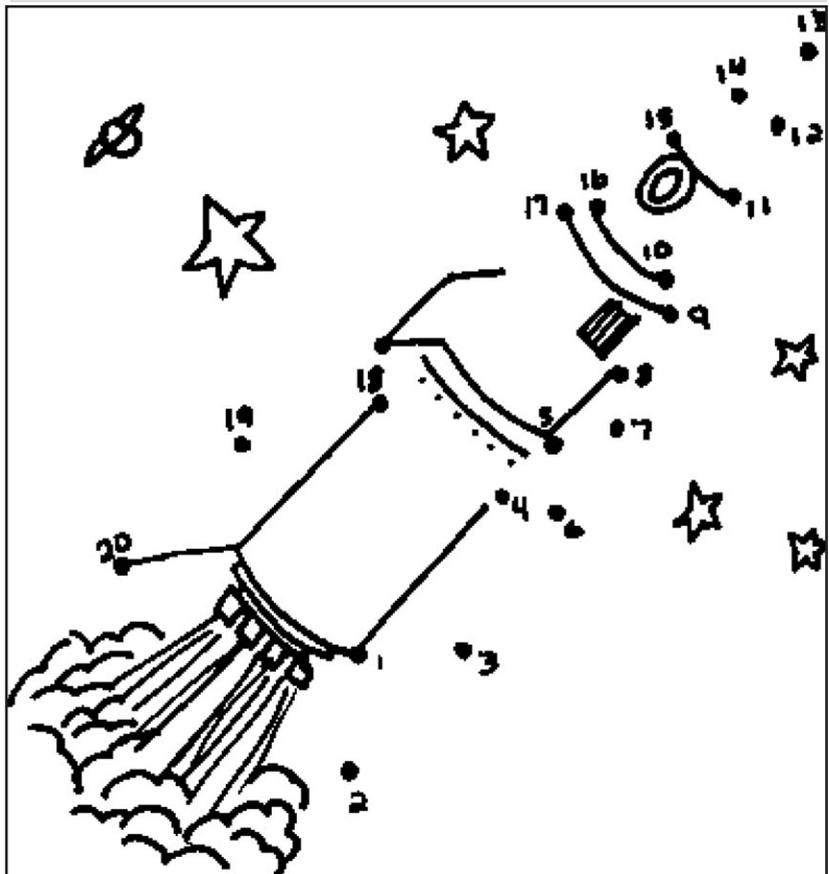
THE LUCKY BIRTHDAYITES FOR APRIL WERE:
TERESA SIMPSON & BRENTON CLISSOLD

WE HOPE YOU HAVE ALL HAD A GREAT DAY KIDS

Congratulations to all the winners. You have won a \$15 voucher for Churchill Newsagency. We will contact you soon.



Hi Girls and Boys
This month we have some riddles, a dot-to-dot to do and colour and a Sudoku.
We hope you are enjoying the school holidays.



Sudoku

Sudoku a number game in which you will use logic to solve the puzzle. There is NO mathematics involved.

The puzzle consists of 9 x 9 numbers in a square grid made up of smaller 3 x 3 square grids. Each row and column must contain just one of each number.

4		2	1	3	6	9		7
		8		7			1	
	1		9				2	
	6	9						2
7				5				9
5						6	7	
	8				1		4	
	4			9		7		
1		6	2	4	5	8		3

RIDDLES



How do you stop a mouse squeaking?
Oil it

What is an Echidna's favourite pizza?
Ant-chovie Pizza.

What do you get if you lie under a cow?
A pat on the head.

What planet is thought to be inhabited by dogs?
Pluto

What is the dog's favourite car?
Pawsche

What would you do if your dog swallowed your only pen?
Use a pencil.

What kind of cheese do dogs like the best?
Muttsarella.

What do dogs and trees have in common?
Bark



LIONS CLUB OF CHURCHILL BIRTHDAY CLUB FORM



NAME:
ADDRESS:
PHONE NUMBER:
BIRTHDATE:
Please Circle: BOY or GIRL
PARENT/CAREGIVER:
Signed:
Date:

**Please Note all information is strictly confidential

RETURN TO APPLICATION TO THE SECRETARY
PO BOX 110
CHURCHILL 3842



Boolarra Bowls Club

Continued from page 28

To Margaret and all the family we share in your loss and extend our deepest sympathy. The recent bushfires in the Boolarra area impacted on several club members and came within meters of the club but, timely intervention by CFA units saved the members homes and the club from serious loss.

