

# CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

Est. 1966

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## Hoping for the Best



## Record Crowds for Boolarra Festival

The Boolarra Festival was an outstanding success with organizers estimating attendance figures at around 7,000 - 8,000. Set against a back drop of bushfire ravaged hills, the Boolarra Community welcomed visitors with a record number of stalls and a stunning music program.

The impressive line up of artists included the Wulab Drumming Ensemble, Josh Stainer, Danny Burton, Essjee, Rant, Bool-aria- Boolarra Community Choir, Strezelecki Stringbusters, Jack Jones, Jo Kelly

Stephenson, Cilla Jane, River Crombie, Khristian Mizzi & the Sirens and Van Walker and The Celestial Railroad.

The atmosphere was relaxed, with visitors enjoying the music and catching up with friends. The festival committee are to be congratulated for their work, along with the sponsors including, Latrobe City, International Power Hazelwood, International Power Loy Yang, MECU and the Churchill and District Lions.

By Chloe and Aaron, Hazelwood North Primary School

On the 16th of February, our school had a casual clothes day to raise money for the two families who lost their houses on Black Saturday. We raised a whopping \$741.55

Everybody was dressed in lots of colourful and outstanding clothes, pink and red were the most popular colours of the day.

We were all devastated about the fires, and all of us were thinking about people who lost their houses on Black Saturday, our hearts and respect goes

out to them.

We think it's great that people are being so generous and thoughtful by giving toys, clothes, toiletries and all kinds of things to the people who need it the most.

Black Saturday has destroyed so many houses and lives it's not fair, houses can easily be made again but people are lost forever. We are all hoping for the best during the year to come and that no more people or houses get burnt. Thank you to all the people in the C.F.A and others who helped put out the fires.



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## Churchill & District News

*The team at the Churchill & District News expresses sincere sympathy to all those who lost loved ones in the bushfires. Our thoughts are with you and with those who have lost their homes.*

*We also sincerely thank the CFA, DSE, police, volunteers and other emergency services who have worked so hard over the last few weeks.*

As the smoke clears, dust settles and residents stop scanning the skies for plumes of smoke many questions come to mind. Were we ready for the extreme conditions that created the firestorm that spread so rapidly? Had we heeded the warnings to implement our fire plans? Were those living in the township complacent in formulating a plan? Stay or leave? Where to go? What happens next time? Global warming assures us these extreme conditions will come again.

Clearly, I think we need to plan better, to avoid the

complacency that may creep in. It is clear that the decision to stay or leave is not one that can be left to the last minute and maybe we need to heed the warnings of the CFA well in advance.

It is important that we learn from the recent fires. Already tougher building standards have been introduced for those living in bushfire prone areas. The Royal Commission is underway with an interim report to be completed by August 17 2009 before the next fire season, before we once more start scanning the skies and listening for sirens

I would like to thank the Churchill News Team for publishing the February Edition of the News under such extraordinary circumstances

Til next time  
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, Bea Stallbom, Karen Bradfield

### Contributions

**The deadline for the submission of articles and advertisements for the April 2009 edition is March 30 2008**

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 middle 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**

### ADVERTISING RATES

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11cm x 6.5cm: \$45.00  
7cm x 6.5cm: \$32.00  
All prices include GST.

Inquiries Tel:  
Peter on 5122 2589

Webpage: [www.cdnews.com.au](http://www.cdnews.com.au)

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## CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS PUBLICATION DATES 2009

Thursday 16th April  
Thursday 14th May  
Thursday 11th June  
Thursday 16th July  
Thursday 13th August  
Thursday 17th September  
Thursday 15th October  
Thursday 12th November  
Thursday 17th December

Special Schools Edition  
Thursday 26th November

Deadline for the Submission of Articles  
30th of the previous month.

Articles can be emailed to: [cdnews@dcsi.net.au](mailto:cdnews@dcsi.net.au)  
Mailed to: PO Box 234, Churchill.

**Please ensure your articles are submitted on or before the  
deadline. If you are unable to meet the specific deadline  
please contact the Editor, on 04110 53546**



## Commonwealth Bank Donates to Churchill CFA

Stan Mihailidis, Acting Area Manager for the Commonwealth Bank, congratulated the Churchill Fire Brigade for their outstanding efforts during the recent fires. While

presenting Captain Steve Barling with a donation of \$2,000 from the Commonwealth Bank, Stan said that the bank

this contribution to the Churchill brigade. In accepting the cheque, Steve thanked Stan and the bank for their wonderful support and generous contribution.

## Arc Yinnar

### Ferro Cement Sculpture and Printmaking



Ferro Cement Sculpture, Life Flow by Paul Jesse

Arc Yinnar is starting the year by offering some art classes in Ferro Cement Sculpture and printmaking. All classes are suitable for beginners, for artists, and for people wanting to develop a comprehensive portfolio of work for future studies.

#### Sculpting in Ferro Cement with Paul Jesse.

Paul will introduce students to Ferro cement as a sculptural medium through example, discussion and hands on activity. The basic principles of mixes, engineering, colouring, texture effects and finishing will be explored, as will numerous formwork construction techniques. After attending these workshops students will be able to design and create things like a birdbath, fishpond, fountain or creative garden sculpture. No previous experience is necessary though students need to be physically able and not concerned about getting dirty!

Ferro Cement is held over two full weekends from March 14th. Cost of \$185 (\$170 concession) includes course notes and materials.

#### Printmaking over two weekends

An Etching weekend workshop with Jenny Peterson is coming up in March. Etching metal plates to create limited edition prints is an age old technique still used today in contemporary arts practice.

Local artist Jenny Peterson is conducting a weekend workshop at arc Yinnar on 28 and 29 March; 10 am - 4 pm both days. Participants will learn all the stages of making a print. Zinc plate and a safe 'acid' of copper sulphate solution will be provided. The solution is used to etch the design into the metal, which is then inked up and printed onto paper through the etching press.

This workshop coincides with Jenny's exhibition at Gippsland Art Gallery, Foster Street in Sale - "Site, Surface" which is on display from March 7 to April 12, 2009. Gallery hours are 10 - 5 weekdays and 12 - 4 weekends.

Jenny's exhibition includes 'found metal' prints which rely on the same methods and equipment that are used in etching. Recent work from her residency in Canberra will be on display at Sale.

Photo Screen Printing weekend workshop will be held on April 4th and 5th with Art FX artist, Sharon Anderson. Photo-Screen printing is a versatile technique used widely in mass printing of highly detailed images onto a range of surfaces. Sharon Anderson will assist participants to print their own artwork onto fabrics and

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paper in this two day workshop. Photo Screen printing is great for people looking for fundraising ideas for their club or school.

The cost of each printmaking weekend workshop is \$90 (\$75 concession) or you can book into both weekends for \$155 (135 concession). Cost includes all workshop consumables.

Contact arc 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

# Café Le Mac

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## The New Pooh Corner

Pooh Corner is now well established at the Hub. It was a 45 place facility, now it can cater for 75. It is a purpose built centre.

At the old Pooh Corner the age groups catered for were 0-2, 2-3, 3-5. Now, at the new Pooh Corner there will be 0-1 (crawlers), 1-2, 2-3, 3-5.

The centre is also offering occasional care, which means people can book in a child for a minimum of one hour. There are 16 staff to cater for all the children's needs. They are the same caring staff, some of whom have been working at Pooh Corner for over 20 years.

The facility also has a kitchen, and Rosa presides over this providing morning, and afternoon teas and a healthy cooked lunch, both nutritious and multicultural. All programs and activities provided are educational and age appropriate. Facilities for sleeping and rest time are available in the new set of cots.

Brand new indoor and outdoor equipment is in use. As a Sun Smart Centre, hats must be worn outdoors between September and April. Most importantly, it is fully accredited through the National Child Care Accreditation Council.



## Men's Shed for Churchill?

By Margaret Guthrie, President  
At our February meeting, CDCA was pleased to hear that a Steering Committee is to be set up for the purpose of establishing a "Men's Shed" project in the new wet/dry workshop facility on the lower floor of the newly renovated town hall.

A "Men's Shed" is a place where men can regularly meet and spend time together, as they tinker with tools, do a bit of woodwork, or just 'chew the fat' with other blokes.

Other Gippsland towns, such as Gormandale, Yarram and Orbost, have successful "Men's Shed" programs. Programs vary somewhat, depending on the needs of locals - sometimes it's about BBQs and informal get-togethers; sometimes it's about discussion of, and information on, men's health issues; or it can be about skills, classes and 'do-it-yourself' projects.

The Steering Committee is to be convened by Latrobe City and a date in March has been set for its first meeting. Various agencies, including CDCA, have been invited to participate and it is hoped that some funding will be available to commence activity in the near future.

With the recent bushfires in the district still uppermost in the minds of many, local organisations and residents are involved with recovery efforts and fund-raising.

A Bushfire Recovery/Relief Centre has been set up at the new Churchill Community Hub, in the rooms that will be occupied by the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre at a later date. The Neighbourhood Centre is continuing to conduct its

programs at the Churchill Leisure Centre in the interim.

CDCA welcomed two young guests to our February meeting, who are keen to organise a 'youth event' (band night) for local teens to raise money for the Bushfire Appeal. We have been able to provide some information and support for their endeavour and wish them every success with their efforts.

Likewise, we commend all those involved with fund-raising and other recovery efforts and urge local residents to donate, volunteer or attend such events. Latrobe City are seeking volunteers to assist at their fundraising concert (all proceeds to Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund), to be held on 29th March in Traralgon. Further information may be obtained by contacting Council on 1300 367 700 or at [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au)

In other Churchill 'news', it was reported to our February meeting that the tender for construction works to Phillip Parade has been advertised. Phillip Parade is to be narrowed between the Hub and the town hall and more parking is to be provided.

In the interim, a 'drop-off' zone has been marked out in front of the Hub, complete with temporary footpath. Temporary 'road cushions' have also been put in place with a 20km speed sign erected to slow traffic in the area.

The proposal to create a 'western extension' (road link), between the shopping centre through to Walker Parade has been canvassed to local residents. Many have taken the

opportunity to provide their comments in writing, per telephone and via one of the community information sessions held recently. Whilst closing date for formal submissions was March 6th, residents may still contact Ian Gibson on 1300 367 700 or email [iang@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:iang@latrobe.vic.gov.au)

Members of CDCA have also participated in community consultation forums concerning a review of bus services within Latrobe City. In this first stage, it was evident that the main concerns of Churchill residents were around the need for a local (town) bus service and improvements to connections between bus and train services, including after hours access.

A further round of consultation forums is expected in April, once the consultants engaged by the Dept of Transport have collated the information they have gathered and prepared a report on measures that could be implemented to improve services. Funding has already been obtained to implement final recommendations.

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 25th March.

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

## Latrobe Valley Relay For Life Postponed

Cancer Council Victoria and the local Relay For Life Volunteer Organising Committee today announced the postponement of the Latrobe Valley Relay For Life event.

Initially scheduled to take place on 21 and 22 March, the event will now be held in Latrobe Valley in March of 2010.

"Postponing an event is never an easy decision," Relay For Life State Manager Anthony Keogh said.

"However, we support the local organising committee's decision to postpone the event to allow Latrobe Valley residents to focus their immediate efforts on the bushfire appeal.

"We know that many people in our Relay For Life community have been personally impacted by the recent bushfires, so you can understand why local residents feel a current need to redirect their energies.

"This community has shown

incredible generosity in raising funds for the Cancer Council, so I'm sure the local bushfire fundraising will be just as successful," he said.

Since 2000 teams of Latrobe Valley locals have come together at Relay For Life events, taking turns to walk through the night to raise funds for the Cancer Council. The event has raised more than \$270,000, with every dollar raised supporting world-class cancer research, education and support programs.

"Some of the funds raised in this community have helped to support our Financial Assistance Program, which provides small grants to people facing financial hardships as a result of a cancer diagnosis," Mr Keogh said.

"I'm sure that these grants will be all the more important now that some people facing cancer are also

facing additional financial burdens as a result of the fires.

"If you know someone who could benefit from this program, or other practical or emotional support during a cancer journey, please urge them to contact the Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20," he said.

Mr Keogh said that the money raised by Relay For Life teams to date will be put toward their 2010 fundraising totals and teams are encouraged to bank their Relay funds now. As soon as funds are banked, every dollar will begin playing an important role in supporting Cancer Council programs like the Financial Assistance Program.

For more information on Relay For Life, visit [www.relayforlife.com.au](http://www.relayforlife.com.au), or call 1300 65 65 85.

## Churchill Lions Working in the spotlight and behind the scenes

With their distinctive bright yellow shirts, it is hard to miss a Lions club member at work in the community. The Lions are well known for their catering at community events, their fund-raising efforts through Christmas tree sales, Lions Christmas cakes and of course the regular barbecues outside Bunnings.

