

# CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

## “Connecting Your Community”

Established 1966

Distributed Free

Mathison Park - p 3

Writing Comp., Results - p 8, 11

Where we live - p 15

CFA pre-season - p 16, 17



# Churchill Scouts go from lockdown to Jamboree



After two years of restrictions, 1st Churchill Scouts are about to return to camping – with thousands of their fellow Scouts.

They are heading to VicJam – an 11-day Victorian Jamboree – and a welcome event after almost two years of mostly on-line Scouting programs. While many organisations paused during COVID, Scouts Victoria actually grew, with a 15th consecutive year of membership growth.

First Churchill Scouts

head for Elmore, near Bendigo, on December 29, 2021 to tackle activities ranging from abseiling, a wet ninja circuit, robotics, escape rooms and a day at Whittlesea’s Funfields Water Park. A highlight will be attending their choice of overnight expedition at locations throughout Victoria.

New friends at VicJam include more than 3000 Scouts (aged 11-14), 500 Venturer Scouts (aged 14-17), 100 Rover Scouts (aged 18-25), and 1200 volunteer

Leaders and Adult Helpers. The Jamboree will also be visited by 2000 Cub Scouts (aged 8-11) from throughout Victoria for a one-day event called CubJam.

VicJam is a \$7 million event. One of the big budget items is food, with a shopping list including 1165 kg of lettuce, 1744 cucumbers, and 23 different fruits and vegetables, covering the full spectrum of colours.

Child safety is paramount during the event. VicJam’s

medical team includes doctors, nurses and a dentist, plus current and former police, and a 24-hour fire station. Almost all are volunteers.

First Churchill Scout’s Group Leader Tammy Napier says the Scouts have been looking forward to VicJam for the past two years.

“Our Scouts have learnt camping skills, planned their VicJam menu and chosen the activities they will do,” Tammy said.

“After the challenges of

the past two years, it is great that eight of our Scouts will get to experience a Jamboree – a milestone event in their young lives.”

VicJam Chief Director Jon Willis said VicJam will be a brilliant return to face-to-face Scouting after a difficult two years.

“VicJam is a youth-led camp, and young people from all over Victoria have had their say on what VicJam will look like. They’ve chosen the theme of the camp, debated the clothing designs, trained

to be announcers on the radio station, and so much more. This is their camp!”

Scouting is for everyone aged five and over. For more information about joining Scouts in Churchill, please email groupleader@1stchurchill.com.au.

For more information: Your local contact: Tammy Napier, Group Leader – 1st Churchill Scout Group 0412 506 620 groupleader@1stchurchill.com.au

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**CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS**

*"Connecting Your Community"*  
Established 1968

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

**The Team**

Editor: Carol Scott  
 Team Leader/Secretary: Ruth Place  
 Treasurer: Delma Hodges  
 Assistant Treasurer: Sally Kohler  
 Advertising: Ruth Place, Shelley McDonald,  
  
 Layout: Allan Larkin  
 Production: Tracey Burr, Carol Scott, Ruth Place, Allan Larkin  
 Proof Readers: Ruth Place, Shelley McDonald, Gary Weston, Geraldine Larkin, Carol Scott, Delma Hodges  
  
 Team Members: Bronte Hillis Harland, Barbara Cheetham, John Sunderland, Sam Gillett  
  
 Webpage: [www.cdnews.com.au](http://www.cdnews.com.au)  
 Facebook page: Rebecca Barry, Tracey Burr

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**The DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of articles and advertisements for the December edition is November 25, 2021**

**EDITORIAL**

Articles for publication and Letters to the Editor can be sent to:

Churchill & District News  
 PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842

Or Email: [cdneditorial@cdnews.com.au](mailto:cdneditorial@cdnews.com.au)

All articles must be submitted by the 25th of each month for publication in the next issue.

Articles can be left in our Drop Off Box Located at: Co-Operating Church, Williams Avenue



**MEMBER 2021**

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We acknowledge the support of



**Furry Fundraisers**

My name is Geraldine McClure and I started Furry Fundraisers to raise money for two of my favourite animal welfare groups - Pets in the Park (PITP) and Pet Medical Crisis (PMC).

PITP is a national charity that is dedicated to caring for animals owned by people struggling with homelessness. Pet Medical Crisis assists with lifesaving/life improving medical care for pets of Victorian pensioners and disadvantaged owners who could not otherwise afford it. With the new COVID world our pets are more important than ever and so these charities have had increased demand on their services.

In 2020 the fundraiser was cancelled due to COVID restrictions and so this year we have moved to an online fundraising model to ensure it is able to continue regardless. We are holding an online dog show that people can enter photos of their 'fur babies' into.

There will be ten categories to enter photos of your pooch into and prizes for the top three winners of each category. The categories are:

- Most stunning eyes
- Prettiest smile
- 'Silver Fox' seniors
- Cutest puppy
- Best action shot
- Naughtiest pooch
- Odd couple
- Child's best friend
- Dog/owner look-a-like
- Fancy dress.

There are some great prizes from So Fetch dog magazine (published by Fetching Images Pet Photography) and vouchers from Woolworths, Bunnings and the Reject Shop

Our wonderful judges are Latrobe City Council Mayor Sharon Gibson and our local vet and dog behaviorist Kerrie Piper. Sharon is a fabulous advocate for our local community who is always genuine and approachable. Kerrie is an amazingly thorough and caring vet who has over 20 years experience of training dogs (and cats)!

To enter simply email your photos, the categories you are entering and a screenshot of your payment to [geriandmaxie@gmail.com](mailto:geriandmaxie@gmail.com). Entry is \$5 per photo and you can enter as many photos in as many categories as you want. Funds to be deposited to the Furry Fundraisers account BSB:063-097 Account:4589 5158

For further information on the charities, or to donate directly, information can be found on their websites [www.petsinthepark.org.au](http://www.petsinthepark.org.au) and <https://petmedicalcrisis.com.au/>

On facebook the page is called Furry Fundraisers. The competition is set to finish at the end of November. If you want any more information, or would like to assist, please contact organiser Geraldine on 0447 351 295.

**Rainfall**

**Churchill Rainfall**

The month's rainfall began sensationally with 67mm falling on the first, which set the trend for a very wet month, culminating in a total of 131.5mm falling in Churchill.

This resulted in it being the wettest October in Churchill since 1992. The previous wettest October was in 2001 when we had 130mm.

The 2021 rainfall in Churchill to date is 778mm with still two months to go.

**Rain at Hazelwood South**

This is now the seventh month this year with above average rainfall.

October had 80mm of rain

and was only 3% above the average, the annual rainfall is now 43% above the average for 2021. The seven out of ten months above average, has resulted in normally dry gullies looking like swamps, together with the violent storms, many trees have fallen.

The 2009 Black Saturday bush-fire has damaged and killed many of the larger trees, the bush has responded by growing walls of tall, thin trees. The wet and windy conditions this year have toppled many, thinning some of the regrowth and dropped some old dead trees.



**Mental health, COVID-19 and gambling harm**

There are strong links between gambling harm and mental health issues for many Australians.

The Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation found three-quarters of people who seek help for gambling also have a mental illness. Forty-one percent of people who seek treatment for mental illness also gamble. About half of those people experience a range of consequences as a result.

This is what we call gambling harm. Gambling harm can include gambling more money or time than you can afford, financial difficulties, loss of assets, relationship breakdowns, and anxiety or depression. The severity can range from momentary feelings of guilt or regret through to extreme outcomes like bankruptcy.

According to Victoria's state-wide mental health and gambling harm service, Gambling Minds, about three in four people who seek help for gambling harm also have a mental illness. Sadly, nearly one in five people who are affected by gambling harm can experience suicidal thoughts.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a huge shift in how and why people are gambling.

People with mental illness have reported using gambling as a way of soothing their stress or a means of "getting away" during COVID-19 restrictions. More and more people are presenting for the first time to Gambling Minds with anxiety and depression. Many presenting for help are experiencing a loss of self-worth and increased feelings of isolation.

They are turning to gambling as a distraction. Recent data from Gambling Minds shows there has been a 70 percent increase in online gambling alone.

Not all gambling is harmful. Twenty-seven percent of people seeking mental health treatment who gamble either experience no negative consequences, or experience low levels of harm.

However 14 percent experience moderate or high levels of harm, with those at the highest level gambling an average of \$439.79 a month.

Gambling can lead to financial difficulties. Financial difficulties can amplify feelings of worthlessness.

The sense of needing to "win losses back" can become stronger. This is the vicious cycle of gambling harm and poor mental health.

The Gambler's Help team at Latrobe Community Health Service is urging anyone who feels anxious, helpless, or overwhelmed because of gambling to seek help.

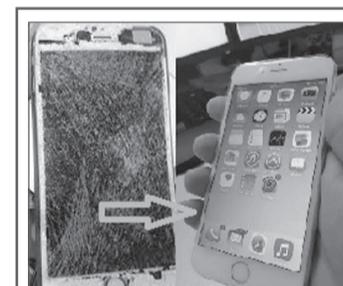
It is possible to break the cycle. Life feels better when you are in charge.

The Gambler's Help team provides free, confidential services to anyone who lives, works, or studies in Gippsland.

We can help you change your mindset, get your finances back on track, and link you in with other health and community services.

Phone us today on 1800 242 696 from Monday to Friday during business hours.

You can also phone the 24/7, state-wide Gambler's Help hotline on 1800 858 858. If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts, contact Lifeline on 13 11 14.



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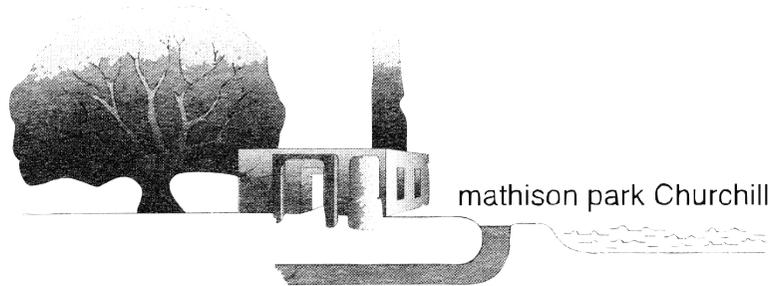
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**Submission of Articles:**

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 - Mailed to: PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842

OR put in our collection box at: the Co-Operating Churches.  
 Advertising enquiries can be emailed to: [cdnadvertising@cdnews.com.au](mailto:cdnadvertising@cdnews.com.au)



## #Lovegippsland stronger communities program now open

Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are now open for round seven of the #lovegippsland Stronger Communities program. Local MP Darren Chester said \$150,000 had been allocated to Gippsland for community groups to improve their facilities and resources. Mr Chester is calling for groups to submit an EOI for priority projects. The EOI period opened on Friday, October 22, 2021, and must

be received by Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Mr Chester said organisations could apply for grants of up to \$20,000 to improve their facilities. "It has been a difficult couple of years for community groups with coronavirus restrictions and lockdowns and this funding comes at an important time as we look to opening up and hosting events again," Mr Chester said. "For many organisations there has

not been an opportunity to fundraise either so these grants can provide that much needed cash boost."

Mr Chester said round seven would allow groups to apply for grants between \$2,500 and \$20,000 without matching funding. "This particular round is designed to support volunteer and community groups which weren't able to fundraise or have the means to provide matching funding," Mr Chester said.

"While this is fantastic support for groups, it is important to note that local governing bodies and organisations that fall under them will only be eligible to apply for up to 50 percent of the project costs and provide matching funding. I encourage local groups to visit my website [www.darrenchester.com.au](http://www.darrenchester.com.au) and lodge an EOI form by Wednesday December 1, 2021."

Successful applicants will then be invited to complete a full submission. Grant guidelines and further details can also be found at [www.business.gov.au/scp](http://www.business.gov.au/scp)

Lake Hyland was stocked with trout at the beginning of October. The Gippsland Interchange crew were there at the time and helped the Fisheries man to load the fish into the lake.

Then they headed down the west side path and cleaned up all the debris on the far fishing platform which was deposited in the last heavy rain event.

A further Thursday saw the crew help to repair the path washed away near the old model boat platform. It is a win win situation having them to help.

Our working bee on the

second Saturday of October was held on a lovely sunny warm day. Fourteen people came to help and what a lot was achieved.

It was great to welcome Kelly along for the first time and to welcome back Jim who had been stuck in NSW.

More path work was done as the heavy rain had again washed out parts of the west side new path.

One group used paving material to fill holes and to top dress wet patches.

Two others used an excavator to pull out of the creek some of the trees which had fallen in following the

extreme weather event back in June. Amazing work was done.

Another group pruned our oak trees and piled up the branches to burn.

Another person continued his offering of taking the wire off the old fences to open up the top paddock.

We had a small stop for a cuppa and to indulge in some delicious morning tea, then it was back to work. A group of tired but satisfied folks headed home at the end.

Days later another tree along the creek fell down but was dealt with by our super volunteers.

## Churchill / Latrobe City Neighbourhood Watch and Churchill Town Safety Group

### Goings on around your neighbourhood

This month, we are looking at "Things going on around your neighbourhood"

Even though we have been in "Lock down" due to the pandemic for a while, there may be inappropriate things going on around your neighbourhood that need to be checked out.

First of all, keep an eye out for strangers looking into properties. They may be sizing the place up for the theft of items. Keep all stray items locked away.

There have been reports of someone damaging cars around the place, so try to keep them parked in a safe place, and always lock them when you are not in

them. Do not leave valuable items in view in the car.

If you have security cameras on the outside of your house, keep the lenses clean so that it is easier to identify intruders that may trespass on your property.

Keep an eye out for your neighbours property also.

If you look after your neighbourhood, chances are, your neighbourhood will look after you.

Report any strange goings - on to the Police.

Ring 000 if you need them urgently or call "Crime Stoppers" on 1800 333 000.

## Thank you to Latrobe City Council



The Churchill & District News extends its grateful thanks to Latrobe City Council for the awarding of a community grant for the ongoing support of our wonderful community

newspaper. It is most appreciated and helps us to fill any gaps we have in our printing and distribution costs so the paper can continue to be produced.



**FOR EMERGENCIES, RING 000**  
**FOR POLICE ASSISTANCE, RING 000**



Police advise members of the public that, if you require police assistance, call 000. The police communications operator will be able to assess your need and either send a police vehicle, relay a message or find out when the police station will be attended.



## Chaplain

A recent article I read sought to see how good faith was for us.

It spoke of a survey that showed people were more likely to say that local churches had been helpful than harmful, especially in these difficult times.

Social distancing, as well as the health of volunteers, and lots of other issues have made it harder for such organisations to provide shelter, clothing and food to those in need, so that survey was good news.

According to reports, faith-based organisations contribute a great deal to the economy, amounts that are more than the annual revenues of the top ten tech companies. Which seems to show that, despite rising secular opposition, faith is good for society.

On a personal level too, studies show that people who pray were far more likely to give up their seat in a crowded room to someone on crutches; and that those who counted their blessings were less likely to cheat at a game than a control group.

This might not seem that much of a big deal, but the person conducting one of these studies was surprised to



see that what was discovered was what faith people had been doing all along. Though the researcher added that, despite most of what was observed working without a faith-based belief because people were using physiology to help them, it was considered worthwhile recommending faith-based practices to everyone, in an appropriate, respectful way.

