

# CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

*"Connecting Your Community"*

Established 1966

Distributed Free

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## Hazelwood House – urgent community support needed



In an interview with three management personnel of Benetas, Churchill & District News learnt Hazelwood Houses current model is outdated, they're running at a loss and there are a few Churchill and district residents living there.

Surveys done show that Churchill and surrounding areas do not have a sufficient number of people who would access aged care to warrant a facility in Churchill.

Despite being an ageing population, surveys show that many will not go into care and choose to remain in their homes for longer.

It seems small aged care facilities are not economical due to a lack of funding. Many other smaller communities are facing the same problem.

Can we no longer expect to have our loved ones close by so local family and friend networks can be maintained? Networks are so important to our regional communities. According to Benetas, governments do not see the need to allocate more funding to aged care facilities even though we are an overall ageing population. The good news is that Benetas operates a home care service and this

could be activated here in Churchill to allow elderly residents to remain in their homes instead.

Concerns were raised about families now having to travel to the new facility at Dalkeith Hostel in Traralgon, where residents will be placed in reconditioned apartment style arrangements, described as more homely. The decision was regrettable but could not be helped.

Again Benetas says governments need to be lobbied to ensure further public transport systems are in place to accommodate this additional travel, even though it would mean for residents in Boolarra, over an hour of travel with bus changes, or an exorbitant cost for a taxi if they do not have their own transport or a friend willing to drive them.

There are many concerns by family members about how their relative will make the transition to Dalkeith in Traralgon.

Dementia and intellectually disabled residents in particular, will find it hard to adjust but Benetas has assured Churchill & District News that extra support will be provided to help them.

Losing touch with the residents' GPs is a big concern. Benetas is hoping to work with a doctor from Churchill to have time allotted to visit residents from Hazelwood in Dalkeith.

With the current doctor shortage this will further stretch the availability of doctors for local community members.

One positive outcome from this model is that a registered nurse will be on duty 24 hours a day. Some staff from Hazelwood will transfer to Dalkeith and will be familiar faces to help the new residents transition into their new home.

How good it would be if this requirement could be the standard for all aged care homes.

When told that FedUni courses have placements at Hazelwood House, the answer was that they would be welcomed at Dalkeith where they could train in the modern state of the art facilities and learn about modern techniques in aged care.

Another concern was residents in these new apartments will have access to cooking facilities. Some

residents will need careful supervision or be banned from cooking due to their health restrictions.

So what is to happen to Hazelwood House when it closes?

Benetas says it will work with Latrobe City Council to find a use for this facility. With CDCA's assistance we have been able to attract the interest of our local State and Federal members Russell Northe, Darren Chester and Melina Bath who are feeling for our communities and have offered help.

Hazelwood House and its lovely country setting should have a further life.

Churchill and district

residents, we need your help to show your support for a facility in Churchill and our utter indignation that Hazelwood House is to be closed.

The media release sent out from Benetas said it was with a tinge of sadness they were closing Hazelwood House.

But for Churchill and district communities it is more than a tinge, it is a devastating situation that a facility they fought and raised funds for over a ten year period should be no longer available in this beautiful setting for future residents no matter from where they hail.

A group of community members met with our Federal

Member for Gippsland Darren Chester and Latrobe City Councillor Darrell White to discuss the closure.

The outcome of the meeting was that the community would run a petition calling on Benetas to suspend the process until proper community consultation had taken place. We now call on the community to show their support by signing and circulating the petition that will be available at Churchill shops and from CDCA - contact Margaret on mgcdca@hotmail.com

Watch our facebook page for news of community meetings regarding the closure.

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**CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS**

*"Connecting Your Community"*

Established 1966

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

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**Contributions**

The deadline for the submission of articles and advertisements for the April 2019 edition is March 25, 2019

**EDITORIAL**

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 Or Email: [cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:cdneditorial@aussiebb.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 Boxes Located at:  
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MEMBER 2019

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I detached from him the best I could, and turned to my higher power, my books and my friends, asked for help and found it. I realised I had a lot of resentment especially towards our doctor who prescribed tranquilizers to protect my husband's brain as he detoxed, and expected me to be nurse and dispenser. I was very resentful about having to be responsible when I didn't want to be, especially when my husband took all the tablets at once, thinking he knew best what the prescription was. That was an extra fright. Was it a fatal overdose? I have no idea, and did not want to be in any way in charge of those medicines. I had to use a lot of programme through gritted teeth to find any gratitude during those days. In due course he managed to claw his way back to sanity, pretending nothing had happened, claiming that I was exaggerating, it was only a couple of days..... I

was so proud of myself that I didn't argue. I just went out to meetings, rang my friend in the program, used the internet for on line meetings, and wrenched my attention back to myself. I found I was very, exhausted in fact.

Within a week or two I became ill, and just went to bed and did nothing for about two weeks, just recovering my equilibrium. I allowed myself to be weak. That was fine. I read and re read my Al-Anon books. Slept and considered how lucky I am. It is not me addicted to alcoholism, how lucky I am to have a roof over my head, children who are doing fine, work, clothes, my health and an interesting marriage. I have a spiritual pathway which has enlightened my life. I have a higher power, true friends in the programme and a warm sense of gratitude, for almost every aspect of my life now. My little brush with the dark and deadly aspects of the disease were a poignant reminder of how horrible my life used to be on a daily basis and how far my husband and I have come.

Meetings:  
 Traralgon Monday 10am  
 Kath Teychenne Centre 11-13 Breed Street. Traralgon  
 Newborough Tuesday 8pm or Wednesday 1pm at the Uniting Church or phone Al-Anon 03 9620 2166 or 1300alanon (1300 252 666).

**RAINFALL**

**Churchill Rainfall**

The rainfall for Churchill for February has again been very disappointing with only five days having anything to measure in the gauges, totalling 21mm for the month. All of the rain fell during the first two weeks of February. Since then the heat has returned to dry the gardens and paddocks out.

The two month rainfall total of 29mm, for Churchill, is the second lowest for the start of a year, in Churchill, since 1991 when I began keeping rainfall records.



The lowest recorded for that period was in 2009 when only 5 mm was recorded.



**New logo design announced**

CDCA has chosen a new logo for our Association.

The new logo includes an image of the Town Symbol which we think is a noticeable feature in Churchill! The background is of the hills that 'frame' Churchill, which we thought a simple but effective view of our landscape.

CDCA members were agreed that our old logo was outdated - it included a graphic of the Binishell that was located at the former Monash University Churchill campus - that building was deemed unsafe and pulled down some years ago!

Many thanks to our 'designer', Mike Thompson, for his work in drafting several designs to choose from - we think we have a good one that will prove clear and recognisable.

We will begin using our new logo soon. Keep an eye out in this newspaper.

Our February meeting was well attended, due to the controversial announcement of the closure of Hazelwood House by Benetas and the proposed transfer of residents to their Traralgon facility in November this year.

A number of locals expressed their dismay over this news and questioned the rationale for this decision and the effect it would have on residents, services and access by visitors and volunteers.

We are also left wondering about the fate of the building that Churchill locals raised over three-quarters of a million dollars to establish.

Our local MP, Russell Northe, was in attendance and undertook to follow up with Benetas and attempt to secure a meeting between Benetas representatives, CDCA, Councillor Darrell White and our local State and Federal Members. At the time of writing, said meeting

had been secured for March 1. We'll attempt to keep the community informed through social media and other means.

We hope to organise a public forum for Churchill and district residents at which Benetas would provide further information about their reasons for closing Hazelwood House. We understand Benetas is not keen to address a large group, but has committed to continue meeting with residents, families and staff of the facility to ensure they are kept fully informed and a smooth transfer occurs.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday April 9 at 7pm in the Centre for Gippsland Studies at Federation University. We will have a short tour and talk from our Fed Uni representative on Committee, Erik Eklund, about the newly revamped and upgraded Centre, including details of how members of the local community may access the resources and publications held therein.

We are also expecting guest speaker, Karen Tsebelis, from Latrobe City Council to attend to discuss recreational paths in and around Churchill. CDCA is advocating for on-going improvements, upgrades and the construction of some missing links.

All local residents of Churchill and district are welcome to attend this meeting. Park and enter the University from N5 car park (near the Auditorium) and walk along the corridor to Room 1E 110 - we will see you there!

CDCA can be contacted via our website [www.cdca.org.au](http://www.cdca.org.au) or email [info@cdca.org.au](mailto:info@cdca.org.au), Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/> or write to us at PO Box 191, Churchill.

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# Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare Group

Summer is a busy time for seed collecting, and we've been occupied finding where plants grow and collecting seed for the species we want to establish on our revegetation block in the Billys Creek valley.

In late December contractors sprayed the blackberries in the first area along the creek that we will be direct seeding. This is planned for April, hopefully we'll get some rain by then.

We are also planning to plant tubestock on the steep slope above the creek. We'll have a community planting day in late autumn or early winter so that we can share the love; but most of the on-ground work on this project will be done by contractors.

We have also been growing local seed into plants for another site along the upper Middle Creek Valley where the WGCMA's willow replacement planting has failed.

The lack of shade / tree canopy seems to have been terrible news for the fish, or at least for the anglers who would like to fish for them. Hopefully our planting efforts will be more successful, but



Mountain Grey Gum in the Budgeriee Bush Reserve. Canopy trees like these will allow native plants and animals to flourish and will shade out weeds like blackberries.  
Photo: J. Duncan

deer in pest numbers along that valley will be a challenge, and we need to find and / or fund some substantial tree guards for this site.

Jay Duncan,  
Secretary, Yinnar,  
Yinnar South.



These two week old Mountain Grey Gum seedlings will take about 150 years to become really good habitat for wildlife.  
Photo: J. Duncan



Blackberry spraying in late December  
Photo: Steve van Rooy

## Latrobe Youth Space

On March 15, Latrobe Youth Space is holding the 'We are Latrobe, My Valley, My Home' festival at Kernot Hall, Morwell with the Latrobe Health Assembly and Latrobe Community Health Services. This event is about pride in the Latrobe Valley. The students will get to hear from people all across the Valley about why they work in the Valley, why they live in the Valley and what are the opportunities for young people in the Valley after high school. Latrobe Youth Space's very own Brenton Marriott will be sharing his experiences of living in the Valley. After the talks the festival will turn into a community event which will feature interactive stalls from all across the Valley, live music from local artists and food trucks. Looking for something to do on Friday March 15, come check out the event from 3 to 7pm.

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Bob on 0408 377 781 or Bill on 0418 327 287 or

# Remembering Black Saturday 07.02.09

Beginning with February 7, there were several events in our area to remember, reflect, grieve and celebrate the resilience of our communities, and what has been learnt and how communities have come together to work on projects which have enhanced their areas and grown the community spirit.

## FedUni Auditorium

At the Auditorium at Federation University, District 27 of the CFA held a remembrance service at 7pm on February 7.

Churchill Fire Brigade Captain Steve Barling was the MC. He began by explaining the meaning of the yellow ribbons handed out as people arrived as being for remembrance and hope. Steve explained that the evening was an opportunity to remember those who died, to honour those who were first responders to the fire crisis, and also to celebrate the resilience of the communities involved. He informed the gathering that CFA peer support personnel, Victorian Council of Churches and Relationship Australia Victoria counsellors were on hand if anyone needed help.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Trevor Owen in speaking, acknowledged the traditional owners of the land. He referred to our surrounding areas as majestic but bushfire prone. There is beauty but there is danger. He recalled the two fire episode which affected our area - January 28 - 31, and the Delburn Complex Fire then February 6-8, with very hot dry conditions, with record temperatures set; the highest since 1939. The fires challenged our mental and physical strengths and showed some how fragile we can be. There was huge loss of property, infrastructure, animals, domestic and wild, as well as precious bush and plantations.

It has taught us to value life, value things, but to appreciate the sacrifice made by so many to help others. It reminded him of the motto of the CFA "In the spirit of CFA". Trevor singled out with gratitude the CFA members who continue to help to protect our communities for no reward; they are there in

troubles, showing loyalty, giving comfort and showing the true meaning of being Australian.

A graphic power point presentation of photos and data brought home to those present yet again the great calamity of the 2009 fires and the extent of them over all Victoria on February 7.

CFA Chaplain Shirley Millard read a poem she compiled which expressed the power of hope; that we can all have hope and not doubt; that by helping others we help ourselves, but acknowledging that recovery is a long process.

Colin Brick OAM who, following the Delburn Complex fires became the Chair of the Boolarra and Yinnar Community Recovery Committee, reflected on the changes in the Boolarra community in the ten years since the fires.

"Thank you to all of the CFA members and other first responders and their colleagues who are not here, for the courage, skill and expertise you displayed ten years ago, and on countless occasions since. My community would not exist in its present form without the efforts of hundreds of selfless volunteers over the 3-4 days of the fires.

Boolarra and Yinnar communities comprise over a thousand individuals, all with their own dreams, and hopes and fears, and each facing a different experience of the fires, and reacting in their individual way to the experience that they alone faced.

Boolarra is a resilient community and we have faced many challenges over our 135 year history.

The damage caused by the Delburn fires, and more importantly the response from our community, and from the broader community has also had a tremendous impact.

The response to the Delburn fires brought the community together in many, many ways and, I believe, made a strong community even stronger.

This does not avoid the sad truth that there were many cases of individuals who, in many different ways, were badly impacted by the fires, and in many cases still remain



Captain Steve Barling, CFA chaplain Shirley Millard, Colin Brick OAM and Assist. Chief Fire Officer Trevor Owen

impacted. Mental health issues and high anxiety were suffered by many. People have left town, couples have divorced, my daughter still stresses the moment she smells smoke.

While service agencies tried very hard to help, bureaucratic bungling and red tape created further issues, and often, very poor outcomes.

One small example, but important to us, was the crowd that turned up at the 2009 Boolarra Folk Festival, around a month after the fires. It was a record crowd, and still remains our largest crowd, and it meant a lot to us that so many people had come to give us support in a very real and personal way.

The Community Recovery Committee comprised a group of community representatives and worked closely with Latrobe City, VBBRA, DHS and other service organisations to address the needs of Boolarra and Yinnar.

One important aspect was identifying and assisting those suffering trauma from the fires, and this was and is extremely difficult to do. Each individual faced a unique experience, and each

reacts in a unique way. Even now people are reacting to the memories that these ten year commemorative events bring up, and it is to be hoped that in some small way they serve as a means of closure for at least some people.

Even after the CRC wound up, the Community Development Group has

continued this approach, promoting community

activities to maintain and strengthen the bonds within the community.

So ten years on what changes do I see to the community?

I think the majority of the community has moved on from the fires, and this is healthy, although an

anniversary such as this does bring back many memories.

Boolarra has always been a welcoming, open community, but I feel this aspect has probably increased since the fires.

I think our sense of community spirit is stronger, knowing how we all pull together to help each other out.

*Continued on pages 16,17.*



Speakers at Boolarra Event



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Free replacement coaches will be available to passengers travelling to and from Gippsland as the Victorian Government gets on with an unprecedented investment in transport infrastructure across the state.

Power, signalling and station upgrades to prepare for the High Capacity Metro Trains have been timed over the Easter holiday period to cause the least impact for passengers.

