

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

“Connecting Your Community”

Established 1966

Distributed Free

Latrobe Youth Space – p 10

Australia Day Awards

Black Saturday – p 17-20

Churchill Fire Brigade – p 21



Churchill's Australia Day 2019 Awards

Herald Sun Tour Stage in Churchill



Around 150 people of all ages gathered at the Churchill Hotel car park to hear who this year's award winners would be, work up an appetite for the Lions' breakfast and generally use the time to catch up with folks, some of whom we see often and others only rarely.

Churchill Lions, and particularly Lion Bob Lowick, do an amazing job to put this event together along with all the other involvements they have.

Lion Peter McShane acted as MC and welcomed everyone.

Councillor Darrell White OAM was called upon to speak on behalf of Latrobe City Council. He acknowledged the traditional owners past and present of the Braiakaulung people of the Gunai Kurnai Nation.

He said that Australia Day is a day on which we all turn our thoughts to what Australia means to us and what it means to be Australian.

Australia Day celebrations go beyond barbecues and fireworks. It is a day to celebrate our very modern Australia. It's about recognising and valuing our diverse society, our beautiful broad landscapes, our remarkable achievements, either as individuals, or working together, and our future potential. The day is about reflecting on the resilience of our community in being able to cope with

adversity: it's also a time to appreciate our community capacity to transition to a new future in the face of a number of adverse events we have had to endure in recent times, such as the 2009 bushfires and more recently the Hazelwood Power Station closure.

The day is also an opportunity for us to reflect on our nation's history and to consider how we can make Australia even better.

Our local Member of Parliament Russell Northe, spoke briefly about the day which gives us a chance to celebrate and recognise what is great about our community and Australia.

It is also a chance to recognise those

who contribute to our community and to celebrate what a great place we live in.

Both Darrell and Russell thanked those concerned with organising the event - the Lions Club, the Scouts, Guy from the Churchill Hotel and those who came to make the event special.

They also congratulated all the award winners.

Ruth Place said the Australia Day Prayer which was followed by the award giving. The families of the recipients were excited but keeping 'mum', bursting with pride and happiness as their member was called up to receive their award and have their comments read out.

Continued middle pages with pictures ...

Manning Drive Churchill was transformed for the finish of Stage 2 of the 2019 Jayco Herald Sun Tour and Lexus of Blackburn Women's Herald Sun Tour, when the men's and women's pelotons sped into town late January.

Locals turned out to see the event, but they were there to support the organisers too.

Churchill Lions provided traffic control within the town, while local motor cycle riders acted as scouts. Their job was to escort the riders from one destination to another, making sure that intersections were patrolled so accidents didn't happen. Churchill, Yinnar South and Hazelwood North CFA brigade members formed the tail end Charlie.

Part of the escort vehicle contingent was an ambulance, a St. John's Ambulance, police and the team cars with spare wheels and parts if they should be needed.

It was quite a spectacular sight.

The men began to arrive shortly after 1pm. The riders being applauded as they flew through the finishing gate. Then when the majority of riders had finished, the special race jerseys were presented to the successful riders by Councillor Sharon Gibson.

Important guests were Richie Bates, Race Organiser and Commissar from Cairns Council, and Greg Griffiths International Commissar, *Continued Page 27 ...*

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OPEN DAY

Saturday, March 30

11am start

Andrews Park West



COME AND TRY BASEBALL



How to stay cool in summer

All year we long for summer to hit, only for the heatwaves to have us pining for the cool breeze of autumn afternoons. No one's denying summer is ideal for the picnics, the outdoor hikes, the beach days and backyard cricket, but there are definitely some days when you just have to stay out of the sun's ruthless heat. Here are six simple ways you can stay cool this summer.

Drink plenty of water

You may not feel thirsty and you probably don't like heading to the bathroom all day long, but keeping your fluids up is key to avoiding dehydration. Dehydration can lead to heat cramps, heat exhaustion or even heatstroke – regardless of whether you're young or old.

Handy tip: Keep a chilled water bottle with you and make sure you keep filling it up. Try infusing the water with berries to make all that fluid go down a lot easier.

Stay out of the heat

It goes without saying: during extreme heat, stay inside. If you don't have air conditioning at home, head to the local shopping centre, library, neighbourhood house or cinema and spend the hottest part of the day there. If you've got no choice but to stay at home, close the blinds, keep the fans or air conditioning running and cool yourself down with wet towels or a cool shower.

Handy tip: Just like those stormy days, heatwaves are the perfect excuse to spend the day on the couch reading your favourite book or catching up on an old TV series. Just make sure to keep the radio on, so you're aware of any fire danger nearby.

Stock up

If you know a hot day is on its way, head to the supermarket to stock up on food, water and medicines so you don't have to go out in the heat. Check the weather forecast so you can adequately plan ahead.

Handy tip: Make sure you ask your doctor about whether

you need to make any changes to your medication during extreme heat.

Keep fuelled

Now that you've stocked up on food and water, make sure you keep fuelling your body. Try smaller meals more often, so your blood sugar levels don't fluctuate too much. And don't forget to keep that water bottle handy!

Handy tip: Cold protein and salads go down a treat on hot days.

Avoid strenuous activity

Regardless of your age and how fit and active you are, strenuous activity on hot days generally isn't a great idea. Heat and physical activity can be dangerous - whether that be playing sports or doing home improvements around the house. The best way to avoid heat stress is to take it easy, but if that can't be done at least take frequent rest breaks, keep your fluids up and avoid strenuous activity during the hottest part of the day.

Handy tip: Remember tip #2: heatwaves are the perfect excuse to spend the day on the couch reading your favourite book or catching up on an old TV series.

Check in on others

This one's really important. There are plenty of people who are at risk of heat-related illnesses, including those older than 65 years, people who live alone, pregnant women and young children, people with medical conditions and those who have trouble moving around. Make sure you check in on your neighbours, friends and family in the lead-up to hot days and during extreme weather events.

Handy tip: Offer to do the grocery shopping or take them somewhere cool for the day. If you are concerned about their health, seek medical advice.

Of course, if you are worried about your health or concerned about someone you know, visit your GP or phone the Nurse on Call on 1300 60 60 24. In an emergency, call triple-zero (000).

New Committee Members

The CDCA Committee has been delighted to welcome two new appointments to our ranks. At our last meeting for 2018, we were introduced to Zac Helyar, our Federation University Student Senate (Churchill campus) representative.

Zac lives locally and is keen to see more links forged between students at the Churchill campus with the Latrobe community, particularly around work and student placement opportunities.

At this month's meeting, we welcomed Professor Erik Eklund, who is our new Federation University representative on the CDCA Committee. This position is a non-voting committee membership which provides

a critical link between CDCA (and thus the Churchill community) and the campus. Professor Eklund is involved with the Centre for Gippsland Studies at the Churchill campus and also lives locally.

Our advertised guest speaker, Karen Tsebelis from Latrobe City Council, was unfortunately unable to attend our February meeting but will be present at our April 9 meeting to chat with us about Council's Tracks and Trails Strategy, particularly as it affects Churchill.

CDCA had a number of business items to discuss at our February meeting, including the selection of a new logo and letterhead for our Association. A future edition of the Churchill News will feature our 'new look' once we have our print-

friendly version at hand.

We also discussed a proposed visit to the newly revamped Centre for Gippsland Studies at the University (to be conducted prior to one of our regular bi-monthly meetings). The Centre is now much more accessible to the local community and is well worth a look.

Details of our tour and next meeting will be published in the March edition of the Churchill & District News and will also be available on our website: www.cdca.org.au

CDCA is holding bi-monthly meetings this year, on the second Tuesday of every second month, so our next meeting will be held on April 9; then June 11 and so on.

CDCA can be contacted via our website www.cdca.org.au or email info@cdca.org.au or write to us at PO Box 191, Churchill.

We're on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/trictcommunityassociation/churchilldist>

You can view our new logo and letterhead designs on our website, find details of our next meeting, download copies of minutes and see who's on our Committee. Or come along to our next meeting in April – CDCA welcomes all residents of Churchill and district to attend, listen, voice concerns on local matters or raise new (local) issues for our consideration.

Darrell White OAM

"Neighbourhood Navigator" – Latrobe City's "Online Interactive Map"

Latrobe City Council is pleased to announce the launch of "Neighbourhood Navigator".

"Neighbourhood Navigator" is an online public interactive Map which can be accessed through the Council website at: www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/NeighbourhoodNavigator.

This online Map informs community members of services, facilities, planning and zoning information.

Emergency management information is also included to assist with annual fire season preparations, as well as accurate information and location of various services across the municipality.

Latrobe City Council encourages residents and visitors alike to utilise this online Map for accessing information in relation to their properties and other Council Services in the future.

Any residents wishing to use the online Map but who do not have access to the internet can visit Latrobe City Council Libraries or Service Centres to gain access.

This free to use service will be a helpful tool for



future development of Latrobe City as the Map provides accurate zoning and related information for potential planning.

Latrobe City will continue to maintain and update the features as time goes on to ensure accuracy and currency of data into the future.

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

CALLING ALL PUBLICITY OFFICERS, SECRETARIES!

Churchill & District News invite you to send your news to us for publication each Month

Publication Dates:

March 14, 2019

April 11, 2019

(Deadline for submission of copy and sport results is the 25th of each month)

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can be drop off to Churchill Post Office or Articles and photos

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CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

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

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- Minutes Secretary: Barbara Cheetham
- Treasurer: Delma Hodges
- Assistant Treasurer: Ruth Courtis, Sally Kohler
- Editor: Carol Scott
- Advertising: Ruth Place, Shelley McDonald, Marion Ireland.
- Layout: Allan Larkin
- Production: Tracey Burr, Carol Scott, Ruth Place, Allan Larkin
- Proof Readers: Ruth Place, Shelley McDonald, Gary Weston, Geraldine Larkin, Carol Scott, Jan Taylor, Delma Hodges
- Team Members: Bronte Hillis Harland, Charlie Rawlinson, Barbara Cheetham, Sam Gillett

Webpage: www.cdnews.com.au
 Facebook page: Maree Harder, Glenys Falk-Horsey, Rebecca Barry

Churchill & District News 

Contributions

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

EDITORIAL

Articles for publication and Letters to the Editor can be sent to:
 Churchill & District News
 PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842
 Or Email: cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au
 All articles must be submitted by the 25th of each month for publication in the next issue.



MEMBER 2019

Articles can be left in our Drop Off Boxes Located at:
 Churchill Post Office, Co-Operating Church, Williams Avenue and The Churchill Hub

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We acknowledge the support of



Russell Northe



Hello and welcome to the first issue of Churchill & District News for 2019. Wishing everyone a very, very Happy New Year! I would like to take this opportunity to extend my most humble gratitude to the people of the Morwell electorate, for placing their ongoing trust in me as their elected representative in the Victorian State Parliament.

I will continue to advocate for local initiatives that benefit our community, and look forward to working with individuals and groups over the next four years in creating lasting positive change. I do not take my job lightly, and will do everything I can to help the people and families of our region thrive, grow and prosper.

Festive season giving

I would like to send a huge thank you and congratulations

to our local community volunteers over the festive season. There were so many people rolling up their sleeves for others, which was just fantastic to see. In particular, I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the local CFA brigades taking Santa out on Christmas Eve to hand out lollies to the kids, and the wonderful team at the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre who put on a Christmas Lunch.

The festive period can be a very tough time for some families, and our local volunteers make such a difference in people's lives - congratulations to all who donated their time over the holidays and thank you for your valuable contribution.

Be safe

It is a great time of year to check your property's pool or dam for safety concerns. Every year, we lose Victorian

children in preventable drownings, which I'm sure you'd agree is an important reason to make sure kids are safe around the water at your place.

Welcome back to the school year

A warm welcome back to students, parents and teachers over the coming weeks to the new school year.

Always an exciting time for children, the new school year brings about the necessary preparations and I would encourage parents to shop local for their school supplies where they can.

I would also like to remind motorists of the 40km school zones that came back into force when schools

returned - let's slow down and keep our kids safe.

Australia Day

Australia Day is a wonderful opportunity for

us to reflect upon what a magnificent country we live in, and celebrate with the Australian values of mateship, freedom, respect, diversity and equality.

I feel incredibly blessed to be Australian, and to also represent our diverse Australian community in the Victorian State Parliament.

Helloworld Qantas Holidays award

by Irene O'Donnell (owner of Helloworld Morwell)

In December I attended a Qantas Holidays appreciation night.

The evening was an exclusive event with around 30 handpicked agents from across Victoria attending.

Each recipient received a certificate recognising outstanding sales and earning the title of Qantas Holidays Premium Agent.

I am proud to say that this is the second year that Helloworld Travel Morwell has received one of these awards.

I am extremely proud of my team, particularly when we are competing with travel agents across all of Victoria including large suburban agencies.

Our success is jointly attributed to listening to our



clients, tailor-making their holiday to their requirements and our travel consultants, who are the most experienced in the Latrobe Valley.

RAINFALL

The rainfall for December began very well with 38 mm within two weeks. Then, despite other areas of Victoria receiving very good rainfall, Churchill had nothing for the next two weeks and 3 mm to finish off a very "below average" year's rainfall for 2018.

The 2018 Churchill Rainfall Total was 542.5 mm, the lowest rainfall for our town since 1997 when only 476.5 mm was recorded. In the 27 years of recording the Churchill Rainfall, 2018 is the second lowest. The month for the least rain was February with 5 mm and the wettest

month goes to May with 94 mm.

Hopefully 2019 will see an above average rainfall for all areas of Australia.

Churchill Rainfall for January 2019

The rainfall for Churchill for January has been very disappointing with only two days having anything to measure in the gauges. Early in the month 3 mm was recorded and we needed to wait until the end of the month to get a further reading of 5 mm. This gave Churchill the meagre total of 8 mm for the month.

It is interesting to note

that since 1992, when 25mm was recorded in January there have been five occasions for January to receive 25mm or less. They are 2009 - 2mm, 2010 - 25mm, 2013 - 4mm, 2017 - 19mm and 2019 - 8mm.

That's five occasions in the last ten year period.

Rain at Hazelwood South

December rain was again below average, with a total of 44mm and 68% of the average for December. 2018 had 85% of the average years since 1987.

The grass growth is coming to an end and the trees are still in good condition.

January was very dry and hot. The total rainfall of 8.3 mm was the fourth lowest in 33 years and only 16% of the average for January. More than half the rain fell in the last five days from a band of cloud originating from a weak cyclone near the Timor sea, this feature reduced the number of severe fire danger days in January. The trees are dropping a lot of leaves, showing some stress, but still benefit from the good November rain. The very hot day on January 25 killed some smaller plants not well adapted to this climate.