Science proving the claims of faith is good, but whatever the outcome of such experiments they cannot make the truths of these faith practices any less true than they intrinsically are.

In one sense, then, the practices that God's Word commends will be good for anyone who practises them. These practices do not by themselves produce the highest good of God's grace and love, but they do position us to do so.

Worth thinking about!

## Co-Operating Church Snippets



Lockdown, lockdown, lockdown. But then back to church but only for twenty again.

Ian C and his team were able to present their service on the second Sunday of October. The theme was Job and what he went through. Job is an interesting and important book of the Bible. It tells of how Satan challenged God by saying that Job only respected God because God had blessed him so richly. Take that away and see if Job wouldn't curse God. God gave Satan permission to take away Job's riches but not to harm Job. Job still would not curse God. So the story goes on. No matter what happened to Job, and can happen to us for that matter, we always have God to be there for us.

The children were asked to make a mobile with emojis attached for happy, sad, loved etc to add to a

cardboard ring to remind them that God is with us in all our feelings.

The last two weeks of the

month Cathie delivered two beautiful thoughtful services and posted them on line for our non-attenders.

## Christmas Service Times

### Lumen Christi

Christmas Eve December 24 at Lumen Christi. Mass will be celebrated at 8.00pm.

Christmas Day December 25. Mass will be celebrated at 9.00am. (On this day there will be only one Mass - no Masses at Yinnar or Boolarra)

Bookings will be essential

for these masses. Bookings can be made by contacting the Parish office on 5134 2849.

### Co-Operating Churches in Churchill, Boolarra, Yinnar

Blue Christmas for those who find Christmas a difficult time. Thursday December 16, 7.30pm at Boolarra church.

Christmas Eve December

24, Crib Service at 6.30pm Churchill.

Anglican Holy Communion 8pm at Boolarra.

Christmas Day December 25, Churchill 10am and Boolarra 10am.

Churchill Christian Fellowship to be advised.

## Message from the Lectern

by Cathie Halliwell

I don't know about you but this week has been a bit up and down. I wonder if my household ever has an ordinary week. There always seems to be the unexpected in every day. I know there are others of you too who have seen challenges and circumstances that you would rather you didn't have to go through. For all those reasons and the nagging on my heart I have taken out the sombre trials of Job from our Church readings. It is true that there are many valuable lessons that we can learn from the story of Job. I encourage us to put our lives before God and see what we are to learn from this week.

I think the longer that the pandemic drags on the more we are getting bone tired, exhausted, dreaming of a time when we can have a meal with our nearest and dearest. COVID19 has come closer to many of us, it is on our doorstep now and it is becoming more difficult to leave our houses without well-founded fear. The emotional and psychological world we are living in appears to be getting more

negative.

I am going to repeat myself and sound like a broken record - it is our faith that allows us to see the goodness of God in all situations, if we are looking. God is present in the little blessings and miracles that are all around us.

The tiny part of our day that brings us laughter and joy. The comfort in times when we struggle with all that we cannot do.

Beyond that our faithfulness is found in our determination to keep stepping forward knowing that even though we may not tangibly feel it, God is in control and loves us.

I have been reading through the Old Testament each night and it is tough going, very hard in some spots. However it helps us see the bigger picture of God intervening into human experience. It paints a picture of a loving God who allows challenges to come to reaffirm His care and protection of His people. Knowing the history helps to understand the difference in the New Testament, the new covenant and order that came



with Jesus. No longer is God only able to be accessed through human priests and ritualised offerings. We have an intimate relationship, we can plead and intercede directly with God. For me now is definitely a time for pleading and intercession.

I hope that you are able to take to heart the depth of the words that are thousands of years old and have stood through all that history - from Psalm 91:9-16 (TPT)

9-10 When we live our lives within the shadow of God Most High,

our secret hiding place, we will always be shielded from harm.

How then could evil prevail against us or disease infect us?

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## Church Times

### Co-Operating Churches of Churchill

Sunday Service: 10.00am  
 Williams Avenue,  
 Churchill.  
 Tel: 5122 1480



### Churchill Christian Fellowship

Sunday: 3.00pm  
 Churchill Community Hall  
 7.30pm MidWeek  
 Bible Study/Fellowship meeting  
 0409 173 747

### Lumen Christi Catholic Church

Williams Avenue, Churchill  
 Tel: 5134 2849  
 Fr Edwin Ogbuka/Fr James Fernandez

Saturday: Mass: 5.00pm  
 Sunday: Mass: 9.00am  
 1st and 3rd Sundays:  
 Yinnar: Mass: 10.30am  
 2nd and 4th Sundays:  
 Boolarra: Mass: 10.30am

**Boolarra/Yinnar Co-Operating Parish Boolarra/Yinnar**  
 Sundays  
 1pm  
 Christ Church Tarwin St.  
 Boolarra



## STAMP MATTERS- A NEW EXPERIENCE



### The Vikings

Today we use the term to signify the inhabitants of the countries of Scandinavia from a period dating roughly from the late 700s to around 1100. They belonged to three different groups, the Danes, the Norwegians and the Swedes and each group had a significant influence on three separate areas of Europe and surrounding countries.

The Danes concentrated on Britain, Ireland and western Europe. The Norwegians on the fringes of the North Atlantic and the Swedes on eastern Europe. The word 'viking' translates as raiding or pirating, and each group was known for their blood-thirsty raids. However, it must also be remembered that they were also traders with a wide-spread network which spread from Persia to Newfoundland.

The early Vikings were farmers and fishermen, and the need for fishing in the open North Atlantic Ocean to supplement the food supply gained from farming the thin soils of their homelands, saw the development of sea-faring skills and a capability with boat design unparalleled during the age of their ascendancy. They had two designs for their ships, both



shallow-drafted to allow for river travel as well as sea voyages. The knurr was a shorter boat with a wide beam and was partially decked which was used for trading. The other was the widely feared longship which carried sixty warriors and was the raiding vessel and the long-distance ocean - going vessel. Both were powered by a single rectangular sail or oars when the wind was contrary or not blowing. This allowed the passage of rivers as well as the sea. The Vikings traded widely. They traded furs, dried fish and amber for precious metals, slaves, weapons and boat-caulking materials and when the opportunity arose they attacked and stole what they wanted. They also took the opportunity to settle on lands they could control. This

was particularly true of the Danes who set up enclaves in England, Ireland, Holland and France, and the Swedes who set about controlling the Slavic races of Eastern Europe and spreading their culture through there and Russia. Indeed, the name Russia comes from the Viking tribe of the Rus. The Swedes used the Russian rivers as highways to spread their trading networks through to the Mediterranean Sea, North Africa and to the trade routes connecting to China.

Viking coin hoards contain coins from all over these vast areas. The names of two Vikings carved on a stone quay in Istanbul could well have been mercenaries who were in the employ of the local rulers, as this was a common way to make a living for Viking warriors. The Norwegian Vikings moved more through the North Atlantic setting up settlements in Scotland and the adjacent islands, Iceland, Greenland and Labrador. The archetypal Viking is portrayed on the first commemorative stamp issued by the Isle of Man, but such a figure would be unrecognisable to the real Vikings, such is the way the Vikings' image has been changed by popular culture in the recent past.

## New Wellness Centre in Gippsland

Federation University Australia is partnering with Latrobe City Council and the Victorian Government to tackle the shortage of skilled healthcare professionals in the region with the establishment of a new Wellness Centre in Traralgon.

The university welcomed \$750,000 in Victorian Government funding towards the new Wellness Centre that will be located inside the Latrobe City Council owned Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre, as well as classroom teaching space at the soon-to-be-completed Gippsland Performing Arts Centre. The Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre - Wellness Centre will feature six treatment rooms, exercise equipment and x-ray viewers. It will provide Federation University students with the opportunity to undertake work placements in a local community setting, helping to build a skilled

health workforce for the future in allied health, mental health, and sports science.

It will also provide greater access to healthcare services for the Gippsland community. Federation University will contribute \$368,000 towards the centre, which is expected to open in mid-2022. The \$750,000 Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund grant will also go towards building a dedicated teaching space for Federation University at the Gippsland Performing Arts Centre, which is currently under construction. The high-tech classroom space will have the latest audio-visual equipment that will allow students to connect virtually to the room for blended digital and face-to-face interactive learning.

Building new high-tech teaching spaces in community facilities across the whole Gippsland region is part of Federation University's

plan to become Gippsland's University. As part of its plan to bring the classroom to the community, Federation is particularly focussed on areas where there is demand for skilled workers and strong job growth, as well as opportunities to partner with industry to provide work placements and real-world experience for our students.

Federation University Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Duncan Bentley said "This is an important step in our long-term plan to be Gippsland's University, with easy access to education and training for people across the whole region - not just at our Churchill campus. By putting Federation University classrooms and teaching spaces in community buildings, it will be easier for people to access education and training opportunities in areas like healthcare where there is a demand for skilled workers."

## Al Anon: Recovery without sobriety

I have been in Al-Anon over five years. I came to get my husband sober. Instead I learned about slogans, the Twelve Steps, how to be happy and that I had choices. First I had to learn how to feel good about myself and care about me.

I learned to not accept unfounded criticism, to not accept blame and to not accept

unacceptable behaviour.

I learned to let my husband know how I felt about our situation and his behaviour without criticism, without blame, without accusations. I gained respect from others. Today I can be happy if I choose to be.

I heard as a child God works through people and I found that very true in

Al-Anon. Al-Anon is God working through people. The alcoholic is still drinking but our lives have turned around thanks to Al-Anon.

I can accept my life and my husband as they are - one day at a time and be happy. Nothing is going to happen to me today that God and I together with Al-Anon, can't handle.

# Home Care Packages for Churchill

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# Latrobe Health Advocate re-appointed

The Victorian Government is ensuring the right leadership is in place to improve the health and wellbeing of people in the Latrobe Valley. Jane Anderson has been reappointed as the Latrobe Health Advocate for a further three years, after she became the inaugural Latrobe Health Advocate in 2018. Ms Anderson has led a range of initiatives to influence better long-term health and wellbeing of the community over the first three years of the vital role. Over the last three years, Ms Anderson has worked with the community, advising Government on issues affecting health and wellbeing, while engaging closely with business, industry, agriculture, health services, community organisations and all levels of Government. Through her research and engagement with the community, she has played a critical role in understanding and ensuring

voices are heard and can impact change on local health system and policy improvements.

The Latrobe Health Advocate gives the people of the Latrobe Valley a trusted and independent voice and delivers on a key recommendation from the re-opened Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry. The role is part of the Latrobe Health Innovation Zone and complements the work of the Latrobe Health Assembly. The Victorian Government has provided more than \$80 million to support the Latrobe Valley community and implement the recommendations of the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry reports. An independent evaluation by Deloitte found the Latrobe Health Innovation Zone, Latrobe Health Assembly and Latrobe Health Advocate have positively impacted health and wellbeing outcomes in the

Valley. The evaluation has highlighted positive change in community attitudes to health and wellbeing, a strong sense of community pride and a desire to build on community strengths.

Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing said "Jane has made an enormously positive contribution to the Valley and I'm really pleased that her reappointment has been confirmed. Through her strong local voice and advocacy, she has encouraged more locals than ever before to share their views, concerns and priorities – and this is work that really matters in transition and development for the region. The Latrobe Health Advocate is an important community-based role that requires strong and empathetic leadership – Jane has demonstrated that she is the right person for the job and has a strong track record of listening to locals, advocating for them and driving innovation." Latrobe Health Advocate Jane Anderson said "I have heard a lot from the community over the last three years and am constantly inspired by the desire of people to see improvements in their own health and wellbeing and that of others. Change takes time, but the signs of change are clear to see, and there is great momentum and good will from communities, services and industry to drive health and wellbeing systems changes in Latrobe."

## Appreciation

Thank you to those shop keepers and businesses who have remained open to service our needs and put themselves in the possible line on a regular basis of COVID contact and infection.

# Shop Local in Churchill this Christmas

Looking for those special Christmas gifts for family and friends? Browse our local shopping centre for ideas, bargains, unique items and a range of products suitable for gift-giving.

Speciality/luxury food items can be bought at our supermarkets; there's toys and craft available at the newsagent, Smart Saver and Lifeline; consider luxury salon products from our local hairdresser and chemists; or browse gift items that are appearing in windows at a number of our local shops.

A number of stores, such as our Post Office, also sell gift cards, which make great presents for those who are difficult to buy for.

Don't forget to support our local café, take-away stores and dine-in venues when getting together with family and friends in the lead up to Christmas. Why

spend money on travelling to another town when we have a great choice of eating experiences here?

As an alternative to store-bought items, check out the stalls at our Christmas market which will be held on Saturday December 4 at the Churchill Shopping Centre from 9am to 1pm.

There will be a range of hand-made goods for sale; jams and preserves, candles, plants, jewellery and all sorts of things made by local artisans. Support our community run from home small businesses and fund-raising endeavours.

During the morning of the Christmas market, some lucky folk shopping in Churchill (either in-store or from one of the market stalls) will win vouchers to spend at Churchill retailers. We have 2 x \$50 supermarket vouchers, 20 x \$10 vouchers for use

at small retailers and even some vouchers for free dental consultations at Churchill Dental Clinic to give away!

There will be free sausage sizzles and entertainment that morning and, presuming the sun is shining, it will be a lovely way to spend a Saturday morning – get your shopping done, purchase some Christmas gifts, catch up with friends and neighbours you meet in the crowd.

"Churchill – Shop Local" is facilitated by Churchill & District Community Association (CDCA) and Churchill Neighbourhood Centre (CNC) in partnership with the Churchill & District News and is partially funded by Latrobe City Council.

The Shop Local campaign aims to encourage people to shop locally to support our local retailers, employment and community.



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## SCAMWATCH

### Phone scams exploding

Scamwatch is urging people to be extra vigilant about scams after Australians reported a record \$211 million in losses to scams so far this year, an 89 per cent increase compared to the same period last year, according to new data from Scamwatch.

The losses, reported between January 1 and September 19, have already surpassed the \$175.6 million reported to Scamwatch across all of last year.

"It's very concerning to see these scams evolving and becoming more sophisticated to steal even more money from unsuspecting people," ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.

"While the proportion of reports involving a financial loss has dropped this year, the people who do lose money are losing bigger amounts. The average loss so far this year is about \$11,000 compared to \$7,000 for the same period in 2020."

Many of these losses are from phone based scams, which accounted for over \$63.6 million (31 per cent) of the losses. Additionally, of the 213,000 reports that Scamwatch received so far this year, 113,000 were about phone scams.

Scammers call or text people and claim to be from well-known businesses or government to steal people's personal information.

"Scammers are pretending to be from companies such as Amazon or eBay and claiming large purchases have been made on the victim's credit card. When they pretend to

help you process a refund, they actually gain remote access to your computer and steal your personal and banking details," Ms Rickard said.

"In August, the new Flubot malware scams masquerading as fake voicemail and parcel delivery scams exploded, which have resulted in more than 13,000 reports in just eight weeks."