However, not all of the work they do is so obvious to the public. In response to the recent disastrous fires that have affected the local community, the Churchill Lions have been working tirelessly in the background to help those in need. This includes assisting the Pakenham Lions in the "Need For Feed" project, where about 1500 donated bales of hay were delivered to the fire-affected areas of Hazelwood North and Traralgon South. Many volunteers from the community also helped out to distribute the vital feed to stock in the area.

Responding to a call for help from the organisers of the upcoming Boolarra Folk Festival, the Churchill Lions have volunteered to take over the administrative functions for this very important day.

Said Churchill Lions President Mr Tom Quinn: "This event is an important day for the people of Boolarra in any normal year, but even more so this year. The Boolarra community have suffered a great deal recently, so we were very happy to step in and help. By taking over the behind-the scenes administrative responsibilities, the organisers can concentrate on the task of making this year's festival the biggest and best ever."

The Lions have also assisted in the bushfire response by catering at the CFA

staging area, the Boolarra fire fundraiser and the memorial service at Monash University.

"It's amazing how much support we have received in recent weeks" said President Tom. "Many local businesses have donated the food that we cook, and of course our members donate their time, so that this means that every dollar raised can go directly to where it is needed."

Of course, the needs of the broader community continue regardless of the recent bushfire emergency. At their last meeting, the Churchill Lions voted to support a request from the fundraising committee of the Latrobe Regional Hospital for much-needed equipment for their outpatients section.

The Lions have committed to raise the \$10,000 needed for a blanket warmer, which will be used to ensure patients have the best chance of a speedy recovery after procedures.

Recent events have made for a very busy time for the Churchill Lions, and there is still plenty of work to do. If you are interested in joining the Churchill Lions and helping them continue their vital community work, please contact President Tom Quinn on 5166 1448.

"It's not all work" says Mr Quinn. "By joining the Lions, not only are you helping the community in a very direct way, you also get to meet a great bunch of blokes.

We all chip in to get the job done, and we always manage to have a few laughs and the odd beer as well. It's a great way to spend your time."

## Rhythm, Roses, Recovery

On Sunday 22nd March the Latrobe City Brass Band will present an all day concert, Rhythm, Roses, Recovery. This is a free outdoor event in the beautiful surroundings of Morwell Centenary Rose Garden, Commercial Road, Morwell, near the Latrobe Regional Gallery and the Courthouse. Everyone involved will have a great opportunity to listen to a variety of music from Gippsland bands, choirs and the Latrobe Valley Orchestra.

All the musicians involved have been touched by recent events, whether by loss of loved ones, homes and environments or by involvement in fighting the fires and feeling the emotional impact felt by our community.

The day will be an opportunity to relax and enjoy the entertainment while supporting the various groups

represented.

There will be an opportunity to donate to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund directly or support it by purchasing refreshments and rose themed items.

All proceeds will go to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund Bushfire Appeal. There will also be a raffle drawn on the day with the profits going to the Churchill CFA. This will be an alcohol free event.

Sponsors of the event include Latrobe City Council, Advance Morwell and Latrobe Country Credit Union. Keep the day free and be ready to gather some friends, pack a chair or a blanket and come along. For more information please contact 5166 1412.

## Latrobe City Brass Band Welcomes Newcomers

By J McKenzie

The Latrobe City Brass Band would welcome any musicians wishing to join our merry ranks. Come along to our practice at 7.30 - 9.30 on Tuesday nights in the Bandroom, Morwell Town Common Pavilion on the corner of Chapel and Elgin Streets in Morwell. Experienced brass and percussion players are welcome and there is tuition and instruments available for learners.

We also welcome anyone wishing to be a supporter of the band, so visit and have a chat.

Amongst other commitments the band is busy organising a great community event, the Rhythm, Roses, Recovery in the Morwell Rose Garden on March 22nd. There will be brass bands, choirs and the orchestra playing. It is a free event with the opportunity to support bushfire relief and the CFA.

Keep this date free and be prepared to come along and have a great time. For more information about the band and its activities please ring 5166 1412.

# Churchill Amcal Pharmacy

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**Diabetes occurs when there is too much glucose in the blood. Insulin is a hormone made in the pancreas that allows glucose to move from the blood into the cells, where it is used to produce energy. In diabetes, either the pancreas stops producing insulin (type 1 diabetes) or the pancreas does not produce enough insulin and the body does not respond properly to insulin (type 2 diabetes).**

### Type 2 diabetes

(Previously called non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus or mature-onset diabetes)

- The most common form of diabetes.
- People with type 2 diabetes are more likely to have high blood pressure and cholesterol and be overweight.
- Develops gradually.
- Can often be controlled with diet and exercise, but sometimes tablets and then later, insulin may be required.

### Signs and symptoms

These may include:

- Passing more urine
- Increased thirst and/or hunger
- Tiredness - loss of energy
- Weight loss (type 1)
- Itching and skin infections (e.g. thrush)
- Blurred vision
- Slow-healing wounds
- Tingling and numbness of feet.

People with type 2 diabetes may only notice symptoms after their blood glucose levels have been high for many years.

### Risk factors for diabetes

More than 500,000 Australians have type 2 diabetes and do not know it. Take the tick test below. If you tick one or more of the boxes then you are at risk of diabetes. Take this information with you to the doctor and ask to be tested.

- I am over 45 and have high blood pressure
- I am over 45 and am overweight
- I am over 45 and have a family member with diabetes.
- I am over 55
- I have heart disease or have had a heart attack
- I had high blood sugar levels while I was pregnant.
- I have had a borderline high blood sugar test
- I have polycystic ovary syndrome and am overweight
- I am over 35 and am an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, a Pacific Islander, of Chinese cultural origin or from the Indian sub-continent.

If you are at risk of type 2 diabetes, don't rely on the presence of symptoms to know if diabetes has developed. Be tested annually in order to detect diabetes early. You may have diabetes without feeling any symptoms.

**Free Diabetes Consultation  
Tuesday March 24th**

**Please ring Debbie on 5122 1390 at  
Churchill Amcal Pharmacy  
to make your appointment**



## SALUTE THE MAN - where truth is stranger than fiction

Between the 19th - 22nd March, Old Gippstown Heritage Park will feature a stunning new production which vividly brings the history of our own region to life.

'Gippsland's history is choc-a-bloc with bizarre and remarkable anecdotes and incidents,' reports Jeannie Houghton, the writer. 'There is no need to invent historical events; the trick is to convincingly capture the times and the people.'

Salute The Man, is directed by Director Liz Perry whose expertise in movement, voice and directing, has been acquired through studies and productions in London, Canada, and USA, as well as within Australia.

'We are fortunate to have a director of such high calibre working with

us,' Jeannie comments. 'Developing a new work requires commitment, insight and patience, with the entire cast and crew all working with the director to produce the best possible vision of the writer's script. I feel privileged to have so many amazing people giving their time to create this new Australian play.'

Michael Fozard, manager of Old Gippstown initiated the idea of a play with Jeannie over two years ago, and is keen to see stories about the early settlement of the area being told at Old Gippstown. 'What better place? The audience can investigate the buildings and historical collections as well.'

Local and professional performers and crew have collaborated to create

a top-notch experience which will sweep the audience into the world of the early settlers and the Gunai-Kurnai. The project has been funded by Destination Gippsland with the view to attracting new visitors to the area.

Bookings can be made through Old Gippstown Heritage Park.

Performance season:

Thursday 19th March, Gala opening 6.45pm for 7.30pm performance  
Friday 20th, Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm

Sunday 22nd March@ 2pm

Tickets: \$16, \$12 concession

Bookings, enquiries: 03 51 273 082, or Jeannie Houghton 56 252 138

Pictured: Heather James and John Watson rehearsing at Old Gippstown

## 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  
Father Malcolm Hewitt  
Saturday: Mass: 7.30pm  
Sunday: Mass: 9.30am  
1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays: Yinnar:  
Mass: 11.00 am  
2nd and 4th Sundays: Boolarra:  
Mass: 11.00am

### Churchill Christian Fellowship

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



## National Day of Mourning Service Monash University - 22 February 2009

Father Hugh Brown

Today we have witnessed a nation standing together as one.

This great nation of ours, Australia, stands side by side with those of us who have experienced loss of family and friends, loss of homes and livelihoods, injuries to bodies, hearts and minds and a sense of displacement and confusion that even those who lost no-one personally or nothing materially have felt at the core of their being.

This day, even with its sorrow and pain, is a day to be proud of, simply because the hearts and pockets and pantries and wallets and hearts and hands of so very many Australians have been opened to help us in our need.

Here in Gippsland and in the Latrobe Valley, we have known and experienced the devastation of fires for over three weeks now. The Delburn fires, although eclipsed by the catastrophic events of Saturday 7 February and the week following, are very much a part of our story in this most beautiful of places we call home.

It's true to say that at times we have felt a little neglected here in Gippsland by both the media and some of the leadership in the country. That may well be true.

But we have something so much more important than media and dignitaries, we have each other.

We have found in each other:

The neighbourliness of a people who fought a common tragedy together;

The willingness of emergency personnel from all the services who risked their lives in order to preserve ours;

The powerful presence of welcoming shoulders to cry on and the open hands of friends and strangers extended in practical ways to help us

Something else that we have found is also very important - it is the simple but almost earth-shattering belief that what we share in common far outweighs any differences among us.

Our humanity, our humanness is what we share in

common with each other.

That is far more important than the differences we see in the colours of our skin, or the accents with which we speak Australian English, or the religious beliefs that many of us profess, or even the traditional ties of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

As the people of Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley and beyond we have come to know that only together can we face the road ahead.

We live in hope that this recent holocaust is the last but we are realistic enough to know that we have a long and possibly fraught time ahead of us.

But as you leave here today, I would gently ask you to remember one thing: we have each other and not only each other; we have the power of the human spirit.

This human spirit of ours has the capacity to be resilient, to never stop fighting when threat is upon us, to never neglect the need of a neighbour or a stranger, to rebuilt not just houses and sheds but also human hearts, to believe that, even in the midst of immense tragedy, we shall be there for one another.

Sometimes we too easily brand people as "heroes" none of us would ever deny the heroism of so many people who helped us in extraordinary ways and for whom we are immensely grateful.

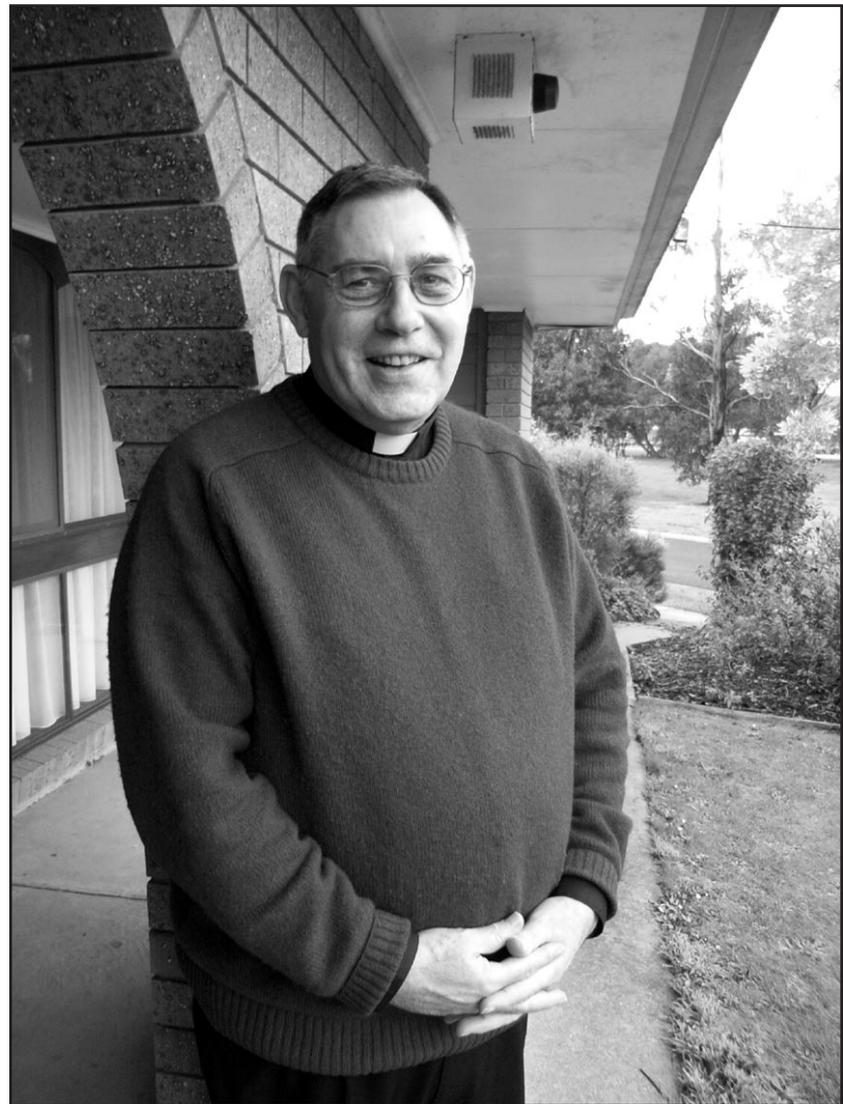
But the real "heroes" of our story are you - the people of Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley.

