

# CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

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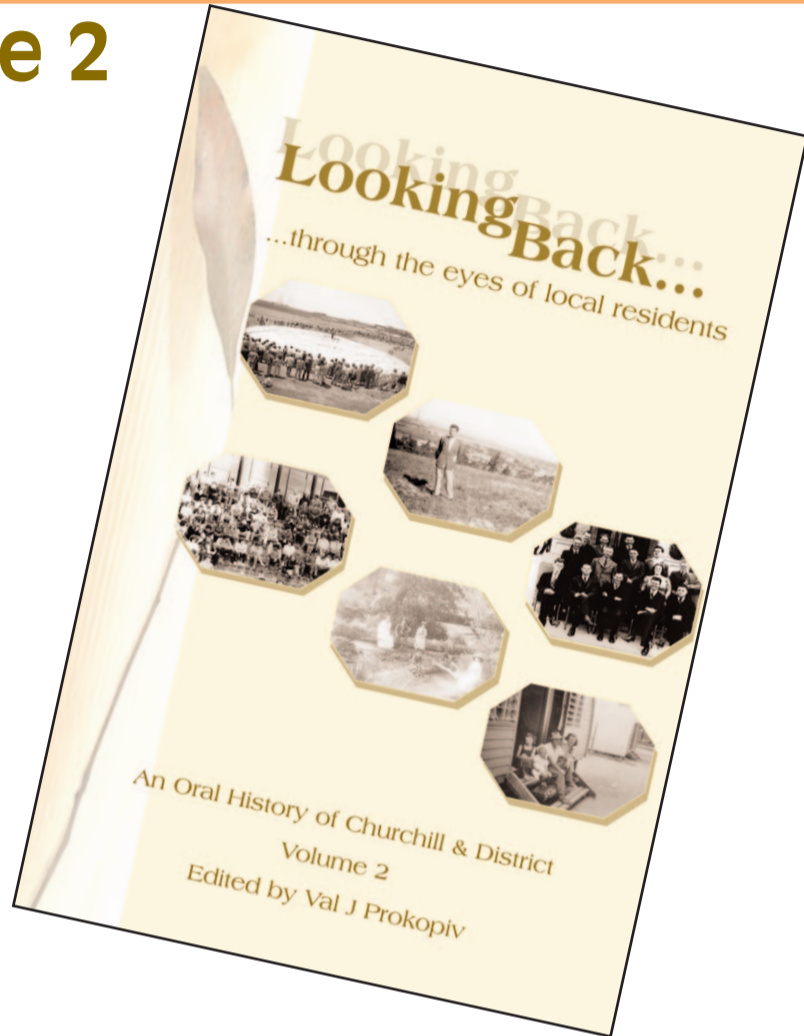
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## Looking Back...Volume 2



Churchill residents Dot and Eric Rowley launch Volume 2 of the Churchill & District News' History Book, 'Looking Back...Through the eyes of local residents'.

See Page 9 for the full story and details of how to order a copy.



## Churchill Champions Three Years in a Row

Churchill United has defied all odds this season to claim the Gippsland Soccer League Championship for a third consecutive year sealing the title with a 2-1 victory over Tyers Lightning. Needing a win to lift the trophy the Rams left it to the 83rd minute when substitute Paul Riess headed home the winner.

Tyers were eyeing fifth place on the ladder and pushed Churchill the entire day with hard running and uncompromising pressure. In an even opening the Rams struggled to find its fluid attacking game as Mark Pavich marshaled

the Tyers defence as a very nimble sweeper.

Churchill found an opening on the half hour mark when Taylor Jackson chipped a ball to Luke Cheney who beat his marker to volley home from close range. Tyers then shifted up a gear and caught Churchill sleeping in defence as Josh Pavich was allowed to set himself from twenty yards to clinically finish past Jason Sands in the Churchill goals, just four minutes after Churchill opened proceedings.

Continued on Page 27



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**Churchill & District News**

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

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**Contributions**

**The deadline for the submission of articles and advertisements for the October 2009 edition is September 30 2009**

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

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

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

**PUBLICATION DATES 2009**

Thursday 15th October  
 Thursday 12th November  
 Thursday 17th December  
 Special Schools Edition  
 Thursday 26th November

Guidelines for the submission of articles and photographs are available on our web site at [cdnews.com.au](http://cdnews.com.au) or contact the Editor on 0411053546.

If you are unable to meet the specific deadline please contact the Editor on 04110 53546

Please ensure your articles are submitted on or before the deadline.

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

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**Lifeline Calling for Volunteers**

If you are sitting at home but would like to do a little community work, and could spare a few hours, the Lifeline Churchill Shop has an opening for you.

Please call at the shop for further information and a volunteer application form.

**Churchill & District  
 Community Bank® Project**

A steering committee has been formed to investigate the establishment of a Community Bank® branch for Churchill & District.

The Community Bank® initiative was developed by Bendigo Bank to provide communities around Australia with banking services and access to an ongoing source of local funding.

The first Community Bank® branches opened in 1998, in response to community demand for face-to-face banking services following branch closures throughout the 1990s. Since that time, Community Bank® branches have opened in communities large and small, in metropolitan and rural areas.

Over 200 communities have received more than \$321 million and shareholders nearly \$7 million from Bendigo Bank. Below are some of the highlights from the Community Bank® 2008 Annual Report.

Bunyip & District: Established 9/07

At the end of June 2008 we had been operating for just over nine months, and what an exciting time that has been. Much earlier than expected, we reached a monthly break even result, with business on the books of around \$30 million, which at this stage of our development is the envy of many other Community Bank® branches.

Already, with the support of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, we have been able to distribute grants to 27 community organizations in our district.

But this is only the beginning. Half the revenue created by our branch comes back to our district to pay the branch wages and expenses, dividends to you, the shareholders, and grants to community organizations.

Heyfield & District: Established 5/01

.....assets as shown in the 2008 balance sheet, exceed the share capital value of our company. The board has announced it will pay a fully franked dividend of 7 cents per share paid before Christmas 2008. Throughout the year a diverse range of local groups and organisations have benefited from over \$90,000 in donations and sponsorships. Over \$218,000 has been distributed to the community in the last three years; this demonstrates what the Community Bank® model is all about.

Inverloch & District: Established 3/06

I am pleased to announce that we have agreed to contribute \$100,000 to the construction of a purpose built clubhouse for the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club.

Thanks to their support we have in turn been able to contribute to our community groups more than \$47,000 in grants, donations and sponsorships made to date.

Tooradin opened 5/09

We have also initiated a partnership program with all Community Bank® sites in Gippsland which will result in Community Bank® Youth Forums coming to our communities. These forums will focus upon Youth health issues such as youth suicide, youth depression and drug and alcohol dependence.

One outcome regarding community benefit will see significant focus in supporting the youth of our communities over the next couple of years.

For further details check out the Bendigo website  
[www.bendigobank.com.au](http://www.bendigobank.com.au)

# Burning off on Private Land



DSE and CFA crews have recently responded to a number of private burning operations that have got out of control in the East Gippsland area.

DSE's Land and Fire Area Manager for East Gippsland, David Tainsh, said that forest areas are already very dry and the potential for early season fires is high.

"We all need to be prepared, be really careful with any burning operations and stay alert for early fires," Mr Tainsh said.

"We have not had enough rain over winter for a good soaking and the vegetation only needs a lightning strike or a spark from a nearby burn to set it off."

CFA Operations Manager for Region 10, Greg Flynn said landholders need to be vigilant and well-prepared when planning and conducting their burn-offs.

"The vegetation is still very dry and with the strong winds we've had recently, some conditions were just not suitable to light up burns," Mr Flynn said.

"Private landholders need to apply the same rigorous planning

that DSE and CFA do in preparation for burning off – check the weather forecast for the day of the burn and a few days afterwards, check the fuel moisture conditions and ensure that you have enough resources on hand to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively."

All public and private landholders and managers in Victoria have legislated responsibilities regarding fire management and fire extinguishment.

"We depend on each other to plan our burns carefully and we should work together to ensure our own and other peoples' safety when we are burning," Mr Flynn said.

"Contact your local CFA and DSE offices prior to burning off on your land to notify them of your intention to burn and to ask for advice and assistance in planning the burn."

"If you're satisfied you have the necessary equipment to conduct the burn and conditions are suitable, please register your burn-off before lighting up by calling the VicFire Burn-off notification line on 1800 668 511. You will be asked for the

location and timing of the burn and for a contact person."

DSE has a brochure called "Burning Off on Private Land" which offers basic guidelines on how a safe burn-off can be achieved.

CFA has produced a free booklet called "On the Land – Agricultural Fire Management guidelines", which provides practical fire management advice for people living and working on cropping, grazing, plantation timber and rural lifestyle properties, particularly those who are undertaking property planning or are new to farming.

Please contact your local CFA or DSE office for more information.

For information on fires in Victoria and general fire safety, please contact the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on freecall 1800 240 667. Callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech / communication impairment may call textphone/telewriter (TTY) on 1800 122 969.

Information is also available at [www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires) or [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au).



## Open Gardens in November

The Co-Operating Churches in Churchill will be holding an Open Gardens Day on Saturday 14th November from 10am- 4pm.

The starting point will be the Church at the corner of Williams Avenue and McDonald Way, Churchill.

There are three gardens to view, with one catering for lunches, morning and afternoon teas. They are all beautiful gardens which will inspire any budding green thumbs! Enquiries can be made by ringing Robyn 51661306 or Glenda 51661819.



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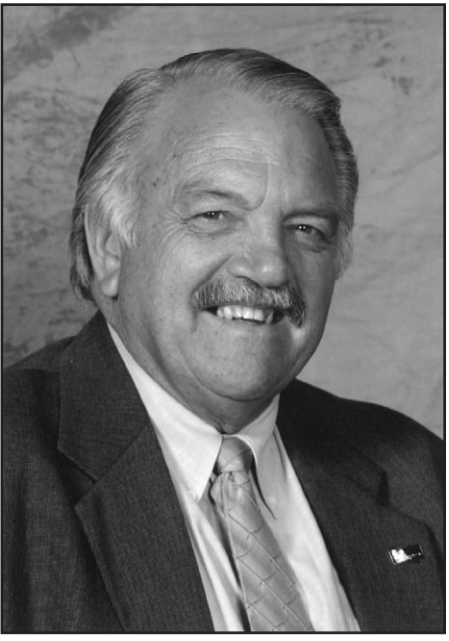
## Old Time Family Dance Hazelwood North Hall Church Road, Hazelwood North Friday 25 September 2009

Dancing from 8.00 pm to 11.30 pm  
Music: Harmony Plus

Admission: \$5.00  
Door Prize & Novelties  
Please bring a plate



For more details please ring Zelma Mildenhall 5166 1264



# Cr Darrell White "Breathe" Exhibition at Latrobe Regional Gallery

The exhibition is supported by a range of organisations including Gippsland Asbestos Related Disease Support (GARDS).

For more information, phone the Latrobe Regional Gallery on 5128 5700

## Early Childhood project "Best Start" to improve life for our kids

Members of the community interested in improving the outcomes for families and children in Latrobe City are being urged to assist in the "Best Start" program. The program, which started in 2006, aims to provide assistance for all families and children in Latrobe City.

"Best Start" program Coordinator, Robert Richardson, said the program was a great opportunity for community members to help out others in the local area.

The "Best Start" program has brought together a range of agencies to improve the health, development, learning and wellbeing of all children in Latrobe City. It is a wonderful partnership program that is aiming to improve four areas of focus within

Latrobe City.

The four areas of focus are: improving literacy rates, increasing social support for parents, increasing breastfeeding rates and attempting to make it easier for parents to find information and access early childhood services including playgroups, kindergartens, maternal child health and other support services.

To achieve these goals the project needs help from across the Latrobe City community, including parents, and business and community groups, to not only be part of working groups, but who will also arrange activities and discuss important issues that need action.

The "Best Start" program provides a great opportunity for the community to come together and improve outcomes for children, and for parents to have a say in how early childhood services are delivered within Latrobe City.

For further information, contact Robert Richardson on 1300 367 700, or email [robertri@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:robertri@latrobe.vic.gov.au).

## Power of Racing "Spring Carnival"

Latrobe City's annual thorough-

breeds "Power of Racing" campaign is returning again this year bigger and better than ever. Now in its 7th year the annual Cluster of "racedays" celebrates the vibrant activity associated with the vast array of events in our region during spring.

Partnering with the three Racing Clubs in Latrobe City the Cluster aims to help promote major events such as the Moe Cup, to be held on Thursday 15th October, Ladies Day at the Latrobe Valley Racing Club, Traralgon, on Saturday 31st October together with the weekly racing at the Greyhounds.

The other aim of the Cluster is to help promote other community events that are occurring within Latrobe City at the same time, including the State Open Water Swim Titles on 17th October at Hazelwood Pondage, also the Latrobe Valley Yacht Club "night race" to be held on Saturday 7th November at the same venue. In addition, the Tyers Art Festival will commence on 6th November and the inaugural Latrobe Rose and Garden Show is planned to be held from Saturday 21st November at the Morwell Senior Citizens Centre next to the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden.

## Starting a tourism business: What you need to know

An opportunity exists for anyone who has just started a tourism business, or is planning to and would like to know more about who to talk to, what steps to take and how to go about it, to participate in a forthcoming educational workshop.

Tourism Alliance Victoria, Small Business Victoria, Tourism Victoria and OAMPS Insurance Brokers, have combined their expertise and resources to develop this introduction to the tourism industry for new and potential businesses.

The aim is to provide a strategic insight across a range of essential business practices and improve overall business acumen and planning. Workshop notes and a comprehensive resource kit, including industry publications will be provided, as well as relevant industry contacts and networking opportunities for participants to follow-up.

There is one remaining workshop for the year, which will be held in Melbourne on Wednesday, 7th October. For more information, and to register, please visit [www.tourismalliance.com.au](http://www.tourismalliance.com.au)

Thousands of Australians die each year from diseases caused by inhaling asbestos. In a cruel irony, what was once hailed as a 'wonder fibre', it is now the undoing of many who breathe it in.

"Breathe", is a new exhibition at Latrobe Regional Gallery by photographer Christopher Ireland, and it reveals portraits of local women who have lost their husbands to asbestos-related diseases.

Each powerful image tells a story about how these women have looked for answers, struggled to cope and ultimately grieved their loss.

"Breathe" was officially opened at the Latrobe Regional Gallery on Friday 4 September and will continue until Sunday 4 October 2009.



## Northe's Natter

It gave me great pleasure to participate in the ACER Principal for a Day program at Churchill North Primary School recently. Staff and students made me feel

most welcome and gave me a real insight into the day-to-day life in our local schools. The teachers and support staff work incredibly hard to provide students with individual learning experiences that enable each child to achieve their best. Their dedication to their craft – and our children – is both heartening and inspiring. Students' attitudes towards each other, their work and their teachers were impressive, for which they and their parents should be proud. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the classrooms, meeting with the student teachers and on yard duty. I thank principal Debbie Edwards

for her guidance on the day and look forward to returning to see CNPS staff and students next term. Many happy returns to the Yinnar Branch of the CWA. The branch has just celebrated their 70th 'birthday' – a tremendous milestone and a tribute to the generations of community-minded women in the Yinnar district. There was a great turnout at the Yinnar Memorial Hall to mark the occasion and I congratulate all involved, past and present.

Speaking of the past, I wish also to acknowledge the efforts of the Churchill & District News in producing its second oral history book. The book will be launched just prior to this column going to print and I'm sure the community joins me in congratulating the CDN team and wishing them much success with their latest labour of love.

With finals time upon us and the spring racing carnival near, I encourage everyone to plan ahead if they plan on 'having a few'. Don't risk your licence or more importantly, your life. Pick a skipper within your group before heading out, make arrangements with someone who can come and get you or be prepared to catch a cab.

## Kinder Transition Days for Churchill and District Schools

Parents are welcome to bring their children to attend Orientation days at Churchill and District Schools. These days are provided to help the children adjust to school in a graduated manner.

The state - wide Orientation Day is Tuesday 8th of December.

### Churchill Primary School

Wednesday 28 Oct: 9a.m. – 11a.m. Bring a snack

Tuesday 17 Nov: 9a.m. – 11a.m. Bring a snack

Thursday 26 Nov: 9a.m. – 11a.m. Bring a snack

Tuesday 8 Dec: 9a.m. – 11a.m. Bring a snack

### Churchill North Primary School

Friday 23 Oct: 2:15 – 3:15p.m. Bring a snack

Tuesday 10th Nov: 2:15 – 3:15p.m. Bring a snack

Friday 27 Nov: 2:15– 3:15p.m. Bring a snack

Tuesday 8 Dec: 9:00am – 10.30am Bring a snack

### Hazelwood North Primary School

Monday 12 Oct: 9.00 – 11.00

Friday 6th Nov: 10.00 – 1.30 Bring a snack, lunch provided

Tuesday 8 Dec: 9.00 – 11.30

### Lumen Christi Primary School

Tuesday 17 Nov: 1:45 – 3:00 pm. Bring a snack

Friday 27 Nov: 9:00 – 10:00am Bring a snack

Tuesday 8 Dec: 9:00am – 12.30pm. Bring a snack and lunch.

## Family Open Day at Churchill Hub on 3rd October

The doors of the Churchill and District Community Hub will be thrown open to the whole community at a family open day being held on Saturday 3 October 2009 from 10am through to 2pm.

There will be a free sausage sizzle provided and many activities planned for the day including art and craft activities; face painting; storytime sessions at 11am and 1.30pm; educational activities; folk art and patchwork demonstrations; and tea/coffee and scones.

Latrobe City Mayor, Cr Lisa Price, said the family open day provides an opportunity for the community to visit facilities throughout the entire Hub and see how they interrelate.

While numerous services have been operating at the Churchill Hub since February, and the Hub was officially opened early in May by the State Minister for Community Development Peter Batchelor, the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Maxine Morand, and Latrobe City Mayor Cr Lisa Price; this will be the first opportunity the general public have had to view the entire complex.

"The Churchill and District Community Hub provides a single point of access to a number of services such as maternal and child health centre, council service centre, library, Churchill Preschool, Pooh Corner Child Care Centre, Churchill Neighbourhood Centre and other facilities for the community including a parenting room, community kitchen and meeting rooms for the town and district's residents," Cr Price said.

"Since the Churchill and District Community Hub became operational there have been steady increases in the number of people utilising the facilities. There is a growing realisation that the Hub is easy to access and time is saved by having a variety of services and facilities operate from the one centralised location. It's become the meeting

place for the community.

"Many tenants are also reporting increased interest in the services that are provided from the Hub. An example of this is Council's library where there's been a dramatic increase in new library users and borrowings noted," Cr Price added.