"These scams are particularly concerning in our current climate, as many people are turning to online shopping because of the COVID-19 lockdowns," Ms Rickard said.

Scamwatch has noticed a significant increase in losses to phishing scams (261 per cent), remote access scams (144 per cent) and identity theft (234 per cent). Losses to investment scams have also risen dramatically (172 per cent) in 2021.

"The rise in identity theft related scams is particularly concerning as scammers can use the personal information they obtain for use in other crimes," Ms Rickard said.

"If you see a scam, please report it to Scamwatch, even if you haven't lost any money. These reports are extremely important to us as they provide key information about any emerging scams or trends."

Information from these reports allows Scamwatch to work with a number of private and public organisations including government agencies and law enforcement to help disrupt scams and provide the best possible advice about how people can protect themselves.

For example, the ACCC has been sharing alleged

scammer phone numbers with telecommunications providers for investigation and potential blocking, and has been working with the banks to raise awareness with their customers who may have been compromised by Flubot.

"Scammers are conning people out of more and more money, so it's really important that everyone knows what to look out for and how to protect themselves," Ms Rickard said.

"Remember, you never know who you are dealing with online. Scammers often pretend to be from a well-known organisation, such as a bank or the government, and they will pretend to offer you something such as money or a benefit, or claim that you are in trouble."

Do not click on any links in messages that come to you out of the blue, and never provide any of your personal or banking details to someone you don't personally know and trust," Ms Rickard said.

"If you think something might be legitimate, call the organisation or government agency back using details you find in an independent search, rather than the details provided."

Anyone who has provided their banking details to a scammer should contact their bank or financial institution as soon as possible.

People who suspect they may be a victim of identity theft should contact IDCARE on 1800 595 160 or via www.idcare.org. IDCARE is a free government-funded service that works with individuals to develop a specific response plan to their situation and support them throughout the process.

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# WINNERS

## 2021 Writing and Poetry Competition

### Category 1, 7 and Under

## T-Rex Trouble

by Axel Seddon

I was in bed and heard thumps! My brother heard it too. We got out of bed and saw a T-Rex in the living room!

We chased him and then we put on our clothes and then we chased the T-Rex.

He ran to the end of the street then went into the park. We tried to look for him but we couldn't find him. The next day we saw the T-Rex chasing our Mum!

We ran after it but it turned direction. The next night we heard thumps and then we ran down and saw toy baby T-Rexes and the adult with them. We ran to Mum's room.

When we got there they were not there anymore. We went back to bed and we thought we wouldn't see them again. But the next day, right after school we were walking home and saw the T-Rex looking at us.

We ran and then we went to hide and call the animal catchers. We did and then rang Mum to pick us up to go home. When we did we had dinner and went to bed.

The next day we woke up and had breakfast. We went to school and did all of our work. Then we walked home because we knew we wouldn't see that T-Rex again.



### Category 2, 8 - 9 Year Old

## Lurking Beneath

by Isabelle Gleeson

"Come on," Mum whined while I was packing my bags.

"I'm still packing my bags."

"Then hurry up!" Mum said highly annoyed.

"Finished!" I called after.

I know this is the best trip ever! We are going to the beach and I have never been to the beach ever! I'm soooooo excited! I'm on a plane and I am (right now) writing my journal and P.S. I haven't gone to the beach because in Alice Springs which is like RIGHT smack in the middle of Australia, and of course AWAY from any beach and OH MY GOSH I am so excited!

I am now at the beach and I soooo LOVE it! It has sand, shells, water and Future BFFs!!!! I was just about to touch the water but Mum stopped me. She said I can't go too far out. I said okay, but my brain said no. So when she wasn't looking I would slip out of sight. But when I did I felt something brush my leg. Water rippled. I looked down. The something rose up. I thought it was human but it was scaly, turquoise and had orange glowing eyes.

I was swimming to shore at top speed but I was no match. Running out of breath, flopping my arms around helplessly. I thought it was the end for me. I tried again with ocean debris racing past me as I looked behind me. When I realised I was on land, I relaxed. I even let out a chuckle. I has escaped from the sea serpent's grasp.

The End.



### Category 3, 10 - 12 Year Old

## LOST!

by Kallarnie Francis

I could hear my heart beat beating, even the wind was telling me not to jump by turning in every possible direction.

"Remember it's fine! Just pull your cord five seconds after you jump, and only two people have been hurt on my watch" The pilot yelled over the strong wind, "But mostly because they were too scared to pull the cord." He added

"Thanks," I murmured, though I didn't think the pilot could hear me over the blasting sound of wind.

I took one last look at the perfectly good helicopter that I was about to jump out of. Then a thought hit me, what happens if my mum finds out! I changed my thoughts I looked at camp. There were three teenagers sitting on the bank of the lagoon.

I held onto my parachute and jumped! For a second I thought I lost my mind, then I remembered I was falling to my death if I didn't keep track of the seconds I would probably die!

Then a giant gust of wind swept past me and I went with it. Didn't know what to do but to pull the cord now. I did what my mind told me and pulled it! My gut dropped and I felt better than before. This was probably the most dangerous thing I will, and have ever tried. I looked

around at the beautiful view. I was getting closer to the ground, my legs preparing to touch the precious earth.

My legs were swinging in mid-air, I could feel the wind die down and the breathtaking sunset hit the hills like a raging bushfire.

I was ten metres away now from reaching the ground when I finally caught my breath, but my stomach not so much.

Two metres now! I braced myself for landing. I hit the soft green grass and took my parachute off straight away. I couldn't think of anything else but to lay down.

Five minutes later I decided to stand up, my legs were like jelly from the jump, but I just ignored them. I moved around and by the looks of it the wind took me away when I was in the air.

I turned around and around again now observing the forest. I think I am in the 'pine tree forest' on the west side of 'Camp Lagoon'. I know the best decision is to find a stream of water and follow it. The sun was nearly coming down out of sight from the green forested hills.

I started walking. If I knew I was going to get stuck in the forest I would of worn better clothes, instead of ripped

denim jeans with a black long sleeve top. I hope that my best friends Abby and Chase find me soon because, I am not sure I can make it out in the forest for long.

I eventually find a little river and walk beside it. The sun has now disappeared and the moon is shining bright enough for me to see where I am walking. Good thing I am not afraid of the dark.

I start to feel a cold mist hitting my neck. 'It's starting to rain.' I said to myself, I was getting heavier by the second. I start to wander away from the river and find a big tree to shelter under.

I drift to sleep, dreaming about camp. We all toast marshmallows while laughing with our friends. I eventually woke up to a start, I looked around, it was still dark.

I could hear something or someone coming up from behind me, I turned around and saw a dark figure with a hoodie on.

It walks closer and I saw a familiar boy wearing jeans and a tie-dye T-shirt with black hair. He got closer and I realised it's a boy named 'Luke' from camp. I stood up and said,

"Where is Chase and Abby?" I

questioned,

"They are at camp trying to distract your mum."

Luke laughed, "Come on I don't think they can hold for much longer."

My heart lifted and I straightened up, and started to follow Luke back out of the forest. As soon as we reached the start of camp I could see two other figures waiting for us. Luke stopped for a second just out of ear distance from Abby and Chase.

"You better tell Abby the view on parachuting out of a helicopter, she has been worried sick about killing you!" Luke said,

I laugh and we keep walking to meet the girls.

"I am so sorry Sabe! I shouldn't have dared you to jump out of a helicopter!" Abby cried and ran towards me.

"It's fine besides, you missed out so much. I can't believe you didn't want to come with me." I said, trying to make it sound like it was her dream.

The rest of the night/day we talked and laughed until sunrise.



# A changed view

## Boiler demolition successful.



By Ian Needham  
Boiler House 1 at the former Hazelwood Power Station was successfully felled on Tuesday October 19, 2021 using explosive controlled collapse demolition methods.

The structure, along with extensive vibration and dust suppression measures, behaved as modelled to ensure the safety of all site personnel, the local community and nearby assets. The demolition took place at 11.26am, within the nominated window for the fell.

Further information on monitoring for dust and noise was made publicly available when readings were taken over the next 24 hours as part of the EPA licence conditions.

This demolition completes a safe and successful

program, which included the eight chimneys in May 2020, and since then the four Boiler Houses and all large mining equipment in the Hazelwood mine.

Further information about the demolition process is available at a dedicated website [www.hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au](http://www.hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au)

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks from Churchill & District News are extended to Ian Needham in charge of media alerts for these occasions for his willing supply of an article and photos.

The last of the boiler houses was demolished on October 19. Our famous landmarks have all gone now. It is even difficult to be certain where they stood. Hazelwood Power Station has played a significant part in our history for over fifty

years. People watched with interest as it was constructed. People have watched with interest and a sense of some sadness as it has been demolished. The power station and mine provided many jobs and training in its time. Through sponsorship packages many local organisations were supported including Churchill & District News.

The Pondage provided a place to swim, picnic and play. The Yacht Club and its activities provided hours of fun and activity for all abilities. The camp site was a special place for many regular and one off visitors. Jet skis and boats were popular with visitors. The Power Boat Club was a playground for those wanting some more speed in their designated part. Times and requirements have changed.

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# Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

By  
Francis Pharcillus Church

There was once a little girl whose name was Virginia. She wrote a letter to the editor of the "New York Sun".

The editor answered the letter in his newspaper. That was on September 21, 1897. That great metropolitan newspaper has reprinted the little girl's letter and the editor's answer just before Christmas every year since.

"We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its' faithful author is numbered among the friends of "The Sun".

Dear Editor,  
I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says "If you see it in "The Sun" it's so."

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon  
115 West Ninety-fifth Street.

"Virginia,  
Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the scepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible

by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great

universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias.

There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa coming down, but what would



that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn?

Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart.

Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside the curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond.

Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

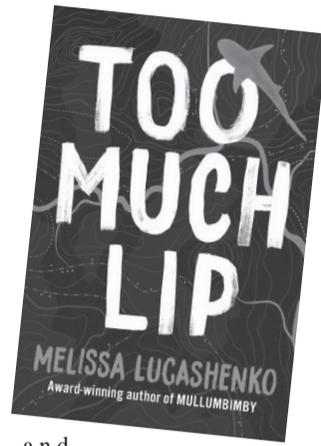
# BOOK REVIEW "Too Much Lip"

by Melissa Lucashenko 2018

Melissa Lucashenko was born in Brisbane in 1967 of Bundjalung and European heritage and graduated from Griffith University in 1990 with an Honours Degree in Public Policy. She is a founding member of "Sisters Inside" which is an organisation which supports women and girls in prison. She has been publishing books through The University of Queensland Press since 1997. Her first novel "Steam Pigs" won the Dobby Literary Award and was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Award and regional Commonwealth Writer's Prize. She has also written "Hard Yards" 1999 and "Mullimbimby" 2013 as well as several books for young adults and essays. "Too Much Lip" won the 2019 Miles Franklin Literary Award and Queensland Premier's Award for a work of State Significance.

The story opens in 1943 when a young Indigenous man, Owen Addison comes to a big country town to take part in a boxing match. He was overawed by the setting and intimidated by the men organising the match, but he was victorious. However he was unprepared for the repercussions.

The story then shifts to the present day when Kerry, the main character in the story, has stolen a motor bike and come to visit her dying pop, planning to stay a maximum of twenty-four hours. She is carrying a backpack with the proceeds of a robbery that she



and her partner carried out, but unfortunately her partner was caught and is now doing five years in Brisbane Women's Prison. She gets a very cool reception from her mother as it has been ten years since she visited.

We then meet Martina, an ambitious real estate agent from Sydney who has begrudgingly agreed to spend a short time in an agency in a backwater, with the promise of her own agency when she returns.

Kerry settles uneasily into life back with the family with her mother, her pop, her brother Kenny and his son Donny all sharing the house. Her mother, Pretty Mary has many regrets because she cast out her other daughter, Donna, for attempting to stab her pop.

This was many years ago and Donna has not been seen or heard of since - the family doesn't know if she is dead or alive. Alongside all of the usual dramas within the family, the local real estate agent is trying to sell some sacred ground for development. The

story follows Kerry's attempt to settle back into the family as well as her love affair with a non-indigenous man and her struggle to see justice done. The story throws up quite a few surprises but comes to a satisfactory conclusion.

The members of our book group thought this very confronting story was brave because the author asserts that whilst this is a work of fiction, almost every act of violence depicted in the story has occurred in her extended family. The book examines the lives of a dysfunctional family, living in overcrowded conditions where alcoholism, sex abuse, domestic violence and drug abuse are part of everyday life.

The older generation has been raised on the mission so have lost their language and culture, with the impact of past colonialism generating mistrust and despair.

Despite being such a sad story, there were many examples of very dark humour, with the family seeing the funny side of some fairly tragic situations.

There were Indigenous words used in the story, some of which were translated, but the slang words were not, so interpretation was difficult at times. Foul language was used throughout the book and some people will find this offensive. The book received a mixed reaction, and while we might not say we enjoyed it, most of us were glad we read it. In view of the upcoming Truth Telling Commission, this was quite a timely read.

## Harriet Shing



roads, enjoying a meal out or returning to face-to-face school or work, the sense of community we worked so hard to build will continue to be incredibly important as we look out for one another.

As the weather begins to warm up after a very rainy winter and spring, I would encourage you to join the many locals who are rediscovering the natural beauty, wonderful hospitality and rich history of the region - from Walhalla to Tarra Bulga, Mirboo North to Glengarry, there's something for everyone to enjoy as we reconnect with family and friends.

While you are out and about, please support local business wherever you can. We have all become used to online shopping and click and collect, but our favourite stores and products will welcome the extra trade as we gear up for

After such a trying and unpredictable year, we have achieved some incredible progress with vaccination targets and an easing of restrictions across the state. With further positive changes due when we reach 80 and 90 per cent of eligible Victorians being fully vaccinated, we will see many of our pre-COVID activities and opportunities return - just in time for Christmas!

Thank you to each and every single person who has shown up to get tested, vaccinated or to help others do the same. Across the Valley we have seen case numbers increase, but we have also seen an overwhelming commitment to vaccination, and to doing the right thing to minimise the risk of transmission to others, to dramatically reduce the risk of being hospitalised ourselves, and to reduce the stress on our hardworking health workers.

Please also remember that these changes as we reopen will also be quite stressful for many of us, and getting out and about will be a challenge for many. If you can, a little bit of kindness, patience and gentleness will go a long way - whether you're on the

Christmas and the New Year celebrations we've all been waiting for.

Remembrance Day as always was a hugely important opportunity for all of us to pause and remember the brave men and women who have served and are currently serving in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations around the world.

I was thinking this year in particular of those who served in Afghanistan and of their families - I cannot imagine how hard recent events have been for them, in light of so many years of dedication to service, and so much sacrifice, and I was thinking of them - and of all who have defended and served - when the sounds of the bugle began. We worked hard with the Victorian RSL to enable memorial services to go ahead in line with public health directions, including at the Shrine.

Finally, as the boundaries between Melbourne and regional Victoria are removed, please take extra care on the roads - we want anyone who is travelling for those long-awaited meals, catchups and hugs to arrive rested, safe, and sound.