Please don't ever forget that.

This morning I've just finished celebrating services for our communities at Lumen Christi parish. Each Sunday - probably because my sermons are boring - our children leave and go do more enjoyable activities. Today, when they returned to the service, the children had just completed colouring in a bookmark and they showed it to the congregation. It was a simple bookmark - but its words were simple - "never give up". So I leave you with this powerful message from my children at Lumen Christi:

Never give up!

Never give up!



Father Hugh Brown

## Saturday Breakfast

By Keith Enders

The February Breakfast was well attended with 22 people coming to hear Father Hugh Brown, Lumen Christi Parish Priest and Monash Gippsland Chaplain. His talk was very interesting and entertaining and included details of some lighter moments in his life as well as more serious ones.

His early education began in Sydney where he was born and completed in Hobart. He then joined the Novitiate for the Carmelite Order in 1969 and on making his vows moved to Melbourne for his Priestly studies and after being ordained traveled to New York and Rome for further study and duties.

Returning to Melbourne he taught in the Seminary and then moved to Brisbane to lecture in theology to secondary teachers. An appointment as Principal of White Christ College secondary school for boys in Melbourne followed. After eight years he was appointed parish priest at Middle Park and Port Melbourne and

he then moved back into secondary education looking after Catholic schools in Gippsland while based in Warragul.

About two years ago he was appointed Parish Priest at Lumen Christi and not long ago applied for the position as Chaplain working with students and staff at Monash Gippsland. The position brings him into contact with students and staff from various religious backgrounds such as Jewish, Buddhist, Islam as well as Christian, and has enabled him to learn and appreciate other religious traditions.

The next Breakfast will be held on the 28th March at 7.45 am at the Co-Operating Churches.

Mr Bob Lowick from Churchill Lions Club will be the guest speaker. He will talk about the origins of Lions Clubs and the history and activities of the Churchill Club.

People interested in attending should contact Keith Enders by Thursday 26 March by leaving a message at kenders@net-tech.com.au or on 5122 1148.



## GO CLUB for 2009

Thanks to the generosity of the Churchill Football/Netball Club for allowing us to use their premises each Thursday afternoon, the GO Club (Golden Oldies Club) will resume on March 5th with the celebration of their 4th birthday.

GO Club consists of people who are looking for somewhere to meet new friends and enjoy an afternoon of friendship by way of cards, rummykin, craft or just a chat.

We meet at 1pm, enjoy a cuppa and afternoon tea and conclude at

3.30pm

New members are most welcome. For more information contact Betty Wyatt on 5122 1691 or Joan Gardner on 5169 1623.

## Snippets

### After School Club- Cool Club 4 Kids

Cool Club 4 Kids had an interrupted start with the fires, but has now settled down, with a regular 11-12 participants.

We are discussing creation and making lots of things for a huge diorama.

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM was incorporated into a service of celebration and anticipation of the way forward. Many wonderful

reports were presented of the work carried out by the groups which form our church family.

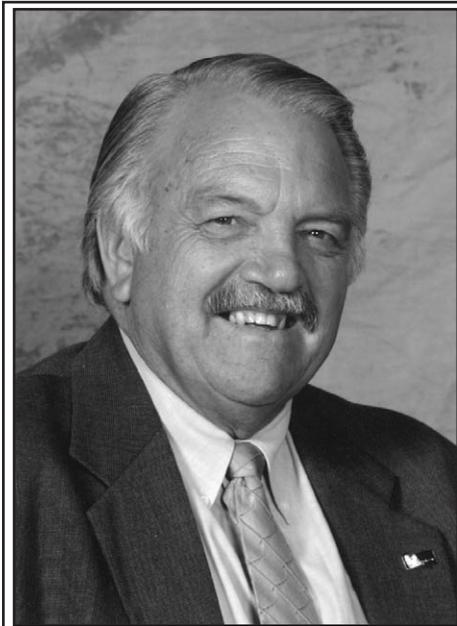
### Chaplains For Those Affected by the Bush Fires

Rev Bob Brown has been co-ordinating a roster of chaplains to be available for home visits or at the Relief Centre in

Churchill. Anyone who needs to come and talk will be warmly received.

# Latrobe City to Host Ecumenical Service

## Cr Darrell White



deserving of our eternal gratitude and it will be appropriate to honouring them at this service".

Fr Hugh Brown, chaplain at the Monash University's Gippsland Campus has indicated that the service would be embracing of all faiths.

Fr Brown said, "The Christian communities of the Latrobe Valley along with members of different

faith traditions recognise that the greatest strength we have in the face of our experience is our solidarity as a community.

A tragedy such as the recent fires helps us to realise that our capacity for resilience, even in the face of enormous tragedy, is strengthened when together we offer and accept the support of each other".

"This ecumenical service is a way that we as one community, made up of many communities, can honour and strengthen that support. Not all of us share the same faith, but all of us do share a responsibility to remember and honour those who have died, to stand beside those who have suffered and to express our immense gratitude to those who were there for us in our time of need. This tragedy broke down any divisions of religion, race, age or gender.

Out of it we have the capacity to build anew, to help heal broken hearts and spirits, to replant seeds of hope and to celebrate the human spirit which together is stronger than any of us individually", said Fr Brown.

The service will be held in the new Auditorium, Monash University, Gippsland Campus on Sunday 15 March, 5pm - 6pm.

All are welcome to attend.

### Council Fees and Charges - 2009/2010

Annually, as part of the Annual Budget preparation process, Council reviews "user" fees and charges that are applicable across a broad range of services delivered to the community by Council. In order to be able to incorporate any proposed changes into the annual budget process, it requires the adoption of the fees and charges earlier than the adoption of the 2009/2010 Council Budget.

The majority of the draft fees and charges proposed for 2009/2010 have been prepared on the basis of CPI increases. Other influences include competitive market influences, the percentage increase in the previous year and the type of service.

As a significant number of the fees and charges require notice to be given to users, this notice can vary from one to two months depending on the service. By undertaking community consultation in March followed by adoption in April 2009, enables the required notice to be given to the community for any changes to the fees and charges to be implemented from 1st July, 2009.

Council, at its meeting on 2nd March, 2009, resolved to give public notice of its intention to consider the "draft" Fees and Charges 2009/2010 and invites submissions in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and Strategy. Council will consider submissions received from the community at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 6th April, 2009. Copies of the "draft" Fees and Charges 2009/2010 are available at all Council Service Centres.

Latrobe City Council and the Christian churches of the Latrobe Valley will host a joint ecumenical service to remember those lost in the bushfires.

In the words of our Mayor, Cr Lisa Price, "this service will provide an opportunity for the Gippsland community to come together to grieve for those lost in the bushfires and honour the many remarkable emergency service men and women who played such a vital role in protecting the community".

Cr Price also said, "This is our chance to come together as a community and to embrace one another - to support each other through this period of intense sadness and to recognise that this event has touched the heart and soul of almost every member of the community. It will also be an opportunity to recognise and thank our wonderful emergency services for their tireless commitment to this community.

In the aftermath, there have been hundreds of stories of remarkable bravery, selfless acts, unyielding determination and tales of how these magnificent heroes stood time and time again between the searing heat, the towering walls of flames and our vulnerable communities.

They in their endeavours are

## Experience a Day in the Life of a Uni Student



Monash University Gippsland is inviting senior high school students and their parents to attend their unique "Uni Student for a Day" and "Uni Parent for a Day" programs. The programs provides the opportunity for Year 10, 11 and 12 students to experience what it's like to study at the Gippsland campus, by partnering them with a current university student for a day.

With their university student partner, high school students will attend lectures, tour the campus, enjoy on-site recreation facilities and have the opportunity to speak to current students and staff. At the same time, parents can attend a separate session where they will be provided with information about their child's transition to university, including important advice regarding scholarships, finances and student accommodation.

Professor Helen Bartlett, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Gippsland campus, said Monash was proud to offer such a unique and tailored program for prospective students.

"The Uni Student for a Day program is a wonderful opportunity for high school students to gain a first-hand experience of what

university life is all about", she said.

"The program is designed to match secondary school students with a university student who is studying in their area of interest, which ensures the experience is as informative and relevant as possible."

Professor Bartlett said feedback from previous sessions showed the program made a significant difference in easing high school student's transition from secondary to tertiary study, and helped them become familiar with the Gippsland campus. She also said the Uni Parent for a Day program was an important component.

"Often parents have more questions about university than their children and feel they lack the information necessary to support their child's transition," Professor Bartlett said.

"The information sessions for parents address all the common questions and concerns regarding university study and allow par-

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Wonthaggi	Phone 5672 5866
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ents to speak directly with Monash staff about a variety of issues."

Uni Student for a Day and Uni Parent for a Day will take place on April 7 and 8, with an end of year session to also take place on September 22, 23 and 24. Applications for the April session close on March 23.

For an information brochure and application form, please visit [www.gippsland.monash.edu.au](http://www.gippsland.monash.edu.au).

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## Churchill Planned Activity Group - Wattle Club

Latrobe Community Health Services run Planned Activity Groups (PAG) in Churchill, Moe and Morwell. The Churchill PAG or Wattle Club has been running for more than 24 years and provides socialisation and recreational options for people over 65, for those who have a disability and respite for carers.

The program aims to encourage independence and self esteem, while promoting quality of life and celebrating special events. All activities are designed to meet the needs of the individual.

Activities vary from passive exercises, to outings and picnic, mentality stimulations activities like trivia, crosswords, card and board games, craft work and electronic games, to guest speakers and entertainment, and a two course meal and morning tea, as well as transportation is available at a small cost.

Staff strongly believe this program is beneficial to all involved, from consumers to carers and volunteers.

"It is important for all people to have a purpose and a sense of involvement with others. Our consumers often feel isolated, as do their carers, so PAG not only provides our consumers with involvement in activity and a social network but also gives carers a much needed break."

2008 finished up with a wonderful Christmas party. The room was festooned with a marvelous variety of decorations, the Christmas tree was laden with tinsel

and ornaments.

Christmas dinner was the full works with roast turkey and ham with cranberry sauce followed by strawberry fruit tarts or pavlova. There were games including Pass the Parcel, but called Musical Santa and a time of blowing bubbles. What fun and laughter ensued.

Then the group joined with Morwell PAG and had a combined Christmas celebration at the Morwell Men's Club.

A break of a few weeks came over Christmas/New Year, but then it was back to fun and activity.

Wattle Club enjoyed a visit from Moe PAG. There was a 'Name the Plant' session, which tested many people's gardening knowledge. They also played Celebrity Heads.

Volunteers are an important part of this program and LCHS value their involvement in not only this program but in the delivery of programs across the organisation.

The volunteers that work with PAG can assist in many ways, as drivers, providing help in the kitchen at the centres or assisting staff with program delivery. All volunteers a subject to a police check. If you would like to participate or volunteer for this program, please contact Latrobe Community Health Service on 1800 242 696 .

## Crakes and Rails at Mathison Park

By Ken Harris

Crakes and Rails are small very secretive birds that live in swampy vegetation and are very difficult to ever see. There are 3 species of crakes and 2 of rails in Victoria and you have to be pretty lucky to see just one of them. In and close to Mathison Park 4 of the 5 have been seen and photographed in the last 2½ years.

Back in October 2006 I several times saw one of the crakes along the edge of Lake Hyland. I eventually got a clear view and was able to identify it as Baillon's Crake - *Porzana pusilla* and in November I came on one feeding among the cord-rushes and it allowed me to stand close by and take several photos.

I never saw a crake in 2007, but in December, walking by Lake Hyland, I found a Buff-banded Rail - *Gallirallus philippensis*



**Porzanapusilla**

feeding in the outflow from the side pond into the lake. I saw it several times over the next few weeks and it allowed me to sit beside the damp area where it was feeding and take a lot of pictures. I even on one occasion saw it with 5 tiny little black chicks, so the Buff-banded Rail breeds in Mathison Park!

I was getting very interested in the crakes and rails by now and I thought that one of the ponds across the road from Mathison Park, looked a very suitable place for these birds so I set out early one morning and sat down on the edge of the pond with the sun rising behind me and waited to see what might appear. I had been there 20 minutes, when a Buff-banded Rail flew across the pond, landed on the shore opposite me and



**Gallirallus philippensis**

walked quickly along the pond and disappeared.

This was promising, but I already had good pictures of that rail, so I waited for another hour. At this point, another bird flew across the pond and landed on the shore opposite to me, but instead of hurrying past, it stayed for 20 minutes feeding on the shore in front of me.