ADVERTISING RATES

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4.	60mm x 262mm	6 x 6 cm	84.60	136.00	76.15	121.80
5.	140mm x 129mm	3 x 14 cm	98.70	158.00	88.85	142.10
6.	190mm x 129mm	3 x 19 cm	133.95	215.00	120.55	192.85
7.	190mm x 262mm	6 x 19 cm	281.55	450.00	253.40	405.00
8.	380mm x 262mm	6 x 38 cm	413.45	661.50	372.10	595.35

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Submission of Articles:

Articles can be Emailed to: cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au - Mailed to: PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842 OR put in one of our collection boxes at: Churchill Post Office and at the Co-Operating Churches. Advertising enquiries can be emailed to: cdnadvertising@aussiebb.com.au

Churchill Community Festival

Date Claimer Saturday March 16, 2019

The Churchill Community Festival is going Twilight this year, 5.30pm - 9pm, Saturday March 16, 2019.

Here's what you do:

- 1 Get your folding chairs out from the shed.
- 2 Tell us you are coming. This is FREE event, but we would like to know roughly how many people to expect. Please call us on 5120 3850, or message us via the Churchill Community Festival Facebook page.

- 3 On the night, grab some noodles, bbq chicken or fried rice from our local eateries - you'll want takeaway! Don't forget a non-alcoholic drink to wash it down.

- 4 Get down to the Civic Space for 5.30pm.

- 5 If you are still hungry, a sausage sizzle there will fill the gap! Delicious non-alcoholic fruit punch, too.

It's our first Twilight festival, opened with a performance by the awesome Gunai Kurnai Boorun Boys.

From then on, it's a bit of a surprise, but expect musicians and melodies, song and surprises, toe-tapping and twirling; we know you will love it!

Follow the Churchill Community Festival Facebook page or contact us for more information at the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre – 5120 3850 or info@churchill.org.au.



Photograph: Walking the cat by Frank Gigliotti.

Cat tracking on Philip Island

The topic for discussion at the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists' Club meeting on Friday, February 22 at the Uniting Church Hall, Old Sale Road Newborough from 7.30 pm will be "Cat tracking on Philip Island".

The speaker, Frank Gigliotti, a wildlife research officer with the Philip Island Nature Parks, is working to facilitate strategies to manage

the impact of feral cats on the Island.

Two ways of managing the problem are by effectively removing feral cats from natural environments and preventing domestic and stray cats from contributing to the feral cat population. The latter can be achieved by encouraging responsible domestic cat ownership.

The domestic cat tracking project is a community education initiative to

challenge perceptions and build awareness of cat owners to the behaviour of their pet cats when left unsupervised, allowing them to understand what responsibilities they need to take for their feline best friends.

The following day an excursion to Philip Island will be held.

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

Tom Curtain's 'Speak' Up tour

The Boolarra Community Development Group, in partnership with the Boolarra Community Hotel is very proud and privileged to be hosting one of only three Victorian performances of 'Tom Curtain's Speak Up Tour' on Saturday February 16 at 6 p.m. within the hotel's grounds at 2760 Monash Way, Boolarra.

Tom Curtain, winner of two Golden Guitar awards and the 2018 Southern Stars Independent Country Music Awards in multiple categories (Best Artist, Male Vocalist, Album and Single of the Year) was deeply touched by the tragic passing of Amy "Dolly" Everett, a Northern Territory teenager who took her life in January 2018 as a

consequence of bullying.

Tom is bringing his Katherine Outback Experience, (horses, dogs and music show) to Boolarra, Gippsland, to raise awareness about bullying with a strong focus on giving children and young people courage and strategies to overcome bullying and to "Speak Up".

The show includes a live music performance including a specially written song inspired by Dolly. It has been planned for children from local schools to sing "Speak Up" with Tom during the show.

Following the "Speak Up" Tour event, "Truck'n with Tim" will continue the entertainment into the evening.

The event will provide a positive experience for the whole community by raising awareness of bullying and increasing family and community connections.

Additional information about the Tom Curtain Speak Up Tour

<https://www.katherineoutbackexperience.com.au/live-music-and-special-events/>

Tickets are available online and people should bring their own seating – rugs or camp chairs.

All local schools have been invited to participate and their response has been very supportive so there may be lots of kids singing the song.

Morwell and District Red Cross Branch

Members of the Morwell and District Red Cross Branch meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Morwell Fire Station, 26 MacDonald Street Morwell. Meetings commence at 1.30 pm and conclude at approximately 2.30 pm. Afternoon tea follows each meeting where members enjoy

fellowship and conversation. Members devote their time to raising funds to assist the humanitarian work that Red Cross carries out within Australia and overseas. To date Morwell and District Red Cross Branch has 26 members and newcomers are always welcome. For further information, contact the

Secretary on 5163 1565.

Meeting dates for 2019 are as follows: March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11 (the December meeting is a Christmas luncheon which is held at an alternative venue).

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

Next CDCA Meeting
In 2019 CDCA will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month, starting in February

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Church News



Co-Op Snippets

Cathie Halliwell had a service of commissioning as a lay preacher on Sunday December 16 at 2pm. It was a special time of acknowledging Cathie's considerable talent as a lay reader and as a special part of our ministry team at our church. Lynn Johnson, who is an excellent embroiderer made Cathie a scarf which was presented on

the occasion.

Afternoon tea followed with a time of fellowship and congratulations shared.

Christmas services went well. Thank you to Reverend Bruce Charles for helping out so willingly with communion services over that period, as well as throughout the year on the first Sunday of each month. It has been a pleasure

to have Bruce share with us and to bring his thoughts about Christian life to us through his messages.

The Crib service was held on a hot night but was quite well attended. The young people enjoyed the service with several willing to dress up to play the parts in the Christmas Story.

Throughout January

we have had one service alternating between Churchill and Boolarra.

We look forward to the induction of our new minister on Sunday February 17 at 3pm. It is an exciting time of anticipation as we prepare for the next part of our journey as the Co-Operating Churches in Churchill Boolarra Yinnar.



Carols by Candlelight

December 16 was a warm night but was also a night which threatened to lash us with thunderstorms.

The organising committee was wavering one way then the other deciding if the evening should be inside or outside.

Outside won and this turned out to be the right decision as a balmy evening evolved. The Lions Club was

there cooking a sausage sizzle and providing drinks for a gold coin donation.

This money along with that collected during the carols amounted to \$527.

This is to be shared between the churches, the FedUni student food bank and the community meal at the Hub.

Thank you to our generous community for this

excellent amount to help our community.

A special big thank you to our amazing Lions Club whose members are so willing to be involved and who do an outstanding job.

The MC led the night with the help of Destiny Band, Latrobe Community Concert band and several items from Thessa Kuipjers, Allan, Keiron and Shallimar

Halliwell, the band and Tessa from Destiny finishing the night with 'O Holy Night' - a real highlight.

Sharon read a story to the children which was well received.

Singing of carols, led by Tessa of Destiny, was excellent.

Bible readings telling the First Christmas story were read by members of

the three different churches in Churchill. Santa was a highlight at the end of the evening, arriving in the fire truck to see the children and ask them if they had been good.

The committee would like to thank the church members who set up the grounds and the decorations, controlled traffic, cleaned up afterwards and restored the place ready

for Sunday worship the following day.

Thanks also to the fire brigade for allowing the truck to be available to transport Santa.

This is a service given by these generous willing members and is most appreciated.

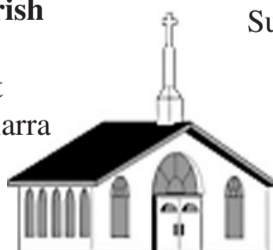
A huge thank you to our artists and bands. You made the night very special.

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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
 Willams Avenue,
 Churchill.
 Tel: 5122 1480

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

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

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.

Chaplain

Doing a little research recently, I was reminded that people are usually described as either intuitive/instinctive thinkers, or reflective/analytical thinkers (though thinking types, Psychology tells us, are usually one of a total of five).

I found a 'test' to check which we might be, intuitive/instinctive or reflective/analytical.

It goes like this...two items are bought costing together \$1.10. One item is \$1.00 more than the other.

How much does the cheaper item cost? (Try to answer before reading on - the actual answer is at the end).

Interestingly, intuitive/instinctive thinkers are supposed to rely on their 'gut

feeling', and reflective/analytical thinkers will ponder the matter before answering.

In God's Word, there is the phrase "think on these things". It lists the things to think on as being what is "true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and of good report".

The choice, in its basic form, is to focus more on the positive than the negative.

We actually have that choice (irrespective of the type of thinkers we may be) to choose to focus on the truth; on the noble (an opposite of which is vulgar); on the just (upright); on the pure (clean); on the lovely (appealing to the mind and heart, not just



the eye); and on things of a good report (not ignoring the bad, but focusing more on the good).

All good advice, and... worth thinking about!

(Answer: the cheaper item cost \$0.05, the intuitive/instinctive thinking answer is to say \$0.10).

Book Review

“Family Matters” by Rohinton Mistry

Rohinton Mistry was born in Bombay but has lived in Canada since 1975. “Family Matters”, which is his third novel, was published in 2002, and was selected for the Oprah Winfrey Book Club. He has several literary awards internationally, with both of his previous works being listed for the Booker Prize.

This story is set in Bombay in the mid 1990’s, and follows the lives of a family which harbours many tensions. Nariman, an aged professor, is suffering from Parkinson’s Disease.

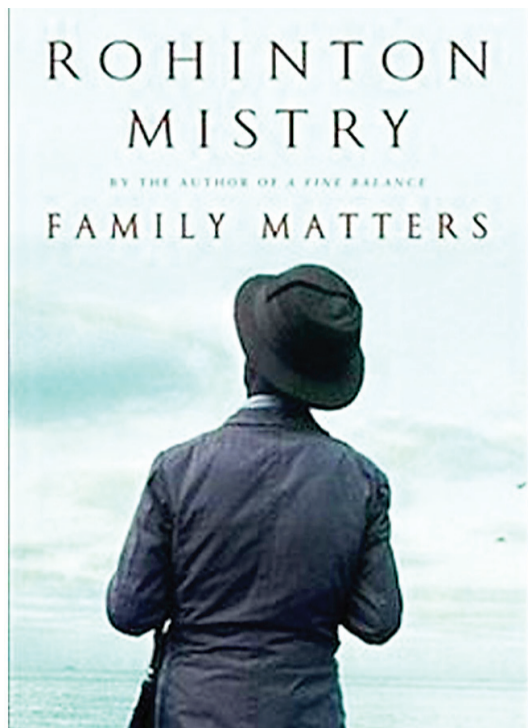
He lives in a large and once grand, but now dilapidated apartment with his two step-children, Jal who is hard of hearing and Coomy, his domineering younger sister. Much of Coomy’s resentment is because Nariman had been in love with another woman, Lucy, who was not Parsi like the rest of the family, and whilst pressured into marrying their mother by his family, his love for Lucy continued until there was a shocking and tragic ending.

Jal and Coomy have a half-sister called Roxana, who lives in a small apartment with her husband and two sons.

Nariman, who prizes his independence, has a fall and is confined to bed. Coomy resents having to look after him and manages to have him relocated to Roxana’s home.

This creates enormous tension for Roxana, who is happy to look after her father, but in such a confined space and with added pressure on the family finances, it takes a toll on the entire family.

The children are wonderful to their grandfather, and each in their own way tries to



help with the family budget. Roxana’s husband Yezad also takes desperate measures to help keep the family afloat.

When it appears that Nariman may be well enough to return home to his own apartment, Coomy and Jal undertake an extraordinary destruction of the apartment to make it uninhabitable for Nariman, so he is forced to remain with Roxana indefinitely. This takes Roxana’s family almost to breaking point.

This long book is beautifully written, with his descriptions evoking all the senses, particularly the excessive heat and odours in the cramped living conditions.

In general terms it touches on the corruption of Indian politics at the time, the lawlessness and poverty in Bombay, the disastrous results of the caste system and the religious and ethnic class divisions.

The title is deliberately

ambiguous, because it focuses on the importance of family relationships, but also the need that some issues are dealt with privately, inside the family unit.

It comments on the relationships in families which are common to any society, with the resentments and jealousies that cause people to do unspeakable hurt to each other.

This book received a mixed reaction from our group.

There was some humour with Edul the handyman, the Match Queen, and Yezad’s boss at the sports store, but the frequent use of Hindi phrases which were not interpreted interrupted the flow of the story in places.

We all felt the section dealing with Yezad’s return to religion, whilst interesting, went on for too long. It is interesting that the author uses Bombay instead of Mumbai throughout the entire book.

Alcoholism – a family disease

I always knew from a very young age that something wasn’t right in my home life. In my teens I had a bad feeling of not belonging and being on the outside. I married a man at twenty-two, the same age as me, who I had met at fifteen. A year and a half into our marriage we had a house fire which badly hurt our new born baby. The slide began from there until eight years ago my husband lost his job due to alcoholism.

That was what brought me

to Al-Anon. I discovered my home life was affected by the isms of alcoholism. My uncle was an alcoholic and there was a lot of drinking on both sides of the family. It was a revelation to discover what I couldn’t put a name to for all those years.

My husband didn’t drink when we met. We were married a few years before he did. I have grown up in Al-Anon. It has been hard, but only for my friend’s meetings, and outside help, I don’t know

where I would be today.

My husband is actively drinking, is in denial, even though he has been in treatment and A.A. Alcoholism is a family disease. I hope I can break the cycle and help my children from being too badly damaged. Al-Anon has given me the courage to write this letter and I am very grateful for my new life today. I have got my life back and have gone back to college. A day at a time I try to keep the focus on myself.

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



SRI LANKA

At Helloworld Travel Morwell we are constantly travelling. It’s not only what we love to do, but it gives us first hand experiences which help us enhance our clients’ travels.

In November I travelled to Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is such a diverse country. There are beaches, bustling cities, tranquil national parks and mountains. Highlights included the amazing variety of food, around 300 wild and free roaming elephants, mountainsides covered with tea plantations and beautiful welcoming people.

Pictured is our group with Sigiriya Rock in the background. Sigiriya is an ancient fortress over 200 metres high. Despite the torrential rain, the experience was unforgettable and the accomplishment of 1200 steps very rewarding.

I’d love to help you discover this amazing country. Warm regards, Irene O’Donnell.

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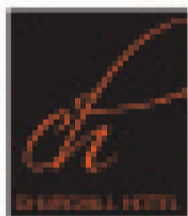
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Email Churchill.lions@gmail.com



Mathison Park Committee says thank you

Those on the committee for Mathison Park have some big thank yous to say.