Construction on the Melbourne Metro Tunnel entrance at South Yarra will also take place, resulting in

disruptions to Pakenham, Cranbourne, Frankston and Sandringham line services.

In recognition of the more than 150 days of planned disruptions experienced by Gippsland passengers since early 2018, their travel during the construction blitz will be free.

A mixture of express and semi express coaches, including stopping at Parliament station will replace Gippsland line trains for the whole journey from Saturday until Tuesday April 6 and 23.

Buses will also replace trains on the Pakenham and Cranbourne lines for part of the journey during the same period.

The Government is also

making it easier for Gippsland line passengers to plan their journey, by introducing a six-month calendar showing proposed work dates where coaches will replace trains.

Passengers travelling on replacement coaches between Traralgon and Melbourne will not need to touch on their myki or purchase a paper ticket.

Passengers travelling on the Bairnsdale replacement coach services will still need to reserve a seat, but no charge will apply.

Passengers are encouraged to plan ahead before travelling, with detailed travel information available at [ptv.vic.gov.au](http://ptv.vic.gov.au).

For more information about Victoria's Big Build, visit [bigbuild.vic.gov.au](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au).



## STAMP MATTERS- A NEW EXPERIENCE



So we come to the final group of navigators who are important to us as Australians, those intrepid sailors who were instrumental in mapping our coastline accurately and so contributing to white settlement in our wonderful country.

We have already looked at Tasman and Dampier, the early visitors and now we leap forward almost a hundred years to the voyage of Captain James Cook. He was given two tasks by the British Admiralty, the observation of the transit of Venus across the face of the sun, best viewed from Tahiti. The second was revealed in a set of secret orders opened only after that was completed. It ordered him to seek out the rumoured 'Great South Land' and map it as far as possible.

Cook sailed south as far as he dared into the Southern Ocean without result and turned north. He finally found land, previously discovered by Tasman, the islands of New Zealand. Continuing west, the coast of Eastern Australia was first seen by Europeans. Cook sailed north

and landed at Botany Bay. Travelling further north, he noted a harbour and several river mouths before entering the dangerous waters of the Great Barrier Reef.

He escaped its clutches until he sideswiped a coral reef at night. He managed to reach shore and was able to careen his ship, repair the damage and get away though the tangle of inshore reefs until he passed safely into the Arafura Sea, and went on home to England. He never visited our shores again.

Our next navigators were the duo of Bass and Flinders who mapped the southern coastline of New South Wales, discovered that Tasmania was an island separated from the mainland by Bass Strait, and mapped the islands there and coastline as far west as Port Phillip Bay in a tiny boat, the 'Tom Thumb'.

The secret of their great success was that they camped ashore at night whenever possible and avoided the storms which are a peril even today.

Flinders went on to become our most important

cartographer, mapping the whole of Australia's coastline, surviving shipwreck, great privation and capture by the French in the process. It is he who gave our country its name, Australia. He also began the debate on where the inland rivers flowed, a conundrum which bedevilled the inland explorers for decades.

Our final navigator, Captain (later Admiral) Phillip Parker King is the only Australian-born one. He was instrumental in fine-tuning the mapping of Australia's coastline and overseeing further exploration of the Great Barrier Reef. He was also commissioned to find an outlet for the inland rivers but the Murray hid its secrets well. It needed land exploration to unlock the riddle. He also was able to join Charles Darwin in the detailed exploration of the coast of Patagonia and the islands around Cape Horn in South America.

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# “Sixty Seconds” by Jesse Blackadder

Jesse Blackadder was born in Sydney in 1964, the eldest of four sisters and a brother, and she now lives in Byron Bay. She is an award-winning author, screenwriter and freelance journalist, who in 2018 was jointly awarded the Australian Antarctic Arts Fellowship to write a television series and junior novel series, set in Antarctica, in partnership with screenwriter Jane Allen. Whilst “Sixty Seconds” is not a true story, when the author was twelve years old her two year old sister wandered through an unsecured gate and drowned in a backyard pool.

The opening of the story is quite poetic. We are introduced to a family enjoying a swim in their pool and a takeaway dinner on a Friday night. Finn, the father, is a stay at home Dad who is also an artist working in metal. He has made a decorative closure for the pool gate which he has named “Owl Sentry”.

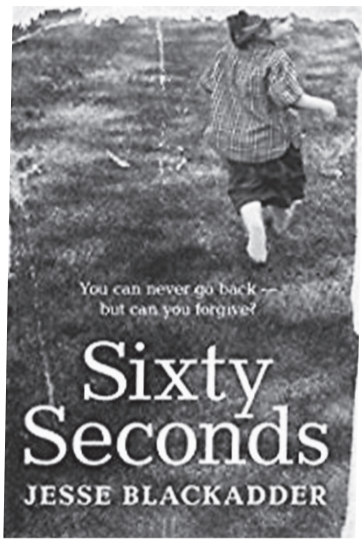
His wife Bridget, who is a career woman, has landed a plum job which has required the family to move from Hobart to Murwillumbah. There is, however, another reason for the move, as Finn has had a dalliance with Bridget’s now former best friend. They have two sons, Jarrah who is in his early teens and Toby who is two. The parents had tried for a long time to have a second child, so when Toby came

along he became the centre not only of his parents’ world, but also of his big brother, who adored him.

Finn’s agent has told him of an opportunity to show and sell his work at an upcoming exhibition, so Bridget decides that instead of him organising the family breakfasts and lunches, he should get to work on his art and she will take care of it. She is out of routine and forgets for just a moment to supervise Toby.

When she realises he is not with her she runs upstairs to find him, but to her horror sees him in the pool. Despite their best efforts, Finn and Bridget are unable to revive him. The entire family is devastated, and feelings of grief, anger, guilt and blame surface.

The story is told through the eyes of each family member so the reader is given an insight into how each person is feeling and how they are coping with the situation. Whilst Finn and Bridget are dealing with their underlying problems, Jarrah is seemingly forgotten. As well as losing his brother, he has started at a new school and is facing all the usual adjustments boys of his age would encounter. Finn, Bridget and Jarrah all find comfort in a person outside the family.



The family is conflicted over whether to sell the home, with Finn wanting to return to Tasmania and Bridget wanting to remain, and matters take a turn for the worse when Finn is charged with manslaughter because he altered the catch on the gate.

This book explores the emotions of loss, anger, guilt and blame, but ultimately forgiveness. It is a harrowing and tragic story, but well written and we all agreed it was a compelling read.

The characters were very well drawn, and as readers we all experienced likes and dislikes, sympathies and frustrations. We all felt that Jarrah’s love for his little brother was natural, and questioning his sexuality added nothing to the novel. The transformation of the pool was a little unusual although it did seem to help Bridget to express her grief, so all in all this was an excellent book.

During February the Latrobe Valley community paused to remember the 10 year anniversary of the Black Saturday and Delburn bushfires that devastated our area in 2009.

A number of poignant and moving ceremonies were held across Latrobe Valley to mark the anniversary including Jeeralang North, Churchill, Boolarra and Traralgon South.

The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Melina Bath said over the past two weeks she had the honour of attending ceremonies across the Latrobe Valley and listening to many moving stories.

“The strength and resilience of local communities and the bravery of those who found themselves facing one of the worst disasters in the country’s history should be commended,” said Ms Bath.

“Black Saturday and the days and weeks that followed will forever be etched in our memories and I acknowledge the profound impact it had on our community, in particular Churchill and district.

While the public response to this year’s anniversary was mixed, it is important to acknowledge the anniversary is deeply personal for many.

The Churchill Complex fire was started one week after the region was struggling to combat the Delburn fire burning around Boolarra and Mirboo North.

So many community members were displaced by both fires, forced to flee with only the clothes on their back. For many others evacuation was not even a choice, they were forced to stay and fight for their lives and defend their homes and properties,” said Ms Bath.

## Melina Bath



“Tragically our community lost 11 lives, with thousands of others impacted.”

The Churchill Complex Fires were battled on the ground by both career and volunteer firefighters, SES personnel and community members. Together they fought hard to combat the force of the fire.

Ms Bath said she has been told many moving accounts including stories of CFA volunteers working 27 hours straight without a break, SES volunteers and VicPol working shoulder to shoulder and Lifeline Councillors who

provided endless hours of support.

“Gratitude goes to the staff of the many government agencies who played their role in rebuilding communities and lives.

I have been inspired and humbled by the stories of healing, resilience, regeneration and the consistent narrative of bravery, mateship, courage and hope that prevailed”.

Picture caption:  
Melina and Jeeralang North resident Zelma Mildenhall at the memorial garden at Jeeralang North Hall.



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## Churchill Town Safety Group



### Car thefts

This month we are looking at thefts from the motor vehicle.

Lately, there have been quite a few instances where people have gained unlawful entry to someone’s car that has been parked in their driveway.

Police who have investigated these thefts have found that most of these cars were unlocked, and, had valuables such as a wallet on the front seat in full view of the person doing

the theft. Always check to make sure that your car is locked when you are away from it.

If you have a CCTV system installed at your property, make sure you can see the area where your car is parked and make sure there are no obstructions such as tree branches, etc. that would get in the way of a clear view. Report any suspicious activities to the police.

Stay safe and be aware.



**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.



## Co -Op Snippets

Our normal activities have been going along as usual but we have had three exciting happenings over the month.

First our new op shop in the Yinnar church, St Matt's Op Shop, was officially opened on February 14 at 10am, with a prayer of dedication said by our minister Peter Carter, and the cutting of the ribbon.

It is a new way to use the church and is proving popular already.

There is an amazing array of goods for sale - clothes, bric-a-brac, shoes, books, household items and much more.

The op shop is open Thursdays and Fridays from 10am-4pm and Saturday morning until 1pm. Spare some time and go and have a look.

You might find just what you have always been looking for at a bargain price.

Second the induction service of our new minister, Peter Carter was held on Sunday February 17 at 3pm.

Eighty-two people came for this special occasion including Peter's dad, former parishioners from Numurkah, friends and colleagues from Ballarat.

Representatives of the three parent churches - Anglican, Churches of Christ and Uniting, with dignitaries of the three churches Bishop

Richard Treloar, Anglican, Des Parker Uniting Chair Gippsland presbytery and Michael Vanderree Churches of Christ, Communities Team Leader attended also. Members of community organisations and churches were present too, including Mike and Marion Answerth from Lumen Christi, Frank Lees FedUni chaplain, Russell Northe Local MP, Abigail Brown Churchill Neighbourhood Centre Co-Ordinator, Reverend Sue Jacka Anglican Church Western Region, Ray Beebe Hazelwood Rotary, Reverend Dr Lynn Fowler Churchill Christian Fellowship.

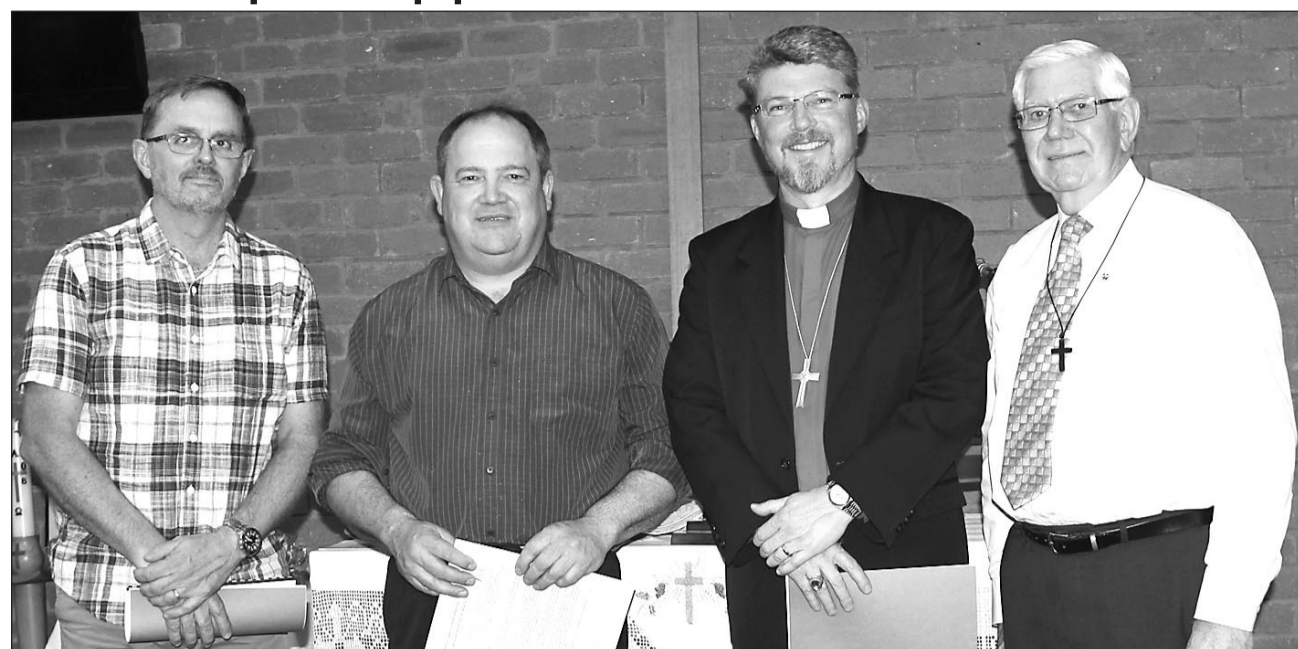
Michael Vanderree led the service, the induction section and preached the message.

Members of the congregation participated as MC, saying prayers and reading the Bible. The singing was wholehearted and inspiring.

The dignitaries of the three parent churches signed the covenant agreement amid applause.

It was a solemn occasion but filled with much joy, laughter and hope for the future ministry here in Churchill, Boolarra and Yinnar.

Community and church groups were invited to say a few words of welcome



Michael Vanderree Churches of Christ, Peter Carter new minister, Bishop Richard Treloar, Des Parker UCA Gippsland Presbytery Chair

to Peter, his wife Tracy and their three daughters, Elizabeth, Kellie and Christy. Peter responded saying how welcomed and supported he and the family felt and how much he was looking forward to working with us.

Afternoon tea was served and people mingled and chatted, enjoying the happy occasion.

Peter has set aside time on a Monday morning to be in Café 42 or the Bakery for any parishioners or community members who would like to join him for coffee and cake and talk.

Thirdly, Coffee Connections has been an important part of our parish activities for about eight years now. Those who have led it up to now need a break and it was anticipated that Coffee Connections might have to close.

However, after a get together with Peter, the way forward is clear and Peter will make sure it continues because it has such wonderful value.



## Chaplain

It has been said that historical study is often neglected in educational settings.

History is not wholly gleaned from books, and so it is important to know what people were (are), not just what they did (do).

An interesting question arose the other day. It's actually an old one!

If there are three frogs sitting on a log and one decides to jump off, how many frogs are sitting on the log?

The answer is three. The explanation? Just because one decided to jump off does not mean that the

frog did jump off. Silly, but interesting. Because there can sometimes be a gap between what we decide to do and what we actually do.

Many say that the way to approach such a gap is to take small steps towards what we are wanting to achieve.