Tenants and services operating at the Churchill and District Community Hub which can be visited on the family open day are:

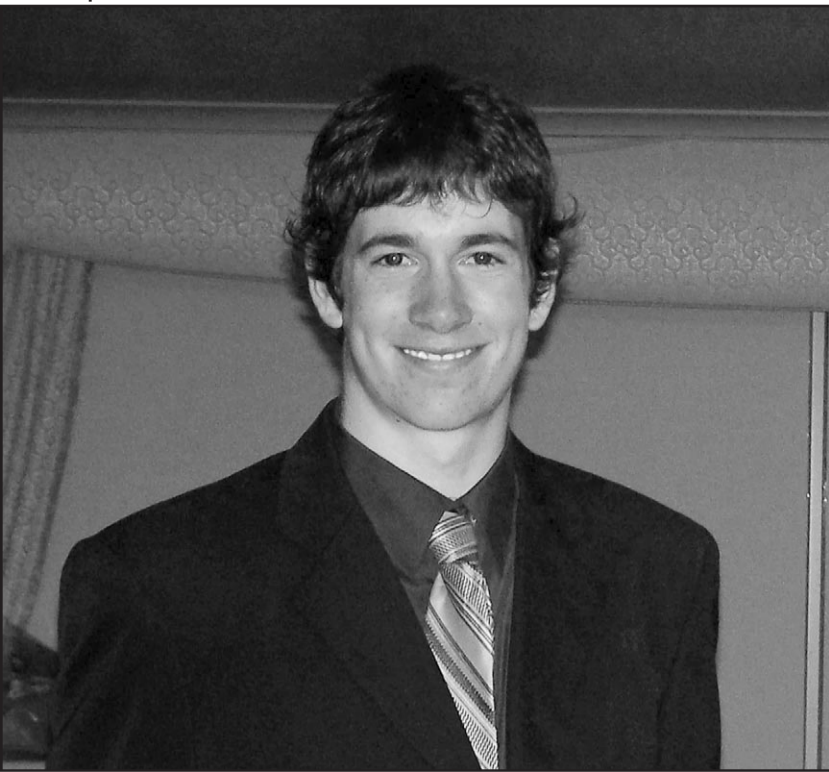
Pooh Corner which operates Monday to Friday from 6.30 am to 6.30 pm and provides long day care and occasional care for children aged between 0-5 years; and was previously located at Monash University.

Neighbourhood House which operates Monday to Friday and provides a range of adult education and life skills. All classes are very popular and filling up quickly. The Neighbourhood House was previously located at the Churchill Leisure Centre.

Maternal Child and Health which provides monitoring and support to children and parents from birth to 5 years of age. The Maternal and Child Health Centre was previously located adjacent to Glendonald Park.

Churchill Central Preschool which operates five days per week with three groups and two teams of Early Childhood professionals. It replaced the 40 year old Watson Park and brings families from the whole of Churchill together in a vibrant and fun, high quality, learning environment in the year before school.

Churchill Library/Service Centre which operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 11am and 6pm and is the first fully integrated service point. This allows greater flexibility and delivers many benefits to customers by offering access to all Council services from one service point. The Churchill Library was previously located at Kurnai College.



## Local student for National Science Forum

Yinnar resident and Kurnai College Year eleven student, Craig Dent, has been selected to attend the prestigious National Youth Science Forum in Canberra next January.

Craig was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Hazelwood and successfully passed the District selection process held in Traralgon in early August. He was one of only eighteen candidates selected from 38 interviewed and over seventy applicants.

The National Youth Science Forum is a twelve day program for students moving into Year 12 who are thinking about a career in science, engineering and technology.

Rotary has been in partnership with the program since 1984 along with the Australian Government, major industry, national research institutes and universi-

ties.

Craig and his family were delighted to learn of his selection and he is looking forward to traveling to Canberra where the program is hosted by Australian National University. The NYSF gives participants the opportunity to visit research facilities meet researchers and meet with representatives of major industries where careers in science are available.

President of Hazelwood Rotary, Leo Billington said that his club is delighted to be sponsoring a young man of the quality of Craig Dent. "We have been impressed by his presentation to the Club and his success at District level and we are sure that he will gain a great deal from his experience at the Forum," Mr Billington said.

## School Holiday Fun at Latrobe City Libraries

There's no need for the children to be bored these holidays, with the fun-filled program at Latrobe City's library service offering entertainment for all.

Latrobe City's children's services library officer, Noeline Grayden, said that during the two weeks there would be puppetry, stories with a twist and musical fun to grab the attention.

"In week one, the libraries in Traralgon, Morwell and Moe will be hosting the puppet play 'The Wizard's Tale'. This modern day fairytale, hosted by Wacky the Wizard, has a large cast, including a fairy, a horse called Nellie, and a naughty little boy called Jason who gets turned into a spider by a witch. Grandad arrives to save the day, but he too has a spell cast upon him, and turns into a chair.

"Want to find out what happens? Then book your spot," Ms Grayden said.

'The Wizard's Tale' by Don't Move Puppet Theatre will be at Traralgon Library from 10.30am until 11.15 am; Morwell Library from 1.15 pm until 2 pm, and Moe Library from 3.30 pm until 4.15pm on Tuesday 22 September.

"For those in Churchill, Ralph Baker will present 'The Three Little Pigs with a Twist'. This puppet show is a traditional story with a surprise ending," Ms Grayden explained.

'The Three Little Pigs with a Twist'

will be held at Churchill Library at the Hub in Phillip Parade at 11.30am on Wednesday 23 September.

"In week two, children will be entertained by Cha Cha Sam in a 50 minute interactive show. If you're looking for fun and funky music for big-spirited kids and their grownups, then don't miss this.

"Made with love and laughter, Cha Cha Sam concerts have fabulous songs, silly dancing, ukulele riffs, and great backbeats.

Kids and their grownups can let loose, and enjoy being themselves singing, dancing and having fun, but get your tickets fast," Ms Grayden said.

Cha Cha Sam will perform at Traralgon Library at 11am and at Morwell Library at 2.30pm on Thursday 1 October, and at Moe Library at 10.30am on Friday 2 October.

Cha Cha Sam CDs and musical instruments will be on sale at the concert. Credit card facilities are available.

All shows require an upfront payment of \$5 per child. Bookings are essential. Contact your local library for tickets and further information: Churchill Library 5132 3900; Moe Library 5135 8350; Morwell Library 5128 5436; Traralgon Library 5176 3630.

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## Call for nominations for Latrobe City Australia Day Awards

Nominations are invited from all Latrobe citizens for the Latrobe City Australia Day Awards. Awards are presented annually to local citizens and/or groups who have made outstanding contributions to the community.

The Awards will be presented at a ceremony to be held at Kernot Hall, Morwell on Tuesday 26 January 2010.

Latrobe City mayor, Cr Lisa Price, said that perhaps this year would particularly bring to mind, the courage and voluntary work of many bushfire survivors and recovery workers, in addition to numerous other community-minded people.

"Parts of our municipality have endured a devastating event, with the Black Saturday bushfires. Many residents have been severely affected, suffering the loss of loved ones, friends, stock, property and personal possessions. =

Yet, events like this can also bring out the best of the human spirit and there are countless people out there who have plugged away behind the scenes, helping with the ongoing recovery operation.

"If you know somebody who fits this category, then nominate them. Equally, if you know somebody who has provided a significant contribution to the community under another banner, they are just as deserving of a nomination.

"We are calling on our community to nominate someone who in their opinion has worked tirelessly for the community or who has excelled in a particular field such as the arts, music, sport or business," Cr Price explained.

"Other categories for Australia Day awards include Young Citizen of the Year. Nominees must be under the age of 25 on Tuesday 26 January 2010 and they must live in, work in or attend an educational institution within the municipality.

"Community Event of the Year recognises a person or group which has staged a noteworthy community event within the municipality during the past year and the Community Service of the Year is presented to a resident or community group which has demonstrated that they have performed outstanding community service to the local community,

either during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years," Cr Price said.

"These awards deliver an opportunity to celebrate the often unacknowledged work of many citizens and not-for-profit organisations. Even being nominated can provide a huge boost for those who have been recognised.

There are many unsung heroes out there and nominating them for an award allows the wider community to embrace their good work," Cr Price concluded.

If you would like to nominate an outstanding citizen, community group/individual or event, nomination forms can be downloaded from the Latrobe City website on [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/australiaday](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/australiaday) or from one of Latrobe City's service centres, in Moe, Morwell and Traralgon.

Further information can be obtained from Latrobe City, telephone 1300 367 700.

Nominations will be received until 5pm on Friday 30 October 2009.

## Churchill Toy Library Where to Find us

Churchill Toy Library is located at the old Watson Park Kindergarten site in Heesom Crescent, Churchill.

Come along and have a browse and see if you would like to join

Following are the dates when the Toy Library will be

open for term 4.

October 10, October 24, November 7, November 21 and December 5.

It is open between 10am-12pm.

## Church News

## Church Times

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

**Co-operating Churches of Churchill**  
Rev. Dr. Bob Brown  
Williams Avenue,  
Churchill.  
Tel: 5122 1480  
Glenda and Ian  
Combridge  
Tel: 5166 1819  
Sunday Service: 9.30am.



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



## Chaplains Contemplations

Spring is certainly in the air – the wattles have blossomed, the days are longer and the magpies are having a field day with unsuspecting passers-by. Our second semester is in full swing and students and staff are relentlessly pursuing their tasks. A couple of weeks ago, we celebrated a six month anniversary memorial of the February bushfires and it was a sobering thought to reflect back on what the whole community experienced. There is an ominous tone to the current campaign to warn people of the possible dangers of a new fire season this summer and it's interesting to see that it does have an effect on people's outlook. I can't help but think that too much negativity can create a climate of fear but I'm also aware that we need to learn from the recent experience and to calmly but firmly put into place good preparations for what might lie ahead. I trust that the experience of the past is a salutary warning but I also hope that we face the future with a realistic optimism and remember that the most important asset in our community is its people. Let us care for them with gentleness and hope.

Recently, on an also sobering note, there has been a spate of violent assaults and menacing threats against both local residents and students from the University from a group of immature adolescents in the local township. It is a genuine shame that a community such as ours needs to confront this particularly cowardly and unacceptable behaviour and to really question what motivates such behaviour. It is sometimes very easy to simply point the finger of blame at parents or schools or the police and bemoan the fact that they are responsible. While it can't be denied that parents, schools and the police do have a real responsibility to address these matters, it is also true that the community as a whole also has a responsibility.

There have been some productive discussions held between a number of interested parties and it is important that those discussions continue. But I would ask: What is the

community as a whole doing about it? Do we have in place appropriate mechanisms to address these issues with the culprits? Do we have in place appropriate avenues to help parents address unacceptable behaviour patterns in their children? Do we as a community really care that Churchill and its sister towns around the area are filled with good people who need to be proactive in ensuring that our communities are safe and welcoming?

I don't have the answers myself but I know that what is occurring is wrong and there is no genuine excuse for it. Perhaps it's time for a more widespread and co-operative exchange of wisdom and action between citizens, the City of Latrobe, the police, the educational institutions and qualified personnel to raise the consciousness of the issue and to work to let every member of the community realise that Churchill is a good place to be and that everyone has the right to feel safe and secure. It doesn't matter whether you are aged, single, a student from overseas, a parent struggling to bring up children on one's own, a retired couple, an indigenous member of the community or a young person – YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO FEEL AND BE SAFE.

On a different note, this month of September is when Muslims throughout the world celebrate the sacred month of Ramadan. It is a time of strict fasting from food and drink between the hours of sunrise and sunset and is an important practice within the Islamic faith. Part of the reason for the practice is the need for self-discipline and to develop a deeper sense of gratitude to God for all that we receive. Perhaps all of us can learn from our Islamic brothers and sisters!

May this wonderful season of new life put a new spring in your step and as you watch the forests regenerate, may you be filled with wonder at the miracle of nature which heals its own wounds and brings forth newness.

Fr Hugh Brown

## Church Snippets

The Combridge team led the all-age worship at the beginning of the month. Ian built a power station and pylons with three wires coming from the power station to the pylons. The power station represented God, The pylons the cross on which Jesus died and the three wires the Father Son, and Holy Spirit. The theme was that Jesus is the Bread of Life, and we receive power from God. The kids made damper bread in muffin trays. The muffins were yummy with butter and jam!

The following week Jill Tabart was the speaker at the Winifred Kiek service. Jill in her talk, told us about what a special person Winifred was. The Winifred Kiek scholarship goes to women who are doing something special for people in their country.

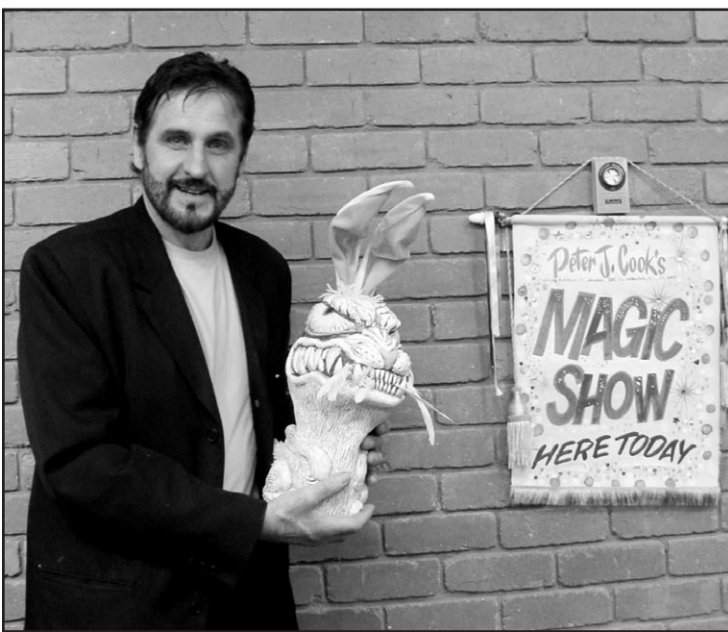
The Coffee Connections met on Thursday 20th. About 25 people attended and shared their holiday experiences. It was a most enjoyable time.

Our church decided that we wanted to do something for the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund and its work for those affected by the bushfires. So we held a Magic and Munchies evening with local magician Peter Cook as the star attraction. Peter put on a marvellous show of wonderful magic for about an hour and a half, to the delight of the 107 in the audience. A pleasing amount was raised which will be made up to \$500 to be donated.

A big thank you goes to all who attended

and supported this fundraiser. The Community Life Panel who ran the event provided a delicious supper which did a magical vanishing act when the kids and adults began to eat. Special thanks go to Peter for his wonderful donation of time and talent to make this night very memorable.

The Latrobe and Francis Orchestras played a delightful selection of music for those who attended the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon at the church on the 23rd August. Afternoon tea was scones and jam and cream. They were much appreciated by the orchestra members and the audience.



## Saturday Breakfast in China

The August Saturday Breakfast was held on the 29th with 23 people attending the presentation by Keith and Heather Enders which covered their *Dreams of Nature* tour of China. The tour, run by Wendy Wu Tours, left Melbourne on the 23 May 2009 and finished on the 28 May.

The tour began in Shanghai after a flight with Singapore Airlines via Singapore and a change of planes. The very friendly group was made up of 12 Australians and 6 from England with most having visited China before. Photographs, short videos and mementos of the trip complemented the presentation.

Shanghai is China's largest city with a population of 18 million and more skyscrapers than New York and currently has the fourth tallest building in the world at 420.7 m (1,380 ft). The visit included going up 88 floors in an adjacent building to get a view across the sprawling city. A trip was made on the maglev train which runs to the airport from the city at a maximum speed of 431 km/hr.

Close to Shanghai is a village known as the Water Village with canals and very narrow streets and ancient buildings and bridges.

The first of two train journeys took the group to Mt Huang and a cable car ride and then a strenuous walk to the hotel set amongst oddly shaped peaks and inspiring views. Materials for building the hotel were brought much of the way by manual labour.

The first of six internal flights by three different, excellent airlines landed in Changsha the capital of Hunan Province. A bus trip then ended in Zhangjiajie for visits to national parks and World Heritage areas of sub tropical forests, waterfalls and spectacular mountains and Lake Baofeng, which was reached by cable car.

After a flight to Guiyang and then a second train trip through mountains and about 120 tunnels the group arrived at Zhengyuan a small town with no other tourists in sight. The stay here included a climb to see a 2,000 year old wall, a cruise on the very picturesque Wuyang River, a visit to a 300 year old family house and a Taoist temple.

A look at China's largest waterfall, Huangguoshu was interesting as we were able to walk behind the water as it flowed down. Guillin was the next stop and from there a cruise on the Li River to Yangshuo and a tour of the very colourful Reed Flute Caves the following day. The return to Guillin included a night river cruise to see cormorant fishing and a look at the

Waterfall Hotel which has water running over its front wall each evening for 10 minutes.

After a flight to Chengdu the tour then flew on to the Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou) landing at China's highest airport at 3,500 m. The visit included a climb in a national park where we needed the use of small pressurised containers of oxygen to cope with the altitude. This area is close to Tibet and there are Tibetan villages and a very pretty valley with lakes, waterfalls and a river with water powered Buddhist prayer wheels in it.

Our final destination was Chengdu, which included a visit to Dujiangyan to see the world's oldest irrigation system built 2,000 years ago by diverting the river there. The city also had buildings damaged by the earthquake last year and people were still being housed in temporary accommodation.

A visit to China would not be complete without a visit to a panda park, which we did on a very quite Monday morning. Attendance at various performances were possible at a number of places and in Chengdu we attended a vaudeville type evening which included spectacular juggling, humorous acts and an amazing face mask changing performance.

A number of museums were visited and they were excellent, with no expense spared to make them first class institutions. All the exhibits were very well displayed and included descriptions in English.

The Chinese people we found to be very friendly and appreciative of us if we used our limited local language skills. The main meals consisted of 9 to 14 different dishes, which meant considerable amounts of food not eaten. Although we found the beds to be hard by our standards, the hotels were clean and the service very good. Keeping in touch with family was easy as mobile phone reception was available wherever we went. Bottles of water had to be bought, as tap water was undrinkable.

The flight home left from Chengdu, via Singapore to Melbourne.

The next Saturday Breakfast will be on the 26th September and Mark Gibson the Bushfire Community Liaison Officer from Relationships Australia will be the guest speaker. People interested in attending should contact Keith Enders on 5122 1148 or at kbenders@net-tech.com.au by Thursday 24 September.



## Gippsland Medical School Spotlight on Amélie Ivkovic

Amélie was born in Moe and lived in Trafalgar until she was five years old. Then the family moved to Traralgon where she completed secondary school, before moving to Melbourne. There she studied for a university degree at Monash Clayton doing a Bachelor of Science with majors in Physiology and Human Anatomy. This was followed by an Honours Degree in Renal Physiology. Next came a PhD in the Physiology Department at Clayton campus. One and a half years into this PhD, Amélie took a year's sabbatical leave. A decision was made to move back to Gippsland where she joined the Gippsland Medical School (GMS) as a Project Officer. She also transferred her PhD to the medical school.

Studying has been a major part of Amélie's life. She has a love of learning and thrives on new information and professionally developing herself.

Her role as Project Officer at GMS began in 2007 before the school was opened. She was able to be a part of the design and implementation process and feels very privileged to have done so. She was one of the first team members to be appointed. Amélie explained that each team member was handpicked which has resulted in a fantastic team who are dedicated to, and enthusiastic about their work.

Her Project Officer's role involves managing various research projects for which they receive funding, as well as the design, implementation and evaluation of each project. Because of previous successes of research projects, obtaining grants has become easier because of the good reputation of the GMS. Clayton has been especially supportive.

One of the projects Amélie has recently worked on has been an eighteen month long faculty-wide project spanning five campuses across Monash (including Churchill, Clayton, Peninsula, Caulfield and Malaysia). It involved cataloguing of all of the Learning and Teaching Resources located within the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Services, Monash University. To do this, Amélie surveyed all 41 of the departments, schools, centres and institutes within the faculty to find out what Teaching and Learning Resources they had available, these resources were then collated and put into an electronic faculty database. Amélie explained that the reason behind this project was the obvious need for the rationalisation and cataloguing of resources within the faculty, which ultimately saves funding for the future and ensures a sharing of available resources, promoting multi-professional collaboration. The first stage of the project was completed by December 2008. The research found was presented at a worldwide Asia-Pacific Medical Education Conference in Singapore, which was received with great interest by the delegates.

Phase two of this project is now underway, and involves the enormous task of putting the identified resources into a searchable electronic database.