Firstly, thank you to the Men's Shed members who have made the seating and table in the old BBQ shelter. Their addition makes this a very useful facility and provides shelter from sun and

rain while cooking and eating. Thank you Men's Shed fellows especially Max and Charlie for an excellent job.

Secondly, thank you to Des for mowing, raking and then baling the grass in large areas of the park.

This is a valued partnership we have with

Des and we appreciate it very much which helps us to be fire ready.

Thirdly to Adrian for his skill in creating the new slope in to the park from the southern end of the park near Kurnai College. This has created a less steep slope which is much safer to

traverse.

A big thank you to the fire brigade members who spent many hours burning the piles of rubbish we have accumulated in the park. Our apology for not writing this thank you until now. We are indeed fortunate to have this partnership with the brigade,

which also helps us to be fire ready.

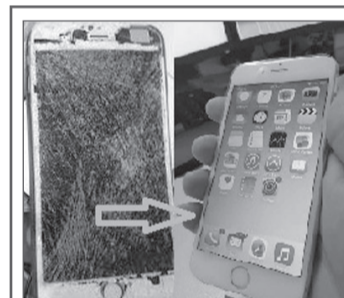
It has been a great pleasure to walk through the park and note the number of our new plantings which have grown sufficiently to bloom. Some examples are



in the photographs with this article.



Top left: The new seats and table in the renovated BBQ shelter. Thanks to Men's Shed
Top Right: New ramp entrance south end. Thanks to Adrian
Middle left: Bails of hay. Thanks to Des
Bottom three photos show the new trees in bloom.



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B I N G O

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Bingo Tuesday eyes down at 8.00 pm

Gippsland Water



Be prepared with another water source this bushfire season

Gippsland Water is reminding customers that town water supply systems should not be solely relied upon during a bushfire or grass fire.

"We are urging our customers to be prepared with another source of water should their town water become limited or unavailable in a fire emergency," Managing Director Sarah Cumming said.

During a fire event, there are a number of factors that can have an impact on water supply.

"If a large number of people are filling buckets or storing water during

an emergency, a surge in demand can lead to lower water pressure at the tap.

Add in a CFA tanker filling up at the same time and the water delivery system could come under extreme load, threatening security of supply.

While we have measures in place to protect town water assets from fire damage, town water systems are only designed to cater for everyday drinking water needs," Ms Cumming concluded.

Detailed information about preparing for a bushfire and emergency weather warnings can be found at <https://emergency.vic.gov.au/>

Latrobe Youth Space



Some of our young people enjoying Theatre Sports

Latrobe Youth Space is a youth – led, adult - guided initiative that endeavours to empower the young people of the Latrobe Valley.

Latrobe Youth Space strives to provide a safe and inclusive space for all of the young people in the Latrobe Valley.

The work that Latrobe Youth Space does is guided and developed by a fabulous group of 15 young people aged 14-24 and a young advisor from the Latrobe Valley.

They are known as the Youth Governance Committee. Having a Youth Governance Committee ensures that we are getting

the voices of the youth in the Valley heard!

Latrobe Youth Space is led by YMCA as part of a consortium of organisations which includes Berry Street, Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network, Scouts Victoria, Quantum Support Services, Latrobe Youth Choices, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, The Gathering Place, AGL Loy Lang, Centre for Multicultural Youth, National Disability Officer Programme and GippSports.

We have been running programs such as, Theatre Sports, Rap Writing, Self-Esteem through Make Up, Table Top Games, Yoga

and Podcasting, six days a week throughout the school holidays.

We will be continuing after school programs starting in February and have programs also running on Saturdays.

Come and check us out at The Zone (Shop 27, Mid Valley Shopping Centre), join up to a program, have a game of table tennis, come paint or simply just hang out and use the free Wi-Fi.

Like our Facebook page Latrobe Youth

Space to keep up dated with everything Latrobe Youth Space Related.



One of our young people Aaron with youth worker Yumna Ahmed – Self-Esteem through Make Up

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Barefoot Bowls



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Connect50 - an exciting new initiative

Connect50 is an exciting new initiative for employers across the Latrobe Valley to engage talented university and TAFE students with disability through paid internships. This is a unique opportunity to build disability confidence and capability across your business, tap into a talented pool of candidates with disability and realise the benefits of a more diverse workforce.

Engaging can also play an integral role in developing disability confidence across their organisation; gain

first-hand experience in implementing workplace adjustments; work with their intern to develop inclusive work practices for the whole team.

For interns, Connect50 can be a life-changing experience that facilitates an enhanced and sustainable pathway to employment. It will provide 'real world' work experience and a supported introduction to the workplace. Working in a team, understanding workplace practice, identifying and developing strengths, honing skills and receiving feedback on performance are essential for building a successful career.

"Connect50 puts power in the hands of employers to progress the economic participation of people with disability and discover ways to build disability confidence and capability across their business."

Suzanne Colbert AM, CEO of the Australian Network on Disability

(AND) is managing the project which is funded by the Victorian Government as part of its economic participation plan for people with disability 2018-2020. From beginning to end, AND will provide expertise and support to the employers and candidates to

ensure positive, accessible, and inclusive experiences. The internships run for a minimum of 152 hours (4 weeks full time) during the winter and summer semester breaks.

The benefits

Studies show that organisations that participate in targeted internship programs are 4.5 times more likely to hire a person with disability.

Connect50 gives managers the opportunity to develop skills in managing and supporting employees with disability.

What is involved?

Organisations that participate in Connect50 commit to engaging a university or TAFE student with disability in their team for a minimum of 152 hours

of paid work. A supervisor and buddy should be assigned to the intern for the duration.

AND is looking for employers who are interested in expanding their talent pool by hosting an intern as part of this new project. To find out more please contact Emma Henningsen on 03 9629 2871 or

connect50@and.org.au or visit the website <http://connect50.org.au>

If there are other employers who you think would be interested in Connect50 please share with them - it is a really valuable opportunity for any organisation interested in building their disability confidence.

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Friends of Morwell National Park survey animal numbers



December Activity Report

We had Matt, Tamara, Ken, Beryl, Wayne, Grant, Graeme, Joelle and Darren for the nesting box survey.

We started the day early (8.30 for some and around 9.00 for the others) and began the survey with the boxes closest to the car park. Throughout the morning the group rotated between using the pole mounted camera to complete the survey and pulling weeds which are growing well.

In the nesting box survey, the numbers of sugar gliders were healthy with a few boxes having at least four or five gliders huddled together. In one box we found a nest of three crimson rosellas. This is the first time that we have found birds nesting in the nesting boxes. The boxes have been well used since installation by the gliders and possums, so it was great to find birds in the boxes.

Throughout the survey it was found that more boxes

needed to be repaired or replaced. Some boxes need new lids or replacement bases. For some boxes it will be easier to replace them rather than repair the boxes. We have new boxes constructed by the Lavalla VCAL students and the Churchill Men's Shed available to replace these older damaged boxes. We will need to schedule the repair and replacement of nesting boxes into a future activity (hopefully February).

We found that weeds are growing well. Blackberries are growing strongly and are ready to fruit. Over the morning many thistle, ivy, foxglove, ragwort and teasel were found and removed. Many more weeds need to be removed and we will plan to spend time at the next activity working on this.

The groups joined together toward the end of the survey. We were efficient in finishing the survey early but missed two of the boxes. Matt and Tamara returned to

survey these boxes while the rest made a slow walk back to the car park.

For our end of year BBQ we had Matt, Tamara, Ken, Faye, Beryl, Wayne, Grant, Mike, Cathy, Graeme, Rose, Wendy, John, Margaret and Darren. Sadly the BBQ in the picnic area is still not working (after many promises to have it fixed from our ranger). Matt had anticipated this problem and brought a small portable BBQ to cook lunch upon. Sadly the weather which had held together for the morning activity did not hold for lunch. This resulted in us needing to huddle away from the rain, under the information board roof.

John and Margaret had organised the meats and condiments, while we each had brought a salad or sweet. Graeme returned home to collect a folding table to put the food upon. Huddled away from the rain a lovely lunch was enjoyed. Beryl's cheesecake and Graeme's

black forest cake were much loved. Mike left with his sweet tooth very satisfied.

January Activity Report

We had Matt, Ken, Beryl, Wayne, Grant, Graeme, Joelle, Jay, Rose and Darren for the day's activity. We met in the car park and discussed what has happened over the last month. The Parks contractors have been in and slashed the park. They have done a great job of slashing the tracks, spaces adjacent to the tracks and the park boundaries.

Matt went through the JSA and those who needed to, signed in. The day was a good one for walking being sunny and cool. The group split into three teams. Two teams were to collect seeds from two

different locations, while the third worked on removing ivy from beside Billys Creek track.

Matt drove to the beginning of Lodge track to take a group to collect a few seed varieties from trees along this track. Ken drove around to Reidy's Road and walked in to the top of Blue Gum Hill looking for Blue Gum seed. These groups collected their seed which was then put into storage for future use. It is hoped that these seeds can be grown on, for planting on the barren Blue Gum Hill.

Beryl and Darren worked on removing ivy from beside Billys Creek. Much ivy was found and removed. The first sections were bad and there was a lot of ivy to remove.

We will need to follow up later to see whether all pieces of ivy were removed.

The park has dried out over the last month. These sections of park were lush last month and now are dry. The only place where it is still lush is around the creek where the rushes have grown large. Wallabies were found in areas around the creek.

February Activity

Sunday February 17, 10am

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park to complete track maintenance and weeding. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

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Churchill & District Lions Club

Meet
1st and 3rd Wednesday
of each Month



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Phone:
0402 851 745

Melina Bath at Morwell National Park



The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Region Melina Bath has been appointed Assistant Shadow Minister for public land use in addition to her role representing Gippsland in the Victorian State Parliament upper house.

Ms Bath said she feels honoured to be representing such a wonderful region for another term and is excited about her new role looking at public land use across Victoria.

"With so many natural

assets right on our doorstep, public land and our state and national parks play an important role as part of our identity in the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland", said Ms Bath.

"The Morwell National Park at Jumbuk between Churchill and Yinnar is a fabulous example of the natural assets Latrobe Valley and Gippsland has on offer.

This parcel of land in the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges, represents the history of the Latrobe Valley Region

in its original state and it is a lovely place to visit with friends and family.

The Morwell National Park is easily accessible and has great amenities with toilets, picnic ground, BBQ and fabulous walking tracks.

Regional people are long time bush users and connecting with the great outdoors on our doorstep is a vital part of our lifestyle.

Our family photos are often filled with images of trips to our favourite destinations.

People who choose to

live in Latrobe Valley and Gippsland do so with the knowledge that the space and serenity we enjoy cannot be obtained within metropolitan Melbourne.

Therefore we must carefully manage and invest in our natural assets and public land.

An important part of management is providing the right infrastructure so the areas are accessible for visiting and recreational enjoyment just like Morwell National Park.

As your local MP I do not support the locking up of more national parks, I do however support the enhancement of our existing parks as a better alternative.

I firmly believe if we are truly to understand and appreciate our public land,

state and national parks, we need to be connected with them.

Connection can only be fully achieved through visitation and personal experience.

When you experience the beauty of an area for yourself you are more likely to value, respect and actively participate in its preservation.

In my role over the next four years I will scrutineer the management of public space in our state. This will include important issues such as management of pests and weeds, maintenance of biodiversity, safe accessibility, fire management and advocacy for much needed infrastructure.

Our parks sustain a diverse array of Australian wildlife and provide outdoor

recreational opportunities for our communities. Therefore it is important that we protect our traditional pursuits such as camping, hiking, four wheel driving, fishing and shooting so that these activities can continue on a sustainable basis.

As Victorians, we are the custodians of thousands and thousands of hectares of land that make up our national and state parks, rail trails, wildlife refuges and corridors, monuments and the vast open spaces across the state.

Throughout my term I will actively work to advocate for sensible and sustainable balanced land use and I encourage individuals and groups with an interest to contact my office on (03) 747 066 or via email melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au"

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Remembering the Delburn fires 10 years on

Member for Morwell Russell Northe recently reflected upon the 10 year anniversary of the Delburn complex of fires that impacted a number of local communities including Mirboo North, Boolarra and Yinnar. "Whilst the fires had started a couple of days earlier, conditions were pretty horrible on January 30, 2009 and as the

fires spread, towns, homes and lives were threatened," said Mr Northe. "Thankfully no lives were lost; however a number of homes and assets were destroyed which was devastating for many local families.

Looking back now the situation could have been far worse if it wasn't for the heroic efforts of the CFA

troops on the ground, and the great work of aerial appliances that were in action on the day. Many houses were in fact saved due to the efforts of those who worked tirelessly over a period of days. We remember our local communities and families who were impacted by the Delburn complex of fires, and reflect on the togetherness, spirit and

resilience that was on display during the long recovery process. The recovery work, effort and generosity by local community organisations, businesses, service groups, volunteers and Latrobe City Council staff was amazing and something that gives you a strong sense of pride," said Mr Northe

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MORWELL BOWLING CLUB

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Churchill's Australia Day 2019



PETER CEENEY
Churchill Citizen Award 2019

*Reliable Informants Comments –
A real gentleman – Peter Ceeney
Always doing something*

Active Kids 2017
Relay for Life Latrobe
Coached Soccer Under 11
Blue Ribbon Foundation
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Peter involves himself in the Churchill North School Council and school finance, where they discuss important improvements to help educate our children for the future and introduce important and new changes to the school.

The charities Peter is involved in are Relay for Life team, the Men's Big BBQ to raise money for prostate cancer and True Crime to raise money for the Blue-ribbon foundation – just to mention a few.

Peter and Troy Judkins purchased a printing business in Churchill in 2006, currently employing/ hosting 17 local workers. He is President of the Printer's Association, bringing all Gippsland printers together in one group to work together, keeping printing and jobs local.

He is the chairman for the Latrobe City Business Tourism Association (LCBTA) which is host for the People's Choice awards, which award local businesses on their achievements throughout each year, and voted in by the people of our community.

He also actively supported our local energy suppliers Hazelwood Power station to try and keep the

station open before its' closure, but sadly it wasn't successful.

Peter is also a member of the Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC) which tries to attract tourism to the Gippsland regions, hoping to bring people here and hence try to maintain and develop more local jobs to support local people.

Peter coaches Under 10s at Churchill Rams Soccer Club. He tries to attract kids to be involved in sports. His goal is to build them up as team players which is important in later life to achieve more, which alternatively leads to employment and building of their confidence as young people.

He gives every kid a fair go on the soccer ground, and strives to help them understand the importance of being a team player.