The Christian understanding of that is about putting 'faith into action'.

Faith is not blind. It often moves people to actually help others.

But it is the faith behind the action which is the motivation. It is what people are that is the important starting point to what people



do! If history records mainly the 'doing' things, then we are limiting the lessons to be learned.

Historical study which fairly represents the human biography as a whole, is far more valuable to others.

Worth thinking about!

## Churchill Christian Fellowship

The next healing rally at the Churchill Public Hall is scheduled for Friday April 12, starting at 7.30 pm.

This will be the fourth such rally and, although attendances have been quite small so far, there have been several notable answers to prayer.

Because this rally is close to Easter, there will be Easter-themed musical

items and giveaways this time. The healing rallies are a joint venture of Word & Fire Ministries and the Churchill Christian Fellowship, which formerly met in the old childcare centre in Maple Crescent.

Bible study meetings are held in the Churchill Hub from 7.30 on Tuesday evenings. If you are interested, please call Steve on 0409 173 747.

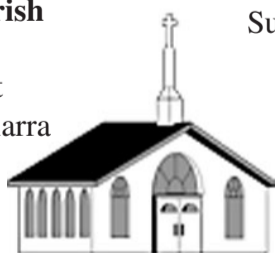
A Cuppa and Clicks meeting is also held on the first Friday of each month at the home of Lynn Fowler. The idea is to enjoy some good fellowship while at the same time making things for overseas or local missions. Contact Lynn on 0490 137 149.

Enquiries about any of these events are always welcome.

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## Church Times

**Boolarra/Yinnar Co-Operating Parish**  
All Sundays  
11.00am now at  
Christ Church Boolarra  
5th Sundays  
11.00am  
Yinnar South



**Co-Operating Churches of Churchill**  
Rev. Peter Carter  
Sunday Service: 9.00am  
Williams Avenue,  
Churchill.  
Tel: 5122 1480

**Lumen Christi Catholic Church**  
Williams Avenue, Churchill  
Tel: 5134 2849

**Churchill Christian Fellowship**  
Bible Studies at the Churchill Hub,  
7.30pm Tuesdays  
Craft mornings and prayer meetings  
Contact Linda on 0400 690 972 for  
further information.

Fr Solomon Okeh/Fr James Fernandez  
Saturday: Mass: 6.00pm  
Sunday: Mass: 9.00am  
1st and 3rd Sundays:  
Yinnar: Mass: 10.30am  
2nd and 4th Sundays:  
Boolarra: Mass: 10.30am



# Peter Carter new minister at the Co-Operating Churches

Peter Carter has been appointed as the new minister at the Co-Operating Churches in Churchill, Boolarra and Yinnar.

Peter was born at the Royal Women's hospital in Carlton and spent a few years living in Ferntree Gully where he attended primary school in Prep and Grade 1.

The family moved to Smythesdale where he completed primary education before going to Sebastopol Technical School.

From there he became an apprentice motor mechanic at Rotary Performance Centres Fitzroy, fulfilling a dream to follow in his father's footsteps and because he too wanted to be a mechanic, but also because he loved cars.

Peter grew up in a Christian household but at age 18 he turned away from Christianity and in his words "tried all the rebellious things teenagers do".

In his mind there was no way back to being a Christian once you had rejected God.

Peter went through a dark period of his life, contemplating suicide.

Fortunately, his brother Darrell stepped in and invited him to go on a Youth Group bike ride to raise funds.

At the end of that ride there was a church service and the minister preached and said these words which had a profound influence on Peter...

"None shall pluck you out of God's hands" and so he found his way back to Church and God.

Peter joined a Christian



motor cycle group called King's Messengers and thus started a motor cycle ministry.

A trip to Indonesia was another turning point with the pastor there recognising in Peter a preaching talent which Peter had not envisioned, and allowed him to try his wings.

It worked and so a preaching ministry began with both the motor cycle group and in his church.

At this time, he married Tracy and they began their family of three beautiful girls.

The involvement with family led to a wandering away from church and motor cycle ministry for a time.

The family moved to Adelaide for five years before returning to Ballarat, where they joined a church and Peter became involved with preaching and various ministries therein.

His Mum died at this point in time and Peter pondered on the fact that all she took with her into the afterlife was her years of service.

This made him think and led to the decision of what he would do with his life.

Bible College was the outcome.

Although Peter had not done very well at school, through support of lecturers, fellow students and his sheer stubbornness he pushed through and gained his degree - a proud moment.

There were no places available at the churches where he had done his placements, but a position was found at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Ballarat, where he spent five years.

During that time, he was promoted to District Director of Men's Ministry.

From there Peter moved into the Churches of Christ fold and was appointed to Numurkah, a post he enjoyed.

With the end of his placement there, it was back to being a motor mechanic for one year before being welcomed to Churchill, Boolarra, Yinnar where the congregations are looking forward to working with Peter in his and our future ministries in this area.

Peter aims to continue what the church does well which is to engage with the community; help people be more effective in their Christian witness and get to know how he can help these communities.

Monday mornings between 10-11am, Peter will be having coffee and cake in Café 42 or the Bakery if closed and he invites members of the community to drop by, join him for a cuppa and a chat, or just say hello and introduce themselves to him.

# Latrobe City Libraries seeking feedback



Latrobe City Library Staff member

Latrobe City Council's library service is seeking your feedback on its collections with two short surveys – one for members, and one for non-members.

Libraries exist in the community, for the community, so we are asking what people want to access. The surveys seek your views on our physical material,

on the shelves and what is available virtually via online services.

We are also asking if there are barriers that prevent people and members from engaging with the many library services on offer.

Your feedback is invaluable in being able to plan, shape and update our collections and online

services.

Please take a few minutes to let us know what you want from your library.

Both surveys are available as hard copies from library branches or service centres or online at [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Haveyoursay](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Haveyoursay).

The surveys close on Friday 29 March 2019.

Have you checked the Fire Danger Rating for today and the next three days?



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## Black Saturday Counselling and Support Service in Gippsland

Access up to three counselling or support sessions, free of charge.

Do you live in Gippsland and are you impacted by the 2009 Black Saturday fires or the 10th anniversary commemorations?

We can provide individual, couple and family counselling as well as group work and community support.

Where are services offered?

We provide services from our Traralgon Centre.

Our Centre is located at:  
59 Breed Street,  
Traralgon VIC 3844.

We also offer our counselling service in Bairnsdale and via telephone and video conference facilities.

How much does counselling cost?

We can provide up to three free counselling sessions to anyone affected by the Black Saturday fires or 10th anniversary commemorations.

We also provide counselling services for Gippsland residents who are not affected by the Black Saturday fires. For this service, fees are charged according to clients' income and their financial capacity to pay. Please call us to discuss your situation.

What do I do next?

Call us to find out more or make an appointment.

Phone: (03) 5175 9500  
Local call cost: 1300 369 630  
Email: [traralgon@rav.org.au](mailto:traralgon@rav.org.au)

For more information on RAV's services, visit [www.rav.org.au](http://www.rav.org.au) or call 1300 364 277.

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# Cooking with Noelene

## Healthy honey muesli bars.

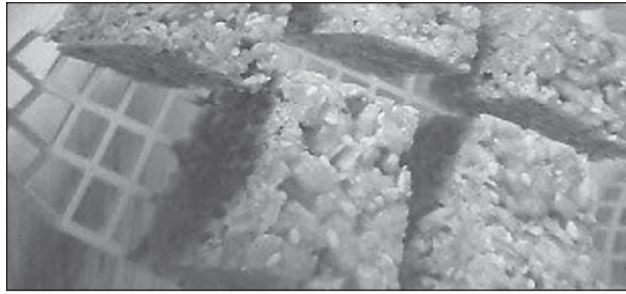
Grease a lamington tray (19 cm x 29 cm).

Combine 1/4 cup of sesame seeds with 1 cup of toasted muesli, 3 cups of rice bubbles, 1/2 cup of desiccated coconut and 1/4 cup of raw sugar in a large bowl.

Now stir through a melted mix of 125 gm of butter, 1/3 cup of honey, 1/3 cup of peanut butter with 1/2 cup of raw sugar.

Pour into the prepared tray and smooth gently with the back of a dessert spoon.

Refrigerate.  
Slice only when set.  
Enjoy.



water and a pinch of salt.

Combine till the batter is smooth and thick.

Dip peeled and sliced bananas (it is ok to use the banana with the skin on).

Now pan fry or deep fry until battered bananas are golden brown and crispy.

If you want to make this



## Godoh biu

This is simply fried bananas, served on toasted sourdough bread that has been drizzled with maple syrup, then sparsely topped with sliced button mushrooms and topped with sweet and fragrant bananas in a crisp batter.

This is so good, you could use sliced avocado in place of the mushroom - it is your call.

Sunday mornings should always be celebrated.

Here is what you need to do to prepare the best Sunday brunch.

Mix together 100gm of rice flour with 50 gm of all purpose flour in 160ml of

an unforgettable brunch, layer the bananas with grilled slices of streaky bacon.

## Fermented marrow and



## green apple condiment

This is so easy, slice and core 1 kg of crisp Granny Smith apples, (leave them unpeeled), 500 gm of peeled and sliced marrow (deseeded).

Put the apples and marrow along with 50gm of minced garlic and 500gm of a good quality mixed dried fruit in a processor, and process till the ingredients are minced.

Add 750ml of apple cider vinegar, 30gm of salt, 1 tsp of cayenne pepper, and 1 kg of soft brown sugar.

Mix well with a wooden spoon for 10 minutes, everything has to be well incorporated.

Place in a glass container with a lid and leave to stand for 24 hours.

Then bottle and seal.

This versatile, fermented condiment can be used with roast and cold meats and a spread for sandwiches.

Although uncooked this product will keep indefinitely.

# Plants in my garden

By Mike Beamish  
Species: Doryanthes excelsa.

Family: Agavaceae.

Derivation:

Doryanthes: From the Greek dory, meaning 'spear' and anthos, meaning 'a flower', hence spear flower in reference to the long, narrow flower stem.

excelsa; From the Latin excelsus, meaning 'tall and noble'.

Name: Gynea, Flame, Giant or Illawarra Lily.

Distribution: Endemic to central NSW, in the sandstone country around Sydney, common in light forest and open areas.

Description: A tall, robust, perennial herb with clumps of bright green, lanceolate leaves to 1.5m in height and 10cm in width.

Flowering stems are up to 5m tall, with scattered stem leaves and a large, terminal, globular head about 30cm across.

The head contains numerous 10cm long, dark red flowers that darken to brown or black capsules.

Opinion: My specimen would be 15-20 years old and is planted in the northern bed of the front garden, where it receives plenty of morning and midday sun, but falls into shadow during the afternoon.

It is a scruffy looking plant, with numerous leaves that have wholly or partially died back and many others that have been on the menu of various critters that live in the garden, one of which is a small case-moth.

We first noticed the flower stem in the summer (January) of 2018, when it was about 1.5m tall and kept an eye on it over the subsequent months as it grew to about 4m, perhaps a little more.



By November, the flower stem had reached its full height and the head was well developed, with the red flowers beginning to show their colour.

Incidentally, the shape of the head is the main characteristic that differentiates the Gynea Lily from its close relative, the Spear Lily Doryanthes palmeri, which has an elongated, rather than globular, terminal inflorescence.

The flowers began to open in the first week of December and by the second week; the first flush was well underway.

Flowering continued sequentially through to the end of the month when most flowers had finished and turned brown.

By mid-January 2019, the entire flower head and most of the stem leaves on the top third of the spike had

turned brown, though the stem itself was still green underneath the leaves.

This coincided with a very warm and dry period, so it remains to be seen if this has contributed to a shortening of flowering time or whether the flowers have been fertilised and capsules/seeds will form.

Sources: Sharr - WA Plant Names and their Meanings. Elliot & Jones - Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volumes 3.

The Australian Plants Society Latrobe Valley Group meets on the second Thursday each month at 7.30pm, at the Horticultural Buildings of Federation Training, on the corner of Prince's Drive and Monash Way, Morwell.

All guests welcome, please let us know you are coming by calling Mike on 0447 452 755.

## BREAKING NEWS !

**St. MATT'S**

**26 Main St. Yinnar**

(Church building next to Smee's Garage)

**OP SHOP**

You are welcome to come in and browse.

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Good quality pre-loved clothing for babies, children and adults, bric-a-brac, books and toys and lots, lots more.

**Thursday 10am - 4pm**  
**Friday 10am - 4pm**  
**Saturday 9am - 1pm**



**St. MATT'S  
OP SHOP  
Main St.  
Yinnar**



Scamwatch is warning members of the public about a spate of text messages asking for emergency assistance. These messages are coming from phone numbers not in your mobile contacts. For example, the text message might read, 'Please call me

back right away. It is an Emergency I need your help!'

People who have called the number back report being verbally abused by a recording on the other end. This is a new and emerging issue. While people have not

yet reported losing money as a result of these calls, you may find the content of the recording distressing. Scamwatch therefore advises that you exercise caution or do not respond to these text messages.

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CHURCHILL &amp; DISTRICT NEWS

2019

*"Connecting Your Community"*

# Writing and Poetry Competition

The Churchill & District News is our community newspaper and the fundraising aspect of this competition is secondary to the participation of our entrants.

If you have any queries or if we can assist you in any way please do not hesitate to contact Ruth Place on 5122 1961 or email: [cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au)

## Categories

1. 7 and under - story or poem, illustrations

2. 8 - 9 - story, illustrations

3. 10 - 11 - story

4. 8 - 11 - poem

5. 12 - 14 - poem

6. 12 - 14 story

7. 15 - 17 - poem

8. 15 - 17 story

9. Adult story

10. Adult poem

11. - Story for children

**NOTE:** Categories 1 - 2 will include prizes for best illustration and best presentation.

## Conditions of Entry

1. All stories must have a separate completed entry form attached to the manuscript with a paper clip (no pins or staples). Please clearly include your name, address and a contact phone number or email address. People must clearly indicate which category they have entered.

For age groups 15 years and over please also email a copy of your manuscript to [cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au)

2. The author's name must only be on the entry form and not on the manuscript.

3. Entries must be original, previously unpublished work.

4. Each entry must include a title.

5. Multiple entries will be accepted.

6. Unless otherwise specified, permission to reproduce entries in the Churchill & District News or for publicity purposes will be assumed. Copyright remains with the author.

7. Writers will be credited whenever their writing is reproduced

8. Entries must be received by July 22, 2019.

9. All pages should be numbered.

10. Adult entrants must give their address.

11. Length of stories is to be:

Adult: 1000 - 2500 words

15-17 years: 500 - 2000 words

Children: up to 500 words

Length of poems is to be:

Poetry, free or rhyming verse to be:

Adult: min. 8 lines and max. 48 lines.

15-17 years: min. 8 lines and max. 48 lines.

Children: up to 20 lines

12. Entries will not be returned and participants should keep a copy of their work.

13. The Judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

14. Signing of the entry form for this competition constitutes acceptance of these conditions of entry.

**Entries to be mailed to:**

Churchill & District News Writing Competition, PO Box 234, Churchill Victoria 3842

Electronic copies of 15 years to Adult also emailed to [cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au)

Closing Date: Monday, July 22, 2019.