**Dryolimnas pectoralis**

I was delighted to realise that this was the Lewin's Rail - *Dryolimnas pectoralis*, the only other Victorian Rail and the first I had seen for 20 years. This one has not yet turned up in Mathison Park, but was found only a few hundred metres further south.

That didn't finish the saga. In the spring of 2008, I again saw the Buff-banded Rail several times, but this time it was frequenting a spot by Eelhole Creek behind the Koori Plantings. I saw it there several times including seeing 2 well-grown young, so they have bred in the park for the second time.

Watching for them in December, a different little bird appeared on the shore of the Creek and allowed me to photograph it. This one proved to be the scarcest of the group, the Spotless Crake - *Porzana tabuensis*, a bird I had never seen before. I was able to see it several times at the same spot during December, but it seems to have moved away from that spot now.

Mathison Park is visited by a great diversity of birds, but I was pleasantly surprised to find that all these crakes and rails can be seen in or close to the park.

Perhaps one day the last of the group, the Australian Spotted Crake will put in an appearance!



**Porzana tabuensis**

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### IT Students ready to show small business how to get the most from websites

Telstra Country Wide® today announced that the GippsWebs for Business program is now up and running for 2009 and businesses are being sought to be a part of the initiative.

The Program involves Information Technology (IT) secondary students working with local small businesses to develop websites.

The GippsWebs for Business program is an excellent opportunity for local IT students to spend 10 weeks consulting with interested businesses to create and develop effective websites. The program allows students to spend time with small business owners and local entrepreneurs, gathering information and learning about the daily operation of their business. They then develop a website that will help grow the business.

The GippsWebs for Business initiative was launched by Telstra Country Wide Gippsland eight years ago. The program is delivered in partnership with the Monash School of Information Technology Gippsland, Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLEN's) and Local Community Partnerships, who collectively work with local schools and businesses in the region.

In 2008 more than 126 students worked in teams to develop websites for nearly 49 Gippsland-based businesses.

Telstra Country Wide® Area General Manager for Gippsland, Ms Jane Oakley, said "GippsWebs for Business is an important program that supports Information Technology students in the Gippsland region".

"Traditionally we lose a lot of IT savvy people to metropolitan areas. However the GippsWeb for Business program helps support the demand for IT services in the region. Importantly, the program enables small businesses to realise the economic benefits the internet can deliver to their business," Ms Oakley said.

Associate Professor Manzur Murshed, Head of the Gippsland School of Information Technology, Monash University said "We want to promote the importance of IT in our society and encourage more students to think seriously about IT careers. The use of IT is critical to businesses today and qualified IT professionals can be confident that their skills will be required in the workforce."

Michelle Weatherall, GippsWebs for Business Co-ordinator for the LLEN's said, "The experience that the students gain in such a program greatly enhances what they can learn in the school environment. I therefore urge local businesses and entrepreneurs to get behind this great initiative and be a part of supporting our local students by signing up to develop a website. There is no cost involved and the time commitment is minimal."

This year the program will commence with IT students in Term 2 and the Awards Presentation will be held on the 4th August 2008 at Monash University, Gippsland Campus.

GippsWebs for Business is calling for all businesses interested in participating in the program to contact Hayley Elston at Telstra Country Wide, Gippsland, on 1800 723 795 to obtain a registration form.



From the blackened earth our community blooms and grows.

In recent weeks, we have witnessed an outpouring of support, generosity and goodwill from across Gippsland and beyond. It has been wonderful to see so many people interact with and respond to community needs in ways which they may not have done before. A challenge for leaders across our region will be to encourage these residents to remain engaged; to ensure their sense of community spirit does not wane or lose momentum.

## Northe's Natter

A range of funding and support programs are available to those affected by the fires and I encourage people to contact Latrobe City's recovery hotline on 1800 017 777 or visit their nearest recovery centre for advice. I invite anyone experiencing difficulty accessing information or support to contact me on 5133 9088 or via email :russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au.

Local community assets have come into their own during the fire response. The spectacular new Churchill community hub, the recently refurbished Boolarra hall, the Cougars' clubrooms and the facilities at Monash University have all proven invaluable. It goes to the heart of The Nationals recently launched campaign - Target 585.

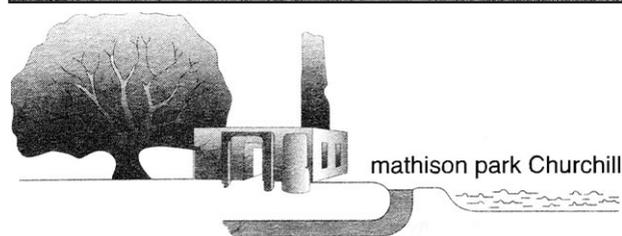
As I pen this column the

Boolarra Folk Festival is just around the corner. This year's event will mark a significant step in the township's road to recovery and I've no doubt it will be well-supported.

The Churchill United SC will again demonstrate their commitment to the local community when they host another GERF fundraiser and I look forward to watching them go up against the GSL select side.

Finally, I urge everyone affected by this tragedy to share their experiences with the Royal Commission to ensure we can all learn from the bushfires.

For the terms of reference please contact my office or visit <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/premier/fires-royal-commission-to-have-wide-terms-of-reference.html>



## Water Levels Low at Lake Hyland

The hot dry weather has taken its toll on Mathison Park. The small dam near the Koori plantation is the driest ever seen. Lake Hyland's water level is down as it was used by the helicopters and sky cranes for fighting the fires.

The saying raining cats and dogs may have

had a different twist as there must have been a few surprised fish sucked up. But I think the people who received the water would not have been worried about where the water came from, only that it came and helped save places from the fires.

## Bushfire Effort Sees Lifeline 2009 Sleepout Cancelled

The annual Lifeline Gippsland Sleepout, a fundraising event, has been cancelled for this year to enable a continued focus on the bushfire recovery effort.

Lifeline Gippsland's priority during this crisis is the provision of face-to-face personal and emotional support to bushfire impacted communities. Said Lifeline Gippsland CEO today 'our volunteers and staff are doing a tremendous job and will continue to be

heavily involved in the ongoing recovery process'

Lifeline Gippsland appreciates the impact the fires have had on the Gippsland community and recognises that many people have given support, financial and emotional, as a result. 'We feel to ask the community to again dig into their pockets is not appropriate' continued Patricia Nalder.

Ms Nalder added that the annual Sleepout has enjoyed tremen-

dous community support over the six years it has been held. Whilst there are no plans to reschedule the 2009 Sleepout to later in the year, Lifeline Gippsland is planning a number of activities to coincide with Stress Down on 24/7 - Lifeline's National fundraising and Awareness event - in July. Further details will be announced in a few months.

# Black Saturday

## Churchill Fire Brigade Captain- Division Commander- Reports

*Captain Steve Barling of the Churchill brigade became the Division Commander directing activities for the fires from Downie's Lane to the Jeeralang areas. This is his report.*

Gippsland worked tirelessly through the day and night. It wasn't until the wind dropped about midnight that we could determine the full extent of the losses.

other emergency services personnel, responded to the enormous pressure that the events of Black Saturday presented.

Crews continued their work to protect assets and commenced the huge mopping up operation.

It was also pleasing that there were no firefighter injuries, despite the extreme, unprecedented conditions.

Control activities continued throughout all of the next week. Crews continued to patrol and set up a control line construction, as well as respond to occasional flare-ups.

He added that CFA is extremely grateful for all of the community support over the duration of both this and the Delburn fires.

The fire was eventually declared contained on Friday 13th February.

Steve made mention of the contribution made by Monash University for providing so many of their facilities to the Churchill Staging Area and to Ritchies IGA for their wonderful support of the local brigades. He also thanked other supporters who contributed to the support of the fire effort.

At this time management of the remaining hot spots, stumps and burning trees was handed back to local brigades who have been assisted in this task by Hancock Victoria Plantations (HVP)"

Steve went on to say how proud he was of the way all the CFA volunteers and staff, together with the

Thanks are also extended to groups who have organized fund-raising efforts.

"12pm on Saturday 7th February 2009, when the wind picked up, the Churchill Brigade responded to many calls in the early afternoon.

All were small jobs- a few minutes- until the call to the Glendonald Road! At first sight of the enormous amount of smoke billowing into the air, we knew we had an immense job on our hands.

First calls from initial crews resulted in 20 tankers being summoned because of the horrendous conditions.

There was no stopping the fire, so all activity was about preserving life and property.

The crews from across



Churchill CFA

## Police Report

**Chris Major- Inspector-in-Charge of Morwell Latrobe Service Police Area**

Chris Major reported that a Special Taskforce from Melbourne has been appointed to investigate the Churchill, Callignee and Traralgon South fires. This is a criminal investigation due to the loss of life, and the fact that an offender has been taken into custody.

Chris says the police are alarmed at the activity of arsonists, and appeals to the broader community to be vigilant and report anything suspicious. He wants the public to be the eyes and ears of the police to help with the detection of any offender.

Detectives continue working on some very strong leads which have been given to apprehend offender(s) who may have caused the Delburn fires.

Report fires and suspicious activity using 000, the local Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The police provided a presence at Boolarra from 7am-11pm for two weeks after the Boolarra fire. They have spent a week at the Relief Centre at Traralgon South. This was to re-assure the community and provide assessment and support. The police instigated special patrols of fire affected areas to stop looting.

Chris also pleads with the community to heed the CFA warnings re being prepared.

On Friday 27th February, which was predicted to be a high risk day, a very physical preventative police presence patrolled vulnerable areas to detect any fire suspicious fire action.

People must make up their mind to stay or go early. He says each person has a responsibility to be aware of what is happening weather wise, and to stay in touch with TV, Internet or radio communication.

If you have any questions contact the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

People MUST keep up with what is happening, for their own good and the good of the wonderful community supporters like the CFA volunteers.

## Boolarra



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# The Jeeralangs After the Fires



**Damage to  
Jeeralang North  
Hall**



# Busfire Recovery

## "No 9 - 5 with this"

Heather Farley has been one of the key figures of the Latrobe City Council's efforts in organising the Bushfire Recovery and Relief Centres which have been so much appreciated by those affected by the fires. Heather was very keen to report on the outstanding support Latrobe City Council has received from the community and the organisations within it, as well as from the wider Australian public.

The Latrobe City Council (LCC) instigated the Boolarra Recovery Centre immediately after the Boolarra fire. Since then they have set up further Recovery and Relief Centres working closely with other agencies especially Red Cross, to cover the wide need in this area following the Glendonald fire which spread so far.

Initially, Latrobe City Council established a number of teams to service the Boolarra area. These were all operational from the Boolarra Multi-Purpose Building, by the Monday morning following the fire.

The teams consisted of the LCC Community Development Teams, and other appropriate staff from other areas of council, who dropped all their usual work so that over the weekend they could be ready to start on the Monday morning.

5-6 Lifeline Counselors, along with their Co-Ordinator, responded immediately to provide volunteer counseling. Department of Human Services (DHS), officers were there to give on the spot grants. Telstra provided a phone swap for those whose phones were broken, damaged, lost or old, or would not work without electricity. They also arranged some credit for those having to use excessive mobile calls, running up large bills. They supplied Next G phones for the teams and the community affected. With the Glendonald fire, Optus has come on board with providing assistance and special deals for its customers.

[Assessment reports by Telstra reveal that underground cabling has been melted in the intensity of the fire, and would need replacing before communications can again be established. That was done within the week].

RACV sent 8-9 people to Boolarra to help people with advice on insurance claims. Since Boolarra, other insurance companies have also offered such services.

Centrelink supplied large numbers of staff to help with claims. The Police have been extremely helpful, working closely with LCC throughout the whole time.

### Monash University

Monash University Gippsland has been magnificent in their generous response to providing the Staging Area for the CFA, providing student accommodation for those displaced from their homes, providing meals for the teams and other services, and being available 24/7 for whatever was needed.

Morwell Taxis offered to pick up the meals and deliver them to the emergency workers, as well as free transport offers for those affected.

### Support from Organisations

Other organisations which have added their

wonderful support include, Township Community Associations who have rallied to help and assist efforts at a variety of levels, Quantum Support Services, Berry Street, Latrobe Community Health Service, Department of Education and Childhood Development, Anglicare, The Churches who have supplied chaplains, Smith Family, Salvation Army who have also sent groups from Melbourne and interstate, Red Cross, Department of Planning and Community Development, Vic Roads, Justices of the Peace, Legal Firms locally and from Melbourne, Department of Primary Industries, Australia Post who has donated fluoro paint to put numbers on houses so mail can be correctly delivered, and letterboxes, and the various groups who have helped to erect the letterboxes, Wespac Bank who has supplied ablation blocks for Traralgon South area and Callignee, CWA ladies groups from all over who have packed lady's and men's hygiene packs, businesses which have supplied new clothing and footwear etc. Gippsland Water which will provide water free of cost and St Vincent's which will pay for the cartage of the water. "I'm sure I must have missed some," says Heather. "I hope they will forgive me."