On Sunday the 1st of March the Boolarra community held a special recovery day to thank the local brigade for their efforts during the bushfire emergency with the special guest being the retiring Police Commissioner Christine Nixon. While in attendance Ms Nixon made a point of seeing just how close the fires came to the club so club. Members escorted her across to the club where she was able to view the situation and ask

questions.

This day coincided with the mixed pair's day so many members were in attendance.

Our thanks go to the Yinnar Bowling Club who recently offered us their normal Wednesday Triples Day as their green has been close for renovation. This offer was accepted and used by Boolarra to raise funds for much needed equipment for the Boolarra Fire Brigade. The day was a great success with teams from Thorpdale, Mirboo North, Fish Creek, Neerim South, Longwarry, and Inverloch just to name a few.

In excess of \$1400 was raised toward a generator and associated equipment which will allow the local brigade to their job with greater safety.

During the year many annual events are held and the results to date

of competitions are listed below.

Ladies Result

Singles: Winner: B Fox. R/U: B Noblett

100 Up: Winner: B Fox. R/U: V McLean

Champion Singles: Winner: J Whelan. R/U: B Fox

Pres. Handicap: Winner: J Prior. R/U: J Whelan

Championships Pairs: Winners: B Couling/B Fox. R/U: N Roy/S Hinds.

Drawn Game Triples: J Medew/V McLean/S Johnston.

Mens' Result

Champion Pairs: D Caldwell, S Peters

President Handicap: J Stockton.

2 Bowls Singles: C Prior

Club Champion Singles: B Allen

Mixed Pairs: C Roy/N Roy

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100 Up: C Prior

Sunday the 26th of April has been proposed as our Presentation Night so stay in touch until a firm date is announced.

The big Ladies Invitational Day will have been held just before this news update goes to print. On this day

all rinks will be used so it is hoped a great day was experienced.

I have probably left some news items out but time constraints are my demon. Nevertheless as I always say keep bowling till someone calls last end.

Central Gippsland Mowers

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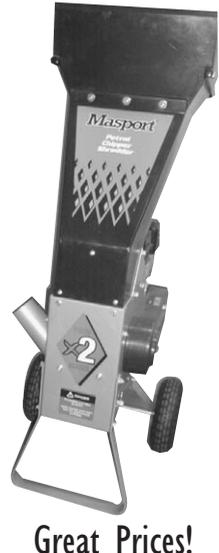


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Churchill Tennis Club Round Robin 2009

The Churchill Tennis Club's Round Robin Tournament was a big success with close to 50 young competitors. Sponsored by the Churchill and District News, the tournament was held at the start of the school holidays. Carol Scott and Bea Stallbom, Churchill News Team and Churchill Tennis Club members organised the tournament for both beginners and competition players.

Coached and encouraged by members of the Tennis Club and umpire, Sally Kirstine, it was a great opportunity for young players to have a go in a relaxed and friendly environment. Competitors came from Yinnar, Pax Hill, Traralgon, Glengarry, Churchill and Newborough.

The day was a 'hit' with some of the comments from parents below:

"Good idea. I have been trying to get my kids into tennis. Saw it in the school newsletter. Nice introduction."

"Great idea. Friendly competition."

"Thanks to those who gave up their time for our kids to try tennis"

"I liked how all the age groups and abilities were catered for."

"It's good. Interesting to see how

they go. The kids are excited." "Great way to get juniors started. IT gives them an idea of competition tennis, and gives them an opportunity to meet new kids."

"The kids are having a great time."

"It's very good. Great turnout, considering the day. It is my kids first try out. It's lots of fun. Sally is fabulous."

"Awesome. In Melbourne, kids get these opportunities all the time, but not so much in the country. Getting kids involved early is really good. It's good for kids to meet other kids."

"Been fantastic. Everyone seems to have enjoyed it."