Being a Problem Based Learning (PBL) Tutor for

Year A Medical students is another of Amélie's roles. Each week the students undertake a PBL. They are given a scenario based on a particular medical condition, for example, Cystic Fibrosis in a five-year old girl. The students read through the scenario, then together come up with learning objectives surrounding the topic for the week. For Cystic Fibrosis the learning objectives may include describing the anatomy of the lung, describing the physiology of the lung, looking at the signs and symptoms of Cystic Fibrosis, the treatment and management methods etc. The students then divide these areas up among themselves and individually research an objective, before coming back together the following week to collaboratively share the information they have gained, making it quite a team-orientated approach to learning. As a PBL tutor, Amélie facilitates discussion and guides the students to ensure they are meeting the required learning objectives for each PBL. Amélie enjoys the role of a PBL tutor, and has welcomed the experience of working with such an enthusiastic and focused group of Medical Students.

For her PhD work, Amélie is supervised by Associate Professor Debra Nestel. As a supervisor, Amélie has found Debra to be an invaluable source of support, who has provided an outstanding level of mentorship. "Debra puts her 'heart and soul' into her research, as well as into her support of her students, which is the reason she has been so successful," said Amélie.

Amélie's topic of study is "looking at faculty departments in new, rurally-based medical schools, such as Gippsland Medical School". She has completed her first year of the degree, which involved the successful completion of her Confirmation of Candidature. This is a formal process to ensure you are able to continue with your studies, that your project is feasible and you have appropriate support to continue your higher degree of research. This process involves the writing of a report, and a presentation, with the information written and presented scrutinized by a panel of academics. "Having passed this milestone was a great relief," admits Amélie.

The purpose of Amélie's doctoral studies are to explore the faculty development requirements of staff at GMS, in its context as a new rurally-based medical school. The project will aim to identify factors that facilitate and/or hinder faculty development and their influence on organisational culture.

To achieve this various research techniques are used including semi-structured interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, and document analysis. Ultimately, this research will identify best practices to ensure successful design and implementation of faculty development, resulting in the support of high calibre staff, whose professional needs, expectations and desires are met. This in turn will result in exemplary medical education, producing high calibre, well trained medical graduates who are recognised and acknowledged world-wide.



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To contact Cr. Vermeulen for matters concerning Gunyah Ward

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or Email:

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Friday 25th 70s 80s Disco  
Saturday 26th ESQUIRES  
Friday 28th Wear something PINK - prizes to be won on the night.

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Sat Nov 27th: I.C. rock Tribute to the Big 'O'

Fri Nov 27th: 70's 80's Disco: Dress up in 70s & 80s Clothing

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## Yinnar CWA Celebrates 70 Years Of Service

By RUTH PLACE

In the Yinnar Hall on Wednesday afternoon, about 100 ladies and some gentlemen helped to celebrate Yinnar CWA's 70th birthday.

On arrival, each person received a paper butterfly with a lucky number on the back. These numbers were later significant when lucky numbers were drawn and gifts distributed.

It was a grand occasion, which had seen much preparation put in by the 12 members.

At the head table were seated the State, (Mrs. Christie), Group, (Mrs. Bjorksten) and Branch (Helen Heesom), Presidents, Beryl Soutar,

Secretary, Russell Northe M.P. Peter Hall M.P. Councillor Darrell White and his wife Dianne, and Ruth Place.

Proceedings began with the singing of the National Anthem, by a young Piper Bennett-Swindley from Yinnar P.S. This was followed by Iris Farley reciting the CWA Collect. It was beautifully read and all the ladies present joined in. It was a moving experience to hear the ladies recite the Collect, which is quite long, off by heart, with warmth and sincerity.

The Collect.

“Keep us, Lord, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word and deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face, without self-pity, and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment, and always generous.

Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene, gentle.

Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one.

And may we strive to touch and know the great woman's heart common to us all; and O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.”

The Branch President, Helen Heesom, welcomed everyone including past members, and



**Cr. Darrell White, Beryl Soutar, Secretary, Helen Heesom, Branch President, Mrs. Christie, State President, Mrs. Bjorksten Group President and M.P. Russell Northe**

thanked them for coming to help celebrate the 70th birthday. Each of the other guests on the head table also spoke and few words of thanks and encouragement to the branch for the splendid work done in so many ways over the last 70 years. CWA is an integral and significant organization in the community, always ready to help and support the community in any way necessary. Each speaker was thanked and presented with a gift, card and floral spray, by Beryl Soutar.

Some entertainment followed with two Piper and Jolie Firman from Yinnar P.S., Steven Perry on guitar, and some of the members doing a skit and some singing. Steven and the 2 young girls from the school, all had associations with CWA through relatives who were members.

Win Morrison read out some excerpts from the early minute books which were fascinating and showed the early activities of the branch.

Ruth Place presented to Helen Heesom, a copy of the history of the Yinnar CWA which she had compiled by reading through the minute books and talking with some of the present members.

The Cake was cut and portions in delightful card containers were distributed as people left

A delicious afternoon tea prepared by the Yinnar CWA and served by the Mirboo CWA branch, was served as people caught up, chatted and looked at the displays of old photos and memorabilia around the hall.



**President Helen Heesom (right) and Secretary Beryl Soutar holding the 70th Birthday cake.**



# Looking Back...Volume 2 Launched



**Eric Rowley delights the audience with memories of the early days of the district**

The Churchill & District News launched Volume 2 of their 'Looking Back...Through the eyes of local residents' history book series on 10th September at Monash University's Department of Business and Economics.

Long time residents, Dot and Eric Rowley unveiled the book after Eric had shared some of his memories of the area. Eric arrived in the district in 1928, aged 14.

"Glendonald Road was a horse and buggy track going through the trees," he recalled. "Jeeralang West Road was a sand track, trees arched over it. It was magnificent. Tuesday was market day in Morwell and everyone went in. I used to walk into Morwell to play football."

Guests at the launch included Russell Northe M.P, Professor Erik Eklund, Head of School, School of Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences (HUMCASS), Monash University, Cr Darrell White, Cr Ed Vermeulen, Colin Brick, International Power Hazelwood and Ken Tabart, Co-Operating Churches in Churchill.

The book, according to Russell Northe is a "fantastic encapsulation of the people of Churchill, all have a story

to tell and it shows the diversity of one and all of us."

Erik Eklund spoke of the important role of Monash University in the history of Churchill, how books such as these give newcomers to the town a sense of the historical context. "History," he said, "helps us understand other kinds of people and places."

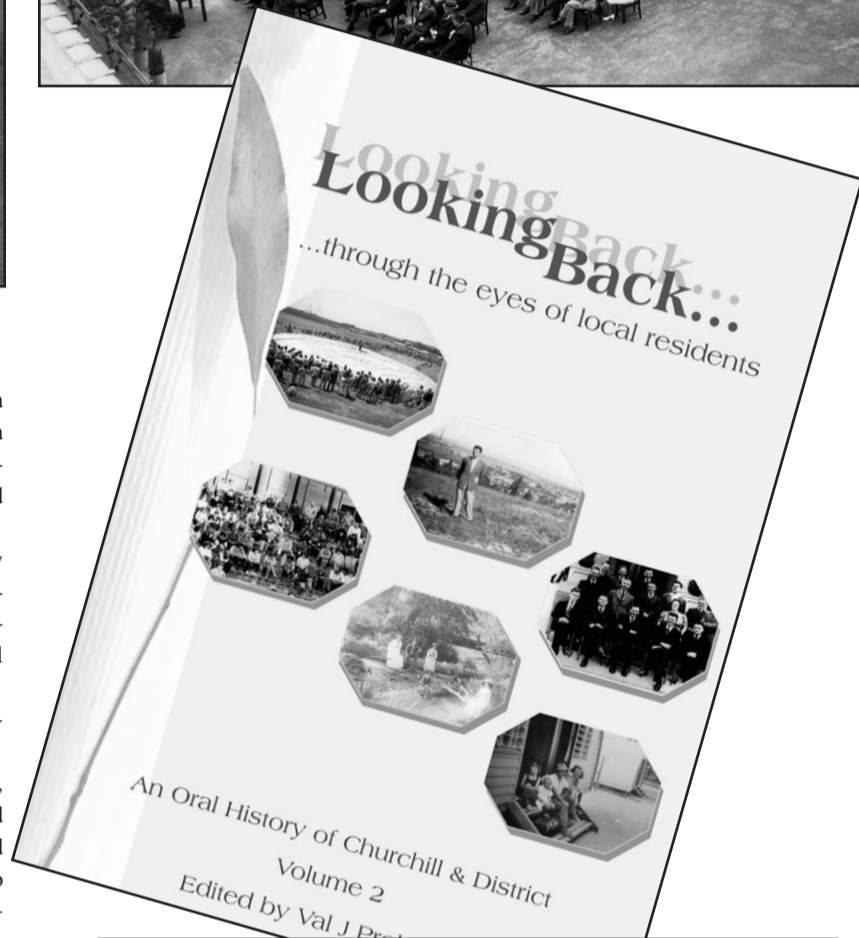
Darrell White commented on the interesting journey of the Churchill & District News and its strong partnership with Monash. The paper has "a unique opportunity to capture the history of the evolution of Churchill while we are still around," he said.

According to Ken Tabart the book is a "great cultural collection to pass onto future generations".

There are many fascinating stories in the book, including Eric and Dot Rowley's story, Neil Terrill and Brian Stark's story, both of whom have been involved with Monash since its inception. The story of the Exacto Factory, Billys Creek and the Binnishell are also featured. The book captures the diversity of the people who have made Churchill what it is, from those who came as refugees to those who have were born in the district.

The Churchill & District News Team would like to thank all those who have who shared their stories and photographs with us. We would also like to thank our sponsors, Monash University Gippsland, International Power Hazelwood and Latrobe City Council.

The book costs \$15. If you would like a copy please telephone 03 5122 2589, mobile:04110 535 46 or 03 5122 1961 or fill in the order form below. Books can also be purchased from: Gippsland Trades & Labour Council, 8 - 10 Elizabeth Street, Morwell Tel: 03 5133 7684 (Cash or Cheque only).



## Order Form

I would like ..... copies of Looking Back... Volume 2 at \$15 each

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Telephone .....

Address .....

Payment must be sent with order. Please add \$2.50 per copy for postage and handling. Cheques made payable to the Churchill & District News.

Return form to PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842.

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# Girls Stay in to Fight Cancer



The Cancer Council Victoria is urging Latrobe women to have a night in with the girls this October and raise funds for women's cancers as part of Girls Night In.

Now celebrating its 5th year, Girls Night In is a great excuse to get together with the girls while showing your support for local women facing cancer. Simply stay in with your favourite girls and ask them to donate what they'd normally spend on a night out to Cancer Council to join the fight against cancer.

One in three women will be diag-

nosed with cancer before the age of 85, and more than 4,000

Victorian women are diagnosed with breast and gynecological cancers each year.

Cancer Council's Girls Night In initiative raises money specifically for women's cancers including breast, cervical, ovarian, vaginal and uterine cancers. Last year over 35,000 women joined together at more than 2,800 Girls Night In events to raise \$1 million for vital research, information, prevention and support services.

So, whether it's a DVD

marathon, a good old fashioned 'pj' party or more of a pampering/indulgent experience, lock in a date now for your Girls Night In this October.

Who: You, your best girlfriends (family, friends or colleagues)

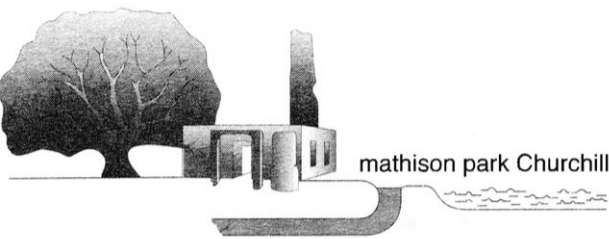
When: Any date in October

How: Invite your girlfriends around for a 'night in' and ask them to donate the equivalent of what they would usually spend on a night out.

Where: Your house!

Register at:

[www.girlsnightin.com.au](http://www.girlsnightin.com.au)  
or 1300 65 65 85.



mathison park Churchill

## Working Bees & Gum Trees



Mathison Park working bee

Another excellent working bee was held in August. Because the Tramway Road section has been cleared of dead trees, it has been a marvellous opportunity to plant some new ones. We hope the rain will have given them a good start.

Our next working bee will be on Saturday 19th September. As the park is spread over a large area, it would be sensible to ring Tom on 51661388, or Ruth 51221961 to find out where the meeting place will be.

### Gum Trees in Mathison Park

By Ken Harris

Gum Trees are perhaps the most Australian of Trees and there are over 500 species of Eucalyptus, most of them being found naturally only in Australia.

The term Gum Tree is loosely used for all Eucalypts, but strictly means only those with smooth bark which is shed each autumn.

In Mathison Park we have an arboretum in the South west corner of the park in which specimens of most of the Eucalypts of the Gippsland Region are growing, ranging from the dwarf Omeo Gum - Eucalyptus neglecta to the largest of all hardwood trees the Mountain Ash - Eucalyptus regnans, capable of growing to 100 metres high.

In addition to this arboretum, quite a number of Eucalyptus species are growing in the park, some of them are

there naturally, relics of what was there before the area was cleared for farming.

Along Eelhole Creek there are a lot of gum trees. We used to think that these were all the Swamp Gum - Eucalyptus ovata, but we have recently learned that they are in fact its close cousin the much rarer Strzelecki Gum - Eucalyptus strzeleckii. Along the edge of Tramway Road, there is a healthy stand of Narrow-leafed Peppermint - Eucalyptus radiata. Pick a leaf from one of these, crush it and smell it. It has a strong smell of peppermint mixed with eucalypt.

Further into the park from the peppermints there is a large planting of gum trees, planted early in the park's history as a wind break. These are Blue Gums - Eucalyptus globulus. Blue Gums do grow naturally in this area, but unfortunately these are not

the local subspecies, but are Tasmanian Blue Gums. They have not done well and a large number of dead and dying trees have recently been removed and we have made a start on planting more appropriate species in their place.

There are a few other Eucalypts growing possibly naturally in the Park. There are a few Manna Gums - Eucalyptus viminalis among the Blue Gums. Trees with smooth almost white bark which often hangs in ribbons from the higher branches. There is one Ironbark Tree - Eucalyptus sideroxylon close to the Mackey's Road Car Park. In the corner where Mackey's Road turns off Tramway Road, there is a small stand which may be the Apple Box - Eucalyptus bridgesiana, but we now think that they could instead be the closely related Apple-top Box - Eucalyptus

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### DID YOU KNOW?



Last month I had the opportunity to visit Dubai on our Jetset Managers Escape.

What an exciting and vibrant city. There are buildings going up everywhere.

We were privileged to travel Business Class with Emirates and the service was superb.

Everyone has to treat themselves once in a lifetime and travel in this comfort. Dubai is a great stopover city if travelling to or from Europe. It has something for everyone, from the ultra modern shopping centres to the step back in time spice markets and gold souks. One of the highlights for me was inspecting rooms at the Burj Al Arab Hotel and all its seven star magnificence . . . ah to stay there one day!

I must say they don't do things on a small scale in Dubai. The Jumierah Beach Hotel and

its magnificent aquarium need to be seen to be believed.

They even house whale sharks there. The Dragon Shopping Mall stretches for 1.2 kilometres. Of course what would a trip to Dubai be without a trip through the Sand Dunes on 4 WD to a dinner in the desert with a belly dancer?

A city of wealth and opulence, remarkable buildings, shopping, river boat cruises, sea, sun and sand dunes, Dubai is a city for everyone!

We'd love to help you get there!

Irene O'Donnell



213 Commercial Road, Morwell. Phone 5134 3388





A Churchill &amp; District History Series

# Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



## Watson Park Kindergarten

### Part 4

#### RUBINA BARRETT

Mrs. Barrett was the C Group (Wednesday and Friday afternoons) Kindergarten Teacher from 1973-1976.

Her assistants were firstly Mrs. Dart then a younger woman, probably Debbie Fox.

The Barrett Family came to Australia in 1959, from England. The family took up residence in Morwell West. Rubina had trained in England to be a Primary School teacher, and had very good qualifications. She began teaching at the Yallourn Kindergarten in 1959 and did so until 1967 when the family moved on to a poultry farm in Boolarra. Rubina's husband Bill was known as the Egg Man, and delivered eggs around Churchill in the early days of the town.

So Rubina did poultry farm duties in the mornings of Wednesdays and Fridays, then changed hats and Bill or her daughter's husband would drive her to Watson Park Kindergarten.

Heather, the Barrett's daughter found this information and rang me with it. Unfortunately, Rubina has passed away, but it is good to have her contribution to Watson Park Kindergarten included.

#### VAL HEMMINGS 1995

Val Hemmings began at Watson Park in 1995. Her Assistant was Jennie Bailey. They began together and left together having enjoyed the experience of working together very much.

Val remembers that the parents were very co-operative. She felt that they presented a real united team effort. The parents were a really good support, being right behind any new initiatives Val tried. Val reports that the committee members were a very dedicated group- right on the ball! There were great working bees reported Val. One included painting a mural on the side wall of the garage. There were some gifted parents who took up her challenge to paint something which was lively, would stimulate the children, and would fit in with the environment.

Val has fond memories of Jan White, the cleaner of many years of faithful service to Watson Park Kindergarten. Val says she liked to have a nice looking, clean, fresh building, and Jan fulfilled that aim extremely well. Jan put in many extra hours to keep the place spotless. Val says Jan was worth her weight in gold.

Val also introduced Men's Nights. They were not Dad's Nights, but Men's Nights. She says she received great support from the men and they ran some wonderful outside activities with them.

Christmas Concerts were a highlight. There would be many DVDs produced around the Christmas Concerts from those years, she believes. The kinder was packed to the rafters. They would act out the Christmas Nativity, followed by some fun concert items. Proudly and enthusiastically, Val states that the children were brilliant, just gems, absolutely wonderful! Such concerts required lots of parental input, which was willingly forthcoming. A Mother's Day Special was also held. The children would do cooking and singing for Mums.

During her time there, Val had some children who had special needs. She found the parents of the other children were very supportive and encouraging of those children's parents.

A big upgrade of the outside playground was also achieved in Val's period, with lots of help from the parents, and some professional help for guidance. There was a lot to do to make the yard safer. Steps were installed on the sloping area, and some trees were removed as they were dangerous. The large gum tree in the yard was a source of concern, but still remains today.

The kinder was regularly flooded. Val says

the water would come flowing down the hill, and then in the front door, and into the office. Sometimes you needed to wear your gum boots in there she quips.

One very special memory for Val, was when the parents, children and Jennie gave her a surprise 50th Birthday lunch at Kindergarten. "It quite overwhelmed me. That was something special!!! I felt very spoilt!" recalls Val.

Val has very many other happy memories of Watson Park kindergarten. It was just that she was offered another job as Pre-School Field Officer that she left. This job would allow her to work with children with disabilities- an area to which she was very much drawn, an area for which she had had a passion for a long time. She says that both she and Jennie were very sad to leave.

Val retired about two years ago, but has since come out of retirement and is now working in a school with children who have needs, particularly in language development.

#### NICOLE BLACKFORD 2000

Nicole had started her kindergarten teaching career at Glendonald Kindergarten as a graduate teacher in 1999. After 2 years there, she was offered full time work at Watson Park. Ros Cooper was Nicole's assistant.

Some of the parents she had known at Glendonald were now bringing a child to Watson Park. She said she received a warm welcome and it was good to have some of that familiarity. The parents were a lovely community says Nicole.

Nicole said she had big shoes to fill following on after Val Hemmings. She wanted to try out some new ideas and different ways of doing things. The parents were very supportive.

The year started with a family picnic, in the kindergarten grounds. It was a bring-your-own tea and rug. The children sang some songs, and it was a marvelous opportunity for families to meet together and get to know each other. This was always well attended. It was also a great opportunity for Nicole to meet the working mums and dads.

Dad's night had a footy theme. The kinder would be decorated with footy colours. Ros would obtain the handball activity from the Footy Club. The children cooked tea which was soup and sausage rolls with plenty of tomato sauce. Then a lot of messy activities like slime, and finger painting were provided. Nicole says the dads were great at getting in and having a go. That was held at night, and the staff were all happy to participate.