There have also been organisations outside the area and local towns within the area which have chipped in to help. One example is the folks of Yinnar giving their support to Boolarra.

### Initial Assessment Visits

The LCC teams, which have included a Lifeline counselor, have made initial assessment visits to those affected. They used LCC cars to give them authority, and to re-assure those visited, some of whom were too scared to leave their places, that they were genuine visitors, not looters, as rumours had been widespread.

These visits were to see how people were going, to have a conversation [some people had not seen anyone for some time as they would or could not leave their properties], and then to try to assess how much they had been impacted by the fires. And all people had been impacted in many ways, to many degrees, from fear of fire, to the behaviour of the fire, to coping with no, or little water, to wondering how vegetation which was wiped out, would re-generate. For those, it was a chance for the teams to re-assure, and offer whatever grants and services that were available, including a grant from Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund, and to tabulate other long term needs.

In the assessment visit, special attention was paid to insurance needs, support for getting back into their house, water needs, waste disposal of the fire rubble etc, trees needing felling or removal, fencing, and assessment of the extent of the loss. This was an initial assessment and people have remembered after, other things they no longer have. These have been able to be added to the list of lost items. LCC Teams will make a follow up visit in the near future.

These fires have now been all classified as one, enabling all to be eligible for grant assistance.

The five Teams, Police and CFA/DSE personnel all faced challenges as they made these visits, with fallen and falling trees blocking road access, smoke and their



The team at the Boolarra Recovery Centre

own fears of being in such areas, as well as the traumas they faced in the devastation they saw. Each different group had their own coloured ribbon which they attached to a post when they had visited. The colours were a bright spot in the otherwise dreary landscape.

The Rapid Impact Teams along with Police and other agency's assessments information has been able to be checked with LCC databases and a priority list of the most severely impacted prepared.

These then will be case managed. [LCC are looking for appropriate case managers to be employed to provide support especially to those severely impacted, who can take on some of these aspects of help]. The goal is for these people to be able to help themselves.

### Community Meetings

Community meetings have also been a way these teams have been able to help and support by being able to answer questions posed at these meetings. They are also a marvellous way for people to get together and talk and debrief. Service clubs have been encouraged to cater for such gatherings. LCC is willing to cover the funds required for this catering.

### Other Provisions

Asbestos kits have been supplied to those who wish to safely go through the remains of their properties, many of which would have definitely had asbestos as part of their buildings. Overalls and gloves can also be obtained.

Service Clubs at Yinnar have been active in providing hay for stock, and providing resources for re-fencing, and helping to erect fencing at the wild life shelter to keep hurt animals confined.

The Traralgon South and District Association organized kits for those impacted. They consisted of torches, batteries, water, food packs, toiletries and basic clothing.

### Huge Response

The amount of goods that has been donated from all over Australia has been enormous, and has taken enormous resources to manage from all agencies and the community. There have been offers of houses, furniture, and caravans.

### Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund

The most effective way for people to help now is to donate money to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund, so that people can then start to take responsibility for providing for themselves, what is appropriate. This will now be important as people start to move back into their home sites, having to take care of provision of food, water and clothing, as well as organize the removal of the fire waste, so they can begin again.

### Recovery Centres

Information on how to access these resources can be obtained at the Recovery Centres which are located in Boolarra, the Churchill Hub, and at Traralgon South hall.

The establishment of Community Recovery Committees is the next step. Communities will be able to give advice and have input into how the infrastructure is to be re-built. LCC aims to better re-build facilities than they were prior to the fires.

"There is an amazing spirit and capacity to be involved in the re-building process", says Heather.

The amount of volunteer offers has been enormous. Heather says that some of those offers can be used immediately for urgent needs, but others will be needed in the long term as people return to their home, and become involved with their communities once more.

This of course will take a lengthy period of time from anywhere between six months to two years. LCC is committed to this re-building for as long as it takes, and will support through the provision of administrative assistance in writing grant applications etc.

Learning how to manage such situations has been a huge learning curve for those involved and the procedures are being changed frequently to adjust to the needs of the situation.

The State Government is making new announcements daily. For example there is now a statewide approach to fire waste removal. People can use their computers to log on to the web site or visit Recovery Relief Centres to do so. There will be no cost for this registration.

As this has been a state wide emergency, so what has been learnt here has been able to be fed in to other situations.

Police Commissioner Christine Nixon, has set up an enquiry. LCC representatives will be sitting on that committee, to contribute to the key responses.

Heather has been overwhelmed by the magnificent response of Australia and part of the world to this crisis. She is loud in her praise for all the agencies and community members who have been so generous with their time and resources. "There is no 9-5 with this. Everyone has been accessible 24/7. It has been a privilege to be working with people who have found themselves in such difficult circumstances."

Heather is also aware that LCC effort has indeed been only a tiny part of the huge effort which has been and will continue to be made in the recovery period.

This is the latest information re location of Recovery/Relief Centres in LCC area.



# Where to get help

Latrobe City Council is supporting fire affected residents through the recovery process. To enhance recovery services a number of Recovery Centres have been established at:

\*Boolarra Recovery Centre, Boolarra Community Centre, Church Street, Boolarra (Wednesdays, 12- 6pm)

\*Traralgon Recovery Centre, Latrobe Performing Arts Centre, Grey & Breed Streets, Traralgon (Mon to Fri, 12 - 6pm);

\*Churchill Recovery Centre, Churchill Intergenerational Community Hub, Phillip Parade, Churchill (Mon to Fri, 12 - 6pm);

\*Traralgon South Recovery Centre, Traralgon South Community Hall, Keith Morgan Drive (Mon to Fri, 12 - 6pm)

Recovery Centres are our operational recovery base where specialist recovery staff will work with affected residents to identify long term needs and develop strategies to support the rebuilding process.

If you know a fire affected resident who has not yet made contact with a Recovery Centre, please urge them to do so as a matter of priority. Residents who have been affected by the bushfires either attend a Recovery Centre or phone Council on 1800 017 777.

## To Volunteer

Throughout the past two weeks members of the community have continued to astound community agencies with offers of support and material aid. These offers are now being centrally coordinated and interested residents are advised to contact the following agencies:

\*To volunteer to assist with the bushfire relief and recovery effort, residents should register at [www.govolunteer.com.au](http://www.govolunteer.com.au) or on 1300 366 356.

\*Companies wishing to make corporate donations can make contact with Vic

Relief Foodbank on 03 9362 8300.

\*People wishing to donate accommodation should contact the Victorian Bushfire Public Accommodation Donation Line by calling 1800 006 468 between 8am and 8pm.

\*Community members wishing to support the recovery effort are encouraged to make a donation to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund. Donations can be made at any branch of the National Australia Bank or by visiting the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund website at [www.relieffund.org.au](http://www.relieffund.org.au)

## The Kindness of Strangers



**Gary Mahoney Kate Buxton**

Tamworth residents Gary Mahoney and Darryl Bowden are a shining example of the generosity of the Australian Public. Driving over 1,300 kilometers, Gary and Darryl yesterday delivered two ute loads of donated items from the Tamworth community to Lifeline Gippsland - Gary also threw in his 1985 Nissan Ute in for good measure!

Said Lifeline Gippsland's CEO 'we have been overwhelmed at the response of the community to the Gippsland bushfires and would like to pass on our heartfelt thanks to Gary, Darryl and everyone who has donated.'

Lifeline Gippsland's main priority at the moment is to provide emotional and personal support to people impacted by the fires. 'Our Emergency Response Volunteers are being deployed to Relief and Recovery Centres and are accompanying Latrobe City and Baw Baw Shire personnel in the fire impacted communities.' Said Patricia Nalder

Lifeline Gippsland is also keen to point out that the 24 hour telephone counselling line on 13 11 14 is available to

anyone that wants to talk to someone. Said Patricia 'The impact of the bushfires are community wide. People who have not been directly impacted may also be feeling anxious and stressed. Existing financial, relationship and other emotional and mental health issues do not evaporate in the wake of a disaster and in order to manage the anticipated demand Lifeline has increased the number of volunteer telephone counsellors and is encouraging people who want to talk to call 13 11 14'.

Lifeline Gippsland's charity 'Op' shops have also played an important role. Several of the agency's six Gippsland based shops have opened-up outside their usual business hours to assist people displaced from their homes with immediate material aid and donations of items have poured through the doors. 'I would like to pass on my thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who are dedicating so much time in support of their community. We are extremely grateful to everyone for their support'.



## Traralgon Relief Centre

Captain Naomi and Captain Bruce Thorne, started their ministry with Traralgon Salvation Army about a month ago.

They are both community minded as Salvos are known to be. When approached to run the Relief Centre at the Traralgon Salvation Army complex, they said they would see what they could do. They have been working closely with Latrobe City Council and the Red Cross. They were asked if they would accept some shipping containers, which they did. Truck loads came from New South Wales.

Australia wide there has been a great response. Naomi described it as a generous Australia, but also a generous world as other countries have become involved.

Then Naomi says "Precious volunteers came to help out. Some have

been made friends for life." Fortunately, they have a warehouse for storage also, because the response from the public has been massive, as well as from businesses in the Latrobe Valley and beyond. This of course has created a massive work requirement. Naomi says that groups from Melbourne (some Salvation Army), Wespac Bank employees and a variety of folks from all walks of life have turned up to help.

"So, it has been hectic, but a good hectic," says Naomi.

Traralgon worked closely with Traralgon South/Callignee, seeing the development of some close networks. "It has been a privilege to have this opportunity. People have felt safe and secure to come," states Naomi.

There have been a number of

counsellors, psychologists and Salvation Army personnel qualified to talk to people. A different team comes from Melbourne each day, to support the community.

Naomi has been most appreciative of the businesses who have fed the volunteers. Naomi says they feel part of a wonderful community and are very thankful for the volunteers.

The fires are still going, and Naomi says they will be in for the long haul even though they feel tired and exhausted. They might just have to make some adjustments to how they continue so their church activities can re-commence, and moving the location is a possibility.

Nevertheless, they will still need volunteers to help, so if you would like to do so, please contact Naomi or Bruce on 51740812.



## The Smiles Say it All!

Blake and Amity were among many children who received special gifts from the Islanders Club at Phillip Island after coming close to losing their home in the Churchill fires.



## Mark it in March

Neighbourhood Watch Victoria Inc, commenced operation in 1983, and Property Inventory Forms and Property Marking have both been integral to the program. Historically our state wide property marking initiative was held on one day. It was expanded to become one week, and now operates over a busy and very popular month.

Throughout the month of March many NHW police coordinators with the assistance of local police, volunteers and service clubs will be marking property in Victoria. Numerous schools and colleges have participated in the program and hopefully this great initiative will enjoy even greater success in 2009.

For information on what's happening in your area contact your NHW police coordinator.

### Data Dots

Data Dots are one modern and simple way to engrave property. They are as tiny as a grain of sand, very difficult to detect with the naked eye, and each one is laser etched with several lines of a unique identifying code.

That code can be of the user's choice i.e. drivers licence, phone number, name and address.

Neighbourhood Watch supports any method which deters would be thieves, and therefore views Data Dots as one product which might achieve that objective. This product provides valuable assistance to authorities to help locate and identify the people who steal it or benefit from its proceeds.

Data Dots are commonly used to assist security of motor vehicles. Major automotive users of this product include

BMW/ Mini, Subaru, HSV, Audi, Ford, Yamaha, Mitsubishi, Porsche, Nissan, which have led the way, applying Data Dots to their entire model range. Data Dots are imprinted with the vehicle's unique vehicle identification number (VIN) and sprayed onto major components throughout the car, making them less appealing to thieves.

As owners of property we must all make decisions on how to best safe guard our valuables, obvious marking or identification remains the greatest deterrent. It is harder for offenders to dispose of property that is clearly marked in a name other than their own.

<http://www.datadotdna.com/australia/>

Security Marking Pens are available through your local NHW coordinator. It is recommended you mark property with your drivers licence number preceded with 'V' for Victoria.

### Photographing Your Valuables

Many items, often expensive or sentimental, such as jewellery, paintings, crystal glassware, antiques, silverware, and various other collectables are difficult to mark. Instead, these items should be photographed or video recorded.

Not only assisting police in the event of solving crime, photographs or video tapes showing your valuables can also be used for proof of identification and ownership for your insurance company.

When photographing or recording your valuables, place each item next to a ruler to provide a scale for establishing proof of size.

Write a brief description of the item, including any distinguishing marks or serial numbers on the back of the photo. Keep photos or videos in a safe place.

## MARK IT IN MARCH

### Letter to the Editor

#### Support from Cancer Council Victoria

I am aware that many of the Cancer Council Victoria's supporters, as well as people currently facing cancer, live in areas subjected to the recent bushfires. Our thoughts are with every Victorian impacted by the fires.

