

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

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A Good-News Story

By Shailea Trickey

On the afternoon of Monday November 23, Keith and I lived every parent's worst nightmare. Whilst we were outside doing gardening, Winnie our two year old daughter, went for a wander without us realising. We found her in our dam. She had drowned. There was no heart beat or pulse.

I got her out of the water whilst Keith phoned 000 for help. We took turns doing CPR (*cardiopulmonary resuscitation*) on Winn for around 25 minutes until paramedics came and took over and worked on her for 23 minutes. We listened to every instruction the 000 operator gave us and without that help I

don't know what we would have done. The paramedics were able to get Winn's heart beating again and a pulse back, Winn also had a cardiac arrest and they were able to correct this. Winn was air lifted to The Royal Children's Hospital where she was put into a coma and kept cold (they keep you cold for 72 hours to help prevent your brain from swelling as this tends to happen 48 hours after) and she stayed this way for six days.

During this time we were told the only reason she is still alive is because of the CPR Keith and I performed, and that she had a fighting chance because she was in the dam and the cold water stopped her brain from swelling. (I did not know how important it was for them to stay cold. My instinct at the time was to warm her up but thank goodness I didn't get the time to because of performing CPR).

I also can see how parents would not try and do CPR finding their child like that

thinking they are gone, and not knowing that it is still possible for them to come back.

Thank the stars we went down the path of CPR, not accepting she was gone even though our eyes and heart were feeling otherwise.

Whilst waiting to start the warming/waking of Winn at the hospital, we had several conversations with doctors and specialists all stating they couldn't say if she would make it and how she would be once she woke.

The day came and Winn was slowly warmed back up to body temperature and her breathing tube came out and she was breathing on her own!!!

We were warned she wouldn't be herself for some time due to all the sedation/medication she had received and what could have happened from all the trauma she has gone through.

Since waking, Winn was not herself for a while and unfortunately started suffering from seizures and developed pneumonia with a temperature. We were told her MRI showed some brain damage and they couldn't tell us how this would affect her.

Winn is our little fighter though. Through all this she is alive and our girl is here. Winn could say some words
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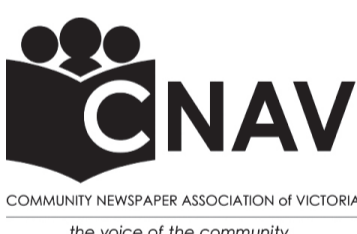


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Guest Speaker

A guest speaker from Latrobe City Council's Resource Recovery & Environment team will attend our next meeting. This is in response to discussion at our most recent CDCA meeting about the section of Eel Hole Creek behind Ikara Way, on the western side of Northways Road between Philip Parade and Glendonald Road.

Some members have raised concerns about the potential fire hazard to nearby residences, whilst concern has also been raised about rubbish dumping and blackberries. At the same time, there is a worry that 'interference' along this section of the creek may disturb wildlife.

CDCA's next meeting, with our guest speaker first up on the agenda, will be held at 7pm on Thursday April 1, at the Hub.

COVID-19 restrictions will likely continue, meaning face-masks, supply of contact details and limits on attendees may apply. All local residents are welcome - register your attendance to secure your seat at the meeting by contacting CDCA via our website or

Facebook pages (see details below).

We have some interesting Agenda items for discussion at our next meeting. These include better/brighter lighting of the town symbol, questions about the future of the Hazelwood lettering from the former power station and work on CDCA's next funded project.

CDCA has completed our Memorial Seat project to honour the legacy of the late Rob Whelan. A formal unveiling of the project will be held at 11am on Wednesday March 24, at the site (on the pathway alongside the Eel Hole Creek wetlands between McDonald Way and Northways Road).

This is a public ceremony and all are welcome to attend. Representatives from Latrobe City Council will be present and CDCA would like to express our appreciation for the funding granted by Council for this project.

Our next project - a picnic table and seat - will also, when completed, be installed in the same area adjacent to these wetlands. The path is part of the well utilised recreational network of pathways in Churchill and

CDCA is aiming to enhance facilities for users.

We are currently working on a submission to Council to advocate for further pathways works to take place in Churchill. Known to us as our Missing Links project, we have identified gaps where we think construction of footpaths or recreation trails would benefit our community.