Mums were catered for at morning tea time. Again the children would cook for their mums, set the tables and make the place look attractive. The children would sing songs, and then present their gifts which they had made, to their mums.

Lots of excursions were held, and many visitors invited to expand the children's experiences.

One such visit was for a Koori Day. Funding was obtained for a child attending. His uncle had access to Koori people who came and showed the children some dancing, made clap sticks, and engaged the children in Aboriginal art.

The end of year concert was BIG! The children put on the Nativity Christmas story play. Permission was sought from parents to do so. Nicole says the parents, grandparents and significant others were so proud to see their children in the play.

The end of year family picnic was held at the Morwell Traffic School. The children had wonderful fun riding the bikes around the make believe roads, and the Committee provided a BBQ tea for everyone to say thank you for their



support over the year. Nicole says that there were a lot of people putting in a lot of effort to make the kindergarten a great place.

Commenting on the outdoor area of the kindergarten, Nicole says it was a beautiful area. In her time she had the swings moved to a safer position, and some deciduous trees were planted to show the children the difference.

When asked about the big gum tree in the yard, Nicole says she hated it. Not only was it messy with bark and leaves, it was also over the climbing equipment and she was terrified it was going to fall. However, she says, they had the arborist check it each year and got the all clear. On the positive side it did provide lovely shade shelter.

One year they had a mouse plague. There were mice everywhere she bemoans. It got so bad that they had to close the kindergarten for a day and go through everything and throw out all the stuff that had been mice affected. They disposed of a trailer full. Nicole says she and Ros were not fond of mice. If a child saw one during the day, she would have to control herself very well. Ros would ring her husband Bob and he would come and capture it. Many traps were set overnight. After a day or two, they set these on a piece of paper so that all they had to do was pick up the paper and dispose of it and the mouse at the same time.

Bob was a great handyman for the kinder also. If something was broken, Ros would say she would take it home to get Bob to fix it.

Nicole remembers Watson Park with very positive memories. Her husband commented too that she must love it, as she was never unhappy to go to work.

In the time she was at Watson Park she says it was a wonderful feel being in such a small community. Nicole had three children from some families, which made it very special. Also she and Ros worked so well together

Nicole left Watson Park in 2003 when she was expecting her first child, Ella. The year was shared with Angela McKinnon.

In 2005 Nicole returned from maternity leave and shared the year with Maria Mendina.

#### MARIANNE OSBORNE

Marianne has had a long association with Watson Park Kindergarten. Her husband attended Watson Park as a child. Her three children all went to Watson Park. While they were there, Marianne served on the committee as a member. She says that the committee was a wonderful group with which to work, while Val Hemmings was Director and Jenny Bailey was Assistant.

It was during this time that Kathy Leek was in charge of painting the mural on the shed wall. Marianne was one of the helpers in this project.

Eventually Marianne decided to be a pre-school assistant. She spent time at various pre-schools in the Latrobe City Council area. In 2007

Marianne was appointed to Glendonald Pre-School, and was also called upon to help assist at Watson Park for a term. This term turned into a year, dividing her time between the two pre-schools.

With Rhian and Tracey she had a wonderful year working with all the families.

Marianne is now continuing to work with Rhian and Tracey at the Churchill Pre-School in the Hub.

#### RHIAN MCINENERY

Rhian McInenery had Tracey Juhasz as her assistant.

There were two full time groups-54 families in all each year. In those two years Rhian noticed a substantial increase in cultural diversity of people attending with a number of families with non-English speaking backgrounds.

In 2008 there were six families new to Australia. This was very challenging to make sure the children and their families were properly accommodated especially with regard to food requirements and religion, making all feel part of the program.

This cultural diversity also had its wonderful benefits, with the draw card being the learning of interesting things; of the children realizing that there are differences, as well as similarities. Rhian says the children were a lovely positive group, even though there were many with high needs, such as autism, language difficulties and ADHD.

Some children started the year with challenges but improved a lot over the year, as they learnt to work with others and enjoy kindergarten.

Society has changed a lot over recent years. Family orientation has moved to two income families and higher structured recreational times. People seem to have less time to spend on committees and sharing time with their children's activities.

Latrobe City Council is more visible with responsibility, so parents may not see the importance of involvement. However, there has always been sufficient parental help to make excursions possible. Rhian says parents are willing to negotiate their work commitments to be able to help.

Rhian has found that a lot of children have returned to Churchill to settle down, have their children, and be near their parents, who they hope will assist in raising their own children. There were several grandparents who brought their grandchildren to kinder in 2008.

At the first family get together for the year, Rhian says only eight families attended. At the end of the year thirty families came. The year helped them become comfortable with other families in the kindergarten.

The father's nights have always been really well supported when possible, as has Mothers Day lunches and grandparents days.



A Churchill &amp; District History Series

# Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



There was a Secretary and Treasurer, but no committee meetings were held. Fundraising was done mostly by a very small number of parents and staff.

There have been few outside events for the kinder since the 30th Anniversary.

Rhian is sad to have to be the person to conclude kindergarten teaching at Watson Park. She says it is a marvellous facility (though now requiring a great deal of fixing up), with lots of room to move and run around, and lots of equipment in the grounds to engage the children.

"Watson Park has a wonderful history in which families have shared over the last forty years", says Rhian.

Rhian will be one of the kindergarten teachers of the three groups of kindergarten kids proposed for the Hub.

## THE FUTURE OF THE BUILDING

Watson Park Pre-School building remained closed and silent for several

months since closing in December 2008. It is now home- a lovely roomy home- for the Churchill Toy Library which opened for business on 2 May 2009.

Watson Park is again an active and vital part of the community who originally called for its erection and who have faithfully, over its 40 years, helped to maintain and support it in its purpose.

*If you have been reading the Watson Park Kindergarten History and you know of someone who has also unintentionally ben missed, please ring Ruth on 51221961 and let her know.*

*Pictured left: Watson Park 1982*



## Lifeline Churchill Turns 21

Part 2

### Barbara Hadley.

Barb's parents Nola and Eric Gibson were involved with the shop from the beginning.

Eric was Treasurer for many years. So Barb joined in. A lot of people from the Co-Operating Churches also volunteered there. The shop was located upstairs above the State Bank, which was handy for banking the money.

There were morning and afternoon shifts or full day shifts. Barb remembers that each item had a price tag, which had to be collected and the price recorded in a book. This was added up at the end of each shift and again at the end of the day. The hope was that it tallied. There was a sigh of relief when it did. However it was easy to forget something. Fortunately you didn't get a wrap over the knuckles if it didn't.

Lots of people came into the shop from a wide area.

A favourite incident recalled was about a mauve Christmas tree. Barb's family had it to match some mauve carpet in their house. It went to the op shop, was just put up when someone came in to buy it. So she had to take it all down again.

Through the shop, Barb met many people. She felt useful as she was helping them. For the customer it was good, as they could buy clean, cheap clothing.

During the school holidays the shop would shut as many of the volunteers had school chil-

dren. The shop opened until 4pm so people had a chance to get to the shop with their children after school.

The bonus for Barb was that she was supporting a great organization in Lifeline.

### Helen Heesom

Helen says the shop had been up and running for a short while when she came to help.

Additional names she recalls include Irene Schultz and Annette Deppeler.

Nancy Sharman didn't like to work in the shop but was happy to cut up cotton rags for sale. Her husband would take the rags to sell at the garages. Rosemary Woodwood helped Nancy as did others some called in at short notice when a business sent in a large order for rags. Once a month David did a rags run to sell rags. They had a contract with Energy Brix and Churchill Garage. Annette Deppeler reports that in one year \$4,000 was made for sale of rags. Jackie remembers helping to load Nancy's car so full of rags they couldn't see out of the rear vision mirror, as they went canvassing businesses to sell the rag. All the rags were cut up with scissors. Annette has a 1993 docket stating that it cost Nancy \$5 to have two pairs of scissors sharpened.

Helen recalls that there were many people who came and went including some on community service.

Helen began to volunteer at the shop because

she has a real passion for Lifeline so working in the shop fulfilled her desire to contribute. Working in the shop filled a real niche for her.

Helen spent 7 years helping the organization. Then she continued by going to Nancy's for a cuppa and helping with the rags.

### Liz Lewis.

Liz started with the Lifeline shop when it was upstairs and continued when it moved to the back side of the shopping centre. She has also worked at times in its present location.

Liz sees the Lifeline shop as one of the most valuable shops in Churchill because it is for the community. The shop does not just provide clothing and books but a social event especially for the regular customers. She explained that some people do not get out much and this could be their only outing. It is also good for the staff as it is a happy environment in which to work. The policy is to treat people like they would be if shopping in any other shop, whether they buy or not. It should be a few minutes where they feel comfortable.

The shop is very valuable for the students at Monash who come in to pick up things like kitchen utensils. It may be their first time away from home and an opportunity for a few kind words.

Liz has personally had a lot of pleasure from her time in the shop. She has bought things. But she also says she feels cared for and it is an opportunity to care for others.

One special time she remembers was when a young fellow came in with a limited amount of money with the task of getting nicely kitted out for a special function. The ladies were able to supply a suit shirt and tie shoes and socks. There was pleasure on both sides.

### Vicki Mitchell

Vicki's greatest memory of her time in the op shop was when in 1994, the shop held its second Fashion Parade at the Morwell Football Club rooms in Travers Street.

Vicki was the MC. She dressed very well in the clothes from the shop and introduced the night by saying she was thus dressed, and

that all those attending would also be dressed from the op shop. It was a grand night with bridal wear through the whole range of clothing options.

Annette remembers that one day at a combined shops training day, the nurse who was to have spoken about first aid was unexpectedly taken to hospital. Vicki who was attending as a volunteer to listen and learn, ended up giving a first aid talk.

### Jackie Woodhouse

Jacki was regular volunteer who made many craft articles and clothing for sale in the shop.

### Golden Wattle Awards

Jackie Woodhouse was one of seven people who have been awarded the Golden Wattle award for more than 15 years service to Lifeline, the others being Jackie Mc. Janet L. Janet F, Annette Deppeler, Nancy Sharman and the late Neil Leys.

### Shop Locations.

The shop has been located in five different places.

1. Upstairs in the old West Place Shopping Centre.
2. On the southern side of the West Place Shopping Centre at ground level.
3. Where the Chinese Restaurant is now.
4. In the former Post Office site in West Place Shopping Centre
5. In Hazelwood Village at its present site.

### Shop Co-Ordinators

These have been a combination of volunteers and paid Lifeline staff

1. Julie Berryman 1988
2. Lyndal Bolton was overall co-ordinator for all Lifeline Shops- '89 '90
3. Helen Heesom 1991-1994
4. Jackie McLure 1994-96
5. Gregson Wake
6. Marie Riley
7. Marilyn Norder
8. Annette Deppeler 1998-2001
9. Eva Turra- paid staff- 2001 2002
10. Kelvin Harvey
11. Jack Miller/ Tracey Mason- paid staff
12. Jackie McLure/ Annette Deppeler

There are still a wonderful group of volunteers who work in the shop each week day- about 26. This is a wonderful support base, which is unequalled.





# Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



## Monday's Volunteers.

### Betty

Betty Shore has been hard at it since about 1996-7.

She recounts that she started when the shop was in the old Exacto Factory. It was laugh she says. We were a lot younger then and we were able to throw the bags of goods up the stairs. Jackie and Annette also remember doing this. We were sweating as we did, added Jackie. Then the shop moved downstairs and out the back facing on to the southern car park. The next move took the shop to the Florist's (where the Chinese Restaurant is now), then back down to West Place.

They had to paint the shop in West Place, a daunting task, but Patricia, the Lifeline Director said, "We will get there trust me," and they did. Jackie added to this later and said it was 40 degrees very humid and the skylight added to the heat.

Betty enthusiastically says she has had lots of fun, and has made some great friends- shop people and towns people. She is happy to work there having started after her husband died. It is a way of doing a wee bit for the town you live in she says.

Betty had worked all her life, and working in the shop occupied her time and was her way of giving something back to the community at the same time.

Betty feels that the Lifeline Op Shop is a great community asset for the town, which the people appreciate. They have their regulars and some who come to visit the doctor's pop in while they wait, browse and buy a thing or two, maybe a book to pass the time.

**Robyn** has worked at the shop for one year and loves it.

**Margaret** joined Monday's crew 11 years ago. She decided to give back a bit to the community so she did washing of clothing for approximately nine years. Now Margaret and her friend May work on Monday mornings. They enjoy the company and the work

**Joan** has spent ten years in service for the shop. Betty describes her as a tireless worker for Lifeline.

## Tuesday's Volunteers

### Kerrie

Kerrie loves working in the shop as the girls she works with are great. She has been able to do a food handling and retail course through being sponsored by Lifeline. She has been in the shop for four years. There is a great atmosphere she says. Working for the community is her way of giving back. She has met a lot of people through this involvement.

### Barb.

Barb has worked in the shop for 14-15 years. She originally volunteered when the shop was upstairs in the old Exacto Factory. One day she went in to look for some curtains and Jackie said she was looking for volunteers, so Barb did. She enjoys working there as it is a chance to meet lots of people and she has lots of fun. Every Tuesday she is rostered on and is not allowed to do anything else!

### Joy

Joy has been involved for 18 months to 2 years. She likes the company. It is an outside interest and she likes doing something worthwhile for her community.

After working for 30 years in retail, she didn't have to leave town to use her skills to help out others in a similar field.

Jackie has been involved for 16 years.

Regretfully, she recalls that some of the former volunteers have died. It is sad but the good thing is that they did have the pleasure of their company and their compassion and their enjoy-

ment. It is special to know that family members still feel part of the Lifeline family and maintain ongoing connections with the present volunteers.

Jackie believes the shop offers a fantastic service to the community, and provides a place to meet excellent people- workers and patrons alike. New patrons are very welcome.

### Tina

Tina has been in the shop for three years. She enjoys the company and the great people you meet. It is doing something constructive and saves sitting at home all the time.

## Wednesday's Volunteers

### Kathleen

Kathleen has been in the shop for approximately five years. She met her husband who lives in Churchill and came to live here. It was a great way for her to meet people and get out of the house.

She says a family member has used the services of Lifeline phone counseling and for her this is a way of giving back and saying thanks.

### Emma

Emma has been there for over ten years. She had always done voluntary work with St. Vinnie's and Wattle Club. She knew quite a few of the girls already and was happy to join in. She likes being with people. Working with the girls is like working with a family. She says the girls are her network and she feels confident about confiding in them.

### Joy S.

Joys says it is the best "job" she has ever had- flexi time, days off, no docking of pay. It is the highlight of her week with the Wednesday Crew. Cream cakes and excellent company!!

## Thursday's Volunteers

### Linda T.

Linda works Wednesdays and Thursdays. She recalls that she has seen many changes in the time she has "worked" at the shop. AS in all shops there are fashions, customers and staff. But he one thing that is a constant in the Lifeline shop is the smile the laughter, respect and compassion they have for each other and their customers. Linda sometimes thinks their customers help them as much as they help them.

### Janet.

Janet started in July 1992. She and her family had moved to Churchill from Melbourne. The Lifeline shop was a good way to get to know the locals, and lend a helping hand.

## Friday's Volunteers.

### Annette

Annette started at the Lifeline shop in June 1990 as a volunteer. She spent the first day working with Joy Crane. In 1992, Annette became Secretary and continued thus until 1996. From 1998-2001 Annette took the role of shop Co-Ordinator, and in the last three years Annette and Jackie have shared the Co-ordinator role. Annette pays tribute to all of the shop's volunteers' partners who have been veery supportive and helpful in various situations over the years.

### Karen

After finishing paid employment, Karen decided that she would like to do some volunteering. She knew Jackie well as their boys had grown up together. So she offered to help and was accepted. She loves to price the books and re-stock the book shelves. She also loves the personal contact she has with the customers, some of whom she saw whilst working at the Health Centre. Karen says that volunteering in the shop is enjoyable and gets her out of the house to avoid being isolated. Communicating with people is important. Lifeline for Karen was a lifeline and helped her self-esteem.

### Ernie

Ernie is Karen's husband. Ernie had worked as a volunteer at Latrobe Community Health



Betty and Joan outside the present shop

Services for 18 years, but when Karen became a volunteer at the Lifeline shop, Ernie decided to volunteer his services to Lifeline also. He is 100% for Churchill and our community. He started with maintenance work but now is multi-skilled and quite often spends a couple of hours working at the shop.

Ernie believes being a volunteer helps your self-esteem, confidence and socialisation within the community. It also means you are enhancing the organization financially, as well as having a fulfilling experience which is satisfying and enjoyable. Ernie likes it so much he declares the time flies. He finds that this occupation is worthwhile for both customers and volunteers and that they appreciate what you do for them.

Churchill Lifeline shop is a great place to work with a united team who work together, are welcoming and definitely not boring.

### Merilyn.

Merilyn works as an emergency helper. Others in the shop say she is a wonderful person to have available. She loves the people contact, meeting different people and having the opportunity to talk and have a chat, not necessarily having them buy something. She says it is a terrific shop with a great variety of books etc.

Absent volunteers for this article were Bev, Janet F. and Bernice R.

In the minutes of a meeting in 1998, it is recorded that nothing dirty torn or holey should be put in the shop. This standard is maintained today. They also have a strict rule that all coat hangers must be hung from the left so that they look like a question mark. Clothing tags were originally put on the sleeves but this was felt to be a danger to damaging the garments, so the price tags now go on the labels.

Jackie introduced pricing machines for the shop volunteers, which has made their job a lot

easier.

They recall that when they were unpacking donated goods there were quite often some nasty surprises. All the sorting is now done at the Lifeline Warehouse in Morwell so the ladies no longer have to deal with unpleasant donations.

The warehouse packs up the clothing according to type and size and seals them in a plastic bag. If there is a need for a stock up the ladies just have to fax through their order and the parcels are delivered.

However the Churchill Shop appreciates people supporting the shop with donations of clean, washed and ironed clothing and other good quality items.

Jackie and Annette say they have a wonderful lot of volunteers who are happy and helpful. Some with particular interests e.g. books, are put in charge of that area.

The Churchill Op Shop is well stocked, well set out and very conveniently placed. The need to make money to cover overheads and support the Lifeline Service the volunteers is still a priority.

Annette proudly says that the total raised by the shop over the 21 years exceeds five hundred and thirty thousand dollars.

Jackie and Annette are proud that they and the other volunteers are the public face of Lifeline. They not only sell things they offer a listening ear a warm welcome a smile and a friendly approach.

Op shops are for everyone. If you haven't been into the Lifeline Churchill shop, call in and say hello.

Well done Lifeline! Congratulations on your 21 years of service to Churchill and the surrounding areas.

# JUNIOR FISHING COMPETITION

## Saturday 31st October 2009 Lake Hyland, Churchill

**Registration From: 8am  
Fishing: 9am - 3pm**

Entry Fee: \$2  
Family: \$5  
Entry Includes:  
Sausage Sizzle  
and a drink

**HEAPS OF PRIZES  
TO BE WON**

*Mathison Park has Wheelchair Accessible  
Fishing Platforms*



All Junior Anglers Aged Between  
4 and 16 Welcome

Juniors **MUST** be accompanied by an adult  
Only one fishing rod per competitor



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## Nagle College Biology Students Learn More About DNA

Year 12 biology students from Nagle College, Bairnsdale, recently travelled to Monash University Gippsland to participate in a VCE workshop about DNA Techniques.

Each year the University's School of Applied Science and Engineering conducts workshops to assist Year 12 students from across Gippsland with their VCE studies.

Former Nagle College student, Ms Teagan Guarnaccia is currently an honours student at Monash Gippsland and was able to assist the Nagle pupils with their workshop activities.

Ms Guarnaccia said "I enjoyed demonstrating molecular biology techniques to students from my former school, and to assist their learning at such an essential stage in the year."