We also know that the fires are placing an additional burden upon some families facing cancer, so I am writing today to offer practical and emotional support.

Through the Cancer Council Helpline (13 11 20), people facing cancer can access information and support for the cost of a local call.

Our Cancer Council Helpline is staffed by experienced cancer nurses, who can quickly link people into services relevant to their needs. They are also experienced in talking to people experiencing grief and loss.

People living with cancer in bushfire zones may also benefit from our free information sheet on coping with cancer during a natural disaster. This sheet is

available at [www.cancervic.org.au](http://www.cancervic.org.au) or by calling the Cancer Council Helpline.

Our Financial Assistance Program may also be of assistance. We can provide small financial assistance grants to help people affected by cancer if the need is pressing. Help is delivered quickly, efficiently, and without 'red tape'. To access these grants, residents should contact the Cancer Council Helpline.

I urge any Victorian who feels that they could benefit from our assistance to contact the Cancer Council Helpline directly. While I am writing to you as a result of the bushfires, our services are ongoing, and can be accessed by any person facing cancer.

The best way to access this support is to contact the Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20 from Monday-Friday, 8:30am-6pm.

David Hill AO, PhD  
Director  
Cancer Council Victoria

## Reknowned Cheesemaker Returns to Yinnar South

Carole Willman, cheese specialist and co-author of "Home Cheesemaking, will return to the Latrobe Valley and to again conduct two, one day workshops at the Yinnar South Community Hall in May 2009. Continuing on from her very successful course run in July 2008 Carole is keen to provide skills in home Cheesemaking to the many enthusiast in Gippsland.

Carole, a qualified TAFE teacher, has been instructing home cooks in the artisan style of cheesemaking for the past 25 years.

Carole has helped thousands of home cheese makers around Australia and New Zealand to make their first and most precious cheese.

Her classes are extremely popular, informative and fun, as she explains and demonstrates step by step, the

techniques and recipes of how to make delicious cheese - not from a factory or dairy farm but from the home KITCHEN!

You will learn all about the theory of cheesemaking but, more importantly, under Carole's expert guidance you will be the cheesemaker.

Limited places are available on Saturday 30 May for the Romano class and Sunday 31 May for the Triple Cream Brie class. Cost of each workshop is \$150 which includes morning tea, a light lunch, comprehensive class notes, cultures and a cheese hoop.

For further details and to check availability call Isobel Piper on 03 5122 2468 (a.h ) or email [piper.i@bigpond.com](mailto:piper.i@bigpond.com)



Residents and friends celebrating Vin Walker's birthday

## Hazelwood House Happenings



A group of residents attend the morning melodies at the Traralgon R.S.L.club each month. Pictured above: the residents enjoying the entertainment.

## Latrobe Valley Outfall Sewer A Brief History

Alan Eagle

The Latrobe Valley sewerage pipeline to Dutson Downs was originally built in 1957 as an industrial waste disposal facility. Its primary purpose was to dispose of effluent from the Lurgi gas plant (originally located south east of Morwell near pine sawmill on Tramway road), but it was also used for some of the effluent from the Maryvale Pulp and Paper mill.

This included effluent from pulping operations and was highly odorous. Consequently the pipeline / channel system developed a poor reputation due to the bad smells it emitted.

The effluent was originally intended to irrigate crops. However a number of factors, particularly the salinity of the waste, caused this to fail. Consequently the effluent was treated by allowing it to naturally decompose in very large ponds before discharge to Lake Coleman and thence into the Gippsland Lakes system.



With the closure of the Lurgi plant in 1969, capacity became available for domestic sewerage disposal. The quantity of domestic sewerage disposed of in this manner increased gradually, until in the early 1980's pipeline capacity limitations were being experienced.

The discharge of highly odorous water from the pulping operations ceased in 1983/84 when APM Ltd built a condensate stripping facility. At the time this was only the second such facility in the world. Despite this, odour from a bacterial action between the sewerage and sulphate in the remaining pulp and paper effluent continued to impact the community.

In the mid 1980's, due to a range of concerns, including the dark colour and eutrophication in Lake Coleman, as well as the capacity of the pipeline and channel, the government of the day directed that pulp and paper effluent be excluded from the system, and an ocean outfall be built.

Community concern about both the ocean outfall, and the necessary increase in pulp and paper effluent discharge to the Latrobe River (despite upgraded treatment processes and there being no change to quality specifications) led to a further review being conducted in 1989/90.

This resulted in the system which exists today. The pipeline and channel capacity was increased, and a new ocean outfall was commissioned in 1992. Further pulp and paper effluent quality improvements have also been forthcoming since then.

In addition to the impact of the Gippsland Water Factory, the current pulping and bleaching upgrade on the Maryvale Mill site will result in further improvements in effluent quality.

In particular organochlorine emissions will decrease, and effluent colour is expected to decrease (although it has not been possible to accurately quantify the expected improvement).

## Award for Local Biodiversity Research

Gippsland scientist Dr Wendy Wright is part of a team that was recently awarded the prestigious David Ashton Biodiversity Award. A biologist and Senior Lecturer at Monash University Gippsland, Dr Wright has a strong interest in conservation and biodiversity.

Dr Wright explained that her contribution to the team was in partnership with her PhD student, Josephine MacHunter.

"The David Ashton award was based on the research that we, as members of a larger team, carried out in small patches of remnant forest on private property in the Traralgon South and Gormandale areas," she said.

"Josephine's research demonstrated the importance of these patches in maintaining populations of forest bird species, which are in generally in decline in south eastern Australia."

Dr Wright said the recent fire event could have affected many of the areas where the research was conducted.

"Unfortunately many individual birds will certainly have died but others may have been able to seek refuge. Survivors

may have to leave the area in search of food but many will return during the regeneration phase."

"Some species are well suited to conditions soon after the fire, whereas others will return only when there is more substantial cover. In order to ensure that populations of all forest birds can persist in the area, it will be important to protect and restore remaining areas of native vegetation, and facilitate the recovery of burnt areas where possible," she said.

Dr Wright said it was a great honour to receive the David Ashton Award which recognises excellence in science that improves outcomes for the natural environment as well as the understanding of biodiversity. David Ashton was an eminent post-war ecologist whose research has had significant influence in the development of contemporary land management practices.

Dr Wright's research has focused on conversation within production environments leading to the promotion of sustainable practices within the silvicultural and agricultural industries.



Dr Wendy Wright, Minister Gavin Jennings, Richard Loyn and Ed McNab

## Lumen Christi Primary School

### Shrove Tuesday



Tuesday the 24th of February was a great day at our school because it was both Pancake Tuesday and our School Bbq. Every class got involved in the making of pancakes to celebrate the coming of the Lenten season. Our school still smelt like pancakes when the parents arrived to visit our classrooms and enjoy a bbq that night. The school bbq was a big success, there were lots of children and parents there and a good time was had by all.

### Casual Clothes Fundraiser

On Friday the 20th of February the school held a casual clothes day to help raise money for the bushfire victims. It was the prep students first casual clothes day and they really enjoyed it! All of the children at the school dug deep to help those people in our community who have been affected by the fires. We would like to say a big thank you to all the people and schools around Australia that have sent messages of support to Lumen Christi.

## School Captains



We are so proud of all the students who applied for the position to represent our school as our captains. We congratulate our new captains and Vice Captains Samatha Elliston, Kaitlin Nardino, Jessyca Devlin, Jesse Justice, Josie DALia and Michaela Lawless. We look forward to working with them and know they will be wonderful ambassadors for Lumen Christi.



## Churchill Primary School

### Professional Development Days

It has been an interesting start to the year. It was very hot for the first three days. Fortunately, these days were designated Professional Development days for the teachers only. While it was hot, we achieved a lot. The first day was a whole staff induction and school planning day. The following day focused on Student Welfare and Values Education. For a part of this day, Julianne Try and Jo Buttner ran a PD on Calmer Classrooms. Little did we know how the information about helping students who may have other events on their minds when they are at school, would come in handy in the following weeks. The third day was a focus on ICT and planning for the future. We had Margaret Graham, a Regional Intranet Coach, as our guest. Our focus is to use the ICT to improve student outcomes. Every classroom at Churchill Primary School has an interactive whiteboard and our staff and students are keen to keep learning with them.

We have two staff members involved in the Gippsland Literacy Improvement Strategy (GLIS). This professional development has begun already and Pam and Donna will be coaching the staff.

### School Leaders:

Our school Leaders have been voted in and

we are proud to have Ben Lewis and Jaymee Lee McIntosh as School Captains. Lani Murdoch and Russell Whelan have been voted in as our Vice Captains. We know they will have a wonderful year and we congratulate them on this honour.

Our House Captains were also elected last week: Green House: Corey Healey, Ebonnie Shirreff; Red House: Brandon Scott, Janna Wolske; Blue House: Rowan Flake Farrell, Casey Lovell; Yellow House: Andrew Maxwell, Kalisha Henshaw

Their responsibilities begin immediately as the Churchill Primary School sports will be held on March 11th. All parents and grandparents are welcome to attend.

The Yinnar and District Sports will be held on March 27th.

### Welcome to the Preps and new Students

Churchill Primary School welcomed the new Preps on February 2nd and they have settled beautifully into the routine of school, despite the hot weather and interruptions caused by the fires.

We always find that the Developmental Curriculum approach helps the children to feel comfortable, because they can choose their own activities and their own group members for the first two hours of the day. The students have the opportunity to learn through play and to write

and talk about their activities. A popular addition to the outdoor activities has been the woodwork table. During this time the Prep teachers find out a lot about the students in a natural play setting and are amazed at the skills the students bring to school.

We also welcome our new families to Churchill Primary School and we trust that they will have a terrific stay at our school.

### Clean Up Australia Day:

On March 6th, we did our bit in the community to clean up Australia. The designated day for schools was February 27th, but we had to postpone this due to the hot weather.

### Visiting Author

Michael Salmon will be visiting our school on March 3rd and we expect this to be an enlightening and productive session for all our students. He will sign books. We are looking forward to Michael enthusing all of our budding authors.

### The Gippsland Fires

It has been a devastating few weeks in our community. We wish all members of our community a continued recovery from loss of loved ones and of property. Several of our students and staff live in the Yinnar and Boolarra area and in the Jeeralangs and in the Glendonald area.

Our staff and students have shared many of the close call stories. After the Boolarra fires, some grades did fantastic art work, which is hanging in the school corridor. Again, we did not know just how the next week would unfold.

Pastoral care has been available to students and their families. We are fortunate to have the services of our Primary Welfare Officer, Jo Whitelaw and our Chaplain, Maria Bradford. Both of these staff members have been busy, listening, consoling, counselling and generally helping affected students and families. They have visited classrooms regularly. The Department has

also offered counselling services and it has been terrific to have these professional counsellors available for staff students and families, not only in the short term but also for later.

The Department also offered to clean our school (and any other affected schools) of ash and debris from the fires. This was done last Saturday and the school buildings certainly look better for it.



# Kurnai College

## From The Principal

Principal Nello Carbone, reports that the school was hugely impacted by the recent fires for three days.

The fires were close and a real cause for concern, in the community. An emergency meeting was held and Regional Office decided at 3pm on the Monday, that the school should close for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

During that time, staff who were not personally involved protecting their homes from the fires, were deployed to Morwell Campus.

A number of staff and students were affected through fire loss. The kids returned on Friday. Regional Office supported the school with lots of resources for a debrief. A number of the students were connected to the young man who died, and were able to work through the situation with counselors.

The attendance was low on the Friday and a bit down on the Monday when photos were taken. The busing situation was a huge problem, with some routes not operating, causing a huge logistical problem and huge disruptions.

This has now thankfully settled down, and normal routine has been re-instated.

## Swimming Sports

These were very successful for Churchill who beat Morwell Campus for the first time.

## Clean Up Of School

The school yard has seen a necessary clean up to make it more fire safe. Contractors have been in and cleaned up mountains of dead leaves, dead branches, older trees and other vegetation.

As a result, there is a mountain of mulch available to the public. Nello invites you to call him and arrange for a trailer load to be picked up. Ring 51323700

It was also agreed that this year the school would participated in Clean Up Australia, on the Friday prior to the day. Teacher Deb Sheppard organized a class of kids to enhance the school and local environment.

The students involved were:

Kira Price, Ashleigh Meddings, Eloise Darragh, Vanessa Gillett, Nathan Noblett, Mitchill Whealan, Rhiannon Marke, Courtney Semple, Tamara Kemp and Caitlin Slater.

Special thanks to Jade Blake for cooking the BBQ.

## Regular Working Bees



One of the school goals is to make the school part of the community. With that in mind, Nello wants to arrange a series of regular working bee and invite members of the public to come and be part of that, sharing their skills and time.

## The Blues Brothers-Musical

Staff and students of year 9 are gearing up for a production of Blues Brothers in the first week in June. About 100 students will participate, with live bands, singing and dancing. Put this in your diary!