Peter created an event in Churchill called Active Kids to try and get kids involved and off the streets hoping they will make better choices in life. It hosted all the local clubs from football, baseball, basketball, netball, cricket, tennis, soccer, boxing, scouts, etc. to an event which was free to the community.

All of this is unpaid, but he receives the pleasure to think he can help improve other people's lives in some shape or form. Peter's involvement in the community is enormous - It appears to be endless. Keep going Peter - You are our inspiration - Well done Mate -

Churchill congratulates you on being its Citizen of the Year.



JORJA MARIE HART Churchill North Primary

Jorja was born in Adelaide on January 24, 2007 and now resides in Churchill. In 2017 and 2018 she was a student at Churchill North Primary School where teaching staff describe her as a kind and considerate student who is always modelling the school values, being that the school provided safe, caring, and supportive relationships, where students are active in developing the agreed values of – trust, courage, patience, team work, cooperation, respect, listening and responsibility. She complies with her school's buddy system where students always look after others. Jorja is fully involved with the school's student-based activities and steps forward to assist other students in support of the local University learning club. She makes every effort to undertake extra home work to "make her better".

Jorja is a great role model to the younger students at the school and always puts in 100% effort in her learning. During 2018 Jorja continued to excel in her studies and other duties at the school, and was elected as the Churchill North Primary School Captain. She so impressed her teacher and other staff with her dedication that she was awarded the Kurnai College Churchill Campus Dux award for 2018 and has been accepted for the Advanced Learning Program. This award required her to sit through interviews and Advanced Learning Camps where she proved her worth.

Jorja loves drawing, art and craft as well as cooking and creativeness.

She has two brothers, a sister and nephew whose needs she always places before her own. She is actively involved in all sports. She is torn between a future vocation in science or animals. Overall, she fulfills all the goals and objects of a leader at her school as she is always respectful towards other people, is an excellent role model for other students, always gives 100% effort to all areas of her learning and sport.

KAYLA KATE SCHMIDT
Churchill Primary

Kayla was born at Traralgon on July 8, 2006 and resides in Churchill and is the older sister of Tahli Schmidt. During 2018 she was a student at Churchill Primary School completing Grade 6.

Kayla was one of two students elected as School Captains last year. The School Captains are required to complete their duties in line with the school's culture and rules: Be Respectful,

Be Positive, Be Understanding, Be your best not only at school but in your life.

As a School Captain Kayla demonstrated strong



leadership skills. She would offer to assist anyone who needed help, no matter where the help was required.

She presented as a role model for the students of Churchill Primary School and member of the School's Representative Council, striving to work for the school's betterment, working hand in hand with teaching staff when required to deal with school issues relating to other students welfare.

Kayla was a great role model to the younger students at the school, always had a positive attitude, was friendly to all, and as a result of her efforts was nominated for the Churchill Lions Club Australia Day award.

Kayla's teacher, Charleigh Williams said,

"I had the pleasure of working with Kayla in 2018 during her role as School Captain. During that time Kayla demonstrated school pride by always speaking about our school, its staff and other students in a positive manner. She was approachable to other students and when in her presence Kayla was always calm and displayed a sense of warmth.

She could always be relied on to be a team player when working with her fellow leaders, continually considering the thoughts and opinions of others before making decisions.

All the staff at our school would agree that Kayla is selfless. She is passionate about helping others and on many occasions, last year wanted to organise fundraising events to support organisations such as the farmers and spreading awareness on the national day of action against bullying.

At Kayla's Grade 6 graduation she was awarded the Russell Northe Citizen Award as recognition for all the work she has done within the school and community".

Kayla competed for Churchill Primary School during school inter competitions such as athletics, basketball and netball.

Kayla's other love in addition to her family and school is dancing with Jazz Performing Arts (JFPA) in Morwell. Kayla has won numerous accolades and awards for her involvement in dancing. A synopsis of her involvement is provided by Jazz Flowers, Proprietor of Jazz Performing Arts.

"This will be Kayla's third year dancing with me at Jazz Flowers Performing Arts, and I have watched her grow as a dancer and as a person. She has just gone from strength to strength.

She came to me as a quiet shy little thing, and now she has come right out of her shell and is full of personality. She's a soloist and a team player. She is full of fire yet has plenty of grace, and I couldn't be prouder of her!

Kayla can hear a tune and immediately choreograph a dance program to fit the music and perform it without assistance. This ability is something I could never do".

All the above comments highlight clearly Kayla's dedication to any task she undertakes, and even though some is outside her school environment her efforts are always the best she can achieve at the time. These comments also highlight that all efforts she undertakes are well and truly in line with Churchill Primary Schools Culture and Rules.

Well done Kayla, you are an excellent example of what can be achieved if you try. We are all so proud of you.



KAYLA ROSE WILSON
Hazelwood North

Kayla is currently 12 years of age and lives in Churchill with her family and sister Maddie who rules the roost.

She currently attends Hazelwood North Primary School where she is viewed as an excellent leader in the role of House Leader, exhibiting all her leadership skills by assisting other students no matter what the issue is, and leads by example and will give anything a go.

Kayla is a member of the Traralgon Swimming Club where she competes with great success swimming in the Multi Grade Class which relates to her special needs such as personal health issues. That has made her work harder which has resulted in her competing at National Competition Level for her class, where she has won several medals.

She is described as a Team Leader and is always involved. She has no hesitation in helping others and loves practical jokes on others with her wicked sense of humour.

Kayla has developed from a young lady who was afraid of climbing on playground equipment to taking everything in her stride.

In 2018 Kayla was a House leader. She has organised and led numerous House Meetings (each House has 30 students from Foundation to Grade 6 level).

She actively helps the younger students and is a role model. As part of the Traralgon Swimming Club she mentors the younger students to help them improve their swimming skills. She has shown resilience to overcome challenges at home and in her life.

Kayla this year was awarded at Hazelwood North Primary School the Billington Family Leadership Award which reads:

"As a House and school leader Kayla has demonstrated strong leadership skills, is a fabulous role model for the students of Hazelwood North Primary School, lives the Schools Values by: Challenging herself within her learning.

Leading her House by running activities and supporting her team.

Showing resilience by taking on feedback to improve, seeing this as a learning opportunity.

Showing curiosity by asking questions and exploring topics.

Showing responsibility by always trying her best.

Showing collaboration by caring for those around her."

It has been said that at this time she is a big fish in a small pond but in 2019 she will be attending Mirboo North High School where she will be a small fish in a very big pond.

No doubt she will step up to the plate as she always does. Well done Kayla. We are sure that no matter what challenges are placed before you – you will overcome them with ease.



LANCE DUNCAN TOWNSEND
Kurnai College

Lance was born in Traralgon and currently lives with his family in Yinnar and as such he is very much a Yinnar boy.

In 2018 Lance was a student at Kurnai College Churchill campus completing his Year 8 studies where he was nominated by his teaching staff for the Colleges School Citizen of the Year. As follows:

"We believe Lance Townsend of Year 8 would be a worthy recipient of this award. He is well respected by his peers, has positive relationships with staff and students, shows leadership qualities both in and out of school and contributes to the community through his Scout Club -Yinnar Scout Group, commencing as a Cub and over approximately seven years he is now a Patrol Leader with the 1st Yinnar Scout Group. He is very passionate about his involvement in scouting and therefore give his all.

Lance has no real interest in sports but loves to be involved in gardening and the family farm.

He became involved in Aquaponics which is a combination of aquaculture which is growing fish and other aquatic animals and hydroponics which is growing plants without soil. Aquaponics uses these two in a symbiotic combination in which plants are fed the aquatic animals discharge or waste. He also constructed an aquaponics system for his school where he maintained the PH levels and bottles of tank water for the fish.

He has expressed a desire to become a fitter and turner and to work at the power station like his Dad whom he idolises.

The following points best describe Lance:

He hates seeing people ill-treated.

He will stand solid for what he believes in.

He utilises a broad vocabulary and likes to describe things using descriptive words.

He has a passion for complicated understanding and is eager to share his knowledge with anyone who is happy to listen, be it a child or adult.

Any task he takes on is conducted with precision whether it's mowing lawns or doing a project and never rushes even when time doesn't permit.

He has a positive can-do attitude to every challenge and sees a positive side even when things are not going well.

His outgoing nature and bubbly nature often catches people off guard and they are not sure how to take him.

But they quickly learn his good intentions and bubbly spirit are genuine.

Academic

Lance has always had a fascination with numbers and working things out. In primary school he would overthink the obvious, analysing the question too much – trying to find hidden answers. This made his work slow earlier on, but with determination he has improved his focus which in turn has improved his personal development.

His witty sense of humour is enjoyed by friends, family and teachers alike. He loves a good laugh and will play along even if the joke is on him.



OWEN PETTIGREW
Lumen Christi

Owen Pettigrew was born at the Latrobe Regional Hospital on September 26, 2006. He is the youngest of three children and was nominated by Lumen Christi Primary School.

Staff at Lumen Christi chose him for the award for the following reasons -

Owen was chosen as he displays the virtues that we believe fit the requirements for the Australia Day award. Academic - Not really but a workaholic yes.

Owen is always the first one to volunteer to help regardless of the job. Many areas of the school yard have been refurbished in the past couple of years as a result of Owen's continual assistance.

He is very thoughtful and tolerant towards his peers, constantly looking out for others in the playground, helping younger children when they need it and reminding others to follow the rules, particularly with how they play with other children.

In the classroom Owen has a very strong work ethic. He persists with a challenging task until he has solved it and he refuses to give up without making numerous attempts to complete it. Owen has worked extremely hard to improve his education over the last few years.

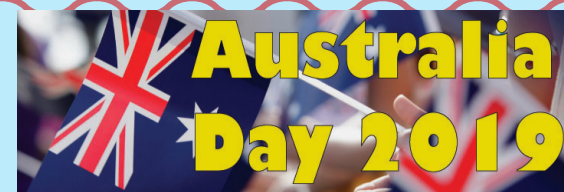
Owen loves nothing better than dressing up as Santa at the family farm after hay is cut and waves to anyone who stops and takes photos. He has a love of Go Carts and is a member of the Morwell Go Cart Club winning his division in 2018.

His other loves are driving the tractor, karate and cray fishing with his Dad.

He wants to follow in Dads footsteps and become an electrician.

OSCAR ALEXANDER EWEN
Young Citizen

Oscar is the youngest of nine and currently resides in Churchill. After



completing his primary school education at Churchill North Primary School, he was selected to undertake further studies in the accelerated learning program at Kurnai College University Campus, as his academic results records were excellent.

In effect he was skipping his Year 10 studies as a result of his Year 9 studies – being awarded Dux for his studies.

Oscar did not let the side down and continued to excel at the University Campus and as a result he was nominated by his teaching staff at the College for the College's Churchill Lion's Club Junior Citizen award 2018.

Principal Geoff Block at the University Campus nominated him in the following manner-

"Oscar is an active member of the local scouting / adventures group and has been involved with scouting in one form or another for over ten years. He has actively contributed to the local greater community through this association and involvement.

He is an academically advanced student who always strives to achieve at the highest level. He has hosted international students in his family home and was part of an Australian contingent to visit Europe earlier this year for a world scouting conference.

Oscar is a pleasant, well-mannered and articulate young man who is thought of highly amongst his teachers and friendship group."

His Adventure Leader comments that Oscar will go to great lengths to ensure that everyone gets a fair go and is not left behind.

When he commenced schooling, he found that he was the target of bullying which may have been caused by a slight hearing loss, which required speech therapy. He stepped up to the plate - applied himself and has left the bullies in his wake.

His approach in this instance is an excellent example of what can be achieved with dedication and hard work.

Now nothing stops him.

Put a computer in front of him, he will strip it down to the frame and put it back together. He has even built his own computer.

Oscar, congratulations on the nomination for this award. We believe that you can do anything you set your mind to. Hard work and dedication will overcome most of life's pit falls.

Owen displays all the qualities that Churchill Lions Club would like to see in a Churchill Young Australian Citizen of the year.

CONGRATS – MATE – KEEP ON KEEPING ON

Chatting after while people caught up and enjoyed the delicious breakfast, the overwhelming comment was that they were glad it wasn't the Friday before when the temperature soared to 44 + degrees.

Australia Day 2019

Boolarra



Councillor Darrell White OAM, Kaylah Pike, Dave Grima, Leanne Potter, Alan Hall, Pam Allen, Garry Healey, Nadine Gleeson, Russell Northe, MLA

By Colin Brick OAM

Another great Australia Day celebration at Railway Park in Boolarra with around 140 people turning out to enjoy the mild weather, an egg and bacon sandwich and a chance to have a chin wag with friends they don't run into often. It was great to meet a number of the new residents to town in such a relaxed atmosphere.

How lucky were we with the weather? Scorcher one day, perfect the next. The council had done a great job with the park which looked a picture and the trees look better every year, but a big thank you to Liz Black and Tim Ryan for cleaning up the bark that had come down in the heat and wind on Friday.

The kids had fun with the games organised by Daniel Brick, including sack races, and egg races. The older crowd members were kept on their toes by Australiana Trivia questions. The volunteers on the BBQ started at 7.30 to ensure the hungry masses were very well catered for. Special thanks to Russell and Jackie McGlade for bringing their BBQ down, and helping with the cooking. Thanks also to Tim Ryan for bringing his "Truck'n with Tim" sound gear down. Good gear makes it a lot easier for the presenters and the crowd. Well done also to Chris Wareham for bringing the Koffee Kart along and providing free coffees to the masses.

Councillor Darrell White OAM arrived from his prior commitments at Churchill and Yinnar and spoke of the significance of Australia Day, and the values it represents, and how these are reflected in our community and the strength of the community spirit within Boolarra, the

large number of clubs and organisations in the town, and the important role of the Community Development Group. He was ably followed by Russell Northe, MLA who commended the crowd on the community spirit evident in the town.

This community spirit was ably demonstrated when Denise Schiller launched "Boolarra-a community with a heart", a fund-raiser seeking to raise \$10,000 to assist our local postmaster, Shannon Blines who has some serious health issues. A collection bucket went around the crowd and collected over \$1,000; which together with \$500 donated by the Boolarra Community Development Group from proceeds of the Open Garden Day, gives a great start to the fundraising effort. A crowd funding site has been established and the link is available on the Boolarra Community Development Group facebook page, and other Boolarra pages.

We then had the presentation of the Boolarra Community Awards, the raising of the flag and singing of possibly the worst rendition of Advance Australia Fair I have ever heard.

There was a good number of nominations for Community Recognition Awards this year. This reflects the enthusiasm people have for being able to have their friends' efforts formally acknowledged in front of an audience of their peers.