Ms Guarnaccia is a

Bachelor of Science (Biotechnology) graduate from Monash Gippsland and intends to progress a career in medical research. "I have had a long term interest in science. In my honours year I am enjoying the challenges of researching part of the HIV-1 virus genome as its function in genetic makeup is unknown" she said.

The workshops are funded through the Gippsland Access and Participation (GAP) project, a federally funded program designed to increase participation of rural and indigenous students in higher education.

GAP project leader, Ms Jenny Mosse, said "the program gives students access to specialised equipment and expert technical support as well as the experience of university life."



Teagan Guarnaccia assists Nagle College biology students

## Teachers Become Students at Monash

Science and maths teachers from across Gippsland were recently treated to a class of their own at Monash University Gippsland.

These teachers attended a Mentor Dinner held at the University. The guest speaker was award winning science teacher Ms Andy Flouris from Rosehill Secondary College.

Ms Flouris emphasised the need for teachers to connect with students including innovative ways of teaching through popular culture and hip hop music. She explained her approach to teaching the complex

process of cell division using the "Mitosis Rap", how a mock court room trial could defend the environment and how building an edible DNA strand can demonstrate the rules of base pairing.

Ms Flouris encouraged teachers to provide students with an authentic learning opportunity supported by best academic practice. In 2006 she was awarded the national Eureka Secondary Science Teacher Award in recognition of the achievements she has made in teaching science in secondary schools.

The dinner was hosted by the

Gippsland Access and Participation Project (GAP) at Monash Gippsland.

Ms Jenny Mosse, GAP Project Leader, said that "the atmosphere on the night was one of enthusiasm and motivation". She was delighted with the connections and discussions that occurred between teachers from the various Gippsland schools

The GAP Project is federally funded and designed to increase participation of rural and indigenous students in higher education by both supporting teachers and connecting with students.

## CHURCHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY FETE



Saturday November 7, 2009

10.00am - 3.00 pm

Churchill Primary School

invites interested people to hold stalls at what is shaping up to be a huge event!

Cost per stall \$20

BYO Table

(set up from 9.00 am)



Contact Gena on

5122 2846

for more information or to book your stall

## Where are they?

One hundred and sixty eight years ago James and Julia Timmins arrived in Melbourne with their four daughters and a son from Liverpool in the 864 ton "Wallace". Another daughter was born six months afterwards. James worked shipping goods to Tasmania then three years later in 1844 they all settled at Port Albert in South Gippsland and most of the children went to school in Alberton and eventually married local residents.

Sadly, about ten years ago, James' broken headstone was found in the Historic Alberton cemetery. The family name appeared to be headed for oblivion because upon marriage the girls changed their surname and so in turn did their female children so accurate family histo-

ry is now not easily found.

We know those Timmins family first Australian marriages were into O'Meara, Martin (2 brothers), Kilmartin, Shiells and Henry families. We need help to find the descendants and would be most grateful for any assistance especially as a memorial is to be dedicated at the Historic Alberton Cemetery on Sunday 1/11/2009 at 10.30 AM- Please contact either Brae or Jenny if you can help as we would be really pleased to have as many Timmins and their connections present as possible.

Brae & Dorothy Timmins: Ph 03 59914499

Jenny & Bill Hayes: Ph 03 56623092  
baylanne@dodo.com.au

## Hazelwood House Happenings



Emily celebrated her birthday during the month of August at the hostel though she was not well and spent the day in bed.



Resident Elaine busy knitting a scarf for some lucky person, Knitting is one of Elaine favourite hobbies

Some our residents enjoying an afternoon of entertainment by George and Steve who visit each month.





# Churchill & District News

## Short Story & Poetry Competition 2009

### Little Pete

By Vicky Daddo



Tina and her father, Arthur, looked at the bag on the desk. It contained three leather-bound diaries filled with Great Aunt Hermione's characteristic swirly writing and an old Kodak instamatic camera complete with box.

"Is that it?" Tina asked the solicitor.

"It seems there was a disturbance and many other items were damaged."

"A disturbance?" Arthur said.

The mousy man twitched. "Yes. Quite inexplicable. A neighbour was checking your Aunt's house daily, all was fine until she checked in on Monday, and it was ransacked. Only these personal effects survived. The police are looking into it."

"We'll have to go up Dad. We've got to organise the ashes and all that."

Arthur gulped. "I suppose."

"Poor Aunt Hermione. Nobody was with her when she died and now all we've got to remember her by is this bag. Mmm, when I open it I can still smell the apple and blackberry pie she used to make," Tina said, back at her father's house.

"If that's your only memory then you've done all right. She was batty, talking to herself and jumping out from darkened corners of the house."

Tina nodded. "I do remember that time we went up on Easter years ago. She crept around the bedrooms at night taking our photos. Do you think this is the same camera?" Tina took the Kodak from the box. She held it up, faded grey-black with a boxy frame and a clunky silver knob to push. "It looks like it's got a face, like a black Cyclops. See, it's even got a mouth where the photos come out. How cute."

"You must have inherited the batty genes from your Great Aunt."

Tina giggled. "So when are we going to the house?"

"I'm not sure I can, love."

"Why not? We've got to see what all this break-in business is about. We can't just let the neighbours deal with it. Besides, it's your house now. You've got to meet with the real estate people and all that. Smile." Tina clicked the camera and wobbled with surprise when it whirred, clunked and slowly produced a sheet of shiny Paper. "Oh. How about that. Do I have to hold it up to the light?" She pulled the photo out and watched as the face and shoulders of a young boy slowly took shape. "How odd. It's a little boy." She half-laughed, half-shuddered as she showed Arthur the picture. "It must be the last photo Auntie took or something and the images has got stuck somehow. Shall I try again?"

"No," Arthur snapped, his face pale. "Put it away. It's giving me the creeps."

The blue Ford scrunched to a halt outside the Californian bungalow named Orchard Cottage. Its once proud red roofline, now cracked and sagging, the white paint on the weatherboards reduced to grubby peelings. The windows stared like blind eyes from the sad-faced frontage and Tina and Arthur sat a while in the car, gazing back.

"I can't believe you talked me into this," Arthur moaned, dragging his overnight bag from the boot. "It's hideous."

The front door lurched open allowing musty swirls of dust to fly free. Tina stepped inside and at once noticed the dry, cold atmosphere.

"The police officer was right when he said

someone had done a real good job on the place," Arthur said, treading carefully around a sideboard that had been pushed on its side. "Some of these things would have been worth quite a bit, given their age."

"The police officer also said they couldn't find a single fingerprint other than Great Aunt Hermione's," Tina said. "But I can't imagine why anyone would want to go on the rampage in a place like this but leave all the valuables behind. I mean look over there, all that crystal and china, smashed. It doesn't make sense."

From the kitchen, they heard the sharp slap of glass hitting tiles. Arthur stiffened. Tina jumped, then checked herself.

"Where are you going?" Arthur whispered.

"To see what that noise was, of course. Are you coming?" She let out a giggle at her father's horrified expression. "It's not likely to be a burglar is it? Our car's parked in the drive. It's probably just a mouse or something."

A glass cake stand had smashed into dozens of twinkling diamonds across the slate floor. Tina found a brush and shovel and swept it up.

"Must have been one of the only things left in one piece," she said. "The cupboards are more or less empty. There's just a pie dish on that shelf over there."

As night drew in, Tina and her father perched on the remains of one of the sofas in the living room. It was threadbare, sagging in the middle and the arms were broken where it had been tipped over during the break-in. Tina flipped through the pages of her Great Aunt's diary, trying to read under the dim light of a camping lantern.

Arthur looked over at his daughter. "Anything of interest, or just the rantings of a mad woman? What was that scratching noise?"

Tina sat still, straining her ears. There was a vague rasping noise floating in the background. "It's probably just a fox. You really are jumpy. And no there's nothing much to report. She writes a lot about a boy, one of the neighbour's kids. Little Pete, she called him. He must be the child in the photo. Name ring any bells?"

Arthur shuddered. "No."

"She caught him nicking apples from the orchard one day and apparently he thought she was going to tell his parents, but she invited him in for apple and blackberry pie. She seems to have made him one very Sunday after that. She's even written the recipe down at the back of this diary. I might have a go, seeing as the apples in the orchard are ready to pick. What do you think? Why are you shaking?"

"You can't."

"Can't what? Dad, you're giving me the heeby-jeebies. Stop it."

"You can't bake the pie. I mean, nobody could make it as nice as Great Aunt Hermione. It would be pointless. Besides, the kitchen's a mess and we'll be out of here tomorrow."

Tina frowned at her father, putting his snappy response down to a belated case of grief. "Fine. But I might grab a bag of apples and some of those blackberries to take home. It would be nice to keep up the traditional family recipes, don't you think? I might go and get the sleeping bags from the car."

Arthur leapt to his feet, rushing to the door. "No, no. I'll go. You stay here, reading and all that."

As Tina settled down a few hours later in one of the guest rooms near the kitchen, she

thought she heard a child's voice, crying. She padded along the passageway but all she could hear for definite was the rhythmical whine of her father's snoring. As hours dragged by, she heard the sound of soft footsteps, a sharp burst of talking, the sliding of drawers and that light crying again. Strangely, she felt comforted by the sounds, but was glad her father slept through, given his earlier outburst.

In the morning, whilst Arthur was walking to the local milk bar to grab the Sunday newspaper, Tina heard a tentative knock at the door. A woman and young girl stood on the step.

"You must be Hermione's niece? I'm Wendy from next door."

"Tina, hello. It must have been quite a shock to have found such a mess. We've tidied up, but it'll have to be thoroughly cleaned before it goes on the market. Did you know my Aunt well?"

"She was a funny old stick, very private. We didn't talk much, but my daughter and her imaginary friend loved to play in the orchards."

Tina nodded and said goodbye, before suddenly remembering the photo.

"Hang on a bit, please." She pulled the image from her handbag and showed the woman. "Do you recognise this boy? I think he might have lived in your house. Hermione called him Little Pete. It seems he might have been her one and only true friend, so I'd love to find him. I suspect he looks a bit different now. This image seemed to be stuck in an old camera, so it's probably thirty years old at least."

Molly looked at the photo. "That's my friend, Boy."

Wendy gasped, two pink spots burning on her cheeks. "I don't think so, Molly. My goodness, I do believe that's my brother. Where did you get this?"

"It is Boy. It is," Molly cried, insistently.

Tina's heart pounded, her mouth dried. "Hermione's old camera. That photo comes out every time I click."

Wendy picked up the steaming black coffee in her shaking hands, staring all the while at the photo of Little Pete on the kitchen table. Her daughter, Molly, was happy to play outside in the near orchard, in sight of the kitchen window. The two women watched her a while as she jabbered away to her unseen playmate.

Wendy picked up the photo of her brother and looked at Tina. "This must have been taken just before he died. He was ten. I remember he got that footy shirt for his birthday. He had a heart defect, but nobody knew. He was a wild boy, always getting into scrapes, from what mum and dad tell me. He was five years older than me, so my memories are limited. Apparently, he loved nothing better than to climb the fence between our place and here, and swing about in the trees," Wendy smiled through her tears at the memory. "I remember going with him a couple of times, but I was a bit scared of your Aunt. I do remember the day before he died, because he came back, cuts all over his hands and a big bruise on the side of his head. He said he fell out a tree after your Aunt saw him. He couldn't run away because he was a bit shaken up and he thought your Aunt was going to lay into him, but instead, she took him inside and served him up a big slice of apple and blackberry pie." Wendy

smiled gently.

Tina shook her head. "I can't believe it. Have you ever thought that the fall may have caused his heart to give out?"

Wendy shrugged. "The doctors said it could have happened at any time."

"Sorry to have dredged this all up, but look at these entries in my Aunt's diaries. She really does seem to have had a soft spot for Pete. She writes about baking a pie every Sunday for him. This diary is for the period 1980 - 1985. I was a young girl then, and I visited quite often. I remember the pie, but I don't remember meeting your brother."

Wendy's face crumpled. "You wouldn't. He died in 1979."

Arthur smelled the sweetness of the apples cooking before he'd even got to the kitchen.

Tina put her hand up to stop his protests. "I know what you said, but you'll never guess who just visited."

Arthur listened patiently as Tina relayed the story Wendy had told. "So she really was batty then. She baked apple pie every week for a dead boy."

"I genuinely think she believed he was there. Reading her diaries, I get the impression that she looked forward to Sundays and the ritual of baking. It's sad to think that when we came to visit and she baked those wonderful pies, that she thought she was baking them for Little Pete. And the business with the camera that time, she must have been trying to prove that he was there."

Arthur cleared his throat, his face grey. "What is it Dad? You know something, don't you?"

"It's probably nothing, but I do remember coming here for a long weekend and you were out playing on the Sunday. When I came in from a walk there was a boy at the table and I thought it was someone you'd made friends with. I said hello, walked out the back to call you in and when I came back into the kitchen he was gone. I wasn't sure what to make of it and the Hermione got all agitated about something or another and I forgot all about the boy. But he looked incredibly like that child in the photo."

"So she didn't make him up. He did still visit. And you saw him. And you know what? I think he's still here and I think Molly, Wendy's daughter sees him too."

"What?"

"She was insistent that the photo was of Boy, her imaginary friend. I also know exactly where we need to scatter the ashes and I think I know what we have to do with the pie."

"Eat it?" Arthur said, scratching his head.

"Not us, no. We have to leave it out for Little Pete."

"You're mad."

"Think about it, Dad. Every week for years, Auntie baked a pie for him. Then she dies and a week or more goes by with no pie for Little Pete. He's angry, confused and he ransacks the house in frustration, but he leaves

the pie dish. It's a sign and all those noises last night make sense. The talking, the drawers going in and out. He's trying to get his pie. This afternoon, we leave him the pie and we go scatter Aunty's ashes over his grave. They can be reunited."

Arthur pulled a face. "You sound like an episode from the Twilight zone."

"I know what it sounds like, Dad, but I've just got the feeling a slice of pie could be just what

the doctor ordered."

Steam curled in the frigid atmosphere of the kitchen, turning and twirling above the thick, sugary crust of one of Aunty's famous pies. Tina cut a wedge out and served it on a plate, leaving it next to the dish on the bench top.

"Now we wait."

"Surely he won't come if we watch," Arthur said.

"We won't watch. We'll go to the graveyard

now."

The graveyard stretched out on one side of the church, and continued behind.

They found Little Pete's grave, a once-white arch, engraved with a simple epitaph: *Peter James MacIntyre, b 18.1.69 d 16.4.79. Forever in our hearts, Little Pete.*

Arthur took out the canister and threw the contents around the headstone, saying an ad-hoc prayer as the wind whipped the ashes around.

Just for a split second, a face formed in the cloud of ash. Just like Great Aunt Hermione.

Back at Orchard Cottage, the slice of pie had disappeared, crumbs and sugar on the plate the only evidence of its existence. Tina turned the camera to her father, pressed the button and waited for the image to appear. Her father's face, half-smile, half-grimace emerged and together they quietly said goodbye to Little Pete.

# The Dark Road of Hunting

By *Ebony Franzmann*

Chris rose and walked out of the courtroom, brushing the tear off his cheek. He could no longer witness the rage that possessed his father's eyes, nor breathe the tension that blanketed the room, muffling every sound. The shadow that once drowned Anthony's heart with sorrow had, over time, calloused his caring soul. With one final glance back into the hostile room, for the last time, Chris stared into the wrathful eyes that had claimed the life of India; the beautiful angel he would never see again. That last look would stay with him forever. He proceeded down the aisle, tightening his long, black coat, wrapping it around his muscular body as he sunk into the soothing warmth. He swung open the door and was met by the icy winter air and the cool breeze that froze his glossy, red-rimmed eyes. Wandering the streets of Melbourne, Chris prayed for some sort of absolution; some explanation to justify this scandal. He searched his mind for an answer, and found himself diving deep into the time when this unbearable pain all began...

The fall of '89 was tinted with a zealous desolation that would change the lives of the Ryan's forever. This tragedy would scar both Anthony and three-year-old Christopher beyond all repair. The sun was beginning to set and it would not be long until Julia arrived home from a busy day at the office. Dinner was on the stove and toys left the house in complete amok, though somehow this radiated a comforting home feeling. In the tender arms of his father, Chris peered out the window and down the long drive, anxiously waiting to see that sweet, welcoming smile on his mother's angelic face. An hour passed; no sign of her. The pasta was growing colder; she failed to present herself. A dozen unanswered phone calls; trepidation now suffocated Anthony. Praying to the crucifix that embellished their pallid kitchen, finally relief filled the humid air as the doorbell rang. Nothing could prepare them for what was about to prevail.

The door creaked open and slowly revealed was a man draped in shades of blue. He stood no higher than six feet tall, his sympathetic stare beginning to express those dreaded words. Anthony's eyes instantly shone with a fearful glisten, and he ordered his innocent son to his bedroom. The officer stepped inside. "Mr. Ryan?"

Anthony gulped, "Y-yes, that's me."

"I'm Senior Constable Benson, but please, call me Jeremy." No reply, just a dubious nod. "If...if you wouldn't mind taking a seat," he softly advised, and gestured towards the tarnished lounge suite to their left.

Doing as instructed, Anthony hesitantly asked, "Umm...Senior Constable Benson, Jeremy, what the hell is going on?"

The officer fixed him a vague smile as he struggled to find the words, knowing too well that whatever he said would still shatter this poor man before him. "Sir, there is no easy way to say this...but your wife, she -"

Anthony rose to his feet. "No way," he

whispered, catching his breath, "not my Julia..." His voice trailed off. Jeremy stood also, towering over the grief-stricken, inconsolable man. He could not control his tears, and so his weary body was soon drowned in a salty-sadness. The empathetic man who held himself responsible for crafting such a calamity soon left, and this saddened father now had the duty of destroying his little boy's life.

By his fifth birthday, things had really changed. To him, it seemed as though his father too had passed on. Anthony struggled to cope with what had happened. He refused to seek advice from anyone; he shut the rest of the world out. Not long after the accident, he turned to the bottle for comfort. As a young child, Chris thought he would one day stop and return to his compassionate, loving self, but disappointment proved once again. The more he drank, the worse things became.

By the age of eight, the concern projected from Chris' teachers was phenomenal. "I had a fall," he would lie, "I walked into the table." Each new day transpired into another challenge; another need to hide the truth from all around him; from all who cared. Bearing the burden of a secret storm, he would continue to endure the harsh reality of his father's heartache.

Continuing to spiral downwards, things intensified yet again on the eve of one summer night. By the year 2000, Anthony still hadn't accepted, let alone moved on, from the tragedy that had reined their lives for the past eleven years. Chris had smelt the comfort on his anguished father day in and day out. He had heard the excruciating release every night. On the rare occasions that his dad was sober, he had stared across the room into his tearful, tired eyes, always unsure whether they were tears of sorrow, or something darker. However, never could Chris have anticipated the unforgivable act that would go down that night. The disgraceful deed Anthony would commit would affect fourteen-year old Christopher in ways like never before.

The clock had just struck midnight, and Chris - like usual - sat up and climbed out of bed. He trekked through the messy house and walked upon the dusty surface of the creaking floorboards. Expecting to find his father passed out on the couch once again with a bottle of Scotch responsible, he flicked the light switch to find an empty room. "Dad? You home yet?" He wearily murmured, too tired to raise his voice. After searching the rest of the house, his inquisitive mind could not rest for his dad was nowhere to be seen. Alarmed and fretful, he pulled up a chair and sat at the kitchen table, awaiting his dad's return home. His palms cradled his face; his mind was flooded with memories. As a young boy, he would sit in that same chair and wait for his mother to return. He began reminiscing; he pondered on whether his dad would actually come home. Over the years, he had adapted to dissatisfaction, it was normal for him. Lost in

thought, he finally heard a car pull up in the drive. The humming of the engine and the tyres scraping on the gravel reminded him of when he was young, when the policeman arrived with the life-changing news. Before his thoughts could continue, their wooden door barged open, and the unkempt man he called his father entered across the threshold. Instead of his hydration in his hand though, there was a knife; a long, sharp, steel knife drenched in a deep-red struggle.