**Entry Fees:**

\$3.00 Per Short Story/Children's Story –

\$3.00 Per Poem

Children, Under 7, U 12 and U18

Categories - 50c.

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

Cheques or Postal Orders payable to the "Churchill & District News".

No cash please.

Postage stamps accepted.

We hope that you will support the competition.

## Churchill & District News Short Story and Poetry Competition 2019 Entry Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Tick M  F

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I have entered: \_\_\_\_\_ Short Story \_\_\_\_\_ Poem \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Story(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Category \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Poem(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Category \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understood the conditions of entry and agree to abide by them. I certify that this is an original unpublished story or poem, written by myself.

*This entry form can be completed on behalf of U12's by a parent, guardian or teacher.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Entry Fee to be included with Entry Form.

Please make Cheques or Postal Orders payable to  
**Churchill & District News**

**No cash please. Postage stamps accepted.**

Email: [cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au) Mail entries to: PO Box 234, Churchill 3842

# Mathison Park

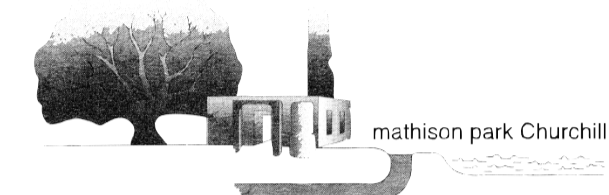


Our working bee on February 9 was cut short by the welcome downpour of rain. Several fallen branches were dealt with before leaving.

Latrobe City Council has provided the volunteers with personal protective clothing, and it was exciting to see what there was and to be able to wear it for the morning.

Our new management plan is nearly ready for instigation, through our new committee of four. We do need more members to help plan and make progress on the development of the park, and more volunteers to help at working bees.

Community Corrections teams and the Council mowing team have been planning together and making sure our east side is



looking wonderful. We sincerely thank them for their partnership and their help for our committee. Mulch has been spread and long grass around the trees at the Kurnai end whippersnipped and made to look very tidy.

The prolonged drought has made an impact on the park with large areas of dry grass. To have it mowed and tidy is helping us to keep it fire ready.

The lack of rain has also seen the small dam recede to a third of the area. If you stand for long enough to observe the bird life, you will

also see a carp jump in the remaining water.

We have unfortunately had some thefts from the park including the glass sliding doors of the display board at the entrance near Mackeys Road, and the perspex from the Koori Garden sign. If you see or hear something that is not normal, please report it to the police.

If you know who may have done this, please report it to the police also.

Replacing these is a cost to the committee, the funds of which could be used for another project.

# Churchill Fire Brigade

## STAY ALERT



Please keep your properties fire ready. The little rain we have had has not reduced the overall dryness in our area.

Please use your computer or mobile phone app to access current fire information through Vic Emergency. You can also check the CFA web site [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the Bushfire Information Line 1800 226 226.

If you are hard of hearing

or have a speech impediment call the National Emergency Hotline on 1800 555 677. Listen to the radio and weather reports on radio and television and stay informed. We are not out of the fire danger period yet.

### Restrictions still in place

Fire restrictions will still be in place at least until May 1st.

### Beware of falling trees

Following the fires there

will be many compromised trees. Be extremely careful when driving through fire affected areas or around your properties if fire has come through them. They can fall at any time.

After a season like we have had, trees tend to shut off parts of their branches and they tend to fall without notice.

Be careful as you drive or walk in tree areas.

## Community input wanted into bushfire planning for Gippsland

Land and fire management agencies are calling on the public to help inform strategic bushfire management planning for Gippsland. Strategic bushfire management planning is a multi-agency process that addresses the risks posed by bushfires on both public and private land. It uses the latest science and technology and draws on community values that need protecting.

Planning teams consist of representatives from Forest Fire Management Victoria, CFA, Emergency Management Victoria and local governments. Peter West, Chair of the Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee said: "Gippsland communities have told us that the most important things to protect are human life, private property, the natural environment, human health and well-being, infrastructure, regional economies and cultural heritage. We now

need community input into bushfire management strategies to help us strike the right balance. This feedback will inform our bushfire management strategies and guide future work such as fuel management, targeted community engagement, and prioritisation of government resources for Gippsland.

Strategic bushfire management planning uses technology developed in partnership with the University of Melbourne to identify those areas in Gippsland where bushfires pose the greatest risk.

This modelling approach helps us to direct our bushfire management efforts to areas of greatest risk, including the most effective places to target fuel reduction.

Previously, this planning process focussed on bushfire risk across public land. This time, we've broadened our focus to help determine where

to target fuel management on both public and private land," Mr West said. "For the first time, priority fuel management categorisation is applied to private land. It is an opportunity to start a conversation with the community about how we can all work together to reduce bushfire risk. The new strategies will guide bushfire risk reduction on both public and private land across Gippsland into the future."

To have your say, go to: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/bushfire-planning> About Safer Together Strategic Bushfire Management Planning is part of the Safer Together initiative. Safer Together is our approach to reducing the risk of bushfire in Victoria that combines stronger community partnerships with the latest science and technology to more effectively target our actions. For more information see [safertogether.vic.gov.au](http://safertogether.vic.gov.au)



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# FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

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# Russell Northe



## Bushfire emergencies

As I write this article, the community is experiencing terrible effects of out-of-control bushfire activity, with the Yinnar South fire threatening lives and taking homes. Our townships and the surrounds are no stranger to bushfire, having only just marked the tenth anniversary of the Black Saturday and Delburn Complex fires last month.

There were a number of recent ten-year anniversary commemorative events that I was humbled to attend and thank those people and organisations who assisted in the relief and recovery efforts. It was terrific to catch up with many at commemoration services that I attended in Traralgon South, Churchill, Hazelwood/Jeeralang and Boolarra.

Right now though, many in the community are suffering the devastation and trauma of fire damaging or threatening families, animals, homes and properties.

I would like to convey my deepest respect and gratitude to all of the emergency service personnel for their work on the ground and in the air. They fight tirelessly, around the clock, in intensely difficult conditions to protect the lives and assets of their community – they are real heroes.

I would like to send an enormous thank you to those who are supporting the three hundred plus people who have been forced to flee their homes – to the Latrobe City Council staff and councillors, relief centre workers and community groups, you're doing a magnificent job which we all very much appreciate. To the local businesses, traders, individuals and families who are donating food, water, sleeping equipment and more – I sincerely thank you.

It makes my heart swell with pride to bear witness to the intense generosity of the local community when we face such disasters. These tragic events only serve to remind me how powerful the local spirit is. To all those currently affected or who have lost: we stand with you now, and will stand with you through the long and difficult road to recovery ahead.

## Closure of Hazelwood House

As many of you would be aware, Benetas has announced that Hazelwood House residents will be relocated to new facilities located at Dalkeith Hostel in Traralgon later in the year. Whilst we appreciated the relocated residents will enjoy new and modern facilities, it is a disappointing decision for the Churchill residents

who fought long and hard to establish an aged care residential facility in the town many years ago.

The thought of not having such a facility in town from later in the year is a bitter pill to swallow. I recently attended a meeting of the Churchill & District Community Association (CDCA) whereby this issue was discussed at length. The frustration and disappointment of those in attendance was palpable and we have subsequently requested further discussions with Benetas to have a number of questions and concerns addressed.

Ultimately, Churchill and district has a catchment area of more than 5,000 people and to not have an aged care residential facility within the town would be enormously sad.

We will continue to fight and advocate for Churchill residents in ensuring there are quality aged care services and facilities in the town into the future.

## Hazelwood Pondage

Recently in Parliament I again sought Government support in having Hazelwood Pondage reopened. It is a crying shame that the Pondage has been closed for months and real fears exist that it won't be reopened for public use in the foreseeable future.

It has been well documented that water levels in the Pondage have been reduced due to concerns with respect to the integrity of the Pondage walls.

However, I believe that those current issues can be resolved and we need the intervention of the State Government to ensure that locals and visitors alike are

able to continue to enjoy what Hazelwood Pondage has to offer. I have spoken to numerous individuals, businesses and organisations who have expressed a strong desire to unite and fight to reopen this iconic body of water. Subsequently, I have commenced a petition that calls upon the State Government to do all in its

power to find the solutions to the issues that are keeping Hazelwood Pondage closed to the general public. Petitions can be collected at my office at 12 George Street, Morwell or you can sign an online petition at <https://www.change.org/p/daniel-andrews-victorian-state-government-must-consider-options-to-reopen-hazelwood-pondage>

## Autumn firewood season

The 2019 autumn firewood collection season opened in Gippsland on Friday March 1, and closes on Sunday June 30.

Gippsland's Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Beth Roberts said: "It's important that people only collect firewood from designated firewood collection areas on public land and stay within collection limits.

Interactive maps showing from where you can collect domestic firewood went live from March 1 when the season started," Dr Roberts said. "Designated collection areas are put in place to protect sites of cultural and environmental significance.

The felling of any trees for firewood is strictly prohibited. Authorised officers will be patrolling parks, forests and reserves to ensure people are doing the right thing while collecting their firewood.

We're reminding people to

stay within collection limits, which are a maximum of two cubic metres per person per day and a maximum of 16 cubic metres per household per financial year.

Some households rely on domestic firewood for winter energy. It's important to consider others when collecting firewood from state forests.

Be sure to check local weather and forest conditions before heading out to make sure it's safe before collecting firewood in your area.

Some previously available firewood collection areas that have been affected by recent fires may be closed at the start of the season while rehabilitation and dangerous tree work is completed.

Other sites may be part of the autumn planned burning program, so it's a good idea to check where burns are

happening as these areas may be closed at short notice." More information including rules, updates and interactive maps showing designated collection areas is available from [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood). Under the Forest Act 1958, people who collect firewood outside designated firewood collection areas or a firewood collection season or take more than the maximum allowable amounts can face fines of up to \$7,928, or a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment or both, if the matter proceeded to Court.

For any further information on firewood collection or to report illegal or suspicious behaviour in public land areas, please contact the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on 136 186.

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## Hazelwood Rotary Club



Contact:

Ray Beebe, Secretary  
0408 178 201

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ALL WELCOME

*"ROMAC – Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children – helping where advanced treatment isn't available in a home country."*



# OPEN DAY

Saturday, March 30

11am start

Andrews Park West



## COME AND TRY BASEBALL



## Vale Charles Uber

By Margaret Guthrie

The notice on Latrobe Valley Funeral Services' website says:

"Uber – Charles (LCDR – USN Ret.) Born on October 28, 1933. Passed away February 19, 2019.

Passed away peacefully. He will be sadly missed by his sons. Now to be together with his beloved wife, Audrey, again."

Churchill & District Community Association will also miss Charles, as will the Hazelwood-Jeeralang Community Association too, no doubt, for Charles was an active member of both organisations.

Charles served on CDCA Committee for a number of years and was our diligent and reliable Treasurer for much of that time. He was a thoughtful contributor and often attended to the unseen tasks to assist the operations of CDCA. He brought biscuits for our meetings and generally would arrive early in order to put up a directional sign, fill the kettle, put out chairs and attend to many of the little things that need to be done.

CDCA could always rely on Charles to help out when it was needed; whether it was assisting in putting up displays, printing off information for members, taking items to our storage container (or getting them

out) and generally being a willing pair of hands when they were needed.

His wife, Audrey, also attended CDCA meetings in past years and their affection for, and protection of, each other was evident. Both showed much kindness to individuals they met who were in need of a helping hand, a lift to or from a medical appointment, or just some company when lonely.

Charles was an engineer, who served in the US Navy in the submarine fleet. He was diagnosed with mesothelioma a few years ago, not long after Audrey passed away; no doubt contracted during his time spent in close proximity to asbestos lagging used on pipes in the submarines he served on.

He brought his engineering knowledge to CDCA and provided invaluable insights into traffic management, building construction, town planning and other issues that CDCA addressed from time to time.

When we first met Charles, he and Audrey were living in the Jeeralang North



area, having moved there after they sold the farm they had at Gormandale (where Charles was also an active community member). They lost sheds, tools and equipment in the Black Saturday fires but their house was saved – no doubt due to the excellent sprinkler system and water tanks Charles had installed in case of such an eventuality. Shortly thereafter, they 'retired' to Hazelwood South.

Age slows all of us down and so Charles retired from the position of CDCA Treasurer in 2015, but continued his involvement as a regular attendee right up until the end of 2018.

This kind, gentle, courteous and knowledgeable man will be missed greatly by those who knew him and worked alongside him.

## Hazelwood Rotary Club

One of the charities we support with our fundraising is ROMAC, "Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children".

Rotary District 9820, comprising clubs from Frankston to the eastern border of Victoria, is currently hosting Emilia and her father from Timor Leste. Emilia, aged 3, had a kidney tumour the size of a watermelon.

After some chemotherapy in Dili to try and reduce its size and to keep her alive, ROMAC organised for her to come to the Royal Children's Hospital last November.

Emilia's operation was successful but the 1 kg tumour had perforated and had left some cancer in her abdomen.

Additional chemotherapy and radiation treatment was given at RCH and she is gaining weight.

She is now undergoing 13 radiation sessions at Peter McCallum Hospital.

The Rotary Club of Mt Eliza is sponsoring her visit and providing a host family. Another host family nearer to Peter Mac is from the Rotary Club of Strathmore.

The RCH Oncologist is



optimistic that Emilia will recover fully and return to Dili to lead a full and healthy life.

Rotary is not all barbecues and fundraising though. At one of our recent weekly meetings, members enjoyed trying bowling at Morwell Bowling Club. Some even showed some promise!


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# Remembering Black Saturday 07.02.09

A ten year anniversary is a moment for reflection. We need to acknowledge the pain and suffering that has been suffered, but we also need to celebrate the resilience that Boolarra and Yinnar and many other impacted communities have displayed."

Rouve Jan Forbes (MHSc Nse: Community Health and Development, PhD candidate: "Firstly, I wish to acknowledge those who lost their lives, those who were bereaved, those who were permanently injured and the profound losses suffered by the individuals and communities impacted by the 2009 Gippsland bushfires.

I experienced the 2009 Gippsland bushfires as a resident of the Callignee and Traralgon South District

communities, a parent of a young adult affected by the fires, as a community health nurse working to support survivors, and as a researcher.

In spite of the trauma and loss I experienced, it's fair to say that I have grown enormously as a result of these events. I joined in, and was helped by the recovery efforts, and several wonderful recovery groups.

In 2010 I was offered a fellowship through Monash School of Medicine and Health Sciences to research how young adults were recovering in the immediate aftermath of the 2009 Central Gippsland bushfires. I discovered that less than a third of recovery literature looked beyond the immediate disaster aftermath, and

even fewer studies focused specifically on young adults' emotional and social recovery from disaster.

One thing that particularly hurt young adults was the loss of the natural environment and the native animals they loved so much, growing up in these hills. Who of us, young or old, hasn't driven along a local road and marvelled at the way nature has recovered. For the participants in my study, this healing of nature encouraged their personal recovery process.