## New Staff

### Amy Kihl-Larsen

Amy is a local girl who grew up in Churchill attending Churchill P.S. then Kurnai College.

Her tertiary education was at Melbourne Australian Catholic University, where she completed a Bachelor of Arts. Then she continued her studies, doing English and History at Melbourne University. She has taught at Rochester S.C., Traralgon S.C., Lowanna S.C. and now has returned to Kurnai as a teacher, not a student.

"It is different calling teachers you have known, by their first names. Some I just cannot!"

Amy is glad she has taught elsewhere before coming to Kurnai, so it is not so nerve-wracking. Amy will be teaching Year 7 English, Humanities and Science, and Year 9 English. Amy is saving to buy a house because she wants to stay in this area.

### Vashon Weaver

Vashon was originally from Chicago USA. He has lived in Australia for eight years now.

His original reason for coming to Australia was basketball. He met his wife and decided to stay. Vashon is still a dedicated player, saying he has a real love for the game.

In the USA, Vashon completed a Business and Marketing degree. His wife Carmen is a teacher and she was a real influence on his decision to do a Graduate Diploma of Education at Monash last year. Vashon has chosen to come to Kurnai. He wants to stay in this area permanently.

He will be doing sports teaching. His goal is the show the kids that being active and exercising is closely related to self-esteem and confidence building as it leads to a healthy life style.

Activity can be fun, and doesn't just include playing football or basketball. Motivational talks will be part of his program, after he has had time building relationships with the students.

## German Exchange Students

This year Sebastian Vendt has arrived from Barvaria in Germany to spend ten weeks in Australia.

His host family is the Flake-Farrells and Conner, their son, is the host student.

This is an annual program, one supported by Kezia Horvath the German teacher at Kurnai.

In November, Conner will go and stay with Sebastian's family and spend ten weeks, including experiencing a German Christmas.

Sebastian says that he is finding Australia very nice and interesting.



He has seen a lot of the bushfire news and finds it fascinating in a bad sort of way.

Life here is different in some ways.

Houses here are mostly single storey. He also has noticed a difference in the environment and nature.

In Barvaria there are lots of forests, but the trees here are quite different. He is enjoying the food especially BBQs which he says are very good. He has always had an interest in new foods, landscapes and cultures, so is enjoying his Australian learning experiences.

On 7th March, Sebastian will do the Outback Tour to Central Australia where he is looking forward to seeing Alice Springs, Uluru, opal mining and meeting Indigenous Australians. Conner Flake-Farrell says it has been interesting having Sebastian to stay, and he has not found it too difficult to adjust.

When he goes to Germany he hopes it will be a chance to learn more German and experience the culture from which most of his family derive. He is also eager to try lotsof German food.

The boys would like to thank the school for the opportunity to participate in this program. They would also like to thank Ms, Horvath for her German studies and insights into German culture.

Conner says his family is keen for him to have this experience, and he is looking forward to visiting the Christmas markets, and see the Nativity Scenes set up in the town square, beside the Christmas tree. The stall at the market will be selling small wooden toys, Christmas gifts and foods.

He is also hoping that there will be a white Christmas. Sebastian says there may be snow for Christmas Eve, but doubts whether it will last for New Year.

Sebastian explained that German Christmases start on Christmas Eve when after opening presents about 8pm, the family enjoys special Christmas food including meat which is cut into dices and fried, then eaten with a sauce made of herbs and egg.



# Wipe Out Kurnai!!

Last Friday the Year 10 Churchill students went to the Mirboo North pool for a day of nothing but fun. It was an opportunity for both the

staff and students to build on their relationships and get to see a different side of each other.

Jack Wyhoon was the first to brave the cool waters with a huge splash, making it look too irresistible for the rest. With the



exception of only a few water shy kids, all of the Year 10s were in there splashing about, oblivious to the chilly water temperature.

Nessie, the inflatable monster, was nonstop fun. It was a hilarious sight to see kids bounce off the sides plunging into the deep, one after the other, attempting to conquer the 10 metre wobbly obstacle.

It was a day of rediscovering giggling silliness, relaxing by the pool with mates, listening to tunes and scoffing snakes and snags before settling down to a year of serious school work.

Regan Lockett showed an extraordinary likeness to a seal begging for food from the water, and then catching snakes in his mouth as they were thrown by Ms Kane from the edge. Mr Chandler had sharp aim as he sabotaged kids' attempts at racing through Nessie by launching balls at them from all angles.

It was fantastic to see everyone so relaxed, enjoying each other's company and the peaceful bush surrounds; a great start to the weekend and a spectacular start to the year.

## Churchill North Primary School

### Pancake Day

Children from 1/2 J took part in Pancake Day on Tuesday the 24th of February. All children helped to make and eat Chocolate Chip Pancakes, as part of a hands-on math's lesson. By all reports a yummy time was had by all.



*Pancake Day  
- Real World Maths*

### Preps Learn Their Sounds

Preps students have been busy learning different sounds of the alphabet. A great way to learn the letter 'M' was by making and eating Milo Muffins and Marshmallows.

Last week's focus was the letter 'T'. Children were immersed in all things 'T', including making toast, tiger masks and turtles.



*Hands On Learning  
- Making Milo Muffins 'm' 'm' 'm'*

### Grade 4/5

Grade 4/5 Hunter commenced the year with some great team work activities, all children learnt about the qualities that each brings to the class by making a quilt.

Children drew and wrote their qualities onto a patch which was sewn together to remind them that they are all different in many ways, but should accept those differences and know that all belong together regardless.

Children gave a great presentation of their quilt at assembly.



### Junior School Council

Congratulations to Monique, Blake, Jazzy, Sam, Yongle, Bryan, Cameron, Kayla, Zac and Taliyah on their elections to Junior School Council.

These children were elected by their peers because of their qualities of a good leader.

Even children in Prep, One and Two are represented on the council with the opportunity for change of representatives in the lower grades.

Children have already had their first meeting and have discussed issues that have arisen.



### ICT

ICT plays a major role in the delivery of the curriculum; all classes have access to networked computers and interactive whiteboards. Students participate in weekly ICT sessions with Mr Thomas who instructs students in computer use and program application.



### FREE HEALTHY BREAKFAST

Children once again enjoyed another Free Healthy breakfast of cereal and fresh fruit. These healthy breakfasts have been received well by both students and teachers and are set to continue throughout the year.



*Free Healthy Breakfast  
- Creating Healthy Habits*

## MORE SCHOOL NEWS

#### The Sound Way

Staff and students in Grade 4/5 & 5/6 are about to embark on a very exciting journey - THE SOUND WAY - to reading, writing and spelling.

This program has a proven record of increasing students' literacy levels dramatically, through following a very structured program over 10 - 12 weeks. All grades in the school are planning to implement the program in the next few weeks.

Network Instructional Leadership Development Project

Staff at Churchill North Primary school are taking part in an innovative pilot program, the work will focus on increasing the capacity of principals and teachers to exact high quality instruction and address overall performance levels of students. International consultant, Dr Thomas Fowler Finn will lead the school with a visit to the school in March.

#### School Council Elections

Newly elected members met for the first time this week. It is with pleasure that we welcome our

President - Meredith Downes-Smith

Vice President - Peter Ceeney

Secretary - Jo Quinn

Other members working for the school include: Erica Judkins, Gwen Hunter, Kerry Scotson, Adrian

Hunter, Lana Stewart, Natalie Wilkins, Janet Kootstra & Maryanne Lugton.

#### Yinnar & District Swimming Sports

Having had the school closed for the week due to the bush fires, it was a bit of an effort to coordinate students in attending this event. Much to the credit of all, students remembered their swimmers and eagerly attended. We would like to recognize the fine efforts put in by the following children, Chloe G, Taylor VT, Courtney V, Yong Le, Gemma, Joel M, Jaryd DS. Special mention is given to Joel coming 2nd in breaststroke & Yong Le for her 3rd placing in the breaststroke & freestyle events.

#### TAGS

It was great to see Mrs Hodgson & Mrs Lindgren working with an enthusiastic group of students; these additional programs support the development of confidence & self-esteem within all children.

#### Network Instructional Leadership Development Project

Staff at Churchill North Primary school are taking part in an innovative pilot program. The work will focus on increasing the capacity of principals and teachers to exact high quality instruction and address overall performance levels of students. International consultant, Dr Thomas Fowler Finn will lead the school with a visit to the school in March.

### CLEAN-UP AUSTRALIA DAY

All grades took part in the National Clean up Australia Day by getting out in the yard and giving the school a big tidy-up.

All children participated well in picking up rubbish, sweeping and gardening.

It was great to see children taking pride in the school by continuing to pick up rubbish at lunch time.



*Taking Pride In Our School  
- Clean Up Day*

**Hazelwood North Primary School**

**STUDENT DONATION TO HAZELWOOD NORTH CFA**

On Sunday 23 /2/09 we made several delicious chocolates and sold them around Hazelwood North.

Together we raised \$15 for the Hazelwood North CFA and also wrote a wonderful thank-you letter for them as well.

The Hazelwood North CFA appreciated this very much and decided to use the money to buy a beautiful silver photo frame and carved our names in it and put a picture of the man giving the koala water out of a drink bottle by hand.



They will also put a picture of us in the bottom of the frame. So we both thank the CFA for doing such a nice thing.

Sophie and Jade

**MISS MILLS**

Miss Mills is a new teacher at our school. She teaches the Grade 1/2's. This is her first year teaching at Hazelwood North Primary and we hope she is here for many more years to come.



How did you get into teaching?

It was something I've always wanted to do. When I was little I had a class room at my house and in year 11 I knew it was the right thing to do.

Have you enjoyed teaching at this school?

Yes I have. I love it here.

How long have you been teaching for?

I had four years of university and this is my first year teaching.

What is your favourite subject to teach?

English and Art.

What would you do if you didn't teach?

I would be in Social Welfare.

By Jaymi and Caitlin.

**Swimming Sports**

On Friday 13/2/09 21 people from our school competed in the Yinnar and

District Swimming sports. They were held at the Churchill Leisure Centre.



Congratulations to the 16 people who got through to the zones! Everyone had a great time and enjoyed competing against other students. Thank you to the many parents who came along to support us on the day.

By Jade S and Jessica N

**Mrs Blythman's Baby**

On the 19th of February at 9:28am Mrs Blythman had her baby, Oliver Joel Blythman.

Before Mrs Blythman had her baby she loved doing all kinds of sports.

She did all the organizations for the sports like the Bessie Frod netball tournament, swimming sports, Bluearth, soccer, footy and netball.

So now she can't do anything like that until her baby is grown up and she comes back to being a teacher.

We are looking forward to seeing her and her new baby boy.

By Caitlin M and Jaymi W

**The Welcome Barbeque**

On the 18th of February our school had a welcome barbeque and lots of people attended.

The kids played in the playground as the adults talked.

Parents cooked sausages for the kids and themselves. We all enjoyed them a lot!!

As it got late kids started playing cricket and other kids had fallen to sleep.

Everyone enjoyed getting together.

**BUDDIES**



On Wednesday Tahlia and Christina interviewed Blake from 4R to talk about buddy activities with the preps.

Blake enjoys buddying with the preps. They have read books and traced around their bodies and cut them out. Blake's partner was Kayla. All the preps enjoyed being buddies with grade 4R. They played lots of

Bluearth games as well. In Bluearth they played a game where they had to run, hit the line and bounce off, then run and walk. They also skipped and jumped to a line. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

By Christina and Tahlia



**FOOTY CLINIC**

On the 19th of February the Churchill Cougars under 14's coach, Noel Hawkins volunteered to do a football clinic on Hazelwood North's Oval. All of the senior grades participated in the event.

The event had activities from 5-star handballing to goal kicking.

Also the junior president of the Cougars, Cheryl Mason came along to assist Noel in the clinic. The kids had a great training day with Noel.

If you would like to play for the club please ring this number (03) 5122 3033 or (03) 5122 3007, or you could also send a letter to P.O Box 111, Churchill, Victoria, 3842.



By Jacob and Liam.

**New Preps at Hazelwood North Primary School for 2009**

This year we have 26 new Preps starting at our school. They have all settled into school very well.

For all of February the Preps had a day off on a Wednesday.

In March they will be full-time at school and they will start to take home a reader home each night.

The Preps have been enjoying spending time in the Art room with Mrs Szkwarek, in the Music room with Mr Wall and in the Library with Mrs Meade.

Their classroom teachers Mrs Jones and Mrs Vesty are very pleased with how the Preps have started the school year.

The first year of school is very special.