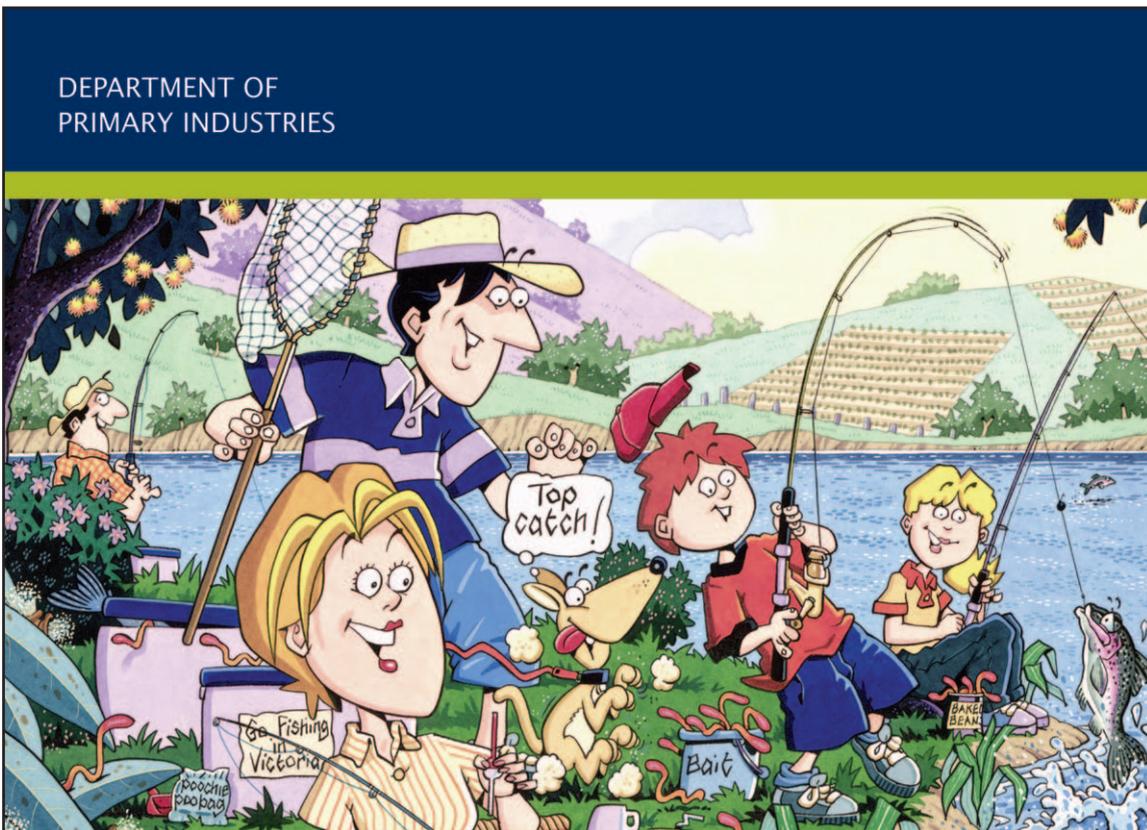
"Good to see kids out exercising. The little ones can have a go without the competition."

"You have done a wonderful job getting all the kids out playing."

Thanks goes to the Churchill Tennis Club who worked hard to make it a successful day, the Churchill News as sponsors and the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council for providing a sausage sizzle, which was much appreciated by hungry competitors.



Winners of the Churchill Tennis Club Round Robin



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Boolarra Bowls Club Mixed Bag



Recovery Day with Christine Nixon

By JOHN WYATT

Our 2008/2009 pennant concluded on Saturday the 14th February. Our Saturdays this season were a "mixed bag" with a forfeit, rain, and two days of excessive heat.

The season was a difficult one for the club with Division 3 having little success to encourage all their endeavours and now facing relegation to division 4. Team numbers was one contributing factor for this disappointing result. The challenge for all club members is to make sure that over the period between now and next season we lift our numbers and commitment and re-assert ourselves as a power in the Mid Gippsland Bowling Association.

Division 5 did not have a very successful season either but has managed to keep their position.

Team numbers was also a problem for division 5. Player availability caused the selection panel a lot of extra work and many phone calls. It should be noted also that the ladies are always willing to help out and saved the various teams from being short handed. A sin-

cere vote of thanks is extended to them.

Ladies Pennant has concluded and I am reliably informed that with one more win during the season they could have been in the finals having, won half their games. The ladies also at times struggled with numbers and several men were called upon to fill in. A vote of thanks is extended to the men concerned for their efforts.

Towards the latter part of the season the club was deeply saddened by the loss of two of its founding members. Gwen Walsh was club champion fifteen times and won the GDLBA several times. Gwen was always ready to be part of the life of the club. We all extend to Gwen's family our deepest sympathy Norm Halliday also a founding member, five times Club Champion and Life Member passed away recently. Norm always believed in the solidarity of the club and when he was not able to bowl any more, willingly did what he could for the good of the club. Ordering a beer at the bar will somehow never be the same.