Participants commented that telling their stories and reflecting back on their experiences without judgement, helped them to move forward in their lives. Acknowledgement emerged as a powerful theme in the data because, in all cases, young adults in this research said that it was the single most important way that their recovery could be improved.

Restructuring of life's goals and values appeared to impel most participants to move forward with their lives, often in new directions.

Personal strengths, determination, and family support were evident in participants' stories and assisted them to achieve goals such as establishing a new

business, undertaking tertiary study, making a career change, or forming new relationships. Nearly all participants reported personal growth such as strengthened relationships, personal strength, heightened self-esteem, and a greater appreciation of life.

I would like to close by reiterating my gratitude to the CFA members who gave of themselves to fight the fires and also to the community volunteers, donors, and all of you – the community members who helped this district toward recovery.

I feel proud of the community I live in. I believe it is more tightly connected and stronger than it was before. Thank you."

Bruce Jewell was the third speaker from Drouin West. Although he comes from Drouin West much of what he had to say applies to our area also.

Bruce began by saying his thoughts were with all who had been impacted. Today is a time to reflect, remember and renew.

The fires changed lives for ever and the scars are still visible. But there has been shown remarkable resilience as the communities have worked together for recovery. He thanked those from other

brigades who had given support. Sincere and grateful thanks were expressed to those who came to help following the fires - known or total strangers. We remember the day in our own way. We will continue to move forward.

A gumleaf ceremony followed where people could take a gumleaf from a plate and add it to a basket while pondering on the ceremony and what it stood for.

The evening concluded with supper, an opportunity to share memories, chat with friends and other attendees.

The following day Trevor Owen posted this tribute on the CFA page -

I wanted to share with you my experiences from the CFA Black Saturday Reflection Service at Churchill last night. About 200 CFA and community members attended the service at the Federation University campus. As you would expect, it was a very solemn and respectful evening.

I was moved by the speakers, but also inspired by the community stories and the positive approach to recovery.

Our members were universally thanked for their efforts by the community.

I would like to thank Churchill Captain Steve Barling, Louise Haughton and the Volunteer Sustainability Team, the District 27 staff and all those who provided welfare support.

Your contributions and efforts that went into the service were appreciated by all.

## Hazelwood Jeeralang Remembers.

Saturday February 9 saw a gathering of folks at the Hazelwood North Hall in the midst of a heavy downpour and much cooler temperatures to remember the effects of the Churchill fire in their communities.

John Arkinstall, Chair of the Hazelwood Jeeralang Community Association was

MC.

The reason for the day, he said was to commemorate the Churchill fire, to stand with those bereaved, thank those who helped and celebrate our community. Memories are still too raw for many and they wish to maintain their privacy so they have not felt able to come. The Royal Commission has helped to achieve many improvements. Our communities have become connected together in special ways.

Chris Daughton read a special poem she had composed.

John continued saying recovery was well supported with clean ups and a program done.

He thanked the myriad of people and organisations which helped including Heather Farley and others from the Council. The community worked well together and especially the committee which has continued its good work.

Mayor Graeme Middlemiss said there was a show of solidarity. Council deployed every service possible.

He congratulated the strength of the community and the Community Association.

Tom Rose of the Victoria Council of Churches Emergency Response assured the folks that they would show continual support for the community through care, compassion and support.

The VCC Emergency Response teams were at each of the bushfire events to be there to help anyone struggling with their situation.

Then followed a minute's silence.

Melina Bath said she was honoured and delighted to be asked to speak at the occasion.

She acknowledged the sadness and destruction associated with the fire on one hand but the rebuilding and renewing and growth of the community spirit which had taken place.



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# Remembering Black Saturday 07.02.09

Russell Northe also acknowledged the horror faced, especially by those who had lost loved ones, and the re-creation which had occurred, congratulating the community. He encouraged anyone who needed it to seek counselling.

Tony Ferguson began by saying the Jeeralang North Hall was like a phoenix rising from the ashes.

The day he said was one to come together to honour the lost. This fire event was unprecedented bringing fear and disbelief at the horror. But he said it had built resilience, there was hope. He thanked all the volunteers and community near and far who helped with the rebuilding and regeneration. The fire is something you never get over but learn to live with it.

Nature is a symbol of growth, regrowth and renewal. The fire would have re-shaped the lives of the families who lost members. Hopefully there is healing and that will continue.

A gumleaf ceremony followed before people escaped into the warmer hall where lunch was served.

Then followed a power point display of photos put together by Robyn Mauger.

The Briaralong Bush Band provide music and dancing to complete the afternoon's activities

## Boolarra Remembers

In the closing days of January 2009, a series of deliberately lit fires threatened the communities of Boolarra, Yinnar and Mirboo North. Forty-four homes, many sheds and outbuildings, fencing, pasture, stock, wildlife and bush were lost in the Delburn Complex fires that occurred a week before Black Saturday.

On Saturday February 9, 2019, approximately 200 people from the community of Boolarra and surrounds gathered together in the Boolarra Memorial Hall to acknowledge the ten-year anniversary of the Delburn Complex fires, to remember and reflect, and to recognise the resilience shown over that time. A BBQ dinner was followed by speeches from a number of speakers and the screening of a short documentary "Boolarra Remembers" before the evening's entertainment began.

Thanks to a generous funding grant from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal, the event was provided to the community for free. Local caterer John Sammut kept a steady supply of barbecued food and salads flowing to attendees, who were then able to sit and chat with others as they ate. The Boolarra Community Hotel provided



the drinks service.

Local resident Roz Carstairs created a vivid and sequential display in the foyer and main hall, comprising photographs, artefacts, art, poetry and written memories of the fire itself, the aftermath and the regeneration of the community.

Thank you letters to the CFA from students at Boolarra Primary School at the time had been kept and were also displayed. There was a great deal of interest and many discussions and stories were shared amongst people as they viewed it.

Short speeches were delivered by Darren Chester - Federal Member for Gippsland, Russell Northe - State Member for Morwell, Councillor Darrell White, Boolarra Community Development Group Secretary Colin Brick and Boolarra Fire Brigade Captain Di Billingsley. Each speaker spoke reflectively of the time of the fire, recognising the significant impact on the community and the challenges that faced emergency services responders at the time.

The extensive work of the vast array of support services from state and local government and the broader community during and after the fires was also acknowledged. However, it was the strength and resilience of the people of Boolarra that was highlighted, along with the growth and achievements that have taken place in the town since 2009.

A short documentary "Boolarra Remembers" was created by a group of young film makers, funded by a separate grant from the State Government of Victoria. This featured only some of the many untold stories from the Delburn fire and reflections on how life has changed ten years on.

Formalities over, the entertainment began. Bryan Nankervis, actor and

comedian, kept the audience greatly amused with a version of Rockwiz before local Gippsland singer Tina Bartel performed a range of songs. The final act of the evening was Greg Champion, from the Coodabeen Champions, who told stories and sang many of the ditties we hear on radio. There was a lot of laughter.

The event provided an opportunity for the people of Boolarra and surrounds to gather together and acknowledge the anniversary of the Delburn Complex fires of 2009, share memories and stories, and celebrate the strength and resilience they have in their community. Many thanks must go to the organising committee for their hard work in putting this wonderful evening together.

## Civic Reception with Governor of Victoria Linda Dessau

Kernot Hall Morwell was the venue for the Civic Reception held on Friday February 8 at which Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC Governor of Victoria and Patron of the 10 Year Anniversary of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires and her husband Mr Anthony Howard QC were present.

Latrobe City Council arranged refreshments to be served before and after the speeches were made.

Her Excellency acknowledged the loss experience of many present saying that each had a different response. There was shock and trauma. For some it is too hard to look back and some too hard to look forward. But she said there is comfort in gathering and coming together to reflect and share.

Her Excellency remembered also those affected by the Delburn Complex fire.

There was so much loss, and sadness does not disappear. There is an immense sense of gratitude

to all who worked so hard against the fierce elements which came to us. She thanked those who had worked behind the scenes, the goods and services given by businesses helping the recovery.

It has been a journey she said not a destination. There has been community resilience, you have risen to the challenge. Your combined strength is evident.

Her Excellency brought

greetings and sympathy from Victoria.

Mayor Graeme Middlemiss thanked Her Excellency for her words. He said we could be justifiably proud of our efforts in the 2009 events to support and help rebuild and renew.

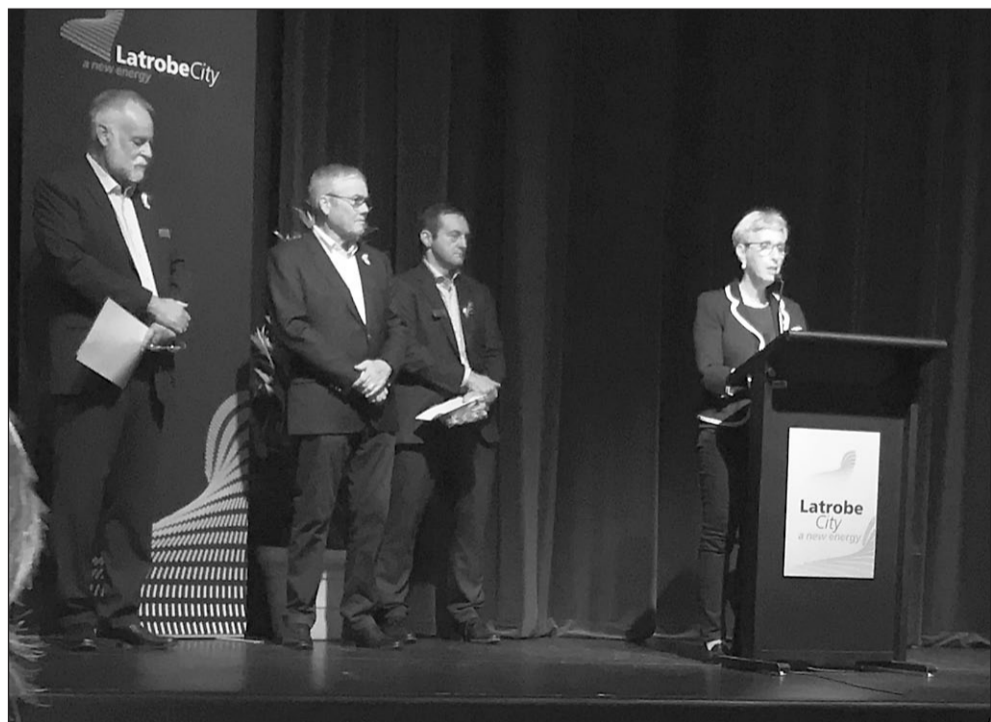
He asked that the feelings of those who cannot be at the gathering be respected as for them it is still too hard to face.

The 2009 bushfires were

unprecedented but in the interim we have learnt many lessons. We should be more prepared for the future.

Her Excellency, her husband and the Mayor then mingled with the people to greet and hear their stories.

The following day she visited the communities of Callignee, Koornalla, Jeeralang North, Traralgon South, all of which appreciated her concern.



## Churchill & District Lions Club

Meet  
1st and 3rd Wednesday  
of each Month



Contact

Peter McShane

Phone:

0402 851 745

# A Valentine Day surprise

The Morwell and District (Inc) Probus Club is currently preparing to celebrate its 34th birthday.

As a preliminary event, on Valentines Day February 14, 2019, the Club honoured two of its most respected and active members with Life Membership Awards.

The two deserving Members are a married couple Mr Pat and Mrs Val Bartholomeusz.

The Committee and Club members believe this event i.e. a married couple receiving life membership awards on Valentines Day, to be a first for Probus

and deserving of historic publication throughout the Probus Organisation.

A brief history of these deserving members is: - **Pat Bartholomeusz:**

Joined Morwell and District Probus Club in its infancy in December 1985.

Served as Secretary 1986 to 1988, President in 1990-1991, Honorary Auditor 1994-2007 and again 2008-2014.

Public Officer 1988-1996, Senior Vice President 2016-2017, President 2017-2018.

Currently serving as Immediate Past President.

In 1987/88 Pat was a leading advocate in changing the constitution to move the Club from a strictly male domain to a mixed Club.

This entailed a large amount of work and included lots of travelling.

The change was very successful and boosted the number of club members immensely.

Pat is always on hand to help and guide new Committee Members with his knowledge and experience.

**Val Bartholomeusz** She Joined Morwell and District Probus in March

1988, was President in 2001, assistant Secretary in 2006, Secretary in 2015-2016.

She is currently Membership Officer and has also filled many support roles to assist the club.

Club President Neil Baxter proudly presented the Life Membership Plaques to Pat and Val in a ceremony that totally surprised them.

Club Members completed the presentation ceremony by loudly applauding the popular esteemed recipients.



The special occasion Club's Meeting minutes. was dutifully recorded in the



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## Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists



### Reptiles of West Gippsland

Mr Craig Boase will discuss the reptiles of West Gippsland at the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists' Club meeting on Friday, March 22 at the Uniting Church Hall, Old Sale Road Newborough from 7.30 pm. Craig has had since childhood, a deep fascination with plants and animals, especially reptiles. He is currently employed in the

environmental management sector where his passion for nature, conservation and talent for photography is put to good use.

The talk on Reptiles of West Gippsland is a culmination of years of photographing and observing reptiles in this region. From the tiny Delicate Skink to the large Eastern Brown Snake, the reptile fauna in this area is

diverse and stunning.

The following day there is an excursion to Witts Gully, at Hernes Oak west of Morwell.

Visitors are most welcome to both activities; there is no charge. For more information phone 0410 237 292.

Photograph: Southern Water Skink taken by Craig Boase

## Darren Chester

Federal Member for Gippsland

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www.darrenchester.com.au

## Recycling at the Churchill Hub

You can recycle your mobile phones at the Hub



# Hazelwood Cemetery Trust



By Leo Billington

Hazelwood Cemetery is now 140 years old, having been established to "service the area encompassing Morwell, Yinnar and Hazelwood".

Over the next few weeks, Hazelwood Cemetery Trust will implement our own memorialisation policy. In reference to memorial items, the State Government Act and Regulations, under which cemeteries function, indicate a person must not, without the approval of the Trust, place the following items on a memorial or place of interment—

- (a) ceramic or glass items that are fragile or breakable; or
- (b) metal items that are

likely to deteriorate. A person must not place any item likely to cause a risk to health or safety on a memorial or place of interment.

Recent work at the cemetery has included new concrete kerbing, a new path to our ANZAC garden and establishing a plaque commemorating Australia's defence forces involved in all major wars.

New bench seats have been obtained using funding from Latrobe City Council's Community Funding Program. State Government funding is being used to construct new concrete beams.

The Trust has also joined with Morwell RSL to honour two soldiers with plaques

to honour local Boer War veterans, Edward James Kells and Joseph Williamson.

There are many enquiries being made by people researching family histories. Hazelwood Cemetery Trust holds a wealth of historical data, much of which is accessed on a regular basis.

For instance, a recent enquiry focussed on a family who once farmed the Jumbuck hills.

The family farm has long disappeared, enveloped now with plantation timber, blackberries and ragwort.

Nonetheless, using our data and linking with names on a family grave at the Hazelwood Cemetery, an intriguing family history is now being compiled.