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# Churchill & District News FLASHBACK

## 1973

### Holiday season ended

Another summer holiday season has passed by and again the school grounds have come to life. For our daughter Churchill not only means a new house in a new town but also the experience of starting school. So even though we have only been here for a fortnight already we feel deeply involved. Our arrival in Churchill was not a particularly smooth one but we were quickly made aware of the ready friendship of people here and are deeply grateful for all the help that was so quickly given.

Who can tell what 1973 will mean for the Churchill Community? New houses will be built and occupied, but how many?

Extra money may come to the G.I.A.E, but how much? So many questions to be asked and answers so hard to find!

However, if I may be excused a "first impression", these are the frustrations of a town with a future. I have lived, in Western Queensland, in a town with only a past and I do not believe there is any worse sense of "community" where the only sense of pride is what has been, for there is no future, at least none that stands discussion.

By Noel Park

### Hostels for the Aged

The Golden Years Appeal was neither hastily conceived nor prematurely launched. The report entitled "The Future Welfare of Aged Persons of Latrobe Valley" clearly sets out the problems of ageing, retirement, disability and recommends remedies.

Gippsland is still the least advanced district of Victoria in the provision of hostels for the aged. The object of the appeal is to ensure that the building of hostels be no longer delayed.

### Motoring blues

Regular users of the Jeeralang Road are becoming

increasingly annoyed at the inane activity, someone seemingly enjoys of shifting warning lights along sections of road work. It is to be hoped that the practice will cease before it is responsible for a serious incident.

But what about that 55 mph microscopic speed sign on the eastern approach to Morwell? For a motorist coming from Churchill there is nothing to indicate that he is entering a restricted zone. That is until he goes up the highway and putting on his reading glasses, stays in the left hand lane while diligently searching for the sign.

### Action Clubs

The two Action Clubs will meet again on Sunday week. The young people involved have made contact with other places throughout Australia and the letters in reply have been most interesting.

### Warning to dog owners

Any dog found roaming in the vicinity of 24 Howard Avenue will be dealt with as set down in the Dog Act 1970.

### Welcome announcement

A welcome announcement this week is the calling of a meeting to form a play group. This is not a place for anyone to dump their kids on someone but a place where mothers can share with their kids in a relaxed atmosphere. I hope the meeting will be highly successful.

### Latrobe Valley Credit Union

The success of the Latrobe Valley Savings Credit Union proves that ordinary people in the community can achieve more than they imagine by working together in co-operation.

In just over ten years more than 7,000 members and their families have saved together \$4,500,000, and during this time have borrowed more than \$9,000,000 for the many needs of normal families.

### Churchill police

Senior Constable Ron

Hateley is now occupying a temporary Station above the shopping centre. Within the limits of one man's hours he will provide an increasing service. At the present licences and endorsements are not possible but further announcements will be made later.

Recent accidents at Switchback Road and Church Road indicate the need for driving care on the Midland Highway and Tramway Road. Traffic will be under observation particularly in Switchback Road, McDonald Way and the Shopping Centre.

### Needs survey Churchill

The Member for Morwell, Mr Derek Amos said today -

"An immediate start must be made on a second Primary School for Churchill and plans must be implemented to provide the town with a High School."

Mr Amos was commenting on the Needs Survey recently conducted by the Churchill Jaycees which has pointed out a number of areas of concern including Education.

### Vandalism

Recently acts of gross vandalism involving the use of such implements as chain saws have been frequent. The football oval, the sports stadium, Children's playground as well as the business centre have all been subjected to rough treatment.

There needs to be a concerted effort to stop such destruction, which is not peculiar to Churchill, if we are serious about a desire to improve the town.

### Under 10's Churchill soccer

Our under 10's and their coach, Tommy Sands, are indeed a credit to our community for they are the only team in the Valley to have six players selected for the Valley Squads. They play off the cup final against Moe Giants and League winners and may well be the first team to have a hundred goals to their credit.

### Non homogenised milk

Last Thursday accompanied by Mrs. Pal, we went to the factory of Gippsland Amalgamated Milk Products at Traralgon and spoke to the manager Mr. Roberts.

During our conversation it emerged that pasteurised non homogenised milk has recently been produced by the company. We saw that the processing system had been converted from the use of bottles to that of cartons.

# Writing Competition Results

For 2021 with the uncertainty of COVID restrictions, Churchill & District News opened its annual writing competition to our local primary schools only. This was done through approaching schools individually and emailing the information. There were three categories to cover the primary school ages.

No presentation night will be held, due to restrictions and uncertainty, but prizes and certificates have been delivered to the winners with many encouragement awards among them. Each entrant will receive a little participation certificate and a goody bag to inspire them to continue. Included in the goody bag was a list of hints to help with their writing.

Our first prize winners have their story published in this issue. (See page 8)

We thank our wonderful local sponsors for their support - Rotary Club of Hazelwood and District, Lions Club of Churchill and District and Ampworks. Each year they generously donate to help with the costs involved and make the writing competition possible.

### Category 1

#### Children 7 and Under

First Prize Axel Seddon  
Second Prize Ella Malcolmson

Equal third Marley Pickles  
Equal Third Harrison Visser  
Equal Third Rhys Eden  
Encouragement award  
Lucinda Fox  
Encouragement award  
Angus Francis  
Encouragement award  
Daisy Windsor  
Encouragement award  
Kao Tanti  
Encouragement award  
Scarlett Masterman-Smith  
Encouragement award  
Luca Mulder  
Encouragement award  
Ashton Parker  
Encouragement award  
Masey Webb  
Encouragement award  
Jackson Wakefield  
Encouragement Award  
George Galletti

### Category 2 Children 8-9

First Prize Isabelle Gleeson  
Equal Second Nevaeh Ranger  
Equal Second Ryan Stevenson  
Equal Third Adriana Draper  
Equal Third Gemma Madex  
Equal Third Amelia Parry  
Equal Third Toby Grant  
Special Award Billi Franklin  
Encouragement Award  
Heidi Massey  
Encouragement Award  
Loretta Pearce  
Encouragement Award  
Tyson McInnes  
Encouragement Award  
Sophie Paulston

Encouragement Award  
Violet Morrison  
Encouragement Award  
Callen Campbell

### Category 3 Children 10-12

First Prize Kallarnie Francis  
Second Prize Sebastian Ray  
Equal Third Kayla Stevenson  
Equal Third Charlotte Ing  
Special Award Poem  
Ruby Franklin  
Encouragement Award  
Hamish Stewart  
Encouragement Award  
Stephanie Wilkinson  
Encouragement Award  
Madeline McKinnell  
Encouragement Award  
Niah Stoertebecker  
Encouragement Award  
Mikayla Massey  
Encouragement Award  
Jonothan Tang  
Encouragement Award  
Ebony Thomas  
Encouragement Award  
Xaiden Hudson  
Encouragement Award  
Logan Soall  
Encouragement Award  
Sebastian  
Encouragement Award  
Asha Mills  
Encouragement Award  
Bailey Barnes  
Encouragement Award  
Charlotte Ing  
Congratulations to all our award winners and those who tried so hard.



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

## St Vinnies SOUP VAN

### EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

**5.45 pm - 6.10 pm**  
**Churchill Community HUB**

**6.15 pm - 6.45 pm**  
**Glendonald Park**

*\*\*Note these times are approximate*

**rotary**  
humanity in motion



## Hazelwood Rotary Club

Contact: Ray Beebe, Secretary 0408 178 201  
MEETINGS:

**Mondays 6.30pm - 8.00pm**

MORWELL BOWLING CLUB

**ALL WELCOME**



**Hat Day is part of Australian Rotary Health's Lift the Lid on Mental Illness campaign to raise vital funds for mental health research and create awareness about a topic that is not often talked about.**

  
**Café ALFA**  
EST. 2021

### TRADING HOURS

Mon - closed

Tues - Fri 7:30am - 3pm

Sat & Sun 8am - 2pm

Ph: 5122 2361

E: cafealfa3842@gmail.com



# Cooking with Noelene

## The potato question (1)

The humble potato - how to make the perfect mash?

Peel 1 kg of floury potatoes such as Dutch Cream or Desiree. Cut the peeled potatoes into chunks and place them in a saucepan of salted boiling water over a medium heat, covered for 25 minutes until they are tender. Test with a skewer, to make sure you test right in the middle to avoid lumps. Remove the saucepan from the heat and drain the



potatoes. Return the potatoes to the hot saucepan and mash with a potato masher until smooth. Add 5 tbs of butter/marg and continue to mash until it is all mixed in. NOW here is the secret - add 5 tbs of hot milk, potatoes absorb hot milk quickly, producing a creamier mash. So simple !!!

## The potato question (2)

The humble potato makes the perfect roast potato, the best potatoes to use for roasted potatoes are a floury potato, eg Desiree or Dutch Cream. Preheat your oven to 200 deg C. Peel and quarter the potatoes and cook in a large saucepan of salted boiling water over a medium heat, covered for 5 minutes. The potatoes will still be firm but remove from heat, drain and return the potatoes

to the warm saucepan. Cover the saucepan with a lid and vigorously shake the pot so that the surface of the potatoes are slightly roughened to help give them a crisper texture. Place a roasting pan in the preheated oven and melt 6 tbs of duck fat or good old fashioned dripping. Once the fat / dripping has melted remove the roasting pan from the oven and carefully place the potatoes in the fat / dripping and baste them to make sure they are all coated. Roast the potatoes for 45 minutes or until browned all over and crisp. Turn the potatoes and baste only once during the roasting process, so you don't destroy the crunchy edges. Use a slotted



spoon to transfer the potatoes to a warmed serving plate and season with a little salt. Delicious!!

## The potato question (3)

The humble potato makes the best chips, using a floury potato such as a Desiree or Dutch Cream. Peel and slice 4 large potatoes into even sized chips. Preheat vegetable oil in a deep fryer

to 180 deg C with enough oil to fill 1/4 of the fryer bowl. Fry the chips for about 10 minutes, until they are softened but not coloured. Now remove the chips from the oil, drain on kitchen paper and set aside for 10 minutes. Make sure the oil is still at 180 deg C and return the



partially cooked chips to the oil and cook till golden brown and crispy. Drain and season with salt and lemon wedges squeezed over the top. You can make a healthy version of the 'best ever chips' by cutting large potatoes into wedges, brushing them with oil and bake in your air fryer or in a preheated oven 200 deg C.

## The potato question (4)

With the humble potato you can prepare scalloped potatoes. This is a tasty dish, where the potatoes are sliced thinly, layered in a dish with butter, salt, cracked black pepper, covered with cream, flavoured with nutmeg and topped with gruyere cheese. Preheat your oven to 160 deg C. Scalloped potatoes are a variation of the French

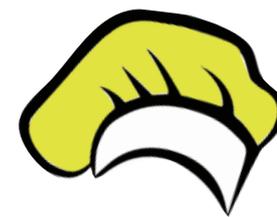


dish Gratin Dauphinois. Peel 1 kg of floury 'old' potatoes, thinly slice into rounds and dry thoroughly. Spray a shallow ovenproof

dish with cooking oil and smear 1 tbs of minced garlic mixed with 30 gm of butter/marg around the base of the dish. Carefully arrange the potato slices in overlapping layers in the dish, seasoning each layer with salt and cracked pepper. Bring 1 cup of milk to the boil and add 1/2 tsp of ground nutmeg. Grate 100gm of gruyere cheese and spread over the top of the potatoes. Carefully pour the milk over the potatoes and add 60 gm of butter / marg cut in small pieces on top. Bake in a moderate oven for 45 minutes or until tender and golden.

## Potato cakes

How do you like your potato cakes, made with mashed potatoes or sliced potatoes fried in a batter? If you have no preference, I'll share the recipes for you to give them a go and you decide. I spent the afternoon



enjoying making both types of potato cakes.

## Potato cakes with mashed potatoes

I peeled and boiled 4 medium potatoes, drained and mashed them. Let them cool slightly. Now add 1 cup of plain flour, 1 onion peeled and diced, 1 beaten egg and season lightly with coarse pepper and salt. Mix together until you have a dough like batter. Heat 1/2 cup of rice bran oil in your pan and place tbs of the mixture into the heated oil and press down lightly. Cook till golden on each side, remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Repeat until all the potato dough batter is used.

I am a fan of the fish'n'chip shop style potato cakes. Preheat your oven to 200 deg C. I peeled 6 potatoes and sliced them evenly, I placed the potato slices on a baking paper covered tray in a preheated oven 200 deg C. I baked



them for 35 minutes, they were just tender. I removed the tray from the oven and allowed the potato slices to cool. I made a batter ( this a non fail batter ) mix 1 cup of plain flour with 1/2 tsp of bi carb soda, 1/4 cup of white vinegar with 3/4 cup of water, beat until smooth. Next heat your deep fryer with 3 cups of rice bran oil. Dip the potato slices into the

batter covering all sides, then place gently in the heated oil ( 4 at a time ) until golden on both sides, remove and drain on kitchen towel.

Repeat until all potato slices are coated and cooked. You can eat these straight away or let them cool and freeze till needed and they can be oven heated.

## We will be watching...

**HVP Plantations**  
will detect arson this summer with patrol vehicles, aircraft, drones and cameras watching for suspicious activity.

**HVP Plantations ...**

- Part of our community
- 40,000 ha of native vegetation
- 82,000 ha of plantations

*Our home is your home and we are proud to be a part of Gippsland, which is why we take preventing and suppressing wildfires seriously.*

Report any suspicious behaviour to Crime Stoppers on

# 1800 333 000

To report a fire Call triple zero

# 000

1300 131 785 [www.darrenchester.com.au](http://www.darrenchester.com.au)

#lovegippsland #myvalley

Authorised by Darren Chester MP, National Party of Australia, 126 Franklin Street, Traralgon VIC 3844

# Darren Chester

Federal Member for Gippsland

## Proud to support our community

1300 131 785

[www.darrenchester.com.au](http://www.darrenchester.com.au)

#lovegippsland

#myvalley

A Churchill & District History Series

# Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



By Leo Billington  
**Reminiscing (from not long ago)**

“Reminiscing” is a 1978 hit [written by Graeham Goble] made popular by Little River Band. The song is about nostalgia and reminiscing.

Recently, I drove along New and Fleming Streets Morwell. With no disrespect

to all those families who lived here during the 1950’s, 1960’s and to now, the area is looking tired.

Children went either to Commercial Road State School, or Collins Street or to Sacred Heart Catholic School. They walked to school. Perhaps even rode a bike. Family life was intertwined with a strong

work ethic, playing sport and similar.

This neighbourhood was close to a thriving Church Street, then under the railway subway to Commercial Road. All in



walking distance. Houses were constructed mainly from simple materials, but sturdy. They appeared cheap but homely. In many cases, front yard gardens commanded a certain respect.

Then the kids grew up, moved away to make their own ways. Families moved on and rentals took over. That’s life. Some houses were demolished. Others had fake brick cladding adhered to weathered exteriors.

During the mid 1980’s, a new committee was created

under the auspices of Latrobe City Council – the Morwell Revitalisation Taskforce (MRT). In those days, Morwell was “spotlighted” for creative

urban development.