Once again it was a terrific range of recipients this year, with a number of the quiet achievers acknowledged, along with a number of people who have been closely involved in key community activities such as the Bowling Club and the Football Netball

Club. There were also two nominations from Budgeree which emphasises the point that our community does not only consist of the township of Boolarra but also the adjoining areas.

Congratulations to the following recipients in recognition of their significant contribution to the Boolarra community:

Alan Hall

Since joining The Boolarra Link committee in 2015, Alan has worked hard as Sub-Editor, Proof-reader and Secretary to raise the quality and generate interest in "The Link".

He writes insightful articles on local points of interest and on the history of Boolarra, sharing stories that might not normally be told. Above all, he exemplifies what it means to be part of Boolarra and its' districts - having a strong focus on community and the environment.

Leanne Potter

Through her tireless work over the past three years to transform the Budgeree Hall into a vibrant community space.

Leanne secured funding of over \$140,000 for improving the Hall and is the driving force behind its renovation. Her work is especially important to the people of Budgeree because she integrates an understanding of the history of the Hall and a grand vision for the future of the Hall.

Dave Grima

For many years he has selflessly contributed his time and unique skills to assist many community groups. Dave is the original quiet achiever whose good deeds

often go unheralded except by those he has worked closely with.

Garry Healey

Garry has given twenty years of service to the CFA.

As a member of the Boolarra Brigade Garry does many things behind the scenes, as well as the active firefighting, and is currently a junior brigade leader, and Brigade Treasurer. Garry shows great compassion for other people and is always willing to help out.

Nadine Gleeson

Nadine contributes a significant amount of time volunteering at Boolarra Primary School. Nadine assists in a range of areas including within the classroom, facilities, fundraising and school council. Her calm and friendly nature make her a joy to work with. Thank you, Nadine, for everything you do.

Pam Allen

For her hard work and unstinting dedication over many years to enhancing the Boolarra Bowls Club through organising the kitchen, cleaning, representing the club at interclub functions and as Treasurer. Pam has done an outstanding and tireless job.

Kaylah Pike

Kaylah is a great support to the Boolarra Football Netball Club, on the committee, playing netball, helping in the canteen and kitchen and generally supporting all aspects of netball. Her friendly, easy going nature makes her a delight to have around the club and a huge asset to our community.

Yinnar



Above: Darrell White OAM, Russell Northe MLA, Glenys Webster and Young Citizen Ally McGown and Citizen of the year John Harris.
 Above Left: Reg Sterling (last year's winner) handing the trophy to John Harris.
 Left: Lions cooking for the hordes!

Attendance at this year's celebration of Australia Day in Yinnar was somewhat down on numbers. Those who did attend were well fed by the Yinnar & District Lions Club with bacon and egg sandwiches and sausages. The Yinnar Historical Society provided the tea and coffee.

Entertainment was provided by Borderline with Danny and Caroline Boothman, Rick Teychenne and Keith Ingleton. They performed several well-known songs produced by Australian bands such as LRB and Crowded House.

The 1st Yinnar scout leaders, Daniel and Jess Cook, then performed the flag raising ceremony which was followed by the singing of Advance Australia Fair.

President of the Yinnar & District Community Association, Herb Smith, then introduced the Yinnar Primary School Captains for 2019. Luke Cheffers and Frankie Spark each spoke very eloquently about what Australia Day means to their generation.

Herb then introduced Russell Northe who welcomed everyone and gave a short speech about Australia Day from his perspective.

Councillor Darrell White then also spoke about the day and its celebrations as well as acknowledging the original custodians of our land.

There were two nominations for Young Citizen of the year and Herb announced

that the certificate of nomination was awarded to Bridget Cain. Unfortunately, she was competing at the Warragul swim meet so her grandmother Glenys Webster accepted the award on her behalf.

Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Ally McGown. She has been an active participant in the Kurnai College SRC (Student Representative Council) and helped shape many campus initiatives, as well as being student vice-captain in 2018. Ally has recently been accepted to Melbourne University to study biology.

The Yinnar Citizen of the Year for 2019 was awarded to John Harris. He has been actively involved in many areas of the local community including Lions Club,

YDCA (Yinnar and District Community Association) and the Bendigo Bank. He works tirelessly writing and sending applications for grants and is the "go to" man for many of the town groups when they need advice or assistance with this sometimes onerous task.

John gave a short and emotional speech and expressed how honoured he was to be given this award.

The morning concluded with many people taking the opportunity to catch up socially with others and also to look through the displays at the historical Society

Yinnar South

By Norman Albutt

Around 50 local residents wandered down to Martin Walker Reserve Yinnar South, to celebrate Australia Day with a barbecue breakfast sponsored by the Yinnar South Citizen's Association.

The breakfast has been celebrated here for the last few years and this year was one of the best attended to date.

It's a great place for the locals to catch up and get to meet locals they may not know and to meet newer residents.

There was a game of cricket, children running around, a few well behaved dogs, and one woman arrived on horseback!

This year we had the pleasure of hosting a couple from Ireland who are visiting relatives from Yinnar South.

The weather was perfect for the event, with people spilling outside the park shelter, and sitting in the shade on their own chairs.

Despite the dry conditions, Martin Walker Reserve still looked picturesque, with its green grass and shade trees on the banks of Middle Creek.

Thanks to Latrobe City for their

efforts to have the park looking at its very best for the day.

A special thanks to those locals who gave up their time to cater for this successful event.

Well done Yinnar South!

Remembering Black Saturday 07.02.09

My Memories

By Heather Enders

The day unlike any other that we had ever experienced, began quite normally.

We are fortunate to live in the beautiful Strzelecki Ranges in South Gippsland and are quite used to lyre birds in the garden in the early morning, and koalas grunting during the night close by as we sleep.

During the 2008/ 09 period we had endured a big dry that stretched our resources both materially and psychologically to the limit.

Our property overlooks the Latrobe Valley from altitude and on the night of Friday 6, 2007 it had been relatively cool and we had both slept well.

My husband Keith had run our local community's Fire Guard group comprising ten neighbouring landholders for several years, and we were colloquially known as 'Letter Box Junction' owing to the fact that some of us shared a group of three letter boxes on Jeeralang West Road.

We had met in our family room over these years often led by the local CFA educator John Henshaw, and sometimes just as a small social group, finishing up with cheese and biscuits and a good old chit chat amongst neighbours who rarely saw each other, except to wave cheerily on the winding road to work or elsewhere.

John had insisted that, along with the excellent education sessions provided by the CFA, we do a comprehensive critique

of each of our properties and we had spent several evenings walking around our own and our neighbours, while John pointed out potential fire threats that could be remedied without damaging the precious bush land that is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna.

Keith and I thought we were as well prepared as anyone, both physically and psychologically for what the days ahead may bring.

We had an established telephone tree that linked our small group together in the event of fire breaking out, and we had used this several times for reasons other than fire too, for example a tree on the road blocking traffic or wandering stock.

Our telephone tree also linked in to other Fire Guard groups in the local area so that we could quickly notify others of a potential fire threat to the wider community.

On our property we had completed the required cleaning up around the house, the spouts were filled with water, the metal shutters my husband had made to cover our windows were ready to be placed over windows and the fire pump was placed on the large concrete tank near the house, whose water was somewhat depleted by the drought.

The pump was ready to be started to pump water to the sprinklers that would spray down over the house should this be

necessary.

By 10 am. the heat was building and we had replenished the bird baths for the suffering wildlife twice already.

I had suggested to my husband that we take it in turns to rest during the day while the other kept watch on the Valley below, and the valley and ridges behind us as well as listening to local radio.

I was on duty at 1.30 pm. on that Saturday that for ever will be known as Black Saturday.

Our neighbour, whose house is about half a kilometre away had spotted smoke rising from a nearby plantation and immediately rang Triple O . She was rebuffed by a curt person who told her that no fire had been reported in the area. Desperate to be listened to she began to yell several times ' It's coming straight for us' but had to drop the phone and put her own fire plan into action.

I learned of the fire almost immediately too and could see smoke rising below us.

I hurriedly woke my husband and with phone in one hand trying desperately to ring my neighbours on the Telephone Tree at the same time trying to help Keith place the metal shutters over the windows, we swung into action.

Almost immediately our home phone started ringing and the first person to ring was an hysterical Tony, my young Chinese student who lived below us in Churchill, whom I had been trying to help with VCE English.

He was screaming, 'Heather get out, get out. It's coming straight for you!'

I tried to calm him and reassure him we were well prepared but little did I know that the monster heading for us was something that no preparation would ever be enough to forestall.

By now I knew that family near and far would have heard the news of the fire on ABC radio and know we were in the line of fire, and my instinct as a mother, daughter and sister was to reassure my loved ones we were ok.

By the best knowledge of the time we were as well prepared as anyone could be for a fire, but not for this one.

Soon there were helicopters above flying low over us and we felt a false sense of security.

If worse came to worst there was always

a helicopter that could douse us with water. Little did we know that when the firestorm hit us we would be totally on our own.

Overhead a narrow shaft of blue sky was bordered by an angry red and black haze to one side from the Jeeralang fire, and the massive threatening cloud of smoke and ash from the Bunyip fire to our West.

As we gazed in horror at what looked like Armageddon around us, I remember saying to my husband that we should photograph this and then saying in the next breath, "No I don't think I will ever want to remember this".

Suddenly out of the gloom we heard a car screaming up our drive. Gravel and dust obscured the young policeman who looked terrified and yelled from his open window. "Are you staying or going?"

"Staying" I said boldly but not very bravely.

"Right" he yelled above the wind.

"What's your name?"

'Enders' I said and he wrote the name on his wrist again yelling that we looked the best prepared of any other property he had visited and disappeared down the drive as quickly as he has appeared.

We were alone again.

The encounter probably lasted no more than 20 seconds.

The helicopters spraying water had now disappeared.

We had been warned when we first built our home back in 1975, that no fire truck would ever defend our property because of the elevation of our site and the fact that entry to our property from the bitumen road below us, was by a one way track through the tall timbers that grace our property.

Power had quickly gone and we were at the mercy of our well thought - through fire plan.

The only thing that stood between us and annihilation was the sturdiness of our modest, concrete slab home and our trusty fire pump now spraying mist all over the house.

By now frantic animals were trying to escape the conflagration that was nearby but driven away from us by the wind, but we knew it was only a matter of time before it would engulf us as well as the surrounding bush and wildlife.



Remembering Black Saturday 07.02.09

Kangaroos, some with scorched feet were bounding through the garden in front of us making for safety from the billowing smoke and red ash. We made sure to evade them in their frenzy to escape. I imagined I could smell their burnt fur as they pounded close by as I watched from the verandah, and my heart ached for their pain and terror.

We were clad in woollen leggings and light wool clothing to protect from radiant heat and we made many forays into the still relatively cool, dark interior of the house to drink rainwater from the kitchen sink supplied by our now dust and ash covered concrete water tank.

We settled down to wait taking turns to answer the phone when possible from worried family and friends.

Tony had continued to ring imploring us to leave but we were determined to stay and save what we could, foolishly, in retrospect but for the current thinking of the time it should have been possible to survive this fire.

Little did we or anyone else know that this monster so near but raging away just around the range from us, would rewrite the record books for all time.

The narrow slit of blue sky was now almost obscured by hideous red and black tinged clouds that swirled around and beside us, but amazingly we were still breathing fresh air from God knows where, but we were.

Three times angry flames had tried to encroach on us from about 400 metres away but each time the wind had changed to drive them away.

By now several hours had passed and it was getting close to 5 pm.

We were careful to conserve our strength knowing that when the time came we needed to have every ounce of strength for the fight to defend ourselves and our home.

The metal buckets full of our beautiful filtered rainwater still stood at each door way with cloth mops in to douse embers and we were well hydrated but pumping with adrenaline.

By now the fire was very close and we could see a wall of flame coming against the wind relentlessly towards us and we were ready we thought for anything.

Through the roar of the wind and the smoke haze we could hear a series of explosions that shook our house.

We stared at each other in alarm and eventually my husband said 'That will be gas bottles exploding at our neighbour's house.'

I waited on the verandah while my husband paced and disappeared into the

murk to see where the fire was and to stamp out embers.

I remember a wave of terror engulfing me as I could see and hear a roar as the fire was about to engulf us and I hysterically yelled to my husband to come back to the supposed shelter of our house.

All of a sudden I was brought to my senses by the silliest thing.

A mosquito had bitten me! I was gobsmacked! I remember thinking 'You mean little bugger! With Armageddon about to annihilate us, you have the audacity to bite me' and I lashed out at it, momentarily forgetting the horror before me.

It was the best thing that could have happened and I was now calm but angry.

Was this fire going to destroy us and our beautiful garden and our kid's treasures and ourselves into the bargain?

'Not bloody likely,' I yelled into the approaching roaring red horror that was engulfing tall trees in a fireball.

The noise was frightening but that bloody mosquito had me firing on all cylinders.

I was armed with a wet mop and I was ready for anything!

By now it was nearly 6 pm and we had been listening to local ABC Gippsland and they were continually updating us with the progress of the cool change.

It was due at any time but this monster was almost on us.

I could see that our nearby plastic tanks above us and in line of fire would be the first thing to go and my mouth was dry with fear.

The noise was deafening and I was aware that even my brave husband had retreated to the verandah with me.

Suddenly the screaming from the north east of us was replaced by the screaming of the change.

The fire storm rose even higher before our horrified eyes and seemed to have no ending vertically or horizontally.

The roar grew louder and louder as if there was some cataclysmic, supernatural force at war with another and that was an appropriate description.

One enormous wind had been turned by another and suddenly leaves from trees and stinging gum nuts driven by one hundred kilometre winds were cutting through our clothing.

I remember thinking 'God help anyone who has to face that'.

The force of the South Wester was even worse than the North Easter that had driven the flames inexorably towards us.

We paused to consider what we had just witnessed and never wish to witness ever again, but there was no rest for us.

We could see trees well alight nearby and the screaming Southerly acted as a blow torch on the trunks.

Fire was still before us but the flames were now away from us instead of heading straight for us. From a wind that appeared to me it couldn't get louder or stronger it just intensified to a nameless horror.

I could tell from the direction of the fire now it was now going to miss the neighbours on the Churchill side of us.

The neighbours below us and to the right of us was anyone's guess as everything was still obscured by ferocious and all consuming flames.

Trees were beginning to fall both from the fire and the force of the wind and I realised the next threat was for nearby unburnt trees to fall on us or the house.

Deciding it was better to take our chances inside rather than out, we again retreated to the comparative peace of the house.

As I had towels stuffed under doors and all curtains drawn, it was certainly cooler inside than out as the heat of the fire had not dissipated only been deflected.

I remember being deadly calm and still and praying under my breath for the poor souls who had to endure the so called cool change and the leaping sky high flames that accompanied it.