## Clean Up Australia

Much effort is put into Clean up Australia Day events. We had one in Churchill on March 3, organised by the Rotary Club of Hazelwood and district. Loads of rubbish was picked up.

The BIG question is why is that rubbish there in the first place?

There are bins around. It doesn't take much effort to take your rubbish home and dispose of it in your home bin, so why be a tosser and put our country at risk of clogged waterways, endangered wildlife who can ingest small pieces of plastic and die, pollution of the environment and creating an unsightly mess for others to have to see. From the Clean up

Australia web site these words:

"Australia has one of the best natural landscapes in the world.

From our pristine beaches, ancient forests and flourishing sealife, we have some of the most unique flora and fauna. But the rubbish we create through mass consumption is choking our streets, beaches, parks, bushland and waterways.

Along the way it's killing one of our best assets: nature.

We are all part of the problem - but YOU can also be part of the solution."

That means you need to stop being a tosser and become a depositor in a rubbish bin so your waste can be thoughtfully disposed of.

Clean up Australia Day is also encouraging communities, schools, youth groups and businesses to help Clean up Australia every day.

You can register a site year round on a day that suits you.

Just remember to leave them two weeks to make sure they get your starter kit to you on time.

Or you can be proactive all year round and when you see something pick it up so that the place doesn't become disgusting. It would be better if everyone took responsibility for their own rubbish and disposed of it properly.

Let's challenge ourselves to be one of the cleanest towns, not one that is littered and unsightly.

## Hazelwood House

Some disappointing news for the Churchill and district community with Benetas announcing the closure of its only residential aged care facility in Churchill.

The immediate priority is to make sure the residents can access high quality care and ensure they will continue to be cared for to the highest standards during and after the transition.

As a regular visitor of aged care homes across Gippsland I am always impressed by the high standard of care and commitment of our local aged care workforce. I am keen to work with the community and support any new projects the community or Latrobe City Council put forward to help grow Churchill.

## Parkrun

Hundreds of people across Gippsland pull on their running shoes each Saturday morning to get active, have fun and run or walk five kilometres against the clock at a parkrun Australia event.

As an active supporter of parkrun, I'm pleased the Federal Government is

investing \$1.8 million for parkrun Australia, one of 27 organisations to share \$22.9 million under the Federal Government's Better Ageing Grant Program.

It's important that we all invest time in ourselves and look after our health and general well-being.

Parkrun events promote active fun and fitness and a chance to connect with other people, which is just as important for your well-being as physical activity.

The Federal Government money is being provided to parkrun Australia for its Generations Project. The project is designed to link older Australians with their weekly local parkrun community event where they can run, walk, volunteer and socialise with people of all ages.

So if you don't think you can make the distance, you can still get along to your local parkrun event and get involved in another way.

Runners and walkers can join in the Churchill parkrun amongst other locations throughout Gippsland

including Traralgon, Lakes Entrance, Bairnsdale and Sale.

The event takes place at 8am each Saturday morning from Eel Hole Creek, Phillip Parade and McDonald Way, Churchill. Churchill parkrun is entirely run by volunteers – to help out email churchillhelpers@parkrun.com. For more information or to register for parkrun visit www.parkrun.com.au

## Churchill Community Festival

The Churchill Community Festival is going twilight this year, being held on Saturday March 16 from 5.30-9pm, Phillip Parade, Churchill.

This will be the first twilight festival held by Churchill and will be opened with a performance from the Gunai Kurnai Boorun Boys.

There will be plenty of activities, entertainment and food and beverage options available. For more information follow Churchill Community Festival Facebook page or contact Churchill Neighbourhood Centre on 5120 3850 or email info@churchill.org.au

# Darren Chester

## Safe and Strong Latrobe

Latrobe City Council is launching Safe and Strong Latrobe, a project designed for large workplaces across Latrobe City to prevent violence against women.

Violence against women costs the Australian economy over \$22 billion dollars a year and workplaces are recognised as a key setting for addressing the problem.

Safe and Strong Latrobe will support participating workplaces to implement new Workplace Equality and Respect Standards.

The standards focus on addressing conditions within the workplace – such as recruitment, promotion and flexible work options – and aspects of workplace culture to build more gender equal outcomes.

Gender inequality is recognised as the key driver of violence against women and that violence is much more likely when there are unequal power relations between men and women in both public and private life.

Disappointingly Latrobe City has the highest per capita rates of police attendance at family violence incidents

in Victoria. Living Well Latrobe, the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, identifies preventing family violence as a key priority.

There is also a strong business case for increasing gender equality with both financial and performance benefits for workplaces.

The Standards also require workplaces to ensure appropriate support is available to staff and customers who experience family violence.

The project will work with leaders in participating workplaces to build their capacity to lead initiatives

across their workforce and provide opportunities to share knowledge.

Training and support will be provided to assist workplaces to identify actions to be undertaken such as changes to policies and procedures or promoting flexible working options.

Safe and Strong Latrobe is funded by the Victorian Government's Free From Violence Local Government Grants.

Businesses can get more information or get involved via the following: Email latrobe@latrobe.vic.gov.au or Phone 1300 367 700.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Seeking Information

**Latrobe City Council is seeking information and the whereabouts of a memorial plaque which was located at the former Watson Park Preschool, Churchill.**

**Council is scheduled to demolish the former preschool and would like to return the plaque to the family.**

**Currently the plaque's location is unknown as the plaque has been removed without Council's knowledge.**

**If anyone has any information regarding the location of the memorial plaque at the former Watson Park Preschool, Churchill please contact Latrobe City Council.**

**Phone: 1300 367 700**

**Email: Kylie.Stockdale@latrobe.vic.gov.au**



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# Friends Morwell National Park

## John's Jottings

This snippet on the activities of the Friends of Morwell National Park was sourced from early Newsletter files.

"December 17, 1989

Hello,

The seed collection in the Billys Creek area was a nice idea at the time, but we were a bit early. We managed to get a decent crop of seeds from the following plants: Messmate, Mountain Grey Gum, Blue Gum, Manna Gum, Varnish Wattle, Prickly Mo and Hemp Bush. However, there were plenty of seeds still green, or just about dry, so we're holding another collection day. Please come along and meet at Foster's Gully car park at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday 30th Dec.

As tree planting in the Billys Creek area is a priority activity for next year, we are hoping to maximise the number of seeds collected. So make this your last good deed for the year; goodness knows you may need it to counter-balance the bad deeds you're planning for the following night.

As we are still preparing the activities for next year, as well as trying to determine what to do with the grant money for the Billys Creek information shelter (i.e. buy the materials now and keep them in storage, or re-invest it and let DCF&L know that we're waiting for the release of the management plan), we'll be holding an Executive Meeting at Yvonne's on Thursday January 4, 1990, at 8:00 p.m. Please come along if you want to help out with these points.

Well, that's about all. Have a good Christmas, y'all, Steve"

## February Activity Report

This month we had Ken, Tamara, Beryl, Jay, Joelle, Graeme, James (new), Rose, Rose's niece and John in for the activity. We had apologies from Matt and Darren.

Tamara has been generous and has collected some notes



and photos from the day's activity.

• It was overcast when we arrived at the carpark on Junction Rd, but it soon warmed up and was quite humid.

• Matt was away this month, and we realised we had no key to access the tools in our shed, and no 4WD vehicles to access the park. Luckily we knew of some weeds close to the carpark, and many of us had brought our own tools such as secateurs, loppers, a pruning saw and weed collection bags, so we got straight to work.

• While Jay and Joelle wandered up Clematis Track collecting muttonwood seed, John and Beryl tackled some tutsan near the creek, and the rest of us wrestled with ivy, which was cunningly weaving its way under a thicket of nettles and blackberry to evade us. It was challenging to pull out all of the thin runners, ensuring that we didn't break them and leave any roots behind.

• While working, Tamara spotted a female Feather-horned Beetle (*Rhipicera femorata*) resting in the grass, and a more active male with spectacular antennae was later grasped from the air and briefly photographed by Ken before it took flight again. We have very few records of this species from the park, and had never recorded a female before.

• As we had only made it a short distance from the carpark, we retreated to the picnic table there when lunch called.

• On the way back to the carpark, we spotted a number of larger ivy plants climbing up trees on the south side of the track, including a couple that had developed the adult

leaf shape and flower buds. Some of us returned for an hour or so after lunch to deal with these large plants.

• It was an enjoyable day out, with nicer weather than we'd experienced for a while, and plenty of opportunity for everyone to get their hands dirty stopping garden escapees marching their way through our bushland.

## March Activity Sunday March 17

Activity 1 - 10.00am - Junction Road Carpark

We will meet in the Junction Road carpark to undertake track maintenance and weeding.

For this activity you will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

Activity 2 - 5.30pm - Kerry Road Picnic Area

The group will meet in the Kerry Road picnic area for a BBQ, spotlight walk and moth survey. You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the evening outdoors and the weather conditions. For the BBQ a seat, torch, cutlery, plates, drink, etc. would be very useful.

You can come for one or both activities.

# Romance scammers



Scamwatch is urging tech-savvy daters to be on the lookout for romance scammers as data shows these scams are increasingly happening through social media and dating apps.

"Scammers tend to go where people are, and in the dating world that increasingly means on social media and dating apps," ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.

Women are particularly at risk of losing money to romance scams with Scamwatch data showing they are four times more likely to report losing money compared to men.

Scamwatch received nearly 4000 reports of dating and romance scams last year, with losses of over \$24.6 million - a 20 per cent increase from 2017. Women reported a total financial loss of almost \$20 million while men reported a total loss of almost \$5 million. People aged 45 to 64 were the most affected.

Social media is the most common contact method used by scammers to engage their victims. However Scamwatch is seeing increasing reports of romance scammers using mobile apps like Tinder, Facebook Messenger and Viber.

Losses reported where the scammer and victim met on an app have increased more than 300 per cent in the past two years.

Romance scammers begin by establishing trust to form a relationship, then start making up stories about needing money to help cover costs associated with illness, injury, business expenses, duty or customs fees, legal

costs, family costs, and travel. The scam can continue for years and Scamwatch receives many heart breaking stories about the financial and emotional toll they take.

"Finding potential new love is exhilarating but that can make it easy to miss the red flags that point to you falling for a scammer," Ms Rickard said.

"Be careful if someone you don't know makes contact on social media and presents themselves as a 'too good to be true' catch. It's likely they've done some research on you beforehand to find out things about you to create an instant bond.

On apps, it can be trickier as the whole point is meeting new people. However, nearly all romance scammers will eventually reveal their intentions, which is getting your money. If you've only ever known the person online or through an app, don't give them money. You may think you love them and want to help, but they'll just break your heart, and deplete your bank account," Ms Rickard said.

"It can pay to trust your head over your heart. If you have any doubts about someone you have met online or an app, doing a Google search on their name and pictures can often reveal scammers.

Go to Scamwatch.gov.au to learn more about how you can tell if a romance scammer has you in their sights." @scamwatch\_gov (https://twitter.com/scamwatch\_gov)

Follow us on Twitter Report a scam (https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam)

## RAINFALL at Hazelwood South

February again had below average rain with only 26mm and 57% of the average for February.

The last two weeks have been punishing on the vegetation with plants dying and trees sacrificing leaves to preserve water.

The ground is covered in dry crunchy leaves.

The bush is extremely

combustible.

The second week of February was

cooler and delivered almost all of the February

rain during the flooding disaster period in North Queensland.



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**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME**

## Nominations open for 65th Victorian Training Awards

Apprentices, students, teachers, employers and training providers can now nominate for the 65th Victorian Training Awards.

Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Harriet Shing, encouraged Gippsland locals to submit nominations for the awards, which recognise and honour the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations in the Victorian TAFE and training sector.

There are 16 categories including six for individuals, four for employers, four for training organisations as well as an Industry Collaboration Award and the Lynne Kosky

Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Victorian TAFEs have won the coveted Australian Large Training Provider of the Year Award for the last three years, demonstrating restored confidence in our training sector to deliver quality training that gives Victorians the skills they need to secure rewarding jobs.

Winners will be announced at the Victorian Training Awards gala ceremony in Melbourne in September, with winners receiving \$5000 in prize money.

Some winners will also have the opportunity

to represent Victoria at the Australian Training Awards in Brisbane in November.

To nominate for the 2019 Victorian Training Awards visit [vta.awardsplatform.com](http://vta.awardsplatform.com)

Applications close at midnight on Friday May 3.

Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Harriet Shing said:

“There’s plenty of excellent training underway at TAFEs, private training providers and at dual sectors universities and Learn Locals across Victoria.

Now is the time to recognise those individuals or organisations that deserve special recognition.”

## Latrobe Valley students pay unfair fares

Member for Morwell Russell Northe has called on the Minister for Public Transport to abolish the unfair ticketing system that leaves Latrobe Valley families and students unfairly out of pocket.

“Despite asking two basic questions in Question Time for this issue to be resolved, it was extremely disappointing that the Minister failed to acknowledge the inequity that exists for Latrobe Valley students, however I will continue to fight for a fairer system and better services for local commuters” said Mr Northe.

“Last year the Victorian Government by way of a media release announced that: ‘A more affordable Regional Student Pass will also be available from Term 1 next year, which will increase the

discount for regional students to 50 per cent of the yearly cost of concession travel.’

I was disgusted to discover that the discounted travel rates for the newly announced Regional Student Pass for 2019, do not apply to our students in the Latrobe Valley”, said Mr Northe.

The discounted Regional Student Pass is currently offered to the following Victorian areas;

- Southwest (Warrnambool) \$235 per year
- Colac \$235 per year
- Portland \$235 per year
- Geelong \$333 per year
- Ballarat \$333 per year
- Bendigo \$235 per year

“I think it is grossly unfair that families of Latrobe Valley students do not have access to reduced fares like many other regional students.



Russell Northe

Latrobe Valley students only have access to the Victorian Pass, which costs \$607.00 per year and this is simply unjust”, said Mr Northe.

“I have been contacted by many furious parents who have children travelling on the train (when they’re running, of course), from Morwell to Trafalgar for school, and the Victorian Pass – which has increased in cost in 2019 – means they are now paying more than ever, for sub-standard public transport,

I’ve called upon the Minister, to fix the broken fare system that disadvantages Latrobe Valley students over other regional students, adhere to their commitment of “more affordable” student fares in 2019, and stop disadvantaging our students in Latrobe Valley, by allowing them to access the discounts awarded to holders of a Regional Students Pass”.

## Latrobe Community Health Service



Headspace Morwell’s Christian Atwater and Kristi Lowrie are excited about the Decker Out exhibition, which is on show at Latrobe Regional Gallery until March 31.

About 20 skate decks have rolled into Latrobe Regional Gallery, showcasing the artistic talents of the region’s young people.

The sun, stars and moon, creatures of the sea and Doctor Who-inspired drawings now line the walls of ‘The Lane’, a Latrobe Regional Gallery space until March 31. The artworks were created and selected during a headspace Morwell competition last year when 40 young people aged 12-25 years decorated blank skate decks with their original works of art.

Some of the skate decks now form the ‘Decker Out’ exhibition, which was officially opened on Saturday, March 2.

“This is a really proud moment for headspace Morwell and the young people who walk through our doors”, headspace Morwell youth worker Christian Atwater said.