Something extraordinary was mooted as being necessary. An extension of the Rose Gardens perhaps? A complete revamp of the Commercial Road/George Street retail area?

One agenda item championed building a shopping-office space complex over the railway line (to hide “that awful view”). Little did those proponents know was this idea was canvassed back in the early 1950’s.

Then a revolutionary concept was put on the table. As quickly as it landed on

the table, it was pushed off the table. Into the bin it went.

Basically, this total re-development concept identified that



neighbourhood encompassed by the then Princes Highway, Collins Street, and Church Street (where both joined at the sporting reserve once known as Northern Reserve).

This rectangular area included a section of Buckley Street, all New and Fleming Streets and a new through street, being an extension of Margaret Street.

As the accompanying concept drawing shows, and while retaining a retail – commercial zone, there was provision for a nursing home, assisted living accommodation zone, community hall, public open

spaces, and a healthcare facility.

A massive re-development such as this, and involving significant land acquisition “blew hats off”. It was rejected

– hands down. Where did this idea come from? How dare they!

I recall it all, and more. Such a shame.

Recently, a large new building was built in this now fading neighbourhood. Houses are ready for sale. Some gardens remain.

Nearly, 20 years ago, Morwell had a golden opportunity to embrace a stand-out, creative, innovative urban development. Unfortunately, it was just too much to comprehend.

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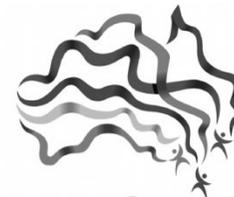
Email [churchillpharmacy7000@gmail.com](mailto:churchillpharmacy7000@gmail.com)

If you happen to find a cheaper price on the same item in another Australian Registered Pharmacy we will match that price.



LIONS CLUB OF CHURCHILL &amp; DISTRICT

# AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS



Australia Day

## 2022 NOMINATION FORM

Nomination for:  Citizen of the Year  Young Citizen of the Year  School Student Citizen of the Year

### DETAILS OF PERSON/PERSONS/GROUP BEING NOMINATED

Full name of citizen/persons/organization/event: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name (if nominating organization/event): \_\_\_\_\_

Residential address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (M) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of birth of nominee** (if nominating Young Citizen & Young School Citizen of the Year): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Please note:** The information provided below will only be used by the Lions Club of Churchill in the selection process, if the nomination is successful in winning an Australia day award all or part of this information may be released to the media

#### Reason for Nomination:

Contribution/s to the community for which the person is nominated: summarize (In 100-150 words) the reasons why your nominee should be considered.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Other significant contributions and achievements:

*If you require additional space, please write on a separate sheet and attach to the form.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Community / Professional bodies / Sporting or Service Groups your nominee has been involved with:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Background information about your nominee:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Referee in support of this application (this person may be contacted for further information)**

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss): \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (M): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator (To be completed by person submitting)**

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss): \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (M): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominations can be lodged at any time; however nominations for the Lions Club of Churchill & District Australia Day 2022 awards close on Wednesday December 15, 2021 at 5.00 pm.**

Nominations should be addressed to:

**Carol Kavanagh**  
Lions Club Secretary  
Australia Day Awards Nominations  
PO Box 110 Churchill Vic 3842.  
or email Churchill.lionsclub@gmail.com.

**Privacy Statement:** The 'personal' details provided for the nominee will only be used to enable the Lions Club of Churchill & District to determine Award winners and to contact the Award winners. The winners of Awards and details of their contribution to the community will be disclosed to the media.

# Churchill & District Lions Club



From lockdowns, floods, storms to an earthquake, everything Mother Nature could throw at us – but what did Lions do? A Bunnings BBQ of course and with a smile.

Things have opened up again and we were thrilled to be asked by Delta Group to do a big catering luncheon for all the workers (about 135) sort of an after celebration of the big building coming down??

What a day that turned out to be! The wild, wild winds started through the night so by the time everything was packed up

and ready to go – the trees were down everywhere and we ended up going to Hazelwood via Traralgon because of them. In between all that though, it was nearly cancelled due to the danger of the weather but all good, and again a very successful catering event for our Lions Club.

Back to normality and our calendar is starting to fill up so we hope to start having much more to tell you about in coming months.

We do have the possibility of a couple of new members as well – great news!

So remember – if anyone is interested in joining a fabulous community minded Club – here we are – just ask. Our contact phone numbers are 0411 842 912 and 5182 6995, just phone Secretary Carol and have a chat.

Don't forget to keep checking our Facebook pages as well, you can also always leave a message on FB and it will be answered asap.

Or if you prefer email : churchill.lionsclub@gmail.com

I guess that's about all for this edition, things are a bit quiet at present.



## HVP Plantations prepares for this fire season

The HVP Plantations team is again working hard to ensure the company is well prepared for the threat of fire during the upcoming warmer months. We continue to invest in, and develop, the skills of over 120 company firefighters through a structured CFA Forest Industry Brigade, and actively participate in regular training and skills maintenance. We have an additional 150 firefighters located throughout Victoria, with more resources available from throughout Queensland and New Zealand if required.

HVP has ten fire tankers and over 25 slip-on units located across the Gippsland estate. These resources are continually maintained and prepared in the event that they may be needed at any time. The local community also benefits from our dedicated resources and the skills and abilities of our staff and contractors, with more than half the fires that HVP Plantations crews have attended in recent years starting outside plantation boundaries. We will again be contracting a dedicated

firefighting helicopter for the period of the highest fire risk. The light helicopter is based in the Latrobe Valley, supporting other State Fleet aircraft that CFA and DELWP have available to fight fires throughout Victoria.

On days of higher fire risk, two HVP fire towers will be manned and fire vehicles will be patrolling plantation areas to ensure any fire is detected quickly and responded to in the shortest possible time. Fire prevention activities will continue throughout spring, including firebreak and track maintenance around plantations and checking fire dams to ensure they are accessible, signed and mapped.

A continuing problem for our community is the issue of arson. Statistics indicate that a significant proportion of fires that affect our plantations are started "by the hand of man". Some fires may be accidental, but many are deliberate and avoidable. Through the Gippsland Arson Prevention Program (GAPP), HVP Plantations actively partners with 21

other government agencies and private companies

including Victoria Police, CFA and DELWP to reduce the incidence and impact of bushfire arson across Gippsland. Arson is a crime no matter how big or small the damage, and the local community plays an integral role in the reduction of arson related crimes. Research indicates that a community that is paying attention to what occurs within it, can play an important part in assisting Crime Stoppers and Police through reporting suspicious activity. This may include, but is not limited to, dumped cars, rubbish and unattended campfires or burn-offs. Reports can be made direct to HVP Plantations on (03) 5122 0600, anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, or by contacting your local Police station. Even the smallest piece of information may be a vital link in either solving a crime or preventing another one. The Crime Stoppers message is a simple one: "If you've seen something, if you know something, say something". When it comes to fire for HVP, every person counts and every tree counts

## Where we live



### Coora Place

This was named using a South Australian Aboriginal word meaning blue gum. Coora Place is part of Glendonald Estate Churchill.



### Hawthorn Crescent

This was named after the white flowering deciduous shrub of the Northern Hemisphere. Hawthorn Crescent is part of Silcock Estate Churchill.

Reprinted with the

permission of author Rob de Souza-Daw from his book, "Street and Place Names of Churchill." published in 2010.

Perhaps you would like to know the history of your street name. Send us

an image photo or query of your street name and in future editions we may be able to satisfy your curiosity with the full meaning of that name.

Contact email cdneditorial@cdnews.com.au

## St Matt's Op Shop

Christmas is coming and the St Matt's volunteers have been enjoying helping customers find that special gift for friends and family. Here is a sneak peek at some of our stock of Christmas cards, decorations, Santa sacks, and Christmas-themed kitchenware and clothing which we will be putting out for sale soon. Reduce your impact on the environment this Christmas by saving good quality items from landfill and minimising the need for new items to be



manufactured. Most of our items are priced at \$1 each including books, clothing, shoes and toys.

If you are doing a spring clean and would like to donate unwanted items to St Matt's, please bear in mind that we can only accept undamaged items so nothing broken, torn or stained, and no large items are accepted. Donations can be dropped off during opening hours only.

Check the "St Matt's Op Shop Yinnar" Facebook page for up-to-date opening hours, or email stmattsyinnar@gmail.com

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# Pre-Season Preparations

Victoria is one of the most fire-prone areas in the world. Understanding your level of risk is the first step in knowing what to do before and during a fire.

Have a look at the different types of fire risk environments below and see which one you live in. By recognising and understanding your risk environment this will also help you to start preparing your property for fire and know what to do.

## Close to or among grass or paddocks

Grassfires can be extremely dangerous - people can die in grassfires.



### What can you expect?

- Dry and brown grass that easily catches fire.
- Grass more than 10cm tall will have a higher flame height and intensity.
- Faster burning than through forests as grass is a finer fuel.
- Radiant heat (the heat created by a fire)
- Fires that can start early in the day.
- Faster moving fires that travel up to 25 km per hour.

### What to do

- Prepare your property for fire before summer starts. Create fuel breaks around your property and the assets that you want to protect – you will need to maintain these throughout summer.
- Don't get caught out in the open during a grassfire. It can get very hot and radiant heat can kill.

The safest place to be is away from the threat.

If you are caught in a grassfire move to somewhere with minimal vegetation, such as a ploughed or well-grazed paddock.

- If you are caught in a car, don't get out and run.

Turn your hazard lights on and park off the roadway away from dense bush and long grass facing towards the oncoming fire.

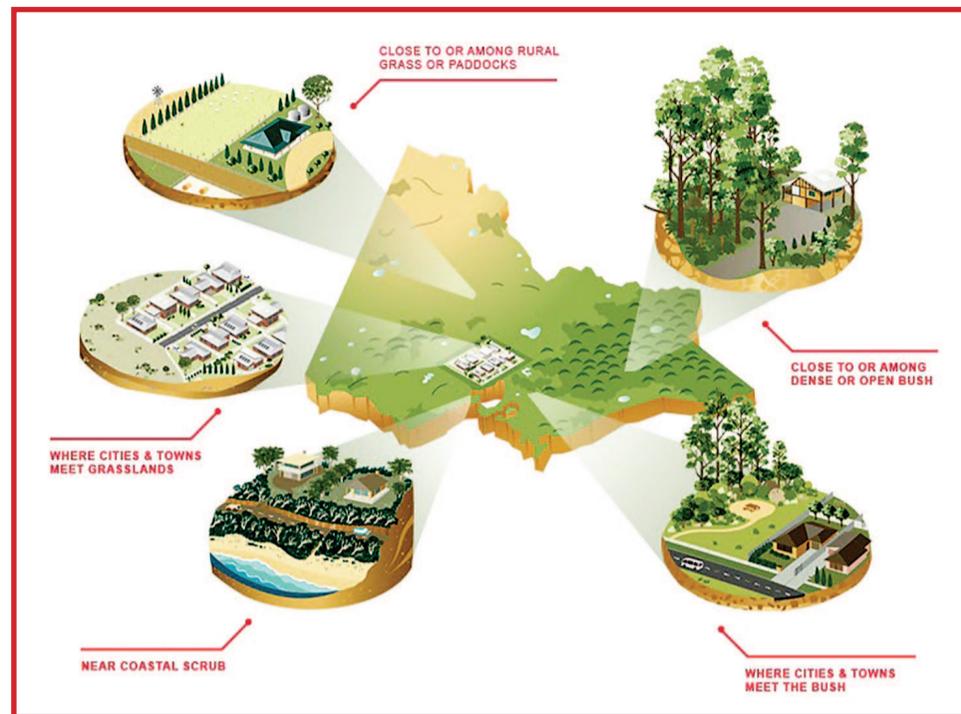
Before the fire approaches tightly close windows and doors, shut all vents and turn off the engine and make sure you get down below window level and cover up with woollen blankets.

Sheltering in a car is extremely dangerous and can result in serious injury or death. Always plan to leave early to avoid this situation.

- Stay informed on hot, dry, windy days by monitoring conditions outside and tuning into a local emergency broadcaster, checking [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) regularly and by downloading the VicEmergency app.

## Close to or among dense or open bush

Risk is most extreme if you live surrounded by or near forest that is difficult to see through. However, all forest or woodland presents a bushfire risk.



### What can you expect?

- Very hot fire and many embers.
- Embers such as twigs, bark and debris arriving from far away.
- Dangerous levels of radiant heat and fire intensity.
- Trees falling in high winds.
- Embers landing for a long time after the fire has passed.
- Fine fuels (the thickness of a pencil or less) that burn very quickly.
- Heavy fuels that will burn very hot for long periods of time.
- A reduction in visibility due to very thick smoke.

### What to do

- You need to prepare your property for fire before summer starts.
- Decide when you will leave and where you will go on hot, dry, windy days when the risk of a fire starting is increased.
- Talk to your family and friends about when you will leave and where you will go.
- Stay informed on hot, dry, windy days by monitoring conditions outside and tuning into a local emergency broadcaster, checking [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) regularly and by downloading the VicEmergency app.
- Leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family.
- If there is a fire close by, it's important to protect you and your family against radiant heat. Cover up any exposed skin because radiant heat can cause serious injury or death. Distance is the best protection against radiant heat, so it is important to move two or more streets away from the fire.

## Near coastal scrub

Burning scrub, heath or other coastal vegetation can create hot, dangerous bushfires. If you live by, work by or travel to the coast you are at risk. Beaches, foreshores and shallow waters may not be safe or protect you from radiant heat. Often a fire will be burning between you and the beach.



### What can you expect?

- Very hot and fast-moving fires.
- Gusty ocean winds causing fire to behave erratically.
- A lot of embers.

# Pre-Season Preparations



- Fire reaching houses quickly.
- Busy, congested coastal roads.
- Radiant heat (the heat created by a fire)

## What to do

- You need to prepare your property for fire before summer starts.
- Decide when you will leave and where you will go on hot, dry, windy days when the risk of a fire starting is increased.
- Stay informed on hot, dry, windy days by monitoring conditions outside and tuning into a local emergency broadcaster, checking emergency.vic.gov.au regularly and by downloading the VicEmergency app.
- Leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family.

## Where cities and towns meet the bush

You do not have to live in the country to be at risk of bushfire. Suburban homes can burn down in bushfire, too.



## What can you expect?

- Scrub, forest and grass catching fire.
- A fire in a park or reserve quickly spreading to timber fences and gardens.
- Fire spreading from house to house once houses start to burn.
- A high risk of ember attack if the house is near dense bushland environments.
- Embers falling close to or on your house starting a new fire.
- Strong winds that bring embers from far away.

## What to do

- You need to prepare your property for fire before summer starts.
- Decide when you will leave and where you will go on hot, dry, windy days when the risk of a fire starting is increased.
- Stay informed on hot, dry, windy days by monitoring conditions outside and tuning into

a local emergency broadcaster, checking emergency.vic.gov.au regularly and by downloading the VicEmergency app.

- Leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family.
- Stay informed on hot, dry, windy days by monitoring conditions outside and tuning into a local emergency broadcaster, checking emergency.vic.gov.au regularly and by downloading the VicEmergency app.