Astounded, his son rose to confront him as he chuckled in victory down the hall. "Dad! What the hell have you done?" Anthony overlooked the desperate plea for an explanation. His booming rage echoing, Chris tried again, demanding an answer. "Dad! Look at me! Look at me! What the hell have you done?"

He fixed his son a discerning glare. "Oi! Get here boy!" Chris immediately obeyed his fuming father, his words firing him back into line. "Now, if you don't want this knife plunged through you then get back to bed! And keep your mouth shut!" Forcefully, he pushed the petrified boy to the ground.

Chris stared up at his out of control dad, and quickly staggered back to his room in tears. He could not believe things had gone so far. Repressing what he deep down knew to be true, he tried to dismiss the thought that his dad's anger really could have escalated into cold-blooded murder.

Tossing and turning in a restless doze, eventually he was woken by the orange glow of the morning sun. He headed to the bathroom to awaken his drowsy body; minutes later, the invigorated boy stepped out of the steamy shower. He dried his dripping body and changed into his faded jeans and an old black shirt. His hands clearing the foggy mirror, his trembling fingers soon crashed to his sides as his jaw dropped open. The reflection of a once attractive girl, maybe a few years older than he was, glared back at Chris, who stood like a statue, frozen with fear. Bruises and abrasions stole her beauty and blood smothered parts of her pale skin. Her long blonde hair was tinted maroon, and it appeared her body had been gashed.

He slammed his fist into the glass, though the broken pieces still mirrored the beaten girl. The perplexity and terror too consuming, Chris disregarded his wounded hand and turned to face the obscurity that captured his attention. Blinking once again, a stunning girl without a dent stood before him. His curiosity more dominant than his horror, he slowly, cautiously stepped toward her. She did not move, and did not speak. He could not touch her. It was as though she didn't even exist.

Months passed by, and stranger things began to unfold. The ambiguous circumstances caused Chris a great deal of confusion, and as time progressed, insanity seemed more and more likely. Many more reflections of scarred and wounded girls continued to haunt him. Face to face they appeared unscathed,

though they all shared a common misery in their eyes. It was a tender yet tenacious look; a beseeching hunger for justice.

Now, seventeen, he could no longer excuse, let alone justify his father's doings. Julia's death permitted sadness, though could not defend nor pardon such a horrifying transformation. He planned to profess the truth when his eighteenth birthday came round. He did not plan for the complication that would arise that night.

Chris had already seen well over a dozen ghosts, but never had he communicated with any. Not till now. As his son grew older, wiser, Anthony's eccentric trips lengthened. He would disappear for weeks on end, never failing to return drunk, filthy and more enraged than before. Chris had several speculations, hopeful theories regarding his dad's secret business, but the truth soon surfaced. He woke in the middle of the night, mesmerised in the chocolate stare of the beautiful girl overlooking him. "My name is India. Help me."

Snapping out of his painful memory, Chris plummeted back to earth, cracking like an egg on the pavement. He now sat on a wooden park bench, the bitter cold freezing him like it did the misty lake. Over the past three years he had fallen deeply in love with India, another unfortunate girl to fall victim to his sadistic father. She was the only thing in his life that truly mattered, the one thing that kept him sane. Though Chris held the key to saving all their lost souls, and that key was the truth; a truth that would change everything once again. Anthony had brutally murdered any girl that somehow resembled Julia's accidental killer; the young woman who smashed into his beloved's car. All along, Chris knew what his father was becoming, but the terror of what would happen if he only dared to speak up restrained him. India kept him company; he found comfort in talking with her. He loved hearing about her optimistic, philosophical views on the world. If he was forbidden to have that, well at least he could somehow grasp what it felt like to truly be free. Though it wasn't fair to hold her against her will; she wanted closure, like the other eighteen sufferers, and Chris was the only one who could provide that. Once done however, India would have no reason to stay. He could remain happy and allow Anthony to claim many more lives or he could do the rightful thing.

It didn't seem fair. Chris was the one who had really just received a life sentence. Twenty-two years jail time was nothing compared to what he had endured, and now had to live with. He had no idea how he would survive alone, but what he knew for sure was that he would exceed beyond all boundaries to never let his grief take him down the dark road of hunting.

# Over the Rainbow

By Olivia Langley

"Who wants to go for a walk?" asked Nanna.

"Me!" called Will and Phil together.

Will and Phil were three year old twins. They loved to go for a walk, especially when they were taken to the park, which is where they were going now. There they could run and jump and skip and hop – whatever they felt like doing.

Nanna didn't feel like running or jumping or skipping or hopping. She felt like sitting and reading her book, so she looked around for a seat. The grass was still wet and twinkly after the rain. As the sun came out, some magpies stood on the bough of a tree and sang a song. Will looked up at the. Then he saw a strange thing in the sky. It was a large arc of beautiful colours all neatly striped and stretching way over and into the distance.

"Wassat?" asked Will. By now Phil was looking up at the sky too.

"That's a rainbow!" said Nanna. "See the colours? Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet; they are always the same."

"Geeee!" said Phil. "Look Will!"

Already Will had run off, and Phil had to hurry to catch up. Nanna returned to her book. After a page she looked up, as the boys were very quiet. At first she couldn't see them, then she heard a far away call. She looked to where the sound came from. It came from near the rainbow! Then she saw them. Will was running up and Phil was following him.

"STOP!" called Nanna as she ran towards the rainbow; but the boys couldn't hear her. Already they were at the top of the arc. The tiny figures turned and waved to her, then they both sat side by side, Will on the orange stripe and Phil on the blue. As Nanna watched they slid down the other side of the rainbow until they were out of sight.

"STOP! STOP!" called Nanna. She ran and ran to where the rainbow started. However, as she came closer the rainbow seemed to move further away.

A policeman heard all the shouting and hurried up to her. He had a sun bronzed face and kind eyes and a square sort of shape that made it hard to hurry, but he tried to hurry, because Nanna sounded so worried.

"What is the matter, lady?"

"It's my grandsons," said Nanna, who was now crying, "They have run away – up the rainbow there!"

The policeman looked at the rainbow and looked at Nanna. He scratched his head and coughed. "I'll help you look," he said.

Meanwhile the boys had landed in some thick green grass at the far side of the rainbow. It was cool within the shade of tall green gum trees and liquidambar trees and their feet crunched on the autumn leaves and daisies in the grass.

"WOW!" called Will, "Catch me Phil!" He started to run, then fell over in the thick grass. Phil fell on top of him. It was then they heard a "Cark...cark...cark!" from the low branch of a nearby tree. They looked up and saw a crow, who was peering down at them.

"Cark, cark! Go back! Go back!" he called.

The boys looked at each other. They had never heard a bird talk before.

"Cark, cark. Go back, before the rainbow fades. Go back! Go back!"

Phil looked at Will and Will looked at Phil. What did the bird mean?

"Silly!" said Phil, "Rainbows don't fade."

"LOOK!" shouted Will. He sounded scared. Already the

rainbow was less strong, and it was rising from the ground! They ran towards it. Will gave a big jump and grabbed onto the green stripe. Phil grabbed hold of his ankles and climbed up over him. He could feel the crow on his back helping him. The boys stood up on the rainbow and climbed and climbed. The crow flew just ahead of them calling encouragement.

"Cark! Cark! Not much further, cark!"

At last the boys reached the top. They sat down side by side, will on the orange stripe and Phil on the green. Together they slid towards the ground on the other side of the rainbow but the rainbow had started to rise there too, so there was a gap of about two meters before they fell – crash – to the ground.

Will rubbed his sore bottom and Phil clutched his right arm but they didn't cry because it was all too exciting! They looked around and found they had landed near the place where they had started.

"Hoorah!" they shouted.

It was then that they saw a square looking man in a blue uniform. He was looking behind bushes and up trees. He turned towards them as he heard their shout.

"Mamma Mia, where did you boys come from?" he asked.

"Up the rainbow there!" said Will, pointing toward the fading arc in the sky.

"Umm, yes," said the policeman. He scratched his head and looked at them like he didn't believe them. "Anyhow, you're here now. Your grandmother's been looking for you. Now you boys stay with me and we'll go and tell her you're safe."

They found their Nanna at the far side of the park looking up and down the road, with a worried look on her face. Was she pleased to see them! She hugged the two of them together, then said a few words about boys who run off and disappear.

"Okay," said the policeman, "now how about a ride home in my police car?"

"Yaaay!" called Phil

"Hoorah!" shouted Will.

They all climbed into the big blue police car and off they went. Mum was at the gate, looking this way and that. She was surprised when the boys and Nanna arrived in a police car.

"Mum!" said Will, "You'll never guess what happened!"



# The Girl Who Saved a Town

By Sandra James

"Now, before we go, class, I want you to say goodbye to Tamara." Miss Adams held out her hand and Tamara joined her at the front of the classroom. "Tamara and her family are moving to the city."

"Goodbye, Tamara!" repeated the class in unison. Except Molly. She sat with her lips clamped firmly shut. Tamara was the second friend to move away that term and Molly didn't want to say goodbye.

Miss Adams asked Molly to stay after class. "I know you're sad, Molly, but Tamara and her family don't have any choice; this drought makes it hard for everyone and Tamar's father needs to find a new job."

"It's not fair, Miss Adams. So many people are going away and everything in our town is shutting down. My dad says tourists used to stop and see the beautiful park and look in the ships but there's nothing to stop for anymore."

"I know Molly but all we can do is hope we get rain soon. Now, hurry and catch up to Tamara. I'm sure she's feeling sad, too."

Molly raced after Tamara. They hugged and promised to write to each other when Tamara settled in the city. Then Molly slowly walked home.

She passed the cafe and waved to Sarah who was sweeping the footpath outside. Sarah's cafe was the only shop that was still open.

She passed the park with its brown, shrivelled grass and flower beds with only weeds. Even the tree branches drooped and looked very sad.

Across the road she saw Mrs Kennedy beside a beautiful rose bush.

"Why is your rose growing so well when everything else is dying in the drought?" she asked Mrs Kennedy.

"That's because I save my washing up water. And I make compost and mulch from my fruit and vegetable scraps. This rose means a lot to me. My husband planted it."

Molly knew Mrs Kennedy's husband had died several years before. She reached out to give the old lady a hug and hurried home.

That night she watched her mother carefully washing dishes in as little water as possible. Her father showed her the diverter that took the washing water out onto the garden. "Every bit helps," he told Molly.

The next morning Molly rose early and got ready for school. She kissed her mother and father goodbye and ran to Mrs Kennedy's house. "Mrs Kennedy, could I please have one of your beautiful roses to take to school?"

"Of course," said Mrs Kennedy, picking up her garden scissors. "Is it for your teacher?"

"Sort of," replied Molly. She took the red rose Mrs Kennedy picked and made her way to school.

Soon all the children were sitting in their seats. "Does anyone have something for show-and-tell?" asked Miss Adams.

Molly waved her hand in the air. She went to the front of the class and held out the rose. "Mrs Kennedy has a beautiful rose bush," she told the class, "and she keeps it growing even though we have a drought by saving all her

grey water and making compost from her fruit and vegetable scraps."

"It's a beautiful flower," said Miss Adams.

"Yes, Miss," continued Molly, "and I think we could help save our park if we used all our grey water and made compost, too. Then the tourists would stop again and no one would have to leave like Tamara."

"It would take a lot of water, Molly," said Miss Adams. "How much do you think we could save?"

"Lots!" said Molly, and she pulled out the list she had carefully written the previous night. "We always tip our paint water down the drain and we use lots of water when we wash our hands. Most of us have a piece of fruit for lunch and we could save all the peels, and put them in a compost bin with our scrap paper and the mess from the bottom of the guinea pig cage."

"Ooooh..." said some of the children. They all loved Rupert the guinea pig but they didn't like cleaning out the cage.

"It sounds like a very good idea, Molly," smiled Miss Adams, "and I could put all the used tea bags from the staff room into the compost, too."

That afternoon after they finished their paintings, all the children tipped the cups of water they used for washing their brushes into a bucket and they walked down to the park and tipped it around one of the trees.

The next morning Molly's father came to school and helped build a compost bin in the corner of the yard. Miss Adams threw in her

tea bag and all the children added their fruit peels.

"Thank you, Molly's Dad," chorused the children. "Will you clean out Rupert's cage too?"

"No!" laughed Molly's father. "I'll save that job for you."

Every day Miss Adams and the children shredded all their used paper and added it to the compost with their fruit peels and tea bags from the staff room. Even cleaning Rupert's cage wasn't so bad when they knew it would help their compost heap.

They carefully saved the water they used to wash their hands and poured it all on the trees and grass in the park. Soon new green shoots appeared and the trees stopped drooping.

"There are a lot more people stopping at my shop now," said Sarah, when she came to the school to bring the tea bags and fruit and vegie scraps from all the extra meals she was making.

One day the mayor visited the school and told the children how proud he was. "And I would like to present a special medal to Molly for coming up with such a wonderful idea and helping to save our town." He hung a shiny medal around her neck and all the children clapped and clapped.

Especially Tamara, because her family had moved back into the town and opened their shop again for all the new customers.

# Kurnai College Churchill

Colleen Swift

Colleen Swift is an Education Support appointee. Nello Carbone, Principal, has appointed Colleen as the Absentee person, employed at Kurnai Churchill.

Colleen's routine starts following the daily marking of the class rolls when she works out who is away.

The goal then is to ring all the families with children absent by 11am with the purpose to ascertain if there is a possibility of getting the

child back to school that day.

Colleen reports that she feels she has developed a rapport with the parents, so follow up is now easier.

The aim is to get the students back to school so they are not missing valuable teaching time and thus missing out on their education.

The school has encouraged parents to get into the habit of ringing the school if their child is to be absent. The school has an Absence Hotline where parents can leave a message. The number is 51323703.

This initiative has meant a lot of phone calls, but the school hopes this will decline as parents adopt the habit of telling the school why their child is absent for the day. Already, Colleen has noticed an improvement. Also she feels parents who are rung and left a message, are reacting positively and are happy to ring the Absence Hotline and leave a message.

This initiative is a follow up from the school's policy of *"It's Not OK To Be Away"*.

The aim is to know all or almost all, of the reasons for absence.

The school is very keen to have all students attend as much as possible to make the most of their educational opportunities.

Colleen will be submitting a report to Nello by the first of each month. There will also be reports to Home Group Teachers, and Team Leaders, so all are informed. This strategy will try to discern patterns of student attendance.

Another positive and helpful aspect of this initiative is that some parents thought their child was at school, when in fact they were absent.

Nello and Colleen report that the majority of parents are very supportive and this has led to improvement in attendance.

Colleen's future roles will include focussing on having school uniforms seen as an important part of the school's image.

## Student Awards

Teachers have been asked to nominate students who are achieving above and beyond in learning in class or exhibiting exemplary behaviour in the yard, or reflecting on the school ethos and carrying it out.

The teachers have responded well and quite a large number of students have been coming to the office to receive a canteen voucher reward.

"It is encouraging to see the number of kids doing what is expected," said Nello Carbone.



## Secondary School students now AASC coaches

The Australian Sports Commission's Active After-school Communities (AASC) program operates in over 80 primary schools across Gippsland, and students from the Churchill Education Precinct have recently completed training with the view to becoming coaches in some of

the local school.

The AASC program for primary school aged children is an Australian Government initiative and part of it includes sourcing coaches within the region to deliver the activity sessions.

The Kurnai students who completed the required training as part of their sport and recreation curriculum, have been given the resources, skills and knowledge to run physical activity sessions based on the AASC playing for life philosophy.

The fundamental philosophy of

playing for life means the children have fun and are safe at all times.

The program is fully inclusive for children and with high levels of participation.

On completion of the CCTP training, the students visited Lumen Christi Primary School and delivered P4L sessions with prep to grade 3 students.

Each 20 minute session was conducted under the supervision of teacher Nick Schilling and AASC regional coordinator Sandra Ashford, and allowed each student to complete the appraisal component of the training.

The AASC Community Coach Training links extremely well with the schools sport and recreation and leadership and development programs, and provides students with a beginner's level one coaching accreditation.

This initiative offers students an opportunity to hone their new coaching skills working with local primary

school students, said Mrs Ashford

'Our coaches come from a range of backgrounds and experience'.

'At present we have parents, secondary college students, local sporting club representatives and individual community members delivering the AASC sessions in schools'.

'The benefits for clubs and associations being involved in AASC programs, is that they can promote their own sport at the grass roots level and have direct access to the players of tomorrow.

It is an opportunity many local sporting clubs and associations are taking advantage of right across the country.

For more information about the AASC program and how to become a deliverer in this program, people and schools are encouraged to visit [www.ausport.gov.au/aasc](http://www.ausport.gov.au/aasc) or contact Sandra Ashford on 0437 700 428.



## Gippsland Education Precinct

### Latrobe Youth Council Members

To be a Youth Councillor you need to be interested and have a positive level of commitment.

Ben Huke and Steven Kaiser are members of Latrobe Youth Council. They were nominated by their teachers and then responded to an email sent to them by Latrobe City Council, suggesting they consider being a part one of the three programs available, Latrobe City Youth Council, Freeze Program, or Youth Leadership.

They both speak with shining eyes as they say what a great experience it has been. They have met lots of very positive people. They think very highly of Phil Medley, the Youth Co-ordinator for Latrobe City Council, who has exhibited caring mentorship.

Ben hopes to achieve a better community environment for the youth of Latrobe City, not just Morwell, but the whole of the council area.

Ben would like to see more non-alcoholic, inexpensive events organised for the Latrobe's youth. Another goal is make youth services easily accessible, especially for those with needs in areas like depression, negative family experiences, or anything else that could cause disadvantage.

At present the Youth Council, in two groups, is planning two activities, firstly, a forum for bullying, due to the rising cases of bullying and student abuse and secondly a Youth Event for 2009-10. Ideas under consideration include Art Displays with a variety of art work from all the Latrobe City schools, with live music and a BBQ, and a Youth Services brochure which gives publicity and information about services for those in need e.g. Headspace. It will include a Youth Information Card of Services for easy access to services. Youth Council hopes to have local businesses sponsor discounts and special offers for the card. All this is to be achieved on a small budget!

Ben is hoping that with his involvement in Youth Council, he will be approached by more youth to give their opinions and ideas for the future. He hopes they will see Youth Councillors as a bridge between them and Council. He would like to be one of many links to project the voice of youth.

Steven has found that being on the Council has fostered an interest in local politics. He has also discovered how long it takes to get something done!

Steven says that being on Youth Council has afforded him the opportunity to meet people who now have a better understanding of how and what youth is all about.

Steven feels the Councillors, and CEO Paul Buckley, of LCC, with whom they meet each 4-6 weeks, are good listeners and connect well with the Youth Councillors.

Steven and Ben say the Youth Councillors make the most of these opportunities and spread themselves

around all the tables so they can get to know each councillor and use it to discuss issues together so understanding of both sides can be developed.

Council conducted a Mini Search to formulate their goals for 2026. Youth Councillors sat in on this forum with community leaders and said how they would like to see LCC in 2026.

The Youth Councillors have also had the opportunity to undertake training as Community Facilitators whose role is to convey LCC messages to visitors and the local community to achieve council's goals for 2026.

Both Steven and Ben say there is a need for youth to get involved in more

events e.g. Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and other community events. They also maintain that youth want to be involved if given the opportunity.

They want to try to curb the shadow cast over youth as a whole by a small minority who act irresponsibly.