“We’re really grateful to



Latrobe Regional Gallery, firstly for welcoming us into the space and secondly for showcasing the talents of our creative young people.”

Morwell headspace and Latrobe Regional Gallery have a rich history of collaboration and this exhibition is one of many ways of empowering young artists’ talent in the region. Last year, the gallery hosted headspace Morwell’s Artspace program, allowing young people with an artistic flare to design and produce a life-sized mural that’s now on show at the headspace centre.

The Artspace program is set to return later this year.

Latrobe Regional Gallery is one of the largest public galleries in eastern Victoria. It has a dedicated space called ‘The Lane’ which provides

a variety of exhibitions, activities and interactive experiences.

Young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and other drug services, can be helped by attending headspace Morwell which will provide work and study support.

If you or someone you know is going through a tough time, phone the centre on 5136 8300 or call into the corner of George Street and Hazelwood Road, Morwell.

To see the exhibition before March 31, drop into Latrobe Regional Gallery from 10am-5pm on weekdays or 11am-4pm on weekends. Latrobe Regional Gallery is located at 138 Commercial Road, Morwell.



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## Old Time Family Dance

Jeeralang North Hall

Jeeralang North Road

Friday, March 22

Dancing from 8.00 pm to 11.30 pm

Admission: \$8.00  
Door Prize

Supper supplied

For more details please ring Judy 0402 923 897, Heather 5166 1494



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## St Vinnies Soup Van

### EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

Commenced February 15, 2019 at Churchill

**\*\*Note these times are approximate**

**5.45 pm – Churchill Community HUB**

**6.15 pm – Glendonald Park**

# Watson Park Kindergarten to be demolished

Churchill's first kindergarten is to be demolished. Council Officers and Councillor Darrell White have tried to find an occupier for the site, but in vain.

The site has been vandalised and an attempt to burn it down has taken place, leaving it in a very poor state.

This will be sad news for all those who attended the

kindergarten as children and supported it as parents and community members. Early residents worked so hard to have the building in this beautiful setting established for the many children who formed part of the early families who came to live in Churchill. Lots of useful play equipment was made and formed part of the kinder

up until it closed. Various kinder committees worked hard fundraising over the forty years of its operation to provide the equipment and supplies needed. They will be heartbroken too.

The building will be demolished in April officially, but may happen earlier if council funds are available. The amazing native trees

surrounding and in the grounds will be retained as they have been used by the wildlife for all those years.

A plaque will be established on the site to commemorate the existence of Churchill's first kindergarten. Another sad demise of a Churchill site.



Above: Watson Park's first and last kindergarten teachers. On left Joan Atkinson and on right Rhian McInerney

Right: the popular cubby



## Black Saturday – February 7, 2009

By Lynne O'Callaghan  
Morwell CFA member

The statistics are horrendous.

The Black Saturday bushfires killed 173 people, injured 414 people, destroyed 2,100 homes and displaced 7,562 people.

The energy that the Black Saturday bushfires released was equivalent to one thousand five hundred of the atomic bombs which struck Hiroshima.

Over 1,100,000 acres of land were burnt. Well over 5,000 fire fighters fought the fires on that day with some coming from New Zealand, America and Australia.

One Australian fire fighter was killed

Lynne O'Callaghan recalls that weekend – Saturday and Sunday, February 7 and 8, 2009. Lynne has notched up 28 years as a member of the Morwell CFA.

Her story:

A call comes over my pager for an outbreak at Mirboo North from a fire that burnt through the area last week and destroyed a lot of houses and farms and pine plantations.

As we reach Creamery Road, Yinnar, we are called back to a fire at Churchill, heading for the Jeeralangs.

We see the fire moving

fast and spotting ahead so fast it's going to be big!

Our crew is Lt Mick Williams and driver, Dave Staple, both policemen.

I have no worries about not being safe as they know what they're doing.

We go to Glendonald Track, the start of the fire, and we meet up with other tankers.

Bruce Mongan, from the Yinnar South CFA is at control point and a fire attack is planned.

Churchill CFA Captain, Steve Barling, meets up with Mick and Bruce and sends us to the top of Jeeralang Road; it's a steep road and all the way up I can see a fast approaching fire.

We just make it to the top and we are redirected to the bottom of the hill again.

We're escorted by a four-wheel drive down a fire track and I hope we don't get caught by a wind and fire change.

It's hot, 43 degrees. We all drink our water and get our gloves, goggles and masks ready for attack.

All tankers line up and commence blacking out; it's going to take a lot of work.

We start blacking out and more water is urgently required.

We drive to refill at a nearby house with a dam,

pump and generator set-up. While refilling, we have a drink; it's so hot and smokey.

Sweat is dripping off me.

I have shorts under my CFA outfit – they are wet with sweat.

We return to blacking out spot fires. A radio call tells us to get up to the Jeeralangs. Houses and people are in trouble.

The fire has taken hold and the heat is shocking, it's choking us.

We arrive at three houses all together in our air-conditioned trucks but even the truck is struggling. It's becoming hotter inside our truck – we keep drinking water. The truck is beginning to overheat.

We drive into a paddock and attack two spot fires; two other paddocks are alight. There is an old farmer sitting under a tree watching the event. We have a chat; he has cold lemonade which we all gladly drink as our water is now too hot to drink. He was very glad we came and helped save his farm. We are then off again as another house is under threat and roads are blocked off.

A large pine plantation is going, trees are down on the road, there's no way through. We reverse. I feel the truck's windows are hot. It all feels like my oven at home.

Now I wonder if we will get out alive.

We are radioed to a house under threat near Lindemans Road. A four-wheel drive vehicle approaches asking for help for a couple in their home. Mick travels in the four-wheel drive to check if we can escape if fire comes and we are trapped – this is a bush area.

We go in and set up the tanker; the owner has sprinklers. The fire is moving up threatening the house. It's so hot and dry, gum trees are excellent fuel if they catch fire. Wind pushes the fire up as we roll out hoses and start our work.

Fire is whipped up at us. The sprinklers on the roof give cool water and relief. We hear other fire trucks, we see fire and smoke on a nearby hill, we hear an explosion. Something went up!

We really need a helicopter. We see choppers working on other hills, but

not for us. We have power lines to deal with, the risk is enormous.

We hear a mayday call – we all freeze. The Hazelwood North tanker is in trouble. We're getting ready for a wind change.

There is a red flag warning and Mick tells us to be alert as another tanker joins us. We have a bit to eat but the wind change has hit, and flames now whip around the front of the house and its driveway. We are attacking and both tankers are working flat chat.

I can hear Mick and others yelling. I'm squirting water on my area along with other crew. Winds, sparks, flames and intense heat are bad.

I wonder why people live here with so many trees so close to houses.

We get word we will be replaced at 11 o'clock if a crew is available. We keep working blacking out; we are tired, our truck is playing up. We have a rest as things die down.

The lady of the house makes us sandwiches and cold drinks – we sit down and eat and drink. We can hear Vicfire calling for help from

crews for the Traralgon South and Callignee areas.

Wind has got behind this monster and it's going like a bat out of hell.

We hear the Hazelwood North tanker is alright and we keep blacking out more flareups. A fire on another hill looks really bad.

We are told another crew will be available to replace us. Gus (Lynne's husband) rings to make sure we're all OK.

We are off home; down the hill and we are all stuffed, hot, tired and hungry. We hear Traralgon South is in trouble; people are trapped and burnt. What a nightmare!

We go to Monash University for a hot meal and toilet stop. I look in the mirror – I'm black. We eat and meet the other crew. I cannot wait to get home. We arrive back at the Morwell CFA station, everything is covered with ash. There's smoke and ash from a Bunyip fire. Smoke from the Churchill fires blackens the sky. We can't see street lights clearly.

People are scared. I'm tired. We all go home, a job well done.



## SPORT

### Churchill & Monash Golf Club

<b>Men</b>	NTP 3rd A. Auld 12th J. Barratt 14th P. Smart Birdies 3rd M. Brereton 3rd B. Kilday 14th R. Meredith 14th G. Spowart Saturday 16/2/19 – Mens 2 Person Ambrose	J. Tettman 64 ¼ A. Auld and T. Collins 65 R. Scurlock and R. Madigan 66 J. Barnes B. Barnes 66.5 NTP 3rd D. Caldwell 5th L. Visser 12th B. Kilday 14th B. Mathieson	DTL Stu Raymond (17) and A. Larson (45) 39 NTP 3rd V. Reid 12th B. Beebe 5th S. Turner 14th V. Reid 12/2/19 Canadian Winners L. Peake (40) and M. McQuillen(36) 74 4/8
Monthly Medal 23/2/19	Winners J. Keighran and L. Visser (6.25 ¼ 67 60 ¾ R/U T. Oriely and D. Caldwell (6.75) 69 62 ¼ C/B DTL I. Heppo and R. Timbs 62 ¼ J. Soppe and	4 B.B.B. 27/2/19 Winners B. Beebe (33) and V. Rowley (37) 40Pts	DTL J. Blizzard (28) and L. Casey (33) 78 ¾
A Grade R. King (15) 88 73			
B Grade G. Spowart (23) 88 65			
C Grade J. Tettman (29) 100 71			
DTL B. Cleland 67 J. Barnes 69 B. Barnes 69 D. Caldwell 73 M. Brereton 74 M. Dear 74 P. Smart 75 C/B A. Auld 75 C/B			

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

**Next CDCA Meeting**  
Tuesday April 9 at 7pm in the Centre for Gippsland Studies (room 1E 110) Federation University, Park and enter from N5 car park (near the Auditorium)

# SCHOOL NEWS

# KURNAI COLLEGE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS



### School Captain

Tom Webster is one of the school captains. He is feeling proud of himself, as being School Captain has meant he has had to step up and talk in front of his peers. But he is happy with what he has done so far and loves the role.

Tom would like to see increasing levels of physical activity with lunchtime activities being one way to achieve that.

He would also like to see students more engaged, using class time more effectively. This he sees is very important as Year 12 is setting you up for life.

Tom is enjoying his subjects which have a focus on sport and exercise. It is his goal to do a Bachelor Degree in Sport and Exercise as he likes to do anything in the sporting field and being active each day.

### Bridget Cain- swimming star

Bridget began swimming competitively at age seven which is young. Traralgon

Swimming Club was where she found a home. Bridget describes it as a strong club with a strong culture; one which is team orientated and of good quality which keeps everyone motivated and retained.

She loves butterfly stroke as it comes easily to her but she does all the other strokes as well.

Bridget has competed in 19 out of 20 country championships and won. Her 20th Gippsland Championship comes up in March and she will compete in every stroke.

Bridget has competed with the school right through her primary and secondary schooling, and developed a reputation as a good swimmer.

This year at the Kurnai Swimming Sports she managed to break some records, which was her aim and made her happy.

The same is a fun day, a day to enjoy being together but not one for achieving

a Personal Best. This she will strive for at the championships.

This year she has applied to be part of the Victorian School Team.

Bridget enjoys sport, and as she gets older she reports that there are more opportunities for her to do well, as there are fewer entrants to compete against, as many drop out to other things.

Training takes a large part of Bridget's week with seven swimming sessions, five gym sessions including Pilates, weights and fit ball work, as well as a bike ride and running, which gives a varied fitness regime.

Goals are important and Bridget wants to achieve over the next three years as follows:

Qualify for the Australian Age Championships for a fourth time (first time when she was 14). She hopes to finish in the top five in her age group, which would be close



to a medal, and by the time she is 18 to achieve a medal.

Qualify for the Australian Championships for the first time in April, which are held in Adelaide. This is much harder to achieve, as only a small percentage of people are chosen- between 5-10 %.

As a career Bridget would like to study for a Sport and Exercise Science degree and become an exercise physiologist.

### Stock Market Game

Year 11 Accounting Class are going to compete in the schools Australian Share Market Game.

There are two games a year, and this class began to compete on March 7.

The students have formed syndicates of four. They will be given a virtual \$50,000 amount and a list of the top 200 companies from the stock exchange.

They get to trade in the stocks but do not change the

stock market real figures. They can buy and sell in time based on actual share prices as listed, learning about how the stock exchange works and the risks and returns involved in this activity.

This activity forces the students to work in a group, research the companies' performances and diversification, collaborate and communicate and show discipline to make a group decision to buy or sell.

The aim is to win a cash prize. This part of the curriculum links in with information on operating a business but is an alternative to investment.

Teacher Kallitsa Yianannou reported that the students were excited about taking up this challenge which is also helping their language development, and will run over a ten week period.

The stock exchange has also produced videos and tutorials on line for the students to use for more

information or review.

Kallitsa also mentioned that members of the public can access virtual courses as a way to try before they buy. This has been running for many years and is a learning for life activity for both the student and the public if they wish.

### Swimming Sports

Swimming sports were held on a beautiful day on February 14. All three Kurnai campuses attended and competed enjoying the day out.

This year saw the biggest turnout to date.

There are competition swimming events on the day but also lots of fun activities in which to participate.

There is dive bombing to see who can make the biggest splash, team races, swimming a teacher on a lilo down the pool and an Iron Person event. The kids section of the pool is available for anyone to use to cool off during the day.



# SCHOOL NEWS

# YINNAR PRIMARY

We are already more than halfway through Term 1. All students have settled in to their class routines extremely well.

Our House Captains arranged and ran a great fun night. The evening started with a BBQ followed by fun activities including tug of war, sack races, musical statues and egg and spoon races. It was fantastic to see so many parents, carers and families all actively taking part with their children. The evening finished with the presentation of badges to all our new student leaders – School Captains, Junior School Council,

GRACE Team, School Grounds and Sustainability Captains, Library Monitors and Magazine Editors.

Students have been busy carving designs on to clay tiles during their Art class. Students were guided in this process by visiting artist Mira Halpern-Wilson. This is a collaboration with ARC Yinnar and the finished tiles will be fired and mounted as an exhibition as part of the Gippsland Sculpture Prize. This exhibition is held bi-annually and sculptures will be exhibited in Yinnar during April and May this year.

The District athletics are

fast approaching so all classes have been practising each of the disciplines in which they will compete – long jump, high jump, sprints, long distance, shotput and discus. As part of this the school has had its' House Cross Country competition. This year the course was changed from the Recreation Reserve to within the school grounds and included all grades from Prep – 6 rather than just our older grades. The course layout covered asphalt, concrete, grass and the uneven playground mulch which gave it a real cross country feel. Yellow House

were the victors.

Selected students from Grades 3-6 have represented the school at the District Swim Carnival at Churchill. Our students showed great sportsmanship towards other schools, and especially to our own students, shouting lots of encouragement to the swimmers in each event. Several students achieved qualifying times to progress to the Division level swimming carnival. From this two of our students – Bryon and Bailey have qualified for Region Swimming in their respective strokes.

Parents have had the

opportunity to meet with their children's teachers early in the term. This offers both teachers and parents/carers to get to know each other better and is a great opportunity for information sharing. School Council nominations have been called for and our new School Council for 2019 has been appointed.

The first of our Emergency Management drills was undertaken with a mock evacuation. Students have been learning what to do if there is an emergency in the school.