## Where cities and towns meet grasslands

If you live in a built-up area on the edge of grassland - whether it's open grassland, parks, paddocks or reserves - you could be impacted by grassfire this summer.



## What can you expect?

- Grassfires can start anywhere and spread quickly.
- Lots of smoke: Smoke makes it hard to see and can cause breathing difficulties.
- Remember, smoke may lead to traffic congestion and accidents so stay off the roads.
- Radiant heat (the heat created by a fire)

## What to do

- If you live in an urban area near grasslands, walk at least two streets back if a fire starts.

If you live two or three streets away from grassland and a grassfire starts, stay where you are. Grassfires are unlikely to spread into built up areas.

It is safest to do this by walking to keep roads clear for emergency services and help reduce road accidents.

- Act early, even if you haven't received a warning.
- If you live two or more streets away from grassland you should stay where you are.

Grassfire is unlikely to spread into built up areas.

Stay indoors and keep all windows and doors closed, place towels or blankets around the bottom of doors and window sills and don't use your air conditioner.

- Reduce your risk. Mow your grass and remove anything flammable - firewood, rubbish, weeds - from around your home and fence line.
- Stay informed on hot, dry, windy days by monitoring conditions outside and tuning into a local emergency broadcaster, checking emergency.vic.gov.au regularly and by downloading the VicEmergency app.

## Enjoy a fire safe barbecue

**Been a while since you last used your gas barbecue? Follow these three steps to be sure it's safe.**

- 1. Check to see if the cylinder is damaged**  
Don't try to refill a damaged cylinder – exchange it at a reputable supplier.
- 2. Check the hose to make sure it hasn't deteriorated**  
Spray the hose and regulator connections with soapy water – if soap bubbles appear, you'll know that gas is escaping. This means you'll need to either correct the connections or replace your hose.
- 3. Check that your barbecue is clean**  
Excess fat or residue can cause a fire.

**More safety tips**

Keep plenty of clear space between your barbecue and anything flammable.

Be aware that if wind blows the flame out, unburnt gas can build up to dangerous levels. If this happens, turn off the gas at the cylinder, and wait a few minutes before you light the barbecue again.

Using a barbecue indoors is illegal.

If a fire does start from a gas leak, don't try to extinguish the flames. Turn off the gas at the cylinder, but only if it's safe to do so.

[cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

## WE'RE PREPARING TOO!



Is this a new CFA truck washing system?

You would be forgiven if that's your first thought!

It is a crew protection spray system used when the truck and crew are in danger during a burnover.

Crews are protected by

roll-down heat reflector blinds together with crouching down below window level under woollen blankets and sprays working over the truck.

The truck and crew go into a mayday situation advising by radio their situation, GPS co-ordinates

and how many crew. The truck also has an aerial appliance number on the cabin roof which can be spotted from the air.

The lack of crew indicates they are safely in the cabin in this pre-summer burn-over drill.

# Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare

## Billys Creek Project Stage 1 completed

As many people will know, Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare group has been working to create and improve a wildlife corridor along Billys Creek upstream of the Morwell National Park.

It is a big site in an isolated area that is protected from future land use change. We were confident when we first planned our project in 2017, that trees we grew there would be able to grow on undisturbed and help sequester carbon and provide future habitat.

We have just sent in our final report for the funding we received in 2018 to get this project on its way. One of the standard questions we generally need to report on for our projects is about unexpected events and outcomes.

If you say it quickly, a bushfire followed by a pandemic then a tempest and floods could almost sound routine. They all happened here over a period of just two years.

When we first applied for funding to do this project, we had no idea of what we were about to go through.

At that time we thought the project site itself would be a big enough challenge for us. It was much bigger than anything that we'd done before, and we weren't even yet aware of the deer, sheep or cows that would come and destroy some of our efforts.

The question is: Can we call the events we have been experiencing unexpected? I personally think that scientists have been predicting these things for many years.

That they all happened at once locally and in such a short space of time has still been quite a shock. It can also be a big call to re-double efforts on emissions reduction in society; and to do more wherever we can to try and prevent more species in the natural world from becoming extinct.



Our last stand against the deer. Contractors installing our browser fence at Billys Creek

Four years since we began our Billys Creek project, the little Landcare group that can still here. We have been joined by more willing and capable members and assisted by some terrific partnerships.

We have not only done what we said we would do at our project site in the face of many more difficulties than we expected; but we've fitted in another big project as well, and learned a huge amount in the process.

### More about Wattles

In last month's Churchill News we talked about how important Acacias could be in quickly turning carbon dioxide into wood while using little water and adding nitrogen to the soil.

The larger of our local wattles are fast growing and leafy and help to get newly

planted areas started. They provide shade and shelter for slower growing plants. They are all excellent habitat trees, alive, dead or in-between, and will bring in birds that help to control insects. Birds visiting wattle trees will provide pollination and seed distribution services to other plants. Some that grow locally are Blackwoods (Acacia melanoxylon), Silver Wattles (Acacia dealbata) and Black Wattles (Acacia mearnsii). They flower at different times so can supply pollen to bees and butterflies over a longer period of time. These three larger wattles may be a bit too big for most suburban gardens.

Blackwoods are longer-lived than the two local ferny leaved wattles. Silver Wattles tend to die after about seven to twenty years. Some advice given about establishing windbreaks suggests planting Silver Wattles on an edge and felling them once the rest of the planting matures. (The wildlife would thank you if you then replaced them with new ones.) They can make excellent firewood or perform useful service as habitat logs if dead branches and trunks are left on the ground.

Silver Wattles and Blackwoods are listed as Fire Retarding in one of our plant references. This is explained as follows:

All plants will burn, but plants listed are slow to ignite and then burn slowly. Many have foliage with a low oil content or a high level of salt. (N Peate, G. Macdonald, A Talbot Grow What Where. Blooming Books 2006)

I have had it explained to me as these plants are steaming rather than igniting in fire conditions. Their non-oily leaves and a high water content would support that theory- but I don't plan to test it!

Locally indigenous smaller wattles for gardens, understorey plantings, habitat blocks, pollinator patches and windbreaks include Narrow Leafed Wattle

(Acacia mucronata); Varnish Wattle (Acacia verniciflua); Hop Wattle (Acacia stricta) and Prickly Moses (Acacia verticillata). Like their larger relatives these species mostly grow quickly, fix nitrogen, shelter birds and create habitat. Although they mostly have a short flowering period, their yellow flowers will brighten up the landscape in winter and spring.

Only Varnish Wattles appear to grow abundantly after fires, so it seems likely to be the most fire-loving of this group.

Our Landcare group uses all these species for direct seeding as they grow well from seed. This year we will also

grow them in our greenhouse for infill planting and for new areas.

We will have some plants spare, so please either get in touch if you have a local revegetation project, or watch for us at local markets if you'd like to try growing a few in your garden.

We are also growing local Eucalypts and experimenting with a wide variety of other plants that attract native bees and butterflies.

Jay Duncan.  
Secretary, Yinnar Yinnar South Landcare group  
<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/westgippsland/yinnar-south/>

## Russell Northe MP



Well it's difficult to believe that we have already hit the November mark in 2021 in what can only be described as an interesting and challenging year from the perspective of COVID and COVID restrictions ever present, but hopefully some positivity is on the horizon as we pass through the 80% and 90% double vaccination marks. As I write there are still numerous active COVID cases in our community, but thankfully at another level we are now being able to live with COVID given rising vaccination rates. The State Government has now mandated that COVID vaccinations are required for workers across a whole range of different sectors and industries, and on the whole our community has really rallied strongly to boost vaccination numbers across Gippsland.

In terms of mandatory vaccination, it is somewhat of a vexed issue, with my office for example being contacted by many locals who have expressed various levels of concern with respect to this direction. Whilst I have made the choice to be fully vaccinated, I do worry that the Government's mandate is causing unnecessary division in communities and businesses with businesses effectively having to carry the burden of policing a Government direction, and employees at risk of losing their job if they don't comply. It is a very tough situation for persons to contend with, particularly if they have a genuine reason they cannot or do not wish to be vaccinated. Having said that, I do wish to

acknowledge the incredible efforts of everyone who has worked in our region over the past 20 months or so in response to COVID. Everyone across the health and mental health spectrum including those managing the testing and vaccination programs moving quickly depending on when and where their services are required. Let's hope that by the time Christmas and the festive season arrives there is some return to normality and the opportunity to spend quality time with family and loved ones.

It hasn't been the best of times for people residing in Churchill and surrounds given recent storm events in late October once again. Our thoughts are with everyone impacted at such a difficult time and I know there were people working long hours and over the long weekend to restore power to property and help with the clean-up which was profound.

From those fixing poles and wires, to our incredible SES teams, and to all emergency responders I say thank you again for your work and efforts. I really don't know where we would be without such caring and generous people who do their absolute best to help others during a crisis. Sometimes the best we can do is to simply say thank you. So from all of us thank you!!

An item that may be of interest is that the Electoral Boundaries Commission (EBC) has recently announced its final changes to State Government electoral boundaries that will take effect from November 26, 2022 and after the next

State election. These changes mean that the township of Moe will be transferred from the Narracan electorate to the Morwell electorate which I have the current privilege to represent. This also means that the towns of Boolarra, Yinnar, Cowwarr and Toongabbie will be removed from the Morwell electorate and transferred to the electorate of Gippsland South.

Whilst I am yet to make any decision about my own future, I can say I am saddened to see the loss of these towns from the Morwell electorate given their linkages and common interests with neighbouring towns such as Churchill. In fact these communities are replete with very good people who volunteer so much time and effort to make their town even better. I have established some great friendships in these and other smaller towns and communities and this is something I will always cherish. As noted above, the changes do not come into effect until after the next Victorian State election which is scheduled for November 26, 2022. For those interested, the link below takes you to the details of these and other State Government boundary changes as prescribed by the EBC. <https://maps.ebc.gov.au/>

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**CDCA**  
Churchill & District Community Association Inc.

supports Churchill & District News  
*We love our community newspaper!*

Contact CDCA via our website - [www.cdca.org.au](http://www.cdca.org.au) or find us on Facebook!

Next CDCA meeting scheduled for 7pm, Thursday, 2nd December, 2021.  
downstairs in the Churchill Town Hall (park & enter from Phillip Pde). Check meeting details on our website close to date.

**AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS**

**Morwell & District Red Cross Branch**

Members will meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm at Morwell.

New members are welcome to attend  
For further information contact the Secretary  
**Phone 5163 1565**

# SCHOOL NEWS

## BOOLARRA PRIMARY

### Dear Future Self

On the last day of remote and flexible learning, the Grade 3 and 4 students at Boolarra Primary School wrote a letter to their future selves to capture their thoughts and feelings about lockdown.

Dear Future Self,

Today, Thursday October 21, is hopefully the last day of remote learning. We have spent the last 2 years in and out of remote learning due to the COVID pandemic. I wanted to record the following information so I don't forget.

The reason I am doing remote learning is because we have to stay home to stop the spread of COVID-19. The things I liked most about remote learning is when

it ends, but I kind of liked having more time at home with my family.

I found having to do everything on a computer hard during remote learning.

I connected with my friends and teacher using Webex. It's a bit like facetime, you get to see each other and talk to each other on the computer. It is not as good as seeing them in real life.

I am much better at using a computer because I had to use it so much during remote learning.

The thing I want to remember most about remote learning is the fun I had spending time at home.

From Callen (Grade 3)

Dear Future Self,

Today, Thursday October

21, is hopefully the last day of remote learning. I don't want to wear a mask or do home learning. I want to see my friends every day.

I want to do normal work at school. I want to have school camp in Grade 3. I would like to have all teachers back to school again. I hope this is the last day of home learning and I am so happy

I am sad because of COVID-19, because it doesn't feel normal. I've been happy because I got to learn how to use Google classrooms and I like to finish my work early so I can do what I want at the end of the day

From Ivy-Rose (Grade 3)

Dear Future Self,

It is 2021, for the last

two years we have been living with COVID. Masks have been mandatory for anyone over twelve and we have been in and out of lockdowns. That means you have to stay at home unless you are food shopping also for work and doctors appointments.

Here are the things I have learnt:

You don't need friends if you have a big family  
Home learning is fun.

It's better to live in the country than the city because you can still run around outside.

Protesters can become very violent which is frightening.

In a crisis the first thing people buy is toilet paper.

From Corey (Grade 4)

### Cows Make Careers

This term we got two calves named Lavender and Milly from a local farmer Nadine. For the last couple of weeks some of the kids in Grade 5/6 have been weighing the milk powder and making their powdered milk. Every day a different class helps bottle feed the two baby cows.

Once a day three kids from the Grade 5/6 class fill up their grain and water buckets. For maths some younger kids have been measuring the cows belly to make sure they are growing so we can make a graph in class.

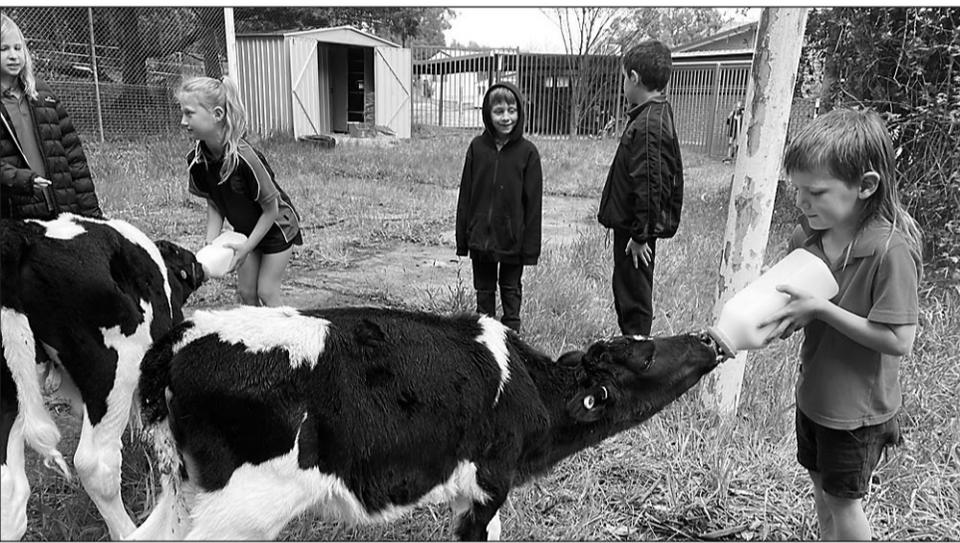
3/4s - I like that they are calm so when we go pat them they feel really fluffy. A couple of days ago I got

to feed the calves with Ivy it was fun but it took a long time. The cows are fluffy and cute I also enjoyed bottle feeding them.

P/1/2s - I enjoy feeding the cows, they are cute when you feed them, but they drool a lot. They do smell a lot but are very fun to have around.

5/6s - They are very cute. They have very fuzzy hair but they smell when you get close. Being able to feed them was a heap of fun. It is good having different animals around, like when we get to feed and then pat them.