These enthusiastic young men have been involved with lots of activities including Japanese Day, The Japanese Band, and Youth Fest. They like to take the initiative and volunteer where they can as at the Bushfire Relief Fund event at Traralgon oval, where they volunteered for 12-13 hours though the day helping out making badges, running stalls and doing gate collection.

Youth Councillors are elected each year for a possible two years. Some leave after one year, whilst some stay for another. For those interested you can check out what Youth Council is up to by accessing the web site [atwww.latrobe.vic.gov.au](http://atwww.latrobe.vic.gov.au), clicking on the Youth Link and then reading about the three programs you can be involved with. There are profiles of the members, information and applications forms for joining.

Sometimes our community just shakes its head when we read about the negative exploits of some youth. But after reading about these two committed, enthusiastic young men, we can be reassured that the world is in good hands for the future.



# Trafalgar High School's Production of Romeo and Juliet Stands the Test of Time

Trafalgar High School Production has shown Shakespeare's timeless story stands the test of time.

28th and 29th August 2009 saw Romeo and Juliet performed in a sensitive, modern rendition that had regular theatre aficionados sitting up in their seats. The set was minimalist and used to maximum effect during the performance. The backdrop of a town (any town, anywhere) emphasized to great effect that a conflict between adults has repercussions on the younger generation, far beyond adults are able to imagine.

We very much enjoyed the whole experience, from being greeted by charming program vendors in splendid ruffs, learning that lotteries were reintroduced in England in 1569 to raise funds for important causes minded, by authentic music of the era that Shakespeare wrote his plays a long time ago. So as we settled down to what we thought would be a costume play, we were drawn very much into the 21st century as the performance commenced.

The Directors are to be congratulated on the attention to detail in the language coaching. The characters certainly portrayed their parts in a convincing way making the audience forget most of the time that they were using Shakespeare's language throughout the play. Romeo and Juliet were a convincing couple of teenagers struggling against outside forces, while very much needing to be together. The comic nurse punctuated her performance with sips of "Dutch Courage" in

moments of theatrical stress. Mercutio fitted and punned his way through the role as a foil to Romeo's more morose moods. Benvolio played a teenage chum with much commendable energy. Friar Lawrence had a very convincing performance, and we felt much sympathy for his dilemma of trying to make things better while matters were spiraling out of his control.

In the words of one of the performers from the program, "there are no small parts, just small actors". We were impressed to see very young performers giving a part in the play their best performance, because it means the drama department at Trafalgar High School is nurturing talent for the future. We were particularly impressed with the Capulet party scene, as everything stopped for the first glimpse between the two lovers, the procession to the mausoleum, and the use of minimal props to create the scene changes required in the play. The final visual image stayed with us, as it cleverly echoed the cover of the program, which we took home.

The whole theatre experience showed much commendable attention to detail. There was



much student participation, which seemed encouraged by supportive teachers. The sponsors imaginatively echoed their business interest in character sponsorship in the program, and made a very supportive gesture by being VIPs at the various performances. Trafalgar high School Performing Arts certainly brought a school text to life in this performance, and should be very

proud of the high standard showcased on Friday and Saturday.

P.S. Romeo stole the hearts of many female audience members, not just the charming Juliet's. Hearing that Juliet won the prestigious Bell Shakespeare scholarship for Victoria this year was actually not surprising either. Well done Trafalgar High School.

## Churchill North Primary School

### Craft, Cuppa and Chat – Flower Arranging



Once again, we had a great turn out for our regular Craft, Cuppa and Chat morning. Mums had the chance to learn flower arranging under the careful guidance of our Welfare Officer,

Kim, who has florist experience. The morning gave all Mum's the chance to catch up and meet other mums within the school; it is a great way to stay connected.

## Book Week



Anyone visiting the school on Wednesday the 26th would have thought they'd gone on a safari – but instead this was the theme for this years Book Week activity day. Children from all grades dressed up as lions, tigers, elephants, monkeys, tour guides, Zulu's and game keepers to name a few. Children split up into multi-aged groups to take part in a number of activities based around the Australian Book Councils Short Listed Books for the Year. Among the activities were making Baby Puffling's

from Wool, Screen Rubbings from the Story of Apple Sauce, Design Activities for Sunday Chutney and Paper Craft based on the uplifting story of a three legged dog.

During the week books were on sale in the library with children and families having the opportunity to buy them before and after school. Profits raised from the sale of these books will go towards helping the school

## Grade Prep and 1/2 Welcome Bike Riders to Churchill



During August, Churchill welcomed the Lakes Oil Bike Riders to Churchill. Children from Grade 1/2 and Prep walked down to the town centre to welcome them. One of our Grade 4/5 students, Kailee, won

a drawing competition and was able to fire the starting gun for the sprint to Yinnar. Children also received prizes from the event organisers and had lots of fun waving on support crews.

## Jeans for Genes Day

Junior School Council worked hard in organising and selling merchandise for Jeans for Genes Day. Most students came dressed

in their jeans to support the fundraiser. Junior School Council was able to raise \$326.00.

## Raising Money for Cerebral Palsy

A big congratulation to Mrs. Hodgson and Ebonie who had their own little fundraiser selling merchandise, to raise money for the Cerebral Palsy

Foundation. The two were able to raise \$250 towards research and development in the disability.

## Russell Northe - Principal for the Day

During September the school was visited by member for Morwell, Russell Northe who took part in the Principal for a Day program. After a tour of the school and meeting with the children, Mr Northe took part in all the day-to-day duties with our Principal Debbie Edwards such as Yard Duty, meeting new parents, writing articles for the Newsletter,

sitting in on meetings and helping out in a lesson. Mr Northe was also interviewed by our own Press Club who asked some hard hitting questions such as the possibility of a wave pool at the school. Unfortunately all requests were denied. Stay tuned for that interview in next months issue.

## P – for Pirate and Pet day

Students in Prep, One and Two continue learning their sound of the week with a Pet Day on Wednesday and a Pirate Party to finish up the week.

On Wednesday, children were invited to bring along their pets and talk about them. There was a good turnout of dogs, cats, rats, rabbits, birds and a turtle. Each child spoke about their pets and answered ques-

tions from students within the grade. Students completed activities such as graphing pets and story writing. On Friday, students finished off 'P' week with a Pirate Party. All children were invited to dress up and bring a plate to share. Students joined in Pirate Songs, played Pass the Parcel and learnt to read grid references on a treasure map to find the hidden treasure.

# Yinnar South Primary School

## Planet Ark National Tree Day

On Friday 31st July our whole school participated in the Planet Ark National Tree Day.

The day was perfect for the event with the sun peeking through and the rain holding off.

The children planted trees in the car park area of the school.

The children worked really hard and the car park area



looks fantastic.

Parents and teachers from the school community provided excellent supervision and guidance for the children and all participants enjoyed the day.

It was such a simple and fun thing to do and our efforts will remain for generations to come!

We are grateful to the Yinnar South Committee for inviting the school to participate.

We appreciate the effort that has been involved in preparing the site and collecting the resources.

Our gratitude also goes to our parents who came and supported this event.



### Kites

On Thursday during Developmental Play the grade Prep/2 children made a kite, here are the students with their kites and the writing pieces that they wrote.

#### Jacquie

Today the Prep/2 class flew kites. Bradley put his streamers on the wrong side.

I found out how to make it fly. Bradley went at the back of the basketball court and his one flew.

I ran to make mine. I was happy flying my kite.

#### Flying a Kite by Bradley

I made a kite. I used a paper bag and string and streamers.

I flew my kite on the basketball court. I ran fast and the kite went up. The wind made the kite go in all directions.

I felt happy because it was fun.

#### Ryan

I flew a kite up in the sky. It went

up and down in the air.

#### Alyssa

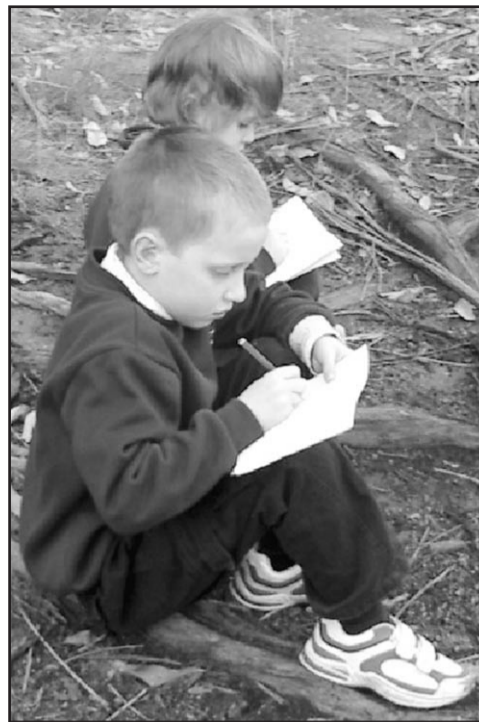
I made a kite. It went up in the sky.

#### Daniel

I flew a kite. I liked flying my kite.

#### Ty

I made a kite. It went up in the sky.



### Art News

The students are continuing to work on pieces for an Art Show at the end of the term.

Recently they had their first experience of sketching the landscape.

They used a picture frame and note pad to draw outlines of the Yinnar South landscape.



# Hazelwood North Primary School

## Gippsports

In term 3 the grades 5/6F & 5/6D had Gippsport come to Hazelwood North.

There was Glen Barlow, a basketball player for Latrobe City Energy, there was Neil from International Power, there was also Meg who taught us about food and there was David from Gippsport.

We played some food games like you had to guess the food you were tasting while blindfolded.

We had a wrapping of the food and we had to find the fat and sugar content.

When we went out with Glen we did some basketball drills and shooting hoop games.

It was good because at the end he did 5 or more slam dunks.

At the end of the session with Gippsport we had quizzes and the prizes were a small stress ball or a pair

of socks.

We enjoyed all the activities and appreciated their time in visiting us. By Tyson



### Bluearth

This term the preps have been going outside to do Bluearth with Tim. Bluearth is when you go outside and play different games like Everybody's It. You also do core movement which is when you do all different stretches.

This is some of the preps favourite games-

Jay- Everybody's it: Sophie B- Chains: Lara- Snowballs: Jorga- Happy Balls: Sophie Br -Rabbits and Foxes



What they like about Tim and the Bluearth program-

Liam- Plays all different games  
Jess- Likes a lot of running games

Sophie- Likes playing bean bag games

All of the preps like to play these games at recess or lunch time. All of the kids like Tim, especially Amy.

They have lots of fun doing Bluearth and it makes them good.

By Jessica & Ellie



### Grade 3's Excursion

On Thursday the 20th of August Grade 3A went to Kiel Industries, DASMA and Powerworks.

When we went to Powerworks we saw a movie about the three R's - reduce, reuse, recycle. We saw a piece of a spa bath that was made of recycled plastic.

When went to DASMA we saw recycling being sorted into big cubes.

We saw glass being separated from the paper.

At Kiel Industries we saw plastic road barriers being made.

When the plastic came out of the oven it was very warm. After that we got a piece of plastic to keep.

We thought the excursion was fantastic!

By Tess and Emma

### Grade 5/6 Technology

Grades 5/6F and 5/6D have been doing technology for the last 5 weeks.

We have made circuit boards with questions and answers.

We will then connect wire with the questions and answers so a globe light will flicker if you get the question correct.

We are now making vehicles such as cars, boats and aeroplanes using technology and the aim is to get as far as possible.

We've also been learning about how gears, levers and pulleys work.

By Riley A and Jordan C

# Churchill Primary School

## Book Week Dress Up Day

Many of the students and their families took the challenge of dressing up as a book character for the school parade.

In fact some families had all children dressed up as characters from one book.

It was gratifying listening to the children explain who they were and the answer to the question put by Principal Susan Gilmore "Who helped you?" It was invariably Mum.

Well done to those parents who spent much time and no doubt patience in kitting your child(ren).

The staff were not to be outdone and we had Mr. Thomas from the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, The Poky Little Puppy and lots of Safari characters.

The Education Support staff decided that they would dress up as the sisters (nuns) from Madeleine.



Teacher Julie Telford put lots of time and organisation in to staging the parade, having judges arranged and prizes, certificates and sticker to present to all.

Thank you Mrs. Telford

### Market Days for Earn and Learn

The students in Grade 3-6 are still having lots of fun learning about running businesses.

They are making (and spending lots) of money.

The teachers are enjoying hand massages and lovely nail designs.

The buzz of excitement on Market days (Tuesdays) is exciting to watch.



### Brigades in schools

**Dear Mrs. Place,**

Thank you for coming to our school and talking to us about fire safety. I liked crawling under the blanket. It was fun having you at school, we all had fun.

From Kayla (Gr 1)

**Dear C.F.A,**

Thank you for coming to our school. We liked when we had the Fire Brigade at our school. Thank you for showing us all the things on the truck. Thank you for showing us the parts on the truck like gas

masks, helmets, boots, suits and gloves. Thank you for showing us the suits on Jess. It looked cool on Jess, and thank you for letting us see the tanks on the back of the truck. The tanks are very big.

From Tarley. (G 2)

**Dear C.F.A,**

Churchill Primary school would like to thank you for coming and teaching us about fires. We would all hope you can come again next year and teach us more about fires. Thank you Jess, Shane, Chris, Kylie

and Mrs Place for teaching us. Thank you for letting us squirt the hose. That was really awesome.

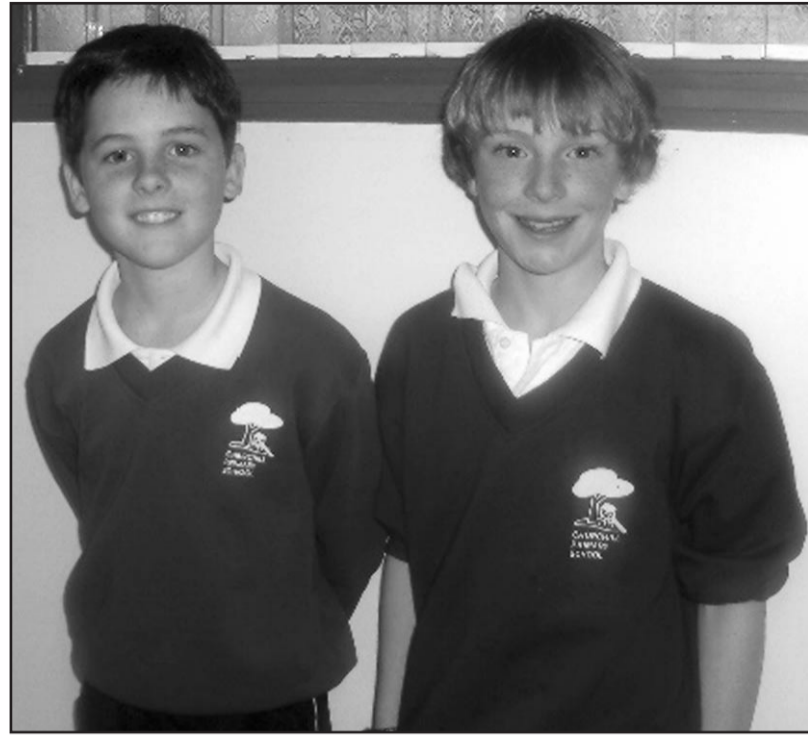
From Bailey F (G 2)

**Dear Fire Fighters,**

Thank you for coming to Churchill Primary School. Thanks for cheering me up and talking about "Black Saturday". I liked your suits and your red truck. Thank you for saving us from the fires on Black Saturday. On Black Saturday I was worried about my family and pets. (G 3)



## ELLIS AND TRISTAN - GOLF AT TRARALGON



Ellis and I went to Traralgon for the District playoff and we played 9 holes against other schools. It was each person playing to represent their schools. It was hard to get the people going through because it was very close, only one stroke in it all day. 14 people went through to the next stage, which was the regional final. Ellis and I were pleased to get through to this stage. There were

about double the amount of schools there and it was very windy. It was hard to play and we played the front 9 again. There were about 10 schools which went through to the State final in Box Hill. Ellis got through to the State Final because he came second. We all wish him good luck for this Tournament.

By Tristan Turpin

## RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

Liz Ballard came to the school with her dog. She is a member of the Responsible Pet Ownership program. Liz talked about how to approach a dog, how to treat a dog, how to look after a dog and

showed the 3 - 6 grades slides on responsible Pet ownership. She brought her lovely little dog, Kade, with her and all the children who wanted to could give the dog a pat.



## Visit to the Police Station and Mathison Park

By Bailey L (G 2)

Last Friday 1/2 Watts and 1 / 2 Jordan (and Prep / 1s) went to the Police Station and went in the prison cell and got to walk to the Park.

When we got there we played on the monkey bars and we had lunch under the shelter.

After lunch we played more and played on the see saw. I went up the monkey bars. They were hard to get on. Then I had to jump up on them. I don't like jumping high because it hurts my feet when I land back on the bark. It was time to go back to school and the Police man beeped his horn at us.

## A FIRE STORY

By Bradley (G 2)

On the start of 2009 we had the Victorian Bush Fires. The bush fires went for weeks. I was really sad about the people that died and lost their homes. My mum's friend Kim lost her home. But they got a new home. My Aunty got near to having her house burnt. But it was so lucky that it did not go on fire.

## FIRE STORY

By Taiesha (G 4)

On the fire day, my uncle and aunty were visiting their friends. When they saw the fires near Glendonald Rd, they went back to their house in Traralgon South. They saw the fire right behind them so they went inside as quickly as they could. They got as much of their stuff as they could get anyway and they left. The toaster was blown into the bedroom.

**Lumen Christi Primary School**

On Thursday, 13th August, our girls' team travelled to Sale for the VPSSA Forysth Regional Soccer Final. Our first game was against Maffra Primary School and the first half saw Lumen Christi pushing the ball forward but we just couldn't get past their goalkeeper. The second half proved to be far more successful and the girls won 3 - 1. Our second game followed and we were up against Lakes Entrance Primary School. Our girls had well and truly warmed up by then and amassed a convincing 5 goals to nil by the end of the game.

The girls' team consists of: Jessie Justice, Michaela Lawless, Montana McStay, Olivia Morgan, Kaitlin Nardino, Jasmine O'Shea, Payge O'Shea Bronwyn Slater, Josie D'Alia, Jessyca Devlin, Bronte Spark, Regan Webster, Fabienne Schoutens Tiarne Bayley and Zoi Little.

Our school is very fortunate to have a willing parent in Erin King who has been so willing to coach the girls. We are also doubly blessed in

that Tom Sands, a local Churchill soccer identity, has just as equally given up his time to coach the girls. Our victory means that we are off to the VPSSA State Soccer Finals on Monday, 14th September, at the Darebin Community Sports Complex. We wish the girls every success.

*"I was ecstatic and very happy to know that we would be moving onto the next level of competition."* (Kaitlin Nardino, Grade 6)

*"Playing against Lakes Entrance was very hard but we pulled through and won 5 - 0. I am very excited about going to play soccer in Melbourne."* (Bronwyn Slater, Grade 6)

*"I was super nervous before we started playing our games. After winning our first game the pressure was back on again because we were playing Lakes Entrance. After a fantastic game, we came out victorious. I can't wait to go to Melbourne!!!"* (Olivia Morgan, Grade 6)

*"I had heaps of fun playing soccer against Maffra and Lakes Entrance and I am looking*

*forward to playing in Melbourne."* (Jasmine O'Shea, Grade 6)

*"We won against Maffra and Lakes Entrance and it was a good feeling. Winning was brilliant and the whole team was excited, especially me."* (Jessyca Devlin, Grade 6)

*"On the 13th August we went to Sale and played against Maffra and Lakes Entrance. As we won both games it meant a trip to Melbourne for the State Final and I felt so happy."* (Josie D'Alia, Grade 6)



**First Communion**

On Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th August, seven Lumen Christi students celebrated the Sacrament of First Communion.

This is a very special occasion in the Catholic Church, and the children spent months preparing for it, both at school,

and at Mass on Sundays.