Some significant building and grounds works has been

undertaken. Large sliding doors that were not fit for purpose have been replaced with more child friendly sliding doors in the BER building.

Our amphitheatre has undergone a makeover with artificial turf being laid and the boat sandpit has had seating installed.

The old fort has been removed and the tunnel resurfaced. The SGS team have started on the desert sandpit and new sails are to be installed over the top to provide shade areas during the summer months.



Sack races at the fun BBQ Evening



School yard improvements



Tug-of-war game at the fun BBQ Evening





# SCHOOL NEWS

## CHURCHILL PRIMARY

### Great start for Foundation Students

Starting school is a special time in every child's life and this year we welcome 21 Foundation students to Churchill Primary School. It's lovely to see that, whilst there were perhaps some nerves to begin with, all of the children are settling in extremely well and they're enjoying the start to their learning journey. The Preps join Grade 1 students in two composite classes with Mrs Harding and Miss Hodgson as their teachers, and are assisted by Education Support staff

Allana Berechree and Linda Lowrie.

Our Grade 1 students have been fantastic role models for our new students, showing the Preps what to do and leading by example. We look forward to watch them grow throughout their time at CPS. *Introducing our new staff at CPS*

We are extremely lucky this year to have some vibrant young adults join our staff at CPS.

Miss Zedi Hodgson came to us last year as a fourth year teaching intern and made such a great impression we just had

to have her back to teach in Grade F/1 this year.

Mr Liam Maynard came to us in fourth term last year and helped out in Education Support whilst he completed his teaching degree and we were lucky enough to secure him to come back and teach in our Grade 4/5 classroom.

Some members of our community may remember Aidan Quigley and Adam Marx who also spent some time with us in the latter half of 2018 helping out in Education Support and as student mentors. These guys made a great impression on

our senior students and it's fantastic that they are able to join us again in 2019 whilst also studying to become teachers.

Hugh Sapkin and Brie Comber join us this year as trainee Education Support Staff and they are quickly becoming favourites amongst our students, as they learn their roles and join in and take special lunchtime activities, amongst other things.

All six are a wonderful asset to our school and we are extremely pleased to be able to give students some great younger role models

to look up to. Please help us to welcome these new staff members to our school community!

### 2019 School Captains

Congratulations to our new school captains for 2019!

School Captain  
Jacinta Gittos  
Vice Captains  
Brandon Coleman  
Vivian Huyhn  
Lucy Booth

These students were chosen as school leaders by their peers and through interviews with the Principal at the end of last year. We are sure they are going to

serve the school and our community well throughout the coming year.

### Healthy Lunch Boxes

This term we are teaching about healthy lunch boxes. We know that when we are eating healthier food it is easier to concentrate and energy levels increase. This all helps with learning. Students are given rewards for having healthy food in their lunchboxes and we thank our parents for helping us make healthy choices and limiting the amount of 'sometimes' food whilst students are at school.



Foundation students



School Captains - Vivian, Lucy, Jacinta and Brandon



Liam Maynard, Aidan Quigley, Zedi Hodgson, Brie Comber, Adam Marx and Hugh Sapkin join the staff ranks at CPS

# SCHOOL NEWS

## HAZELWOOD NORTH PRIMARY

### Cross Country

On February 21, Hazelwood North students participated in the Cross Country event for House Sports. All age groups enjoyed supporting their House by trying their best to run 2-7 laps. Due to their

resilience and stamina, a select few 4/5/6s were offered the opportunity to compete in the Yinnar and District Cross Country in Gaskin Park Churchill. This event was held on Wednesday March 13.

All students showed that they could represent their

house and school, and put their best foot forward.

### Yinnar and District Swimming

On February 13, a few of the 4/5/6's went to the Latrobe Leisure Centre in Churchill to participate in the Yinnar and District Sports swimming event. The specific

strokes that were included were freestyle, back stroke, breast stroke, butterfly, and relay (freestyle). These are the people from Hazelwood North Primary School who participated in the event: Allira Richardson, Eliza Kennedy Redmond, Tasman

Leahy, Archie Norman, Xavier Miller, Connor Mckenzie, Riese Pancutt, Charlize Cuff, Olivia Perkins, Maddie Burns, Kydan Makepeace, Sefton Dawson, Harrison King, Mitch Leslie, and Clare Thorburn.

Several of the students

made it through to the District Swimming Sports. This included Allira Richardson, Eliza Kennedy Redmond, Tasman Leahy, Xavier Miller, Kydan Makepeace, Olivia Perkins, Sefton Dawson, Harrison King, Mitch Leslie and Claire Thorburn.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## LUMEN CHRISTI PRIMARY

*Buddies Make Life a Breeze!*  
 Eighteen new Foundation students have settled into school life with ease thanks to the help of the Year 5 / 6 senior students at Lumen Christi Primary School.

The role of the Year 5 / 6 students is to introduce the new students to the staff

and students at the school. They also assist them in the playground and guide them when they may lose their way around the school or lose sight of a friend.

The Year 5/6 students will have weekly sessions with their Buddy and complete many activities together such

as reading, writing and sport. Mr Cooper, school Principal, had a special library session recently and was impressed by their eagerness to be at school already.

“The children have settled into school life and their Prep teachers have been an amazing support to them”, he

said. *Leadership Students*  
 A new year brings new leaders to Lumen Christi Primary School.

This year the students have voted for School Captains - Luisa Cardillo and Robert Gray, Vice Captains - Taylor Mansfield and

Shallimar Halliwell. House Captains - Sam Shaw, Lily McCord, Jye Williams and Ella Hanson. These children take on leadership initiatives around the school and run the school assembly every Friday.

The students actively strive to be excellent role

models by following their school motto of ‘Learn By Faith; Believe, Achieve, Succeed, Together’.

They are very excited to also be assisting with various other duties in the community and supporting their local St Vincent De Paul Charity.



Tia (Year 5 student) with her Buddy from Prep, Charlotte.



Kayla (Year 5 student) with her Buddy from Prep, Makayla.



Leadership team - Mr Cooper, Jye, Sam, Luisa, Lily, Shallimar, Taylor, Robert and Ella. (Year 6 Student Leaders)

# SCHOOL NEWS

## CHURCHILL PRESCHOOLS

### Glendonald Preschool *Busy at Preschool*



Ivy rolling out some dough



Elijah creating a masterpiece



Kaylee cooking up a storm

Hayden writing his name



Glendonald Preschool is off to a wonderful start in 2019. We have our highest enrolments in four years and the children are already eager to start, make friends,

build relationships with teachers and learn what Preschool is all about.

At Glendonald we are very lucky to offer the children a bright, calm and

homely environment.

This accompanies the large yard full of gardening opportunities and spaces to run, climb and play.

We look forward to

getting out and about in the community this year so the children can see all the wonderful things Churchill has to offer.

## The Hub Preschool

The new Preschool year commenced with children settling in, developing routines, friendships and skills.

The children have been exploring inside with magnetic tiles, playdough, painting, construction, Duplo, group games, box construction and much

more. Our outside activities have proven very popular with the sandpit and obstacle course being well utilised in the summer sun.

Also the bikes and tricycles have been used to improve balancing skills and of course to have a lot of fun.

We have been celebrating

Chinese New Year by making individual dragons, tearing and gluing to create our very own dragons.

This was followed by a whole group activity of a long dragon that the children decorated and placed around the room.

Dragons are important and believed to blow away

bad luck and only leave good luck.

We are now learning about germs. One of our experiments is by getting a slice of bread and all the children wipe their hands onto it, it is then placed in a zip lock bag and we will watch to see what might happen.

This is compared to a piece of bread straight out of the bag into a zip lock bag. Children have made predictions that the bread will turn pink or possibly green, however we will have to wait to see the results.

Another experiment was putting glitter (germs) on one hand and having to go to

the bathroom to wash it off, this showed us that we had to wash our hands thoroughly.

Also we talked about how germs travel from our hands to other surfaces.

This year is shaping up to be a fantastic year full of fun and learning

# SCHOOL NEWS

# BOOLARRA PRIMARY



### Welcome Barbeque

On February 19, we had a BBQ after school. There were sausages and drinks to have.

All the kids played with their friends. Finally it was time to announce the badges for the House Captains, School Captains and Junior School Councillors.

The House Captains are: Strzelecki - Tom and Charlie

Penaluna - Isabella and Claire

Morrow - Lana and Chloe Irving - Carly, Ethan and Liam

The School Captains are: Carly and Charlie

They are the school leaders.

The Junior School Council are:

Gage, Kallarnie and Alex The School Captains and the House Captains are also Junior School Councillors. These people will be organising games for the school.

I think everyone who went there had a great time.

By Kallarnie Francis

### School Leaders

There are three roles that make up our school leadership roles.

The three leadership roles are; School Captain, House Captains and Junior School Council.

This year there are two School Captains. They run assembly on Monday and at the end of term.

As usual, there are eight House Captains. There are

two for each House. The House colours are, red (Morrow), blue (Irving), green (Penaluna) and yellow (Strzelecki). The House Captains run House activities and watch teams on sports days. The House Captains also help their team to get the Team Spirit trophy on sports days.

This year there are three Junior School Councillors. They help the school leaders with important things.

At Boolarra, our leadership team feels really lucky to be part of it.

By Chloe Dudek

### Sculpture Tiles

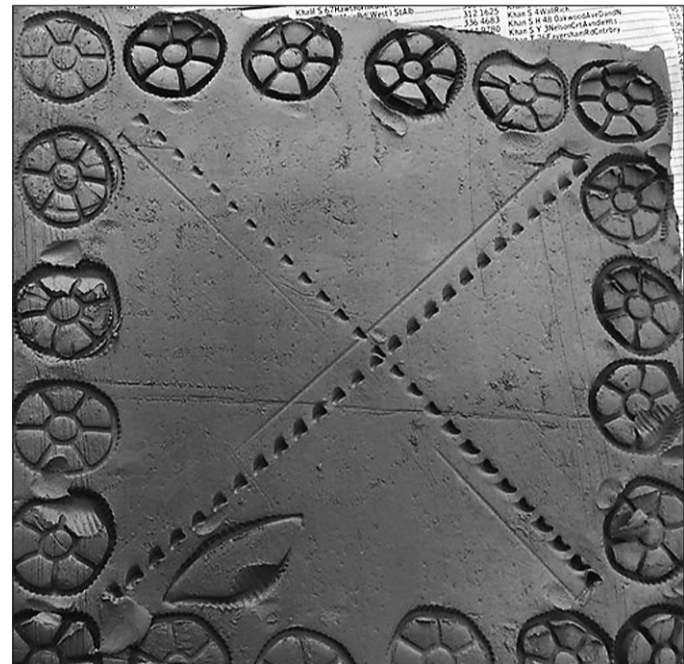
On February 21, the whole school did sculpture tiles with Yvette. We had pasta and other utensils to make our

designs. The F/1 students made designs, the 2/3/4 students used the pasta to make the flower designs and the 4/5/6 students made symmetrical designs.

The tiles will end up on three sculptures of thirty six tiles at the Yinnar Sculpture Exhibition. The exhibition begins on April 6.

The Yinnar Primary School students will be making nine sculptures and they will be put together to make a combined sculpture.

When the sculpture exhibition is finished, our sculptures will become a permanent installation at our school.



# SCHOOL NEWS

# CHURCHILL NORTH PRIMARY

### Leadership

It was with pride that the two new school Captains at Churchill North Primary School for 2019 were revealed. Our new leaders for this year are Nephi and Brooke. Both students presented powerful speeches to the staff and students at assembly and were soon elected to be the Captains of

our school. Brooke says "It was very nerve racking when I was speaking in front of the whole school. I got over my fear and I did not give up because I was determined to get out of my comfort zone".

Nephi says, "I never actually thought I would be a school Captain I just took a shot at speaking up at assembly and I got the job.

Now I am school Captain I have to keep my promises". Both students are looking forward to being our new school leaders.

Arabella and Bailey will help support the school Captains through their role as Vice Captains for the school.

Alex 5 /6W

### The Doors are Open

Churchill North Primary

School was proud to open the doors of their new Before and After School Care building this week. Students and staff were excited to be able to access the new building. Before and After School Care at the school will now take place in the new building which can be accessed from Grevillia Street. The service is open to students from

Churchill North Primary and the surrounding schools. If you would like further information please contact the school on 03 5122 1976.

### Yinnar and District Swimming Sports

On Wednesday February 14, seven students from Churchill North Primary School participated in the Yinnar and District

Swimming Sports held at the Churchill Leisure Centre. The students took part in freestyle, backstroke and relay events. It was a terrific day with the children achieving some fantastic results in their events. Our thanks go out to Miss Lugton and Miss Wood for supervising the event.

Alex 5 /6 W

School Captains and Vice Captains  
Nephi and Brooke, Arabella and Bailey



Right: CNPS students at the swimming sports- Boden, Kendra, Ashton, Jordan, Brooke, Leandra, Mysen



Brayden and Bella attending After School Care in the new building



# Churchill Hub User Survey



Churchill Hub has matured over the years to become a much admired central focal point for our community of Churchill and district.

For the Hub's continuing success in responding to community needs, it is important that the facility is capable of offering services, training, activities and social opportunities that meet the aspirations and interests of the people it exists to serve—which includes you! The Churchill Hub has a local community Advisory Committee which is keen to gain community

feedback regarding the Hub's future array of services. To assist, the Advisory Committee looks forward to having the benefit of your views, opinions, experiences and ideas by completing this survey. The feedback you provide will be of great assistance to the Advisory Committee in its planning on how best to support the community of Churchill and district, now and into the future.

**Cr Darrell White OAM**  
**Chair**

Your postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Your age:

- Under 18
- 19-26
- 27-39
- 40-59
- 60+

How often do you visit the Churchill Hub:

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Only when I have a specific meeting to attend
- A few times a year
- Never

Which services do you currently access (tick all that apply):

- Library
- Neighbourhood House
- Childcare
- Preschool
- Parent Services (Uniting Care)
- Community garden

Which services have you ever used:

- Library
- Neighbourhood House
- Childcare
- Preschool
- Parent Services (Uniting Care)
- Community garden

If you were in charge for a day what would you do differently?

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Thinking 5-10 years into the future what do you think the Churchill and surrounding communities will need the Hub to provide (tick all that apply):

- Larger meeting spaces
- Multi-use space(s)
- Designated youth space
- Expanded Health Services
- More childcare capacity
- More kindergarten capacity
- Longer hours of operation
- Expanded training and education facilities
- Bigger library collection

Would extended hours of operation be of use to you?

- Library
- Neighbourhood House
- Childcare
- Preschool
- Parent Services (Uniting Care)
- Meeting/activity rooms
- Gardening

Have you ever made a booking to use the Hub facility?

- Yes
- No

If yes:

Was a suitable space available?

What was the booking process like for you?

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Are you a part of a social or hobby group that would consider making the Hub its home?

If yes, what is the barrier?

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Is there equipment /facilities / services not currently offered at the Hub that you would use?

Eg. Projector, skype

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Thinking about your most recent Hub visit, rate your experience with one being terrible and ten being amazing:

- Activity
- Atmosphere
- Cleanliness
- Hours of operation
- Parking
- Accessibility