It is really fun and we are happy that Nadine let us feed them for several weeks.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## CHURCHILL NORTH PRIMARY



The return to term still saw our Grade 3 - 6 students working remotely, but it was business as usual for Churchill North Primary School. Our students are taking all the changes and challenges in their stride as they continued to build on their developing skills for 2021. As we welcomed in a new term, we also welcomed our new Principal - Mr Colin Price. He has joined the CNPS team for the remainder of this term

coming from Pakenham Consolidated Primary School previously.

Term 4 brings with it the busy processes of assessment prior to report writing, so it is a busy time at our school, but that sure doesn't mean the students are forgotten amid the scurrying.

As a way to help students who have had many weeks of remote learning to ease back into the classroom, the students have been offered some light-hearted fun with

a few of the teachers' pets being shared. This was met with a great deal of delight and the occasional gasp of joy.

It was patting all round and then giggles all round as the bunny hopped through the classroom offering a little brain break for all within the day. The students at Churchill North Primary School are super happy to be back learning on site in Term 4.





## Planning Ahead

CDCA's scheduled October meeting was postponed until November due to COVID restrictions. Lockdowns and restrictions have proved very disruptive for community groups everywhere and planning ahead has been fraught. Technology assists us all to keep in touch but it has its limitations!

Many projects and activities have stalled due to the pandemic and events have had to be cancelled. That said, it looks as if the easing of restrictions in Victoria will allow for plenty of activity in future months.

CDCA, in partnership with Churchill Neighbourhood Centre (CNC) and Churchill & District News, is planning a Shop Local Christmas Market for the morning of Saturday December 4, at the Churchill Shopping Centre.

We will have craft stalls, free sausage sizzle and entertainment and shopping voucher give-aways. It will be great to see an event in our retail centre and we are hoping many locals will come out, browse the stalls, have a free sausage, listen to the music provided, catch up with friends and, most importantly, shop local!

Further planning is afoot to facilitate a public art event in Churchill early next year. It is likely this event will feature a photographic exhibition and seek community involvement in the creation of a public art installation. Planning has only recently commenced so no firm information can yet

be provided, but we hope to be able to tell readers more in the December edition of the News.

Our Council funded project for the installation of a picnic setting near the pathway along the Eel Hole Creek wetlands (between McDonald Way and Northways Road) has stalled. Churchill Men's Shed had been approached to construct the setting from locally obtained wood, but the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that the Men's Shed has been closed for much of the year. We hope to find a solution in the near future which involves utilising local skills to complete this project.

Some of CDCA's negotiations have produced results this year. We have been liaising with Latrobe City Council regarding the section of Eel Hole Creek between Glendonald Road and Phillip Parade – it has badly needed some attention to weed and rubbish removal, fire hazard reduction and a general tidy up (while not disturbing native vegetation and wildlife). Recently, contractors have been busy in the area with whipper-snippers, trailers and chain-saws.

Lots of invasive plant species have been removed, particularly on the roadside, including blackberries.

CDCA has been advised that a planned upgrade of the fence along Monash Way is still to proceed, perhaps over the summer months. With the extreme weather events suffered in

Latrobe this year, a number of outdoor projects have been delayed as clean-ups of fallen trees, removal of debris and safe access to sites has had to take priority. CDCA has long advocated for something sightlier than a barbed wire fence along Monash Way!

Local residents are welcome to attend our meetings and raise issues of concern to Churchill and district. Our Committee considers all issues brought to us and, where we can, will follow up if the issue sits within CDCA's mandate.

CDCA meetings are held on the first Thursday of every second month. Our last meeting for 2021 will be held at 7pm on Thursday December 2. Locals are welcome to attend and observe or you can apply for membership of CDCA by downloading an application form from our website: [cdca.org.au](http://cdca.org.au) - membership is free and there are no obligations although participation is encouraged.

We usually meet in Studio 1, downstairs at the Churchill Town Hall (enter from Phillip Parade) unless COVID restrictions prevent us meeting in person. Meeting details can be confirmed by checking the Home Page of our website: [cdca.org.au](http://cdca.org.au)

We are also on Facebook – search for Churchill District Community Association - leave a message if you wish to contact CDCA or you can write to us at PO Box 191, Churchill.

## Plants in my Garden

By Mike Beamish

Species: *Melaleuca lateritia*.

Family: Myrtaceae.

Derivation:

*Melaleuca*: From Greek melas, meaning black, and leucos, meaning white, and referring to the black burnt patches seen on the white bark of some species or alternatively, to the black trunks and white branches of some Asian species.

*lateritia*: From the Latin word lateritius, which means made of bricks and used botanically to mean dark brick-red, referring to the flower colour.

Common Name:

Robin Redbreast Bush.

Distribution: The south-west of Western Australia, from Kalbarri in the north, around the south-west coast and ranges, as far east as Albany.

Description: An erect shrub to 2.5m tall and 3m broad with coarse, fibrous bark.

Leaves are alternate, thin and linear to 20mm long and 2mm wide. Bottlebrush-type flower spikes to 80mm long and 60mm in diameter occur over a long period covering the warmer months of the year, and are a bright orange-red in colour. Fruits are cylindrical clusters of rounded capsules, each about 8mm in diameter, with sunken valves.

Opinion: This is another old plant, having been in its position on the eastern boundary fence in my backyard for more than twenty years.

Despite its age it is still quite small, being about 1.5m tall and broad.

For most of the time it blends into the garden, but



when those flowers appear, they grab the attention of every nectar-feeding critter within cooee.

The literature says that propagation is easy from cuttings or seed;

I have not tried the latter, though capsules are present, and wonder whether seed would be viable since I doubt there are any other specimens nearby for cross-pollination.

I've tried cuttings a few times over the years and have had about a 50% strike rate and survival to potting up stage, but my records don't show whether the plants have survived once delivered to their new homes.

Sources: Elliot & Jones – Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 6.

Sharr – WA Plant Names and their Meanings.

Online – FloraBase: Flora of WA.

Holliday – A Field Guide to Melaleucas.

Wrigley & Fagg – Bottlebrushes, Paperbarks & Tea Trees, etc.

The Australian Plants Society Latrobe Valley Group hosts monthly activities, excursions and/or meetings. Interested persons are welcome to join in, please contact Mike for more information. Email [mcandcjb@gmail.com](mailto:mcandcjb@gmail.com) or phone 0447 452 755.

### A message about Recycling at the Churchill Hub



**DON'T BIN THEM - RECYCLE THEM IN THE FOYER AT THE HUB!**



- Pens, Biro's, Textas, Marking Pens and Hi-lighters
- Toothbrushes, Toothpaste Tubes & Dental Floss Containers
- Bread Tags (the little plastic squares)
- CLEAN used aluminium foil
- X-rays • Printer cartridges
- Household batteries • Mobile phones & chargers
- All small e-waste items

“Save your “scrunchable plastics” too – the Red-cycle bin outside Woolworths has only temporarily disappeared!”



## Melina BATH MP

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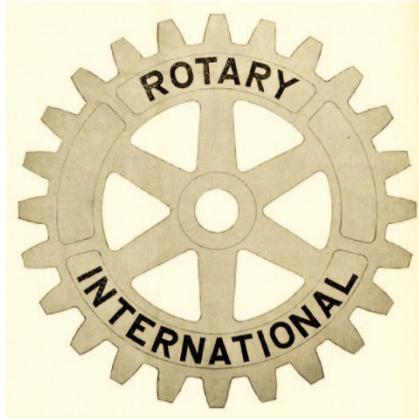
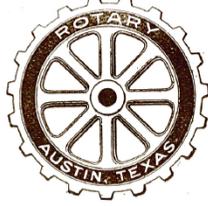
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MelinaBathMLC

[melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au)

# Hazelwood Rotary Club



Oscar Bjorge's design for the Rotary emblem, as published in the January 1920 issue of The Rotarian.



1910

## Rotary Hazelwood



### By Leo Billington How the Rotary emblem evolved

Rotary was founded in February 1905 by Paul Percy Harris, a Chicago, Illinois, attorney. He founded the club that became the humanitarian organisation, Rotary International with now in excess of 35,000 member clubs worldwide, with a membership of over 1.2 million individuals, known as Rotarians.

In his words, Paul Harris explained how three young Chicago businessmen, plus himself had a meeting to decide a plan of mutual co-operation and informal friendship. This group soon grew in numbers – a banker, a baker, minister, lawyer, plumber and a laundryman. At a third meeting, the name “Rotary” was agreed as their group name; selected because meetings were planned to be held in rotation at the members offices and places of work. Later this was extended to various hotels and restaurants.

During that first year, and as membership grew, it was decided that a club emblem was required. An initial

design was sketched by a member, depicting a wagon wheel with 13 (perhaps 14) spokes.

This sketch was considered too static and lifeless. Lifeless clouds were added to suggest the wheel was moving. Critics were aplenty – the clouds looked like dust – hence the words “ROTARY CLUB” were added.

Six years later, it was agreed the wheel would remain as the basic part of a Rotary emblem.

Up until then, there was some variation in early emblems – one in particular, for Chicago where a streamer was added carrying the words “ROTARY CLUB”.

In 1912, Rotary clubs in America were invited to submit designs, keeping the wheel. Oscar Bjorge's winning design was eventually adopted in November 1919. It showed six spokes and 24 cogs, giving what the judges decided, a sturdy appearance. Better still, this design reflected a real, working gearwheel.

By 1924, a keyway (resembling the wheel being

locked to a drive shaft) was added to Bjorge's design, to show the new wheel was a real worker. Five years later, in 1929, this new design was formally adopted.

For those who analyse brand logos, the new wheel conveyed great significance. As explained by the then National Rotary Convention; “Modern society could not exist without all the many forms of gear wheels; they are the mechanisms of driving force, of transmitting power, of work.”

Rotary's Four Objects of service are reflected in six cogs between each spoke – Club Service; Vocational Service; Community Service and International Service.

About six years ago, there was a wave of international conversation analysing the effectiveness of Rotary's blue and yellow logo. General opinion showed that although the words “ROTARY INTERNATIONAL” were embedded in the wheel, it was difficult to read them from a distance.

Hence, changes were made mainly to include “ROTARY” next to the

wheel. The logo, Rotary's name and other associated logos are trademarked. There are well established guidelines for the use of Rotary Marks, governing any use on merchandise, publications and promotional material.

Those early years when debate and analysis of an appropriate, reflective logo commanded prominence, are indicative of any process where an effective logo is finally selected. That is, and ideally, a logo requires careful consideration because it communicates to a wide audience, perhaps even worldwide.

We will all know some logos which communicate absolutely nothing. Then there are logos which don't require words alongside. These are self-explanatory, locked, embedded into our brains.

## Churchill & Monash Golf Club results

Saturday 23/10/21  
Stableford

- A Grade: C. Gosling (18)
- 31. B Grade L. Watkins (21)
- 36. C Grade A. West (33) 41.
- DTL P. Flanigan 35. L. Anderson 35. B. Cleland 34.
- M. Allen 33. A. Quinn 32.
- S. Caldwell 30.
- NTP 3rd B. Kilday 5th

- L. Anderson 12th R. King 14th C. Gosling

Tuesday 26/10/21  
Stableford

- Winner C. Stevens (45)
- 30. DTL S. Gosling (45) 29 C/B.

- NTP 3rd M. Mc Conville 5th S. Caldwell 12th S. Caldwell 14th V. Reid.

## Meet Andy Gergis CHURCHILL DISCOUNT PHARMACY

Andy Gergis is the new owner of the Churchill Discount Pharmacy located near IGA and Hazelwood Health.

Andy bought the pharmacy business from the previous owner who has returned to South Australia.

Andy learnt pharmacy and graduated in Cairo Egypt.

Growing up Andy had two dreams for his life, one was to become a pharmacist and two to come to Australia where his Uncle had come in the 1960s and settled in Sydney.

In 2000 he completed his pharmacy degree and in his first year after graduating came to Australia as a skilled migrant. Here he had to sit exams and train for twelve months under supervision. This he did in a pharmacy in Ballarat.

Following his successful exams and training he was offered a job at the pharmacy and stayed for three years. Then he moved to Melbourne where he worked in pharmacies in the Western suburbs.

Marriage happened and two boys have completed his family. Then followed a move to the Eastern Suburbs where he had several jobs.

The last five years he worked as a locum, traveling all over country Victoria. He even had a stint as a relieving pharmacist at Monash hospital.



After twenty years of experience in community and hospital practice, Andy wanted to start his own practice.

The country setting was his wish, but his wife had a job in Melbourne and his boys attended school there and so that would prove a difficulty.

That is until Churchill became available. It was not too far to commute daily and his wife and boys could continue where they were.

Andy knew that there would be a lot of hard work, but saw from the beginning that it would all be worth it.

He purchased the business in April 2021 and even with COVID restrictions and lockdowns he has managed to build the pharmacy bit by bit with new décor and supply of services people need from a pharmacy.

Andy really likes Churchill and its people who are nice and friendly, which makes it enjoyable for him in his work. He will always endeavor to provide good advice and service, while keeping prices low and affordable.

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY

We take pause to remember all those who have served, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and those who continue to carry the burdens of service – in war, conflict and peacekeeping.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

**Lest we forget.**

**Harriet Shing MP** MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

216 Commercial Road, Morwell VIC 3840  
P: (03) 5134 8000 E: harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au  
f harrietshingmp @ShingWorld

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# SCHOOL NEWS

# CHURCHILL PRIMARY



Grade 3 and 5 students Mia F, Sienna C, Isla G, Joel A and Jackson V can be proud of their efforts in this year's NAPLAN test!

**NAPLAN success**  
Our school community should be extremely proud of the Year 3 and 5 results in NAPLAN this year. NAPLAN is only one measure of individual student performance, but it is important in evaluating how our school is going as a whole in the wider system. We have been focussed on improving literacy for the past three years, building our teachers knowledge in teaching using the Science of Learning. We have also embedded a whole school

Instructional Model – Explicit Direct Instruction. The change in what we teach and how we teach it has led to significant growth for our students.  
Our students' performance compared to those in similar schools across the state and network was higher in every area – in both Grade 3 and 5, reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation. In all but three areas out of the ten we were above or matched the state achievement. Take a look at the figures below

which highlight our growth and see how our results compared to other schools!  
Grade 3 Reading – CPS 75%, state 60%, network 46%, similar schools 41%  
Grade 3 Writing – CPS 69%, state 55%, network 35%, similar schools 30%  
Grade 3 Spelling – CPS 44%, state 50%, network 29%, similar schools 27%  
Grade 3 Grammar and Punctuation – CPS 63%, state 60%, network 44%, similar schools 38%  
Grade 3 Numeracy – CPS 44%, state 41%, network

27%, similar schools 22%  
Grade 5 Reading – CPS 43%, state 43%, network 30%, similar schools 26%  
Grade 5 Writing – CPS 13%, state 20%, network 8%, similar schools 5%  
Grade 5 Spelling – CPS 35%, state 37%, network 22%, similar schools 18%  
Grade 5 Grammar and Punctuation – CPS 35%, state 35%, network 21%, similar schools 16%  
Grade 5 Numeracy – CPS 35%, state 33%, network 19%, similar schools 16%  
(These figures are based on the number of students scoring in the top two bands on the NAPLAN test in each category.)  
This is by far the highest performance across the school in the last eight years. It tells us the investment we have made building the skills and knowledge of our teachers to use evidence-based practices and the science of learning is working. Our adoption of Explicit Direct Instruction has also resulted in an increase in numeracy

results, even though our focus has been on literacy. Our teachers have been focused on building their instructional practice and we thank them for their commitment, passion, and dedication.  
We all know how challenging the last 18 months have been for our students, with constant interruptions to schooling. The fact that we have been able to achieve so much with all the stress and disruption to onsite learning is also a testament to our families' commitment to their children's education and wellbeing. We acknowledge our parents, care givers, and families for their support over Remote and Flexible learning and for working in partnership with the school so their children could be as successful as they possibly can.  
Finally, we would like to acknowledge the awesome effort of ALL our students. We admire them for their resilience, positivity and all the hard work they put into their learning whether at

school or when learning at home. We are very proud of every single one of them!  
*Prep Enrolments 2022*  
A reminder to families that Prep enrolments for 2022 are now open. If you have a kinder aged child at home who will be ready to go to school next year, please phone the office on 03 5122 1343 to request an enrolment pack. School tours can also be arranged for parents wishing to come and see for themselves exactly what our school has to offer for their child's individual needs and learning journey.  
Unfortunately, due to COVID lockdowns and restrictions we were unable to start our Ready, Set... PREP! program in Term 3 and we thank our 2022 Prep families for their understanding. At this stage we are still unable to run the program but are hopeful that we will be able to run at least a couple of sessions before the end of the year once more restrictions ease. Please contact the school if you would like to know more.