I knew lives must be lost but did not know how many or if our friends and neighbours had been spared.

Surprisingly we still had our landline phone as well as our mobile phones.

The fire had just stopped short by centimetres from the underground phone line that would have been melted by the scorched earth.

I remember ringing our anxious

children to say we had been spared but please tell everyone not to ring as we were still desperately busy now patrolling the perimeter of the fire and monitoring it's still determined efforts to get us in spite of the wind change.

This fire I decided was different from any fire I had ever experienced, and being a country girl most of my life I had seen a few

It just didn't obey the rules. It travelled against the wind as well as before it and appeared in places it shouldn't.

It was something that had a will and a life of its own and seemed to defy the law of physics.

Suddenly, just as suddenly as it roared upon us the wind stopped and it went deathly still.

The sun for a few minutes was visible and all of a sudden it began to spit with rain, but from where?

For God's sake the sun was shining. Why was it raining?

At that moment my brother who is a physicist rang and I said 'Jack it's raining! it's raining' almost crying with relief.

'No' he said, 'That is a flammagenitus fire' and he went on to explain that intense fire can cause condensation even in the tinder dry air around us causing the big dirty drops to fall on us.

By now, unbeknown, to us people were beginning to be burned to death on the next ridge around from us at Calignee and nearby tiny settlements.

The fire, survivors said, appeared to come from nowhere and with a breathtaking speed that was almost ferocity personified.



Remembering Black Saturday 07.02.09

We were shaken, but for the moment safe but still isolated. We dared not call our neighbours as we believed they would have perished in that intensity, and later on we found out that everyone believed us dead too.

It was impossible to see any distance as trees were alight everywhere and the sound of wind had been replaced by the sound of giant trees falling or branches dropping in flaming tapers and with a deathly roar.

We knew though that our access to the road was still open as it appeared that the track was so far clear of burning trees and we could still make a run for it. But no way! We had survived what seemed to us the unsurvivable and we were not going now.

I decided we must eat something to maintain our strength. To this day I have no idea what we ate because all power had gone, the refrigerator was rapidly warming in the heat and there was an eerie glow as the sun moved below the horizon.

It was relatively quiet when all of a sudden a 4WD screamed up our track and stopped outside our laundry door.

I couldn't believe my eyes!

For a second I was transported back to childhood remembering the gripping true story of a diver who rescued the miners trapped in the Kalgoorlie mines in my precious Victorian school reader.

Stunned and speechless, we met our neighbour from the next range behind us that had not been burned as of yet.

He was also the head of forestry for HVP plantations and he quickly told us he had called for a bull dozer to build a fire break between us and the fire, in a desperate bid to stop it travelling further west and threatening the nearby towns of Yinnar, Churchill and elsewhere.

We were still almost open mouthed with shock and disbelief before it dawned on us that we were now safer than we had been for a long and exhausting eight hours.

He roared off into the gloom to achieve what to me was an impossibility.

To somehow get a bull dozer to begin building a firebreak between us and this hungry, brooding monster still defying everything to burn against the wind and eclipse everything in its path, seemed impossible.

But soon enough what had seemed impossible became possible. It was now

dark with the glow of fires on two sides of us still threatening and ferocious but there was the dozer bravely defying the odds and enduring what must have been searing heat and falling trees and ever so slowly the fire break just 50 metres from our tanks, slowly grew longer and longer.

I remember our jubilation when against all odds, the dozer finally broke through to the road below us and we realised we were as safe as we could be for the moment anyway.

Ten years later I found out the name of that dozer driver, Steve Elms, and the fearless firefighters who braved those horrific conditions risking life and limb to stop the worst- and hottest- fire in history of the planet.

This fact was confirmed later when we learned that temperatures around the range from us at Red Hill must have reached 1000 degrees, hot enough to have fired the pottery of a ceramicist who had his clay pots ready for firing but had not yet placed them in the kiln.

Once we knew we were safe we tried to sleep but it was almost impossible. There was too much adrenaline flowing and it was weeks until we became settled enough to sleep soundly.

It was now 1.30 am. of the next day and I was sitting at the kitchen table in the dark with a lantern and a candle or two for light, watching the fire now dying down as the wind was gone and it was deathly calm.

By now our trusty ABC Gippsland from our battery operated radio, while still updating us on our local fire, was beginning to give us news of other communities who had endured nameless horrors and suddenly my world view, which was confined to our own small community of friends and neighbours and fears for their safety as well as our own, enlarged.

I remember dropping my head to the table in disbelief.

Surely just one fire that had reached to our garden and so far spared our house but probably extinguished life nearby, was enough.

With shaking hands I switched the radio off and refused to put it back on, except for the regular 15 minute updates of our local conditions.

Keith, at my insistence, had gone to bed for his two hour break, when my phone rang. It was one of our daughters tearfully asking

were we still okay as she wanted to try and go to sleep. I tried to reassure her we were ok but I doubt our kids, near and far, slept that night either.

As my two hour shift finished I woke my husband, giving him an update of our property and handing over the filthy mop and metal bucket that was now his responsibility, to douse any embers or small fire nearby.

I tried to sleep but it was impossible and after an hour I wearily gave up and joined Keith as an eerie glow from the nearby fire was joined by a rising sun over the nearby hill.

By now we were both feeling ill with exhaustion and still grimy and sweaty, but as the hours went by we knew we were going to survive.

We had now made contact with our nearest neighbours and established that they too were alive much to our joint astonishment and relief.

Phone lines and power lines were destroyed but mobile phone reception was still up and running, but we all had to conserve our battery power and any exchanges were brief and to the point.

The gloom became now suffused with a harsh sunlight and although neither of us felt like eating we tried to. The milk was warming and the fridge was not a pretty sight, neither was anything else for that matter.

As we were on the perimeter of the fire, our main track was still open, though precarious to drive but we needed to check beyond where we could see, and determine the safety of our nearest neighbours at least, so we took our vehicle and made our way to the bitumen road below, knowing that this was very dangerous to do too.

On the road the first vehicle we met was a filthy police car, covered in ash. The two policemen greeted us like we were long lost friends and we numbly tried to reciprocate but the first question was were there any lives lost up our road.

They were still not sure but gave us some assurance that so far they had not had any deaths confirmed.

Our names were crossed of a list as safe and sighted.

The surrounding bush that we so loved was unrecognisable. Everything was blackened and the once diverse undergrowth was just a pile of high white ash that seemed to almost look like snow, but we knew it was deceptive and would be white hot and treacherous should we try to stray from the bitumen.

We learned from our neighbours that each of their properties had one or two fire trucks and personnel guarding them as the fire bore down, and they had had the psychological as well as the physical safety that that afforded them.

In contrast we had been alone and I quickly realised that we were in shock and not able to express ourselves with the same degree of clarity as the four neighbours who we had already established were alive and coherent.

Relieved but recognising the danger all around us from the heat of the ash and still burning trees we retreated to the relative safety of our property.

The police had told us that all access to our road was now denied to anyone other than emergency personnel and if we decided to leave we would be denied access to our home possibly for days if not weeks.

No bloody way, we immediately decided. We were staying put and the next thing on our minds was did we have enough provisions to see us through. Fresh food was not going to last long. The vegetable garden was singed and useless but we still had some water left in the tank.

Our thoughts turned to wider things, mine to what we were going to eat, my husband's to things as diverse as what we needed to further protect our house from embers, and when was he going to get The Saturday Age - if indeed there were any copies left.

We alerted our two daughters who lived in nearby towns and who had already been thinking about our welfare. One had found us a generator for at least some power for the fridge, and they had both thought of food. Neither of them had thought of an Age for their dad, much to his annoyance.

We met them at the Junction that was now barricaded with police vehicles and fire trucks.

Once again we were questioned by complete strangers who now inhabited our tiny community where we all knew everyone and almost every car on the road.

Were we okay? Did we have any burns or injuries? No, no we said. Could we produce our drivers license to establish that we lived here and were not looters or sightseers. Yes, we could fortunately.

All I wanted to do was see our daughters who were standing over the other side of the barricades waiting for us.

Our Junction had become a foreign place to us and we felt like outsiders and intruders.

How wonderful to meet our daughters who greeted us tearfully over the barricades.



Remembering Black Saturday 07.02.09

We were able to hug over the barricade but if we set foot over the other side we were out and not allowed back in, we were grimly told by the two police who themselves looked pretty shell shocked, but I could see from the look on their faces that they meant what they said.

They showed none of the friendliness of the police who patrolled the road up our way and regarded us as heroes for surviving the unsurvivable.

Down here just three kilometres away we were nuisances who were intruding on their territory, and we should get out like sensible people did and obey their rules.

Somehow the generator was handed over what we now grimly called the Berlin Wall, and we took the fresh bread and the food our daughters had managed to get to us and we turned away after another tearful embrace.

We were glad to get back to our friendly police in their filthy clothes and their dirty uniforms unlike the ones at the Junction in their smart 4WD and clean cars and uniforms.

We realised later we probably looked like tramps ourselves but such things hadn't entered our minds as yet.

We were still in shock and disbelief.

At home, the shutters still up on all windows, and the garden looking like something alien, we grimly got to work to reestablish something that resembled our previous life.

We began to remove the shutters allowing light to once again penetrate the house but it no longer looked cheerful and a refuge.

All I could see was work and I was exhausted emotionally and physically.

Keith who had at least had some sleep swung into action and was re-energised and purposeful.

As our landline was still operational, the phone began ringing non-stop from anxious family and friends from near and far.

People we had met only briefly on a recent overseas trip somehow found our number and wanted reassurance that we were alive.

Most people understood that we were in shock and only wanted the briefest of detail, sensitive to our needs and time pressures but one or two wanted to prolong a conversation, unaware that time on the phone meant time taken from other duties.

Whilst on the phone around noon I was amazed to see a complete stranger walking in what remained of our garden.

Afraid I was hallucinating I went up to

him and asked him what he was doing.

He said casually 'Just checking things out' and I wanted to hit him and scream 'Get off our property,' but I couldn't. He spooked me and he wasn't the first person whom we found loitering around, somehow stupidly braving the danger posed from the still dangerous trees to do God knows what.

My world was turned upside down and nothing seemed real anymore.

The phone kept ringing and after I had spoken to the person and replaced the receiver there were sometimes two or three messages left to respond to.

The day now is a blur to recall but we soon needed to recognise that apart from the Berlin Wall we were isolated from the outside world.

But were we?

We had now divided the police into two groups. Those that we perceived as hostile and rule bound and the other group in our immediate vicinity who were only concerned for our welfare, both physical and emotional.

We were not alone but the wider world had to be met and we both had family and job commitments.

How could we evade the Berlin Wall and reach the outside world?

The police didn't know the local bush tracks but we did.

Why hadn't it dawned on us that there was a nearby track that we could escape through and return by unbeknown to police.

What were we thinking?

Of course we didn't need to feel confined any more and soon we and the locals were casually slipping out one way and returning through the Berlin Wall showing our drivers licenses to surprised police to establish identity of someone they had failed to see on the way out.

Gradually life began to assume some degree of normality and our world view grew to take in the horrific impact of the fires on those who had lost loved ones in the most unthinkable circumstances.

Our neighbours in our Letter Box Junction Fire Guard group had all managed to survive without loss of life or serious injury. Some of us had lost sheds and verandahs and the like but we were all safe.

Not so our neighbours just around the next ridge, a long way away by road but as the crow flies only minutes away.

They had perished in the fires as the southerly wind change wreaked its' havoc.

Ten years on I personally still re

experience the trauma as I write this.

I can relive every minute of the fire with a clarity that tenses my body and causes me to sweat.

Most of our bush has regenerated, but the scars remain on it too.

Our beautiful, massive blue gum that had probably stood for 200 years or more at the beginning of our drive had to be felled as it posed a danger to passing traffic.

On our drive our arborist still has yellow ribbons attached to trees that pose a threat to us as we drive past.

A tree burnt by the fire, fell on our car several years ago as we drove down our track, crushing the car roof and narrowly missing a precious granddaughter in the back seat.

We were all shaken but unharmed and a kindly panel beater gave us a discount when he knew the cause of the damage.

Like many others we refused to claim any compensation (other than that offered to

even those who lived in neighbouring towns and were unaffected by anything), choosing instead to donate to those who suffered inconsolable loss.

We are immensely grateful for all the kindness we received from the amazing CFA groups from near and far who swung into action post fire to protect us and our neighbours from secondary threats posed by trees that continued to burn for weeks on ours and our neighbours properties.

The smell of burnt bodies of koalas, kangaroos, wallabies and wombats in our nearby bush, haunts me still.

For years the wildlife seemed cowed but gradually life returns to us all and as we commemorate the tragedy and the heroism of ten years ago, we can only be immensely grateful to all those who endeavour to keep us as safe as we can be in this amazing and beautiful country of ours, even those grim faced police who used to patrol the Berlin Wall.



Churchill Fire Brigade



Understanding warnings

Warnings will be issued when an emergency is likely to impact you.

They provide you with information on what is happening and our best advice on what you should do.

Our aim is to provide you with as much information as we can - to help you to make good decisions to protect yourself and your family.

The warning level is based on severity, conditions and the likelihood that the emergency could impact on the community, so the first warning issued could be an Emergency Warning - the highest level.

Do not rely on an official warning to leave. Emergencies can start quickly and threaten you within minutes.

Warning levels

There are three different levels of warning:

Emergency warning

You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted.



Warning (Watch and Act)

An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others.



Advice

An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.



Can also be used as a notification that activity in the area has subsided and is no longer a danger to you.

Additional messages that may be issued are:

Prepare to evacuate / evacuate now

An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.



Community information

A newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.



Can also be used as notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community.

What to do if you hear a warning

Stay calm. Stop what you are doing and pay attention.

If you don't understand the warning, get someone to explain by asking neighbours or friends.

Follow the advice of warnings immediately. People die or are put in danger because they don't respond right away.

Keep in contact with family members. Make sure they know what is happening and what you plan to do.

Stay informed. Keep listening for more information in case the situation changes.

Brigade Involvements over the fire season

So far Churchill brigade members have been involved in the Rosedale fire in strike teams which means that the members go for a period of four nights or part thereof.

They were actively engaged in assisting in putting in containment lines and

extinguishing the fire and protecting life and property. Others assisted with communications in the forward operations vehicles.

Locally there have been some small grass fires which have been caused accidentally. This is a reminder to people that when they are cutting grass to be aware of having firefighting equipment on hand in case of an unfortunate situation occurring where a blade may hit a rock and cause a spark.

Unfortunately, members have also attended some deliberately lit fires. The Brigade implores the public to be vigilant and to take note, reporting any suspicious vehicles and activities which seem to be out of the norm for their area.