# Get Fit - Play Tennis!

## Churchill Tennis Club

# ROUND ROBIN

**\*\*\*School Holiday Fun\*\*\***

**Monday 6th April 2009**

**9.00am - 1.00pm**

**Churchill Tennis Club, Manning Drive, Churchill**

**Heaps of Trophies to be Won**

**Lucky Door Prizes**

**Sausage Sizzle**

**U8 U10 U13 U15**

**Beginners and Competition Players in each age group**



**Never Played Before?**

*Come along and have a go in a relaxed and friendly environment*

*Racquets and Balls Supplied*

**To Register:**

**Fill in the Entry Form and Mail to**

**PO Box 270, Churchill**

**Entry Forms also available online**

**at [cdnews.com.au](http://cdnews.com.au)**

**by Wednesday 1st April 2009**

**For More Information Contact**

**Carol Scott: (03) 5122 1464**

Churchill Tennis Club Get Fit - Play Tennis  
Round Robin  
Monday April 6th 2009 9 am - 12 noon  
Entry Form

Player's Name: .....

Phone Number: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Have you played competition tennis before? YES / NO  
Events

(tick the event that you would like to enter, age as of April 6, 2009)

	Age	Category	Tick to Enter
1	Under 8	Beginners	
2	Under 8	Competition	
3	Under 10	Beginners	
4	Under 10	Competition	
5	Under 13	Beginners	
6	Under 13	Competition	
7	Under 15	Beginners	
8	Under 15	Competition	
9	Doubles (if time permits)		

Conditions of Entry

\* Players enter at their own risk

\* The referees decision will be final (Referee: Sally Kirstine)

I understand the conditions of entry:

Signature of Parent or Guardian: .....

For further information contact: Carol Scott 51221464

Entries close: Wednesday April 1st 2009

Post Entries to: Churchill Tennis Club, PO Box 270, Churchill 3842

# CHILDREN'S CORNER

## SUDOKU

Sudoku - a number puzzle game!!

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.

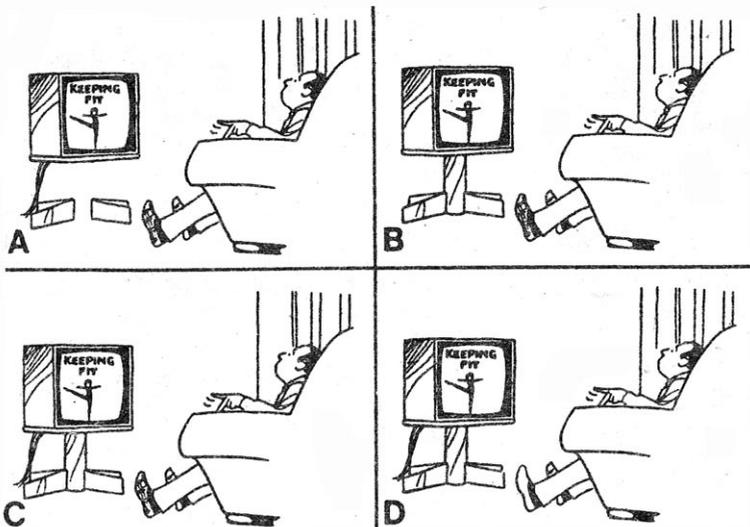
Each row and column must contain just one of each number.

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

Hi Everyone,  
This month we have a sudoku, a koala to colour in, a find the detail missing captions and a word search.



Each Picture has one detail missing that appears in the other three. Can you find which details??



## Word Search

Here is a Word Search with Countries of the World

- |           |           |          |              |
|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------|
| Algeria   | Egypt     | Iraq     | Pakistan     |
| Australia | Greece    | Israel   | Philippines  |
| Bulgaria  | India     | Japan    | Romania      |
| Burma     | Indonesia | Kenya    | Saudi Arabia |
| China     | Iran      | Mongolia | Thailand     |

A	H	A	I	B	A	R	A	I	D	U	A	S
I	K	T	H	A	I	L	A	N	D	L	A	J
L	E	C	B	H	A	B	K	E	C	U	V	S
O	N	J	K	U	B	M	C	F	S	G	P	E
G	Y	N	S	I	L	E	R	T	S	L	A	N
N	A	R	N	V	E	G	R	U	E	T	K	I
O	J	D	O	R	A	A	A	A	B	Q	I	P
M	I	K	G	M	L	I	R	R	A	L	S	P
A	V	R	M	I	A	S	R	R	I	H	T	I
V	I	R	A	N	I	N	I	E	F	A	A	L
B	T	P	Y	G	E	K	I	L	G	J	N	I
C	H	I	N	A	N	A	P	A	J	L	S	H
T	K	V	I	N	D	O	N	E	S	I	A	P

## RIDDLES

What do two vampires say when they kiss?  
Ouch!

Why was the vampire walking along the highway?  
It was looking for the main artery.

What boats do vampires travel in?  
Blood vessels.

What is the vampire's favourite pet?  
A Blood Hound

What do you get if you cross a vampire with a mummy?  
A gift-wrapped bat.

What do you call a pig that turns into a bat at night and sucks blood?  
A Jampire.

What is the vampire's favourite restaurant?  
The Blood Bank.

What is a vampire's favourite bloody type?  
AB+, AB-, A+, A-, B+, B-, O+, O-.

What did the cannibal become a detective?  
So that he could grill all the suspects.

What did the cannibals do when they captured an actor?  
They made a ham sandwich.

# New Netball Competition Caters for All



clubs agreeing to establish a team for the 2009 season.

The challenge is now on, according to GippSport's Access for All Abilities Coordinator James Hill, to fill all the player and volunteer positions.

"We have 11 eager clubs and need to find players to get the new competition off the ground" Mr Hill said.

"To assist with recruitment and player numbers, the competition will be mixed teams and in accordance with Netball Victoria rules will allow a maximum of three males on the court at any one time"

"Two "able bodied" players are also allowed to be on the court at any one time to assist the coaches and provide support to players".

"We believe this inclusion will allow for brothers sisters, mums, dads and friends of people with a disability to participate in a sport together" said Mr Hill.

People with a sensory, physical and/or intellectual disability as well as people with an acquired brain injury are encouraged to participate.

"This is an exciting new competition and we would like to thank the Club Committees affiliated with the North Gippsland Football Netball League for supporting this initiative"

"For many clubs this is a leap into the unknown and clubs should be applauded for their courage and enthusiasm in their efforts to improve people's lives through sport and inclusion" Mr Hill concluded.

North Gippsland Football Netball Association in conjunction with GippSport are urgently seeking people with a disability to play in a new netball competition.

The competition is a result of the success experienced at Sale City Football and Netball Club last year, when the club supported a team of players with a disability. The team comprised of 12 people with a disability who trained once a week in Sale and competed against teams from Traralgon and Drouin on several occasions.

Feedback from players was fantastic, however most people requested a longer competition, more games and in a format where they could host games as part of a bigger sporting environment.

As a result a working group was established and a presentation was made to North Gippsland Football Netball League to ask clubs if they would be interested in supporting a new disability netball competition. The response was overwhelming with ALL eleven

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Participating clubs are Boisdale/Briagolong, Churchill, Cowwarr, Glengarry, Gormandale, Heyfield, Rosedale, Sale City, Stratford, Traralgon/Tyers and Woodside.

For more information or to join a club as a player or volunteer, please contact James Hill at GippSport on 5153 1745 or 0447 358 330.

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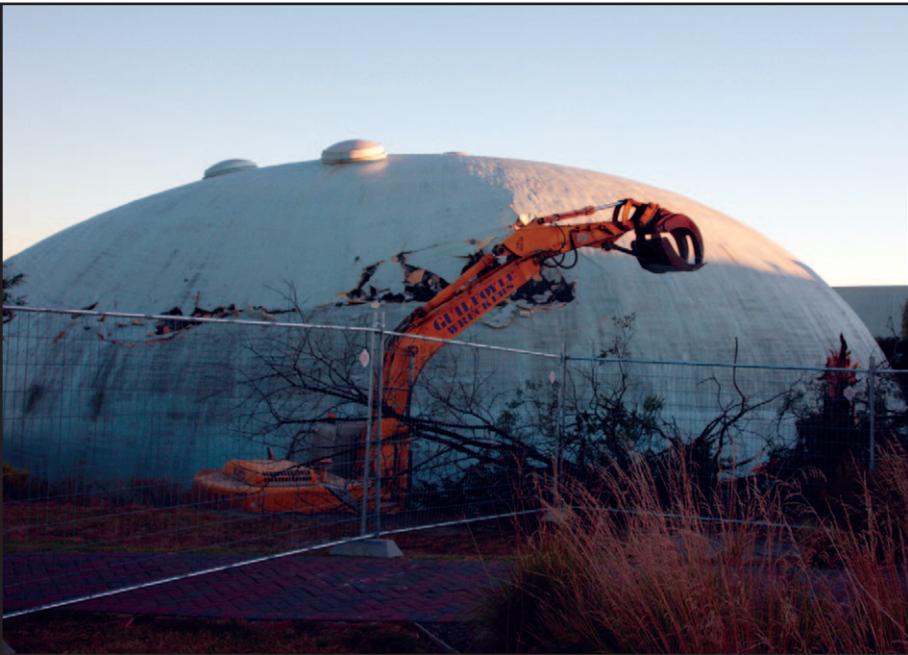
**Mowers**

Large range including Honda Mowers

# Central Gippsland Mowers & Chainsaws

533 Princes Drive, Morwell. Telephone 03 5134 8899

# Farewell to Churchill Icon Demolition of the Binishell



On a hot day in December 1979, in a little over an hour the iconic binishell took shape. 300 tons of concrete, steel and membrane were inflated into a dome watched by a throng of spectators.

In February 2009 the binishell was quietly demolished.

Monash University's Facilities and Services Manager, Brian Stark said the decision to demolish the binishell was made following a risk assessment, which determined the binishell was not repairable.

"The binishell was structurally unsound. It was caused by the reactive clay which is prevalent in the Churchill area, it caused the footings of the binishell to twist which consequently caused failure of the shell itself. In more recent times, there had been a failure of the external thermal membrane which is a crucial part for the integrity of the building" he said.

Mr Stark was amongst the two hundred or so present when the dome was inflated.

"It used 300 tones of concrete, reinforcing steel and membrane, and was inflated into the dome shape with an air pump which took little less than an hour,"

Mr Stark said.

"When it came down it took about a quarter of an hour, like a balloon deflating. Demolition contractors were extremely surprised at the softness of the shell. They indicated it was like cutting through butter."

A new auditorium has already been built on campus which replaces the binishell.

The multi-purpose facility holds classes, graduation ceremonies, examinations and conferences. In October last year, it was used for the sitting of Victorian Parliament and the more recent ABC bushfire fund-raising activity.

Mr Stark said the university has applied for funding for a new building on the binishell site.

"We are planning a signature building for that site, which creates a sense of arrival for the campus.

"The demolition of the binishell allows the campus to move forward to create better facilities for the campus and general community," he said.



## Churchill Junior Indoor Netball Association

We are seeking players, teams, coaches and umpires for the 2009 Season for Netta teams through to U16 (boys are also welcome!)

Come and play in a safe, supportive and fun environment!

Netball is a great way to encourage social skills and good sporting behaviour.

We aim to improve skill development and kids general health.

Our association aims to encourage and cater for talented young sports people through regular Saturday games & the involvement in Regional Squad Tournaments across Gippsland.

Teams/Players need to be registered by 21st March 2009.

If you are interested please contact:-

Kay Hill on 0419 118 510 or email [dkhill@aanet.com.au](mailto:dkhill@aanet.com.au) or Kim Horgarth on 0418 514 557

**Next Meeting:  
Wednesday 25th March 2009 at 7.30pm  
Churchill Leisure Centre**



## Churchill Hockey Club 2009 Season



Welcome back to the 2009 season. This year we have a new President and some new committee members who are all eager to get the season off to a great start. The Churchill Hockey Club season will begin on Tuesday 17th March, with training for all players and age groups. We will be training in Morwell at the Maryvale Reserve (where the

juniors play). Training is on a Tuesday night for all ages from 6:00pm-7:00pm. These times will change as we start to organize the different teams. The reason why we have continued to hold our training sessions in Morwell this year is because our ground at Gaskin Park is still unsafe to train and play on. We have again been in contact with

The Latrobe City Council and they are still aware that major works need to be done to fix our ground. It has been six years since we have been able to train/play on our home ground! I guess we just have to keep on fighting.

The Lightning Premiership will be held on Sunday 18th April. All age groups are wel-

come to play on the day. More information will be available at training.

The 2009 Home and Away season for the seniors will start on the following Saturday. For anyone interested in playing hockey, we have junior teams, which are for children of Primary School age Prep-4 and 5-6, boys and girls Intermediate teams (secondary school age), and a women's senior team.

Our next hockey meeting will be held on Monday the 23rd March at Debbie Well's house. Anyone interested in

playing hockey can contact our President Debbie Wells on 51337750, or just turn up to training on a Tuesday night. Also to the families involved in the Latrobe Women's and Junior Hockey Associations that were affected by the recent bushfires, our thoughts and prayers are with you all.