# SCHOOL NEWS

# YINNAR PRIMARY

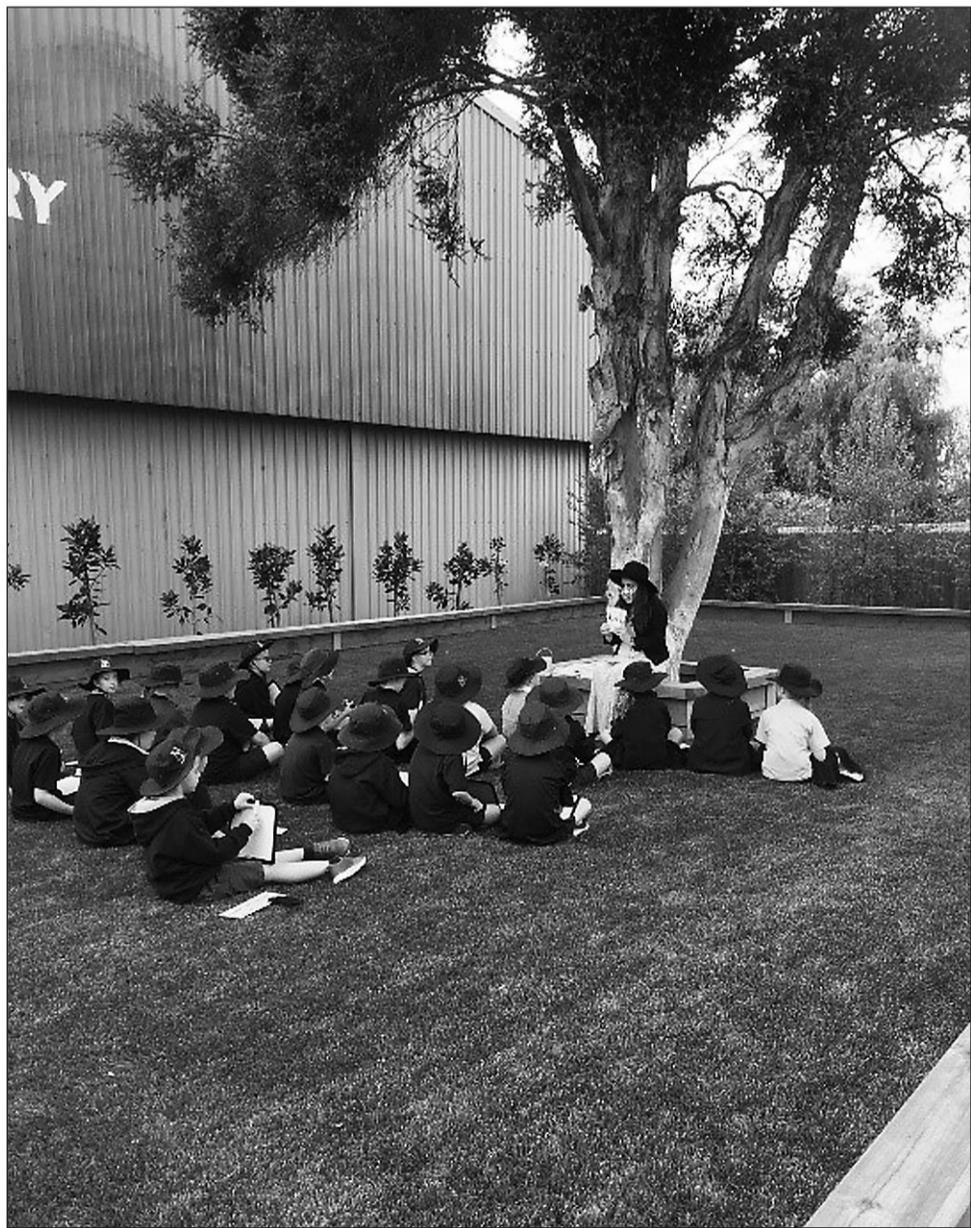
All students at Yinnar returned to onsite learning on Friday October 22. We were really looking forward to having everyone back and hope that the rest of the school year can be settled as we head towards December. Our students have embraced their home learning, but we know that they are keen to be back at school to catch up with their friends and spend time together in the classroom.  
We are very excited to have a new outdoor learning space which has just had artificial turf put down. The students are very excited to

see this drab space turned into a vibrant and fun area. Today Miss N and 1/2's used this space for their learning. Everyone is enjoying the look and the feel of our new turf.  
Some students were courteous enough to even take their shoes off when playing on it this morning. This is not something that we recommend as wet socks will ensue! We have further exciting plans for Gumnut Village so watch this space! At right is a photo of our students enjoying the new grassy area.

How cool are our new GRACE Buckets in the stadium?  
Thanks so much to Young Signs for their generous donation of our new GRACE wall art that will form our new GRACE reward program that we will introduce in 2022.  
The students are very curious about the buckets and are looking forward to learning how they will work. They have certainly brightened up our stadium and look fantastic. Thank you Young Signs.



Daisy, Gracie and Dusty showing our new Grace Buckets



# SCHOOL NEWS

# KURNAI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

### Study Hall

Our study hall supervisor Ms Stacey Miller has gone above and beyond to provide for our students a vibrant and comfortable study hall.

The walls are filled with colourful displays and helpful study information, the fruit bowl is always full, there are fidget toys for students to relax with and the room is always filled with students studying in a friendly and comfortable environment. Stacey has also gone to great trouble to provide each Year 12 student with a congratulatory leaving bag full of goodies, with staff members taking the time to personally deliver packs to those who were unable to collect them for themselves.

### VCAL Awards

Year 12 VCAL students were congratulated on their successful completion of their VCAL journey with awards nominated by their fellow students. Staff and students gathered informally to acknowledge the hard work and achievements of our graduating students. A COVID safe outside gathering was also held during which students ate delicious food prepared by the Kurnai Kafe. We wish them all the best for their future pursuits.

### Year 12 Exams

We wish all our students who are participating in Year 12 exams well. The exams have come at the end of a very challenging and uncertain year, and will

be the end of two COVID disrupted years for our Year 12 students. The week before the exams is feeling very different this year with the decision to keep Year 12 students off campus due to the risk of COVID-19.

### Defence Force Packs

As part of VCAL Year 11 Literacy, students are preparing packages to be sent to our serving defence force personnel overseas. These will arrive in time for Christmas Day. Students have been busy writing letters and using their organisational skills to make sure the packages are completed and posted under a very short time allocation. This is part of the VCAL ethos of 'paying it forward' through acts of kindness to

the broader community.

### Vocational preparation

Due to the generosity of over thirty volunteers from a range of local organisations, services and industry, a series of online mock interviews were held involving sixty students. The goal of these mock interviews is to prepare students for their vocational life and to build the skills required to succeed in their careers.

The Mock Interviews involved panellists with experience in recruitment and conducting interviews, working in pairs to put students through a formal interview process, following submission of student resumes. Interviews lasted around 45 minutes with panellists providing direct

detailed feedback to each student.

Reports back from panellists and students told us how much they enjoyed and gained from the experience.

Panellists spoke of how impressed they were with the students, with consistent feedback that many were underselling themselves in their resume. They also commended the students on their preparation, openness to feedback and how respectfully they approached what is a nerve wracking event.

For students the impact was immediately obvious, with increased confidence, sage advice obviously heard and taken on board and renewed energy and

enthusiasm for the future.

- Thanks must go to:
- Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network – BBLLEN
- The Smith Family AGL
- TAFE Gippsland
- Gippsland Tech School
- Latrobe City Council
- WHITELION
- Latrobe Youth Space
- HeadSpace
- NanooNanoo
- Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cop-op – GEGAC
- Yarram and District Health Service
- Enjoy Church
- Australian Paper Anglicare



# SCHOOL NEWS

# HAZELWOOD NORTH PRIMARY

### Crazy Hair Day

On October 22, we had a Crazy Hair Day at Hazelwood North P.S. All the kids and teachers had the option to dress their hair crazy, then we all went to the basketball court to do a parade so that everyone could see each others hair as a whole school. We had to bring a gold coin donation so that we can raise money for Down Syndrome and Diabetes.

You could bring 10 cents for one guess and get a max of four guesses for 'How many are in the jar'.

### World Teacher's Day

On October 21, HNPS students were asked to write letters for their teachers for World Teacher's Day. All the children wrote respectful letters about how great the teachers really are. It took them five days to complete their letters.

On October 26, all the children went into the library and decorated or started their letters; it took them half an hour to complete them and in the end they looked AMAZING!

Then on October 28, the teachers heard a very important message over the speakers- they had to come to the staff room straight after the bell had rung! It was a surprise; there was a special morning tea for all the teachers with thankyou and respectful letters for them all.

The teachers loved them! They were so pleased!

### VIP day for the 5/6's

On October 17, we had our very special VIP (Very Important Person) Day.

On the first day back we had VIP day, which was a special launch to announce our VIP's back to school- which was the one and

only 5's and 6's. Every time we show Responsibility, Resilience and Respect we get a very special VIP ticket. On the day, we had a party to announce our Values In Practice. It was a very fun and special Day.

### By Indy Lee Connolly Bird Art for local students

Art students at Hazelwood North PS have focussed their learning on native birds in our local district, as linked to the Aussie Backyard Bird Count this October.

Our Superb Lyrebird was the inspiration for both drawing and papercraft activities, online for Years 5/6 and in class for P/1/2.

Developing drawing skills is a favourite medium and familiar birds became a great resource for many strong efforts.



P1/2 students investigated different materials that would fold, bend or stretch to make their bird tails.

# Friends of Morwell National Park

After the September Activity Matt, Tamara and Ken went to Silvertop Hill to check out the dairy plant. They found that the mystery plant was in flower. It was not however the native daisy plant that they had suspected, but a weed from a completely different family.

It proved to be the Giant Viper's Bugloss - *Echium pininana*, a garden escape originally from the Canary Islands. Tamara soon spotted a large number of plants of the same species on private property at the edge of Brewster's Road, only 200 metres from the plant in the park. Matt broke the main stem to prevent it setting seed this year and we intend to see that it is removed.

Morwell National Park was partially reopened last month after being heavily impacted by severe storms in June. Most tracks within the park still remain closed while arborists remove dangerous limbs from above and around the walking tracks. Currently the following Morwell National Park Sections of the park will remain closed until further notice, including:

- Stringybark Track
- Grand Strzelecki Track
- Sections of Billys Creek Track

- Brewster Road entry
  - Braniffs Road entry
- Open areas are:
- Fosters Gully
  - Billys Creek Track:
- 1km from Junctions Road

## October Activity Report

For this month we had two activities. In the morning we had an Orchid Walk to discover which orchids could be seen either in flower or leaf form. In the afternoon we had our annual Koala Count. For the Orchid Walk we had Gordon, Graeme, Tamara, Joelle and Darren. We had Ange and Sean along for their first activity. Ange is a returnee to the Valley and Sean is an eager bushwalker keen to discover more in the Gippsland environment. We had apologies from Matt, Mike and Cathy.

Recently, Parks have had arborists working around Stringybark Track removing dangerous trees and branches. With that work complete, it was safe for us to walk this track to investigate the orchids visible. The bridge leading to Stringybark Track is still broken (so this track is likely to be closed until the bridge can be either replaced or repaired), so access was gained by the side track.

We found this normal dry track, very wet. Ground water was holding on the surface making many large puddles and in some places torrents of water washing down the track.

During the days activities we recorded nine orchid species flowering:

- \* *Caladenia catenata* (White Fingers)
  - \* *Caladenia carnea* (Pink Fingers)
  - \* *Caladenia transitoria* (Eastern Bronze Caladenia)
  - \* *Caladenia moschata* (Musky Caladenia)
  - \* *Chiloglottis valida* (Common Bird-orchid)
  - \* *Diuris orientis* (Wallflower Orchid)
  - \* *Glossodia major* (Waxlip Orchid)
  - \* *Pterostylis pedunculata* (Maroonhood)
  - \* *Pterostylis alpina* (Mountain Greenhood)
- Although not in flower, the leaves and/or buds of an additional five orchids were seen:
- \* *Chiloglottis reflexa* (Autumn Bird-orchid)
  - \* *Corybas diemenicus* (Veined Helmet-orchid)
  - \* *Microtis* sp. (Onion orchid)
  - \* *Sarcochilus australis* (Butterfly Orchid)
  - \* *Thelymitra media* (Tall Sun-orchid)



All were on Stringybark Ridge, except for the Mountain Greenhood and Onion Orchid, which were observed along the Jumbuk Road Track during the koala count. Thank you to Tamara for her collection of this information.

In the afternoon we held the koala count. Many people from the community had come along to help with the koala count. From our Friends group we had Gordon, Graeme, Tamara, Joelle, Jay, Wayne, Ken, Beryl, Joan and Darren. We had apologies from Matt, Mike and Cathy. Also we had Ange and Sean from the

earlier activity and at least ten members of the public to help with the search. There were enough people to make three different hiking circuits.

Tamara, Graeme, Sean and a few adventurous community members made the trek up Jumbuk Road via vehicle to walk overland along the Jumbuk Track. This group spotted four koalas with two in the same tree.

Beryl, Wayne and a large community group walked around Stringybark Track and found six koalas. Two were on the ground fighting. It was good to see that koalas have returned to

areas affected by the 2019 bushfires. Last year no koalas were located in this area but this year a few koalas were spotted here. A thick undergrowth of bracken, wattles and small gums now blankets this area. The bushfire and good rains has been good for growth in this area.

The last group with Ken, Joelle, Jay, Gordon, Darren, Howard, Ange, Wendy and John walked around Foster's Gully. This group found the track very wet and only sighted one koala. At Lyndon's Landing we clearly heard three different male koala's calling to each other.




## christmas

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