If you see something say something. Phone crimestoppers 1800 333 000

WARNING: The fire season is not over yet. We have a long hot period ahead. The vegetation is very dry and will ignite very easily. Please be aware and act early to decide to stay and defend if defensible, or leave EARLY.

BE PREPARED: After all the wind there will be leaves in spouts, and on properties, leaves, twigs and bark. Please keep these raked up and dealt with. Ensure you have an adequate water supply.

ON HIGH OR EXTREME FIRE DANGER DAYS keep tuned into your local radio stations for updates of fire activity that may be in your area or consult your Victorian Emergency App for emergencies, warnings and advice.

Thorpdale Potato Festival

The count-down has begun

With only four weeks to go to the 28th Thorpdale Potato Festival which will be held on Sunday March 10, 2019 at the Thorpdale Recreation Reserve, the count-down has well and truly begun.

Sewing machines are whirring up and down the country-side as designers are completing their masterpieces ready for the catwalk and spud-pickers are flexing their muscles as they anticipate their potential rivals.

Children smile as they remember the fun of the giant slide and bouncy castles, potato bowling and sack races – all free, as parents try to

recall which event they liked the most and which event they missed and wanted to catch the next time.

We have it all at the Thorpdale Potato Festival – the mighty Axemen who mesmerize with their strength and dexterity with those knife-sharp axes; the quick-witted kelpies who respond to their masters so rapidly and muster sheep with stealth-like movements; sheep-shearing demonstrations; motorbike stunt displays; truck show and shine display and of course the spuds.

We can't forget the spuds. There's the pallet stack – throwing that 25kg sack of

potatoes onto a growing pallet stack saps the strength. The pick and pack is an action-packed series of events – for kids, ladies and open. Boy, do they go!

And there's the Vin Rowe Challenge which is ...now, what is that challenge?

For more information, contact: Barbara Butterworth Marketing & Public Relations Officer

Thorpdale Potato Festival Committee
thorpdale.potatofest@gmail.com
www.thorpdale.potatofestival.com.au
Ph: (03) 5634 6242

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STAMP MATTERS- A NEW EXPERIENCE



Welcome to another year of stamp collecting. I hope everybody has had an enjoyable break and is ready for a productive year, enjoying their hobby. I have made a New Year's resolution to bring some order to the chaos of my collection and am regretting it already, although some steps forward have been made.

We have been looking at the great European navigators with the gradual exploration of the world's great oceans. To date the motivation was setting up spheres of influence, but the changing fortunes of various European countries saw that change, with scientific aims being followed rather than profit from exploitation and state-sanctioned piracy.

This month I want to dwell on the discovery of Australia and we must realise that Captain Cook was not the first discoverer of our fair land.

Men in small boats arrived a long time ago from the islands of the present-day Indonesia. They stayed for four months each year, harvesting an edible sea-slug, the beche-de-mer.

Their campsites along the coast of northern Australia are recognisable by the tamarind trees which are not native flora.

The Chinese knew of Australia. In their geography texts it was called The Land of Parrots. There are occasional discoveries on Norfolk Island

of traces of Maori visitors and there was a constant trade between the Torres Strait islanders with New Guinea and mainland Aboriginal tribes.

The first European visitors to our shores were more or less accidental. Ships from Spain and Holland used the westerly winds, the Roaring Forties to expedite their voyages and after a certain time they steered to the north-east to reach their destinations.

We don't know how many made the turn too late, but there is evidence of shipwrecks along the southern, western and northern shores dating back to the 1500-1600s.

Some were fortunate and made records of their visits. Juan Torres sailed through the straits now bearing his name in 1606.

The same year Willem Janz was the first European to record a visit to Australia. He landed on Cape York and lost several of his crew to the local tribesmen.

Dirk Hartog landed on an

island off the coast of Western Australia and left an engraved plate in 1616. In 1642 Abel Tasman landed on the south coast of Tasmania and reported signs of giant natives which turned out to be footholds cut by locals to climb a tree.

William Vlamingh found Dirk Hartog's plate and left one of his own to keep it company.

The first Englishman to land here was William Dampier who left a less than complimentary record of the local natives in 1699. Dotted around the coastline are other reminders of Dutch visitors in place names like Nuyts Land, Groote Eylandt and Cape Leeuwin.

No attempt was made by any of these visitors to recommend setting up a permanent settlement. Even when it was done in 1788 it was done as a penal colony. How wrong these early visitors were!

Australia Post issued a set of four stamps in 1985 to honour these early visitors.

Hazelwood Rotary



The Club's major fundraiser, the annual present - wrapping service at Mid-Valley, was again successful, even if activity was a little less than in past years. As usual, the proceeds will be allocated to the community groups that participated in proportion to the effort put in.

We thank the community for their support, and also thank the Mid-Valley Centre management.

In the latter half of last

year, our Club's focus on local youth service resulted in presentations to the Strzelecki District Scout of the Year, the Rotary Junior Community Awards to some Grade 6 students at Yinnar Primary School, and an award to the best all-rounder in each year level at Kurnai College, Churchill Campus. The young people in all these awards were impressive.

Our January meetings have comprised social dinners

and a night cleaning our shed and catering trailer. The regular barbecues at Bunnings stores have been underway, and we thank all involved in this fundraising activity. It is gratifying to see the regard shown to Rotary and its work by support from customers in general, along with some who donate only.

The men and women of Hazelwood Rotary look forward to another year of service and fellowship.

Cooking with Noelene



A summer treat for your pets (canine and feline)

Our beautiful canine and feline babes feel the heat the same as us, and the water in their bowl gets warm.

Please give this little tip consideration -

All that stock you throw down the sink each night, the water from vegies or the juice from your protein source, drain it into ice cube trays.

Freeze it and when the temperature is unbearable (imagine what it is like for our furry babes), you can scoop out frozen cubes into their feeding bowls and they will love you even more.

Just imagine the coolness of the ice block and the bite of savoury.

Give it a go, your best friend will know they are loved, now you can show them how much.

Sweet potato gnocchi

Wash and scrub 2 large sweet potatoes.

Pierce the sweet potatoes with a skewer.

Lightly sprinkle the sweet potatoes with cinnamon.

Bake on a baking tray until the potatoes are tender / soft to touch.

Remove from the oven, cool and spoon the flesh from the skin.

Use a processor to make a puree.

It is best to measure out the puree in a 250 ml cup, as you need 1/2 a cup of plain flour for every cup of sweet potato puree.

Add 1/2 tsp of baking powder and a sprinkle of sumac.

Use the dough hook on your mixer to make a dough.

You can knead by hand, but the dough needs to be sticky.

Now pour out the dough onto a lightly floured bench.

Use your hands to divide the dough and shape into long rolls.

Slice into bite sized pieces.

Cook the gnocchi in boiling water in batches.

Let the gnocchi rise to the top of the water and continue to cook to warm through.

Remove, strain and add to your prepared sauce.

Melina Bath MLC

Member for Eastern Victoria Region

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Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare



Returning from seed collecting with LCC. L-R Chris Lange (President Y.Y.S. L.C.) Ruth Harper (LCC), Joelle Champert, Celeste Fraser, LCC, Jay Duncan (YYSLC Secretary) Photo: Bettina Stoess



Berries such as Coprosma quadrifida Prickly Currant Bush) need to be squashed to extract their seeds Photo: J. Duncan
Eucalyptus viminalis (Manna Gum) nuts ready to extract seeds Photo: J. Duncan

by J. Duncan
Secretary,
Yinnar, Yinnar South
Landcare Group.

Our group has been busy over summer with preparations for our re-vegetation project in the Billys Creek valley. Mostly this has involved collecting seed. We have also been working on our systems for recording what we collect, documenting our sites, keeping track of our volunteer time and processing the seed that we've collected.

In early December we were able to go out with staff from Latrobe City's Environmental Sustainability program for seed collection and species identification in a nearby valley.

We were also invited to visit Habitat Creations' Moe nursery where we learned some of the finer points

of plant propagation and greenhouse management.

Some of us also went out recently on another species identification walk with Friends of Morwell National Park. The Blue Gum Hill track in the Park is a similar landform to our revegetation block which is about a kilometre upstream. So seeing what grows well in those conditions was great.

Just before Christmas the contractor sprayed the first section of blackberries along the creek to prepare it for direct seeding which we expect to be doing in April. If we don't get rain we'll need to re-visit this plan.

In May [if it's rained] we will plant tubestock on one of the higher sections of the block. An autumn planting should have time to get established before the soil

dries out again next summer. We'll also trial direct seeding in this area in very early spring.

This project is a three-year Biodiversity Community Action grant. If more community members would like to be involved, this year we'll have a planting day in May and a direct seeding demonstration in September. Also, if anyone plans to walk the Grand Strzelecki Track, we'd love you to take photos and can send you the GPS coordinates of our site. Many of us are a bit too decrepit to walk in to this steep and inaccessible site, and much of the on-ground work will be done by contractors who can.

We also hope to find some funds and some volunteers for a planting in the upper Middle Creek valley. We have some plants in our greenhouse for this site but we will need big [and expensive] tree guards to deter the deer that are at pest proportions in the area. This is a project for next spring as it's along a creek that might flood and wash away our plants over winter.

We're growing the plants for Middle Creek and the first section of the Billys Creek site ourselves in our greenhouse at Yinnar South. Water is likely to become a problem very soon as we are relying on tank water. If anyone can help us out with a delivery of water, we'd really appreciate it. If we can't get water, we may need to move some plants elsewhere, but this won't be good for them while they are so small.

Please contact Dave Egan on 5169 1797 if you can help.

<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/westgippsland/yinnar-south/>

New Opportunity Shop 26 Main St Yinnar



The final worship service at the Yinnar Co-operating Church was held on November 18, 2018.

This was a combined parish service where everyone had a chance to tell stories and reminisce about their time at the church.

The building will reopen as an opportunity shop on Thursday February 14. The shop will be open on Thursdays and Fridays from 9am until 4:30pm and Saturdays 9:30 until 1pm.

If all goes well these hours will be extended.

Helpers are needed to serve in the shop and help with sorting.

Volunteers are required to provide a 'working with children' check and complete a volunteer application form with two

referees in compliance with new government regulations. Contact Rosslyn on 0408 637 047 if you would like to help or have goods to pick up.

Donations of goods for sale can be left at the church from February 14, 2019, onwards during shop hours.

Please don't leave us

your rubbish as tip fees are expensive.

As a guide don't give it to an op shop if you wouldn't give it to a friend so no chipped crockery, rusty utensils or broken toys please.

Come and browse or just drop in for a chat.

Books Comics DVD/CDs
LPs Pictures T-Shirts
Bric-a-Brac Collectables
Confectionery

Nook and Cranny
97 Buckley Street, Morwell

Churchill Town Safety Group



Bushfire season is with us

As the bushfire season is now well and truly upon us, we need to keep an eye out for possible arsonists that may start fires in our area.

If you see someone acting suspiciously, take note of the place, time and description of that person or persons and call 000 (if you need Police attendance).

Keep your property safe by clearing flammable items away from

your house and ensuring that your grass is kept at a low level.

Install the "Vic emergency" "app" on your phone and tune into your local radio station to keep up with messages from the authorities.

Let's **not** have a repeat of the past where lives and property have been lost to crimes of this nature.

"If you see something suspicious, Report it to the Police."

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.

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Plants in my Garden



By Mike Beamish

Species: Dianella tasmanica.

Family: Asphodelaceae (was Liliaceae).

Derivation: Dianella; Named after Diana, the Roman goddess of hunting and created the queen of the woods by Jupiter, plus the diminutive -ell- because the original species was found in woods in southern France.

tasmanica; From the Later Latin, tasmanicus, meaning from Tasmania.

Name: Tasman Flax-lily.

Distribution: Widespread and frequent in moist, usually elevated forest throughout Victoria (except the Mallee, Wimmera and Riverina regions), Tasmania and the NSW ranges.

Description: A tufted perennial herb forming clumps or spreading patches, with thick, subterranean rhizomes and with strappy leaves to 1m long by 4cm wide that have a keeled mid-rib and finely toothed margins and form a Y-shaped cross section near the sheathing base. The flowers form on a multi-branched panicle to 1.5m tall, while individual

flowers are blue stars to 15mm across, with the petals folded back to expose the yellow stamen filaments. Flowering occurs from late winter to late summer, depending on elevation, followed by globular violet or blue berries to 2cm long.

Opinion: Like last issue, my plant is inside the western fence-line, behind the Alpine Mint-bush. Also like last issue, the plant has moved from where I planted it, but this time there is no dieback, it's just that the plant has spread to fill in the available area via its rhizomatous root system and has even gone underneath the fence's concrete plinth to appear in the bed outside the fence. So it now covers an area of perhaps 15-20 square metres and receives full sun from the west, because the overhead branches of a couple of trees were broken off and collapsed by a rampant Wonga Vine that became too heavy for its supporters back in early 2016.

These days I'm getting some really good, long-lasting flower spikes from October through to December, but occasionally some flowers seem to abort or self-pollinate early and end up forming a lumpy, deformed mass of

green berries that don't seem to mature to their normal, bright purple state. I have no idea whether this is a bacterial or fungal infection, insect attack (galls for example) or whether it's the plants response to unsuitable weather conditions, such as too cold, too hot, too wet, too dry, too cloudy, who knows?

I've never had the need to seriously attempt propagating this species, it's more like wondering whether I should somehow try to contain its growth. I've had a dabble with sowing the seeds obtained out of the ripe, purple berries, but none has ever shown any inclination to germinate (not just this species, but any Dianella species), so I wonder if the seeds need some sort of treatment (like travelling through the gut of a bird, reptile or other native beastie) before they will take off? If I really wanted to gain more plants, I'd reckon digging up a clump and dividing it up would be the easiest way to go.

Sources: Sharr – WA Plant Names and their Meanings.

Elliot & Jones – Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 3.

Corrick & Fuhrer – Wildflowers of Victoria.

Online – Flora of Victoria.

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.



Darren Chester

Black Saturday – A decade on



Ten years ago I stood in the Federal Parliament and spoke about the loss of life and devastation caused by the Black Saturday bushfires.

It was the hardest speech I've had to make in my life.

Days of listening to tearful Gippsland bushfire survivors as they spoke about their narrow escapes, and learning more about those who had tragically perished, had an impact on me that I wasn't aware of until it became time to tell the rest of Australia.

I was relatively new to the Parliament. I was emotional, and at times, I barely got the words out. But my speech in Federal Parliament was never meant to be about me.

It was about the everyday heroes of Gippsland who had fought the Black Saturday bushfires and how our community had rallied together in a time of crisis.