Congratulations to Georgia Hutchinson, Anthony Ernst, Jasmine Garcia, Darcy Di Dio, Matthew Davison, Corey O'Shea, Michael Molinari and to all the other children from the Parish who celebrated their First Communion.



**Dream safari**

The night of our concert is drawing near and the children are busy preparing their items. There are lots of excited performers ready to showcase their talents for you. The concert will be on Thursday 3rd September at 7pm at Kildare Hall in Traralgon. There are still a few tickets available from the office if you haven't purchased your yet. Get in quick and don't miss this dream spectacular!!!!

**Bedtime Stories Pyjama Safari**

Lumen Christi celebrated Book Week in comfort at our Bedtime stories pyjama safari night. The staff and students braved the thunder and lightning to attend a story reading night in their comfiest pyjamas. The teachers shared some of their favourite stories with the children and then they all had warm milo and a biscuit before heading home to bed. Both staff and students had a terrific (and very comfortable) time!!!



**Boolarra Primary School**

**A Massive Clean Up Effort!**

50 Monash Peninsula students recently attended our school and helped us with a range of projects such as clearing out the portable classroom that will be removed to make way for our exciting new community Library and Learning Centre building, cleaning down the walls of our Multi-purpose

room so they are ready for painting, tidying up our music room, weeding our veggie' garden and painting some seating.

In addition to all of the above they still had enough energy to play with our students during their recess breaks.



**OUR CORE VALUES**

At our school we actively promote the following:  
**Integrity:** being honest, fair, responsible and loyal  
**Support:** supporting and caring for other people and showing compassion  
**Cooperation:** cooperating with others  
**Acceptance:** understanding and accepting the difference between oneself and others, including others socially  
**Respect:** respecting the rights of others  
**Friendliness:** being friendly and socially responsible, and including others.  
 We are currently focussing on our core values as the first part of the Personal Development, Bounce Back program Ms Karen Twomey and Ms Leanne Emond are working on this with our students.

**Community Art**

Our Art teacher Ms Karen Twomey and 24 of our talented students worked on a fire recovery memorial art piece with community member Emma Cooke. Emma had the vision and energy to set this project in motion.

**Educational Support Week**

We took a week recently to acknowledge the fabulous work of Our Business Manager, Ms Wendy Jones, integration aide Ms Mengar Hibbins and Classroom Support Aide Ms Val Henderson who are all employed as Education Support officers.

**Exciting Gardening Opportunity**

Thanks to our neighbours, Rob & Marietta Herni of Boolarra Ferns, gardening guru Jane Edmonson will visit our school on Thursday 8th October. Each of our grades will work with some of our enthusiastic parents to create a new garden. Rob Herni has also arranged the donation of some mature trees and shrubs to support this work

**Celebrating Our Success**

Our school has achieved an outstanding array of awards in recent years. School Council determined that we should pat ourselves on the back more. To this end we have a new Welcome Sign that listing some of our noteworthy awards such as winning the State Excellence in Literacy and Numeracy Awards.



**Sport**

**Sport**

**Sport**

**Sport**

**Sport**



# Under 11 Grand finalists in the Churchill Junior Indoor Netball Competition 2009

Congratulations to a delightful group of girls who are so eager and have worked really well throughout the netball season and the outcome was fantastic - "GRAND-FINALISTS"

Grand finalists "Yinnar Dream Team" defeated "Yinnar's Funky Monkeys" scoring 17 goals to 11 in a match played on 22nd August 09' at the Churchill Indoor Netball Saturday Morning Competition

Players: Tiarne Bayley, Indy Yeoman, Jessica Hutchinson, Georgia Hutchinson, Sarah Pollock-Sinclair, Bronte Sparks, Alice Davey and Rose Van Rooy.

Coach: Cathy Hutchinson. Team Manager: Danielle Yeoman.

Saturday 29th August saw Churchill Junior Indoor Netball Association host its Grand Finals. All games on the day were low scoring, reflecting how even all teams were and how tough the competition has been all season.

The combined aged level Under 15 and Under 17 grand final was first game of the day, between McLovin and Tik Toxx. Both teams demonstrated on the day, as they have throughout the season, how closely matched they are in skill and teamwork. It was a very close tussle up until the last quarter when McLovin opened up a 6 goal lead. Tik Toxx worked hard to close the gap, but ran out of time. The final score being McLovin 23 defeating Tik Toxx 19.

After the first grand final, President, Kim Hogarth presented thank you gifts to the officiating game umpires and also to the junior umpires who had officiated throughout the year, before awarding trophies to the winners and runners-up.

Next to take to the court were Mighty Magpies and Churchill Cougars in the Under 13 grand final. Mighty Magpies continued on with their usual strong game they had demonstrated during the season. The Cougars should be very proud of the game they played and how close they remained to the Mighty Magpies for most of the game. The Final scores were Mighty Magpies 22 defeating Churchill Cougars 15.

The final game of the day was the Under 11 grand final, which was hotly contested between two Yinnar teams the Yinnar Dream Team and The Funky Monkeys. It was a nail

bitting game with both teams being goal for goal in the first half. Eventually the Yinnar Dream Team broke away in the third quarter and maintained their lead until the end of the game. The Final scores were Yinnar Dream Team 17 defeating The Funky Monkeys 11.

After the last game, President, Kim presented the Grand Final officiating umpires with thank you gifts. Kim, on behalf of the association, also thanked many other's who were recognised for their contribution to the success of the 2009 season.

The day then wound up with the annual event, the friendly game of Players Vs Parents. It was great to see so many willing to take to the court to vie against their parents/children and again the wonderful dedication of umpires and scorekeepers and supporters! This game was so successful it ran for five quarters, as no one wanted to stop playing!

Earlier in August prior to the finals starting, saw a fun end to our youngest players season - the Netta teams, with a games day held to celebrate. All the Netta teams participated and had a great time, with loads of fun and games to finish off their season! They were each presented with a medallion for their participation during the season.

In winding up our 2009 season, we would like to say a big thank you from the CJINA Committee to all players, parents/family/friends, umpires, coaches and other dedicated helpers for another successful season of Junior Netball. All CJINA players and members are to be congratulated on their sportsmanship,

teamwork and participation. Another great year of fun, fitness, friendship and netball skill development! Well done to you all!

CJINA would also like to say a special thank you to three of our long-term association members who are finishing up with CJINA this year, Fiona Rickwood, Deid Buckley and Louise Quigley. They have all undertaken various roles on the CJINA committee over the years, have umpired regularly every week, and coached numerous teams, as well as being the supportive dedicated parents of players.

Also we would like to wish three senior players who have finished playing out their junior years with CJINA, Emily Rickwood, Emma Hoch and Julia Burass; all the best for their future. Emily has umpired at our competition every week for a number of years and also at a regional level at Squad tournaments. Her commitment to umpiring and mentoring of other junior umpires are to be commended!

Churchill Junior Indoor Netball Association will now take a break for the summer period and be back in full swing next year for the 2010 season. Stay tuned to local notice boards, school newsletters and papers for our start date for another great season of netball!

For any information on how to be involved please contact:-

Kay Hill (Secretary) on 0419 118 510 or Kim Hogarth (President) on 0418 514 557

Next Meeting Date for CJINA is to be held on 17th February 2010 @ Churchill Leisure Centre - All Welcome!

## Boolarra Primary School

### Girls' Football Success

8 of our senior girls combined with 12 Yinnar Primary School students to form a team that competed in the Gippsland selection finals in Sale.

They won all of their games and in doing so qualified to compete in the state football finals in Melbourne.

The weather was ordinary and the mud was thick but our girls worked together as a team and behaved magnificently.

Overall the team placed 5th in a field of 12, which was an excellent achievement.



### Bike Ed Program

We usually conclude our intensive program with a celebration ride to see if our students can put what they've learnt into practise in an on-road situation. It was with some trepidation that the grade 3/4s headed off on this adventure as the weather forecast was grim. Despite a sunny start, a shower struck on their return leg making riding especially hazardous. Ms Jo Dryden had nothing but praise for the grade 3/4s, who all applied their learning magnificently and did not provide a moment of worry. We've never had such a glowing report following any celebration ride, let alone one conducted in such conditions. Our Bike Ed program is successful because our staff and parents team together so well. The next stage of our program is to send a team to the LV Championship.

### Athletic Champions' Day

Twenty-one of our students recently competed in this competition at the Joe Carmody track in Newborough. We are very pleased that several of our students will now go on to represent the Yinnar & District cluster at the forthcoming zone finals.

Boolarra was chosen to do a special live broadcast to mark 6 months since the fires. School Council President Mandi Peter, teacher Tina Larrad and Business Manager Wendy Jones all agreed (somewhat reluctantly) to be interviewed by Gerard Callan. Parent Simon Pickett was also on air but is not included in the attached photo, his son Jason is representing him.

### Somers Camp

Our district accesses this highly regarded camp for Grade 5/6 students every 2 years.

This year we were fortunate to have 11 of our students able to attend this camp in November.

### FABULOUS YARD BEHAVIOUR

Ten of our students recently enjoyed some bonus time on the school computers because the yard duty teachers spotted them doing positive

things in the play ground. All students who had not had broken any of our play ground rules also enjoyed a bonus 15 minutes of play

### Breakfast At School

We have been delighted with the magnificent manners our Breakfast at School participants display.

The only charge we impose for our toast, porridge and juice is good manners and our students have little difficulty in meeting this requirement.

We are fortunate to have Ms Liz Black supporting our Breakfast Program (her home made blackberry jam is superb!)



# Churchill Junior Football Club

C.J.F.C has had a great season this year. We had several players selected to play in the Interleague team, one player selected for the Country Victorian Boys Football team, two League Best & Fairest winners and two teams playing finals football. Our season ended with the U12s making it into the Semi Finals and our U16s made it into the Preliminary Final.

The U12s team fought hard all day only to be outplayed by a stronger team on the day. They did very well to get as far as they did and should be proud of themselves. Best on ground for the U12s finals series was awarded to Damien Yates.

The U16s were a team to watch out for right from the start of the season. Unfortunately, their team work and determination was not enough to get them over the line in their Preliminary final against Tedas. Having beaten Tedas throughout the year the players knew they could beat them again which would have put them into the Grand Final. This was not to be. Best on ground for the U16s finals series was awarded to Harley Lowrie.

For both teams to go as far as they did was a great achievement to themselves and our club. As a club we are all proud of their efforts.

### Victorian Country Football Team

Congratulations to Dylan Weir who played in the Victorian Country Boys Football Team. Well done.

### League Vote Count

On the 16th August, 2009 the Traralgon & District Junior Football League had their vote count. These votes are voted by our umpires. Well done to all players who polled in the votes. A big congratulations goes to Damien Yates who was joint winner of the U12s and Jack Wyhoon joint winner of the U16s. Both boys were greatly deserving of these awards.

### Club Best & Fairest

On 23rd August, 2009 we held our Club Presentations. The day commenced with our Cougar Cubs being presented medallions for their wonderful contribution to our club. Thanks to Cheryl Mason and Casey McMillan for the great work in coaching the Cubs.

### The Brooke Hornsby Memorial Trophy

This award was won by Nathan Noblet for his courage in all that he does and his enthusiasm to assist our club.

We then went on to the Best & Fairest presentations. The winners are as follows;

U10: Best & Fairest: Joel Mason  
 Runner up: Dustin Weir  
 2nd runner up: Jarrod Downes-Smith  
 Coaches award: Ryan Lowrie  
 Most Consistent player award: Patrick Kearns

Best Clubman award: Thomas Hayes  
 Quiet achiever award: Jordan Wilson  
 Most Improved player award: Bailey Sheriff  
 U12s: Best & Fairest: Damien Yates  
 Runner up: Daniel Brick  
 2nd runner up: Tristan Turpin  
 Coaches award: Ben Lewis & Aaron Noblet  
 Most Consistent player award: Tyler Holdsworth

Best Clubman award: Cameron Beale  
 Quiet achiever award: Josh O'Brien  
 Most Improved player award: Jacob Didjurgies

U14s Best & Fairest: Cameron Adams  
 Runner up: Brendan Mason  
 2nd runner up: Jayden Hawkins  
 Coaches award: Nathan Noblet & Matthew McMillan

Most Consistent player award: Bradley Brereton  
 Best Clubman award: Bradley Tyas

Quiet achiever award: Darcy Kearns & Brett Killury

Most Improved player award: Josh Donovan  
 Most Promising player award: Mark Piripi  
 U16s Best & Fairest: Jack Wyhoon  
 Runner up: Harley Lowrie  
 2nd runner up: Floyd Haines  
 Coaches award: Ryan Harvey  
 Most Consistent player award: Dylan Weir  
 Best Clubman award: Stephen Koslowski  
 Quiet achiever award: Ryan Pither  
 Most Improved player award: Brenton Marriott

Most Promising player award: Adam Quinn  
 Congratulations to all winners and their team mates for a great year of football. The day ended with a hot lunch and a family football match.

### Coaches Positions For 2010

Under 10s, U12s, U14s & U16S coaching positions are now open. Apply in writing to P.O. Box 27, Churchill Vic 3842.

Applications close on October 12th, 2009.

### AGM

Churchill Junior Football Club AGM will be held in the Senior Clubrooms on Wednesday 14th October, 2009.



U16 League Winner Jack Wyhoon with Coach Steve Mayer (left) and Alan Wyhoon



U12 League Winner Damien Yates with Coach Alan Yates



U16 Best and Fairest Jack Wyhoon (left) and Runner Up Harley Lowrie



U10 Best and Fairest Joel Mason (left), Runner up Dustin Weir (centre) 2nd Runner up Jarrod Downes-Smith (right)



U14 Best and Fairest Cameron Adams (left), Runner up Brendan Mason (centre) 2nd Runner up Jayden Hawkins (right)



U12 Best and Fairest Damien Yates (left), Runner up Daniel Brick (centre) 2nd Runner up Tristan Turpin (right)



The Cougar Cubs



Left to right: Mark Bianconi, Jamie Robson and Shane McColl

## Churchill champions three years in a row

*Continued from front page*

In the second half it looked like Churchill couldn't buy a goal as Tyers competed through the midfield and cut out attacking opportunities. Shane McColl had a chance to break the deadlock twenty minutes into the half but his rifled shot was saved by Tyers keeper Matthew Piening as the ball struck his forehead.

Soon after Shayne Cassar was put through on goal but Sands expertly saved his shot as he closed the Tyers playmaker down.

With time ticking down coach Luke Cheney substituted on Paul Riess in an attempt to find a winner. Riess didn't disappoint, heading home the winning goal inside the last ten minutes from a Shane McColl corner to the excitement of a very tense home crowd.

Churchill's golden era of success has been underpinned by home grown talent. This season 15 of the 16 senior players that contributed to the Championship came through the Churchill United junior ranks. This is a fitting reward in this the Club's fortieth year.



Captain Jamie Robson and coach Luke Cheney lift the Champions trophy for a third successive year

### Grand Finals this Saturday September 19 at Latrobe City Sports Stadium, Crinigan Rd, Morwell

- 1.30pm: 2nd Division Nan Bosma Cup Final: Warragul United vs Churchill United
- 3.30pm: Women's Browne-Huizer Cup Final: Monash vs Churchill United Red
- 5.30pm: Reserves Charity Bowl Final: Fortuna 60 vs Churchill United
- 8.00pm: Seniors Charity Bowl Final: Churchill United vs Fortuna 60



L'Oreal Ladies Golfer: L-R: Jo Leslie, Merrilyn McDonald, Jill Beck, Jan Blizzard, Carol Barnes and Barb Beebe

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## Churchill Bowls Club AGM

The Churchill Bowls Club will be holding its A.G.M. on Monday the 28th of September 2009 at the Gaskin Park Hall, Manning Drive, Churchill, at 7.30 pm. Nominations for office bearers will need to be lodged with the Secretary, V. Hargreaves, at least 7 days prior to the A.G.M. All are welcome to attend.

Our indoor bowls sessions are still drawing good attendances on Thursday nights at 7.30pm, where the emphasis is on having an enjoyable night out in a friendly sociable atmosphere. So come along and join in the fun.

The club has also been successful with its application for a Community Grant from Latrobe City. This will enable us to purchase a new carpet bowls mat, plus a drinks refrigerator, which will help us give the bowls community a better club to enjoy. Our thanks to Latrobe City for their assistance.

In the next few weeks the bowls club committee will be endeavouring to obtain an undertaking on a time frame from Latrobe City, as to when Churchill will be having its own lawn bowls facility in the town.

### Churchill Monash Golf Club Results Round-Up

#### 29/08/09 Mens Stroke CCR 70 Scratch

M. Peel 80. A. Grade P. Smart (13) 69; B. Grade T. Sterrick(17)68; C. Grade R. Welsh(24)67. DTL R. Scurlock 72; P. Jordan 72; M. Fletcher 72; G. Sanders 73; B. Downie 73; T. Webb 74 c.b. NTP 3rd G. Sanders 12th M. Peel 5th C. Thomas 14th B. Kilday Birdies R. Welsh 12th; J. Robinson 12th; M. Peel 12th; H. Martin 12th; T. Collins 12th Count Putts H. Martin 25

#### 30/08/09 Stableford

Winner B. Kearns (21) 33pts  
**1/09/09 Ladies Monthly Medal**  
 Scratch D. Scurlock 91; A. Grade D.

Scurlock(14) 77; B. Grade Medal B. Beebe (31) 75. DTL J. Beck 77; D. Thomas 79 c/b; K. Raber 79 NTP 5/14 33-45 M. Munckton Putts K. Raber 29 putts c/b.

#### 5/09/09 Alan Watts Memorial Stroke

A. Grade B. Nicholls(8)73c/b; B. Grade J. Thornby (20)71c/b; C. Grade V. Sammut (36)64 DTL A. Auld 71; K. VanVliet 71; R. Welsh 72; K. Hills 73; G. Blizzard 73; T. Collins 73 NTP. 3rd J. Thornby; 12th A. Auld; 14th R. Welsh Birdies J. Robinson 5th; A. Auld 5th; R. Welsh 14th; J. Jeffrey 14th.

**6/09/09**  
 Winner B. Downie(26) 38pts

## L'Oreal Paris Pampers Lady Golfers

L'Oreal is supporting women's golf for the ninth successive year with the highly anticipated 2009 L'Oreal Paris Ladies Cup.

With over sixty-four thousand participants nationally playing at over 800 clubs it is the largest participation event of its kind in Australia.

As a world leader in skincare and beauty, the L'Oreal Paris Ladies Cup is open to club members free of charge and provides for an exciting day on the fairways.

The highly sought after prize packs are filled with L'Oreal skincare and hair care products.

Churchill and Monash Golf Club held their L'Oreal Paris Ladies Cup on Tuesday August 18th. The winners were Jill Beck in Division One and Carol Barnes in Division Two. Down the line were Jo Leslie, Jan Blizzard, Barb Beebe and Merrilyn McDonald.

L-R: Jo Leslie, Merrilyn McDonald, Jill Beck, Jan Blizzard, Carol Barnes and Barb Beebe.

## Churchill & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Project

# Make our branch a reality

A steering committee of local people has been formed to investigate the viability of a Churchill & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch. By supporting our **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> campaign your Community Group may benefit directly – empowering our community by providing an income stream to fund local community based projects.

Since its inception, **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branches have returned nearly \$30 million to a large variety of community groups – including sporting clubs, schools, CFA's and environmental groups. We are therefore urging local clubs and organisations to participate and actively support the project by attending the community meeting.

Where: Churchill Cricket Club, Corner Acacia Way & Birch Drive, Churchill

Date: Wednesday 23 September at 7.30pm

*All welcome*

For further information:

Wayne Casey	5122 1363
Craig Flanigan	5122 2846
Jeff Kemp	5122 1293
Sharon Middlemiss	0412 348 964

(S25557) (09/09)