It was about the firefighters, the community volunteers, the emergency services workers, the contractors and the neighbours who had placed themselves in harm's way to help their mates in a time of great need.

In part, I told a respectfully silent Parliament:

'Saturday, February 7, 2009 will always be remembered as the day that hell came to the paradise of

the foothills of Gippsland. While the history books will record the bare facts, like the death toll, the homes lost, the extreme temperature and the hectares of forest burnt, they will struggle to tell the stories of so many heroes of Gippsland, and so many have emerged from this tragedy already

We must stand shoulder to shoulder with our fellow Australians at this time as we all come to terms with the grief, the absolute anger and the disbelief that many of us are feeling at the moment. For those of us who are not directly impacted by this

firestorm, we must be there to help pick them up and assist them in the hard times which will undoubtedly lie ahead for them all.'

As we gather this week on the 10th anniversary of the Black Saturday bushfires, with the smell of smoke in the air, we remember those who died, those whose lives changed forever, and those who continue to serve our community to keep us safe.

We pause to give thanks to our resilient and resourceful people who had the strength to rebuild and recover from the disaster.

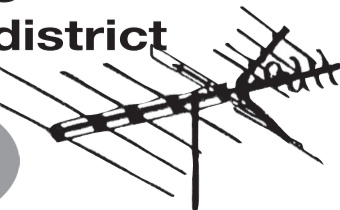


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SCHOOL NEWS

CHURCHILL NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



part in a range of activities. Students showed responsibility in helping to set up and run the stalls during the fete. A big thank you goes out to Miss Backhausen for helping to organise the event.

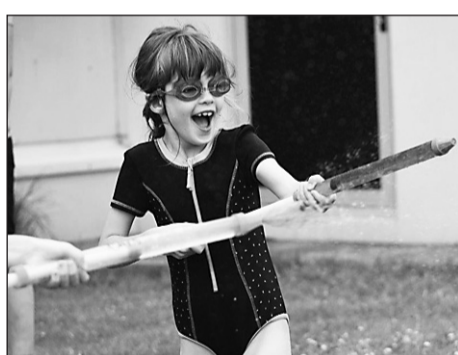
Swimming Sports

During the last week of school on Tuesday December 18, all of the

Churchill North Primary School Fete

The rain held off on Friday December 14, clearing to a perfect day to host a mini-school fete. Each classroom coordinated and ran two events during the mini-fete, providing children and families with a range of activities to be involved in, including face painting, nail polish, lucky dip, cup stacking, sausage sizzle, coin toss and much more. It was a terrific chance for family members and students to take

students at Churchill North Primary School participated in the school's annual swimming sports. Throughout the day the students took part in a range of activities including swimming events, diving events and a range of novelty events. The novelty events outside the pool included emptying the bucket, water bombing and water pistol tiggly. Within the pool the students were able to join in with treasure hunting, noodle races and throwing rainbow hoops. It was terrific to see the confidence the students showed in the water as a result of the swimming program throughout the year. A special thank you goes



out to the organisation and coordination of the day by Miss Wells. Students and families thoroughly enjoyed the day and look forward to next years' event.

Grade 6 Graduation

Wednesday December 19 saw family members, staff and students say their final farewell for the Year 6 class at Churchill North Primary School 2018. The evening began with the students participating in a meal with some of the staff from the school. After the meal the more formal components of the evening began. The students presented a dance to family and community members. The presentation of awards followed for students displaying behavioural and academic achievements. It

was an evening to celebrate the last seven years of schooling for the Grade 6 class and an opportunity to wish them all future success in their endeavours beyond their foundation of schooling at Churchill North Primary School.

Grade 5/6 Students get to experience Tech School!

Eight students from Grades 5 and 6 had the opportunity to experience Gippsland's Technical School. Students attended two evening sessions that instructed students through the process of creating their own hovercraft, and using the high tech equipment within the Tech School facility to produce their designs. Each

student was able to print their custom design using a 3D printer. Once all students had their hovercrafts created, they were each put to the test through a hovercraft obstacle course. Nephi won 1st place, receiving a goody bag as a reward. All students had a fantastic time and have been inspired to persue technology based professions when they grow up.

Here is what some of the students had to say about their experience:

'On the two days of Tech School, I had a lot of fun. I learnt a thing or two about 3D printing and on the first day we got to make our own designs. We then had to wait a while for our designs to be printed. The next week we got our models and took pieces of a drone to make our creation hover.'

I was so surprised that I won first place!
Nephi

'What I loved about Tech School was when we were racing our hovercrafts.'
Mysen

'In Tech School I loved working on the laptops with all of the awesome technology.'

Adyan
'My favourite part of Tech School was making our designs.'

Najib
'I loved that we got to make a hovercraft and drive it as well as design it ourselves.'

Jaydon
Miss Xuereb - 4/5X

Christmas Assembly

On Friday December 21, the students, staff and family members gathered for a final Christmas assembly.

The audience waited in anticipation as the Christmas raffle was drawn. During the assembly each class presented a Christmas song to the audience. The presentations consisted of some old favourites as well as some not so well known songs.

It was a relaxing festive way to end a successful year



YINNAR PRIMARY SCHOOL

The new school year commenced with many excited students ready for a great year. We welcomed 39 new Preps and their families as well as three new teachers - Chloe Bourke (1/2), Ally Van De Burgt (3/4) and Kaitlin MacDonald (5/6).

We also welcome back Hayley Coffin from leave. With a student population of 225 a new classroom has been prepared over the holidays (Caitlin Twomey 4/5). Two of our staff - Nick Walsh and Tamara Halket have been successful in gaining

principal class positions for Term 1 and they will return to Yinnar in Term 2.

Our staff have had some role changes as well. Charlie Twomey will be working in Visual Arts and Performing Arts, Kara Burslem has moved into the 5/6 area sharing a grade with Hayley Coffin, and Katie Linton has moved to the 1/2 area. Our school now has 26 staff.

Sport is always a big part of our student activities and they are already practising for the athletic sports days later this term. Swimming

competition is also coming up.

The student led 'School Ground and Sustainability' (SGS) team have implemented a new refuse system.

There is much learning to be done in this area but the students are eagerly asking questions and researching how to sort our school rubbish to lower our levels of landfill and increase recycling. The school chooks are loving the lunch scraps.

The first week of school was extremely exciting for all our students, especially

our Preps as they met or reconnected with fellow students in their new grades. During the first few days our classes spent some time team building and setting the classroom scene to ensure maximum use of our learning time in 2019.

Student leadership roles were all finalised at the end of 2018 and they have already stepped up to be role models for the rest of the student population in 2019.

Overall it was a very settled start to our school year.

HOTSHOTS kids hit the courts at the Australian Open

Playing on the courts at the Australian Open is a special thrill, even for the professionals, so when ten lucky juniors from G & S Tennis Academy had their chance to participate in the 'Kids on Court' experience, there was a real buzz in the air.

On January 17, Blake Gooding and Jake Shaw from the Churchill Tennis Club walked onto the court at Melbourne Park, following the footsteps of their heroes playing in the recent Australian Open.

The kids walked onto the court, the crowd was building, they started rallying balls back and forth. Hotshots coach, Sally Kirstine, who accompanied the players, said 'the kids were just so excited'. After their on-court hitting session, the players and a family member enjoyed a free ground pass for the rest of the day watching tennis and visiting the Kids Zone Ballpark. Some saw Federer warming up, others watched Ash Barty playing doubles.

The players were from

a number of tennis clubs where Glen and Sally Kirstine coach throughout the Latrobe Valley including Churchill, Morwell, Pax Hill in Traralgon and Hazelwood North. "Hopefully we get the opportunity again next year to take the kids - I would love to take more, but we were limited to only ten", Kirstine said.

The ANZ Hotshots Program is a fun way for kids to learn how to play tennis. Aimed at children between 4 and 12 years of age, modifications are made to the balls, court size, racquets and nets to help young children successfully learn how to play tennis, in a safe, fun environment.

Anyone with children aged 4 - 12 years interested in becoming part of Hotshots tennis, contact Glen or Sally on 0403 282 630 to arrange a time for a FREE 'Come and Try' session at your local tennis club. Players who join the Hotshots program will also receive a FREE Hotshots t-shirt and tennis racquet.



Churchill players at Australian Open - 1st left: Blake Gooding, 6th left: Jake Shaw.

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



CHURCHILL
INDOOR NETBALL ASSOCIATION

2019 JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

In 2019 junior netball is moving to weeknights in a revamp of the Churchill Indoor Netball Association (CINA)!

CINA is a welcoming and inclusive association for members of the Churchill and surrounding communities. We are committed to providing a relaxed, fun, and social sporting environment.

The competition will run indoors at the Churchill Leisure Centre on Thursday evenings commencing on May 2, 2019. Individuals and new teams are welcome to register.

CINA will offer development opportunities in all aspects of netball including coach and umpire training development programs early in 2019.

Come and Try Sessions

These sessions will also include umpire and coaching development opportunities.

Thursdays - March 7, 14, 21, 28

Sessions to run 4:30-5:30pm

Age Groups

Girls and boys born before 2011

11 & Under - Mixed
(no restrictions)

13 & Under - Mixed
(no restrictions)

15/17 & Under - Mixed
(some restrictions apply)

Why netball?

Netball is a great team sport that allows both girls and boys the opportunity to socialise whilst playing a team sport that teaches children to cooperate and improve their social and verbal skills. Netball is also a great cardiovascular workout and will improve overall flexibility and strength along with hand-eye coordination.



Find us on Facebook!

Contact/Registration

For further information or to request a 2019 Winter Season Registration Pack Find us on facebook @churchillindoornetball or email us at

churchillindoornetball@gmail.com

Churchill Bowls Club news



The Churchill Bowls Club is currently conducting a membership drive throughout Churchill and district, culminating in a Barefoot Bowls night and sausage sizzle, commencing at 5pm and concluding at 7pm on March 20, 2019. The club is targeting people of all age groups and gender who have never played lawn bowls before and would like to be part of a friendly, inclusive and interactive club. Past and present bowlers are also welcome to attend on the night. Anyone interested in joining can ring the club Secretary on 0407 182 967 or email churchillbowls@hotmail.com

Our Thursday night Indoor Bowls will recommence on Thursday February 14, commencing at 7.15pm. If you're looking for some social interaction and a fun night out, come along and be part of the action. To enable games to get underway by 7.15pm, it is requested participants be there by 7 pm. The night generally concludes around 9.30pm. Cost for the night is \$5.00 with a light supper served with tea or coffee.

Our Churchill number 1 Pennant side has finished on top of the ladder in Division 6 and will go on to compete in

finals to be held in March. It is hoped we can go one better this year and give the flag a real shake. Our Churchill number 2 side has also fared well last year winning several games and just missing out in several close games. A year's competition and the experience gained should stand them in good stead for this year's competition.

The club was saddened to lose Peter Ludlow an esteemed player and member who passed away suddenly in January 2019. Peter's stories of his overseas travel escapades were not to be missed, and he often had his audiences in stitches with his tales. Peter will be sadly missed around the club. Our condolences to the Ludlow family.

The Churchill Bowls Club will be hosting a visit from several Cairns (North Queensland) bowls clubs on Sunday March 17, with several social games being played between the various clubs, followed by a sausage sizzle at the end of the day.

The club will be participating in the Active Kids Expo which is to be held at Kurnai College Churchill on March 27, 2019. Scott Nicholson, Regional Manager for Bowls Australia will be

in attendance, supporting the Churchill Bowls Club team in conjunction with other local sporting clubs, in offering kids the opportunity to be involved in a recreational and sporting activity.

The Churchill Bowls Club web site is now up and running thanks to our web site guru P. Marks who designed and built our site, which can be found on www.churchillbowls.com

The Churchill Bowls Club Triples events recommence in March and will be conducted on the second Tuesday of each month up until October this year. Anyone interested in entering a team can contact M. Newton on 5122 1119.

Barefoot Bowls



**5.00 - 7.00 pm,
Wednesday,
March 20, 2019**

Herald Sun Tour continued from page 1 . . .



From Page 1 . . . Sharon Gibson and Darrell White.

It is good to note that John Trevorrow, Darren Spiteri and Geoff Fletcher, all from this area have been past participants.

Churchill Primary School senior students paid a visit and were invited to take a piece of chalk and draw an encouraging message

for the women riders who would leave at 2.30pm.

Women's Race Director and event General Manager John Trevorrow, rated the Churchill stage the toughest for both the men and the women competing in Australia's oldest stage race - the 66th - with 22 nations competing.

The same exciting

but extremely tough finish climb and descent as the men had raced earlier in the day, would be almost the same for the women.

The ride involved the hills of the Jeeralangs with their steepness with pinches up to 20% gradient on gravel surfaces, with sharp corners to negotiate and concluding with

a downhill dash to the finish.

Churchill Primary School children held the ribbon for the start and cheered the women off as they were led out by John Trevorrow in the red car.

It was an amazing event and a sight to see with all the retinue associated with this world class race.



All is rocking at Hazelwood North Community Hall

By Leo Billington

With a playlist which includes Jimmy Barnes and his band, Alan Jackson, The Animals, ABBA, Daddy Cool, Elton John and The Rolling Stones, it's little wonder Cheryl and Wayne Lace assemble a reasonable number of Rock'n'Roll dancers each week.

The other night, 25 danced to various well-known tunes – The Love Shack, Peggy Sue, It's So Easy (To Fall In Love); and even music by The Baseballs, a German rock band from Berlin.

Cheryl and Wayne have been conducting their rock

dance nights for over four years at Hazelwood North. Prior to this, they were providing the same tuition at Foster for three years.

According to Wayne, up to 40 keen aficionados will attend on Wednesday nights.

A recent Christmas celebration saw over 60 dancing to an enormous selection of music.

“Cheryl and I have had a long interest in music, particularly that from the 50s and 60s.

It's nearly 10 years now when we 'fell into teaching'.

Rock n Roll dancing provides a perfect social

outlet; it also keeps you fit and healthy. It's fun.”

The other night, dancers were resplendent in their Hazelwood North FIFO Rockers, red and black shirts.

Taking advantage of a solid wooden floor and an appropriate distance from neighbouring houses, it was great to see plenty of chatter (as specific dance steps were being mastered), alongside “tonnes” of enthusiasm.

With his hands-free microphone, Wayne leads all dancing with consummate ease, gently coaxing, flattery and applause.

As I left that night, Wayne



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was emphasising key dance words; “rock, then step one, two, rock (again), step one, two.....”

The still night air resonated those infamous words. Buddy Holly would have been pleased.

FIFO Rockers – 7.30 pm - Hazelwood North Community Hall, each Wednesday evening.

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