These missing links include some roadside areas, such as along Northways Road from the Leisure Centre to Switchback Road, some residential areas where footpaths seem incomplete and completion of recreational pathways such as a link from the end of the university trail (at the golf driving range) along McDonald Way to the eastern side of Mathison Park.

This is a long term undertaking but our experience is that repetitive lobbying is the way to have further construction of, and improvements made to, Churchill's network of paths and recreational trails.

New South Ward Councillor, Melissa Ferguson, attended our last meeting and indicated

her desire to be a regular attendee when her busy schedule allows. We had an informal and wide-ranging chat about a variety of issues, such as the proposed battery lead recycling plant, the empty Hazelwood House building, improving community access to the Churchill Town Hall for community events and geographical place-naming, to mention just a few.

Residents of Churchill and district are able to apply for CDCA membership, which is free. Membership entitles you to receive more detailed information (via direct email), submit agenda items for discussion, vote at meetings and elections and participate at the level of your choosing. Meeting attendance is not compulsory, nor is Committee membership! You can easily download a membership application from our website: www.cdca.org.au.

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

Rainfall

Churchill Rainfall for February 2021

Churchill's Rainfall for February was 32.5 mm giving Churchill a total of 92.5 mm so far this year.

Rain at Hazelwood South.

February was a change from January, with the lower temperatures from La Nifia stopping any spill over from the monsoon in the north and low cyclone effects, resulting in below average rain, with

only 25mm and 54% of the average for February.

Little rain fell towards the end of the month, resulting in the grass struggling to remain green. The BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) only reported 9.6mm of rain for the month at the Latrobe Valley Airport. Hazelwood South had 2.57 times more rain.

It is a relief to be past the worst of the fire season, without any serious fires.

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A Good-News Story . . .Cont. from p1

From Page 1 . . .

and even requested her bear and told us she was cold. She was able to see and move her head to people when they were talking to her.

Unfortunately after the seizures Winn could no longer speak or move/hold up her body and after a few weeks we found out she could only see lights and shadows.

Winn started therapy in the hospital and slowly regained her gross and fine motor skills. She started walking, drinking and eating and eventually got her eye sight back and was able to talk again!

Since coming home Winn suffers from fatigue due to her hypoxic acquired brain injury and needs lots of rests and down time. She gets overwhelmed easily and

complains about her eyes when she is like this. Other than fatigue Winn is the same little girl as she was before; happy and healthy and loving being a big sister.

Her baby sister Hazel was born on December 30. I was 33 weeks pregnant when Winnie drowned.

Winnie celebrated her second birthday in hospital and at that time she couldn't see.

She was also there for Christmas and New Year. Winn was in hospital for a total of six weeks.

Winnie also has a 15 year old sister named Charlotte who is in one of the pictures below with all the girls.

My friend Sarah contacted the Churchill Lions Club and told them our story. President Reg contacted myself and not only did they



donate money to go towards Winnie's health care, they came out and with the help of Winn's dad, Keith they built a fence around our dam.

The boys came a few times and did the fence in sections.

They all loved meeting Winn, and were lovely and good for a laugh, truly beautiful and genuine people who care and help others. We are so grateful for their generosity and cannot thank them enough.

We would also like to thank everyone else who contributed funds to help with our medical and accommodation needs. Our thanks also go to the staff at the Royal Children's Hospital for their wonderful care in bringing our Winn back to us as healthy and happy as she is.

Our experience has taught us how important it is to know CPR and we would encourage everyone to learn how to do this life saving procedure.

Plants in my Garden



By Mike Beamish

Species: *Leptospermum obovatum* 'Starry Night'.

Family: Myrtaceae.

Derivation:

Leptospermum: From Greek, *Leptos*, meaning thin or slender, and *sperma*, meaning seed, thus thin seed.

obovatum: From Latin, *ob*, meaning inverted, and *ovatus*, meaning egg-shaped, thus obovate, meaning ovate in shape with the broadest part above the middle, referring to the shape of the leaves.

Name: River Teatree.

Distribution: The true species has a natural distribution along the coast and ranges from south-west Victoria to southern NSW and the ACT, with an outlier in the Pilliga Scrub. 'Starry Night' is a nursery industry selection, so may not have a natural occurrence.

Description: A graceful, pendulous shrub to 2.5m tall and 2m broad, with soft, fine, dark purple/green foliage and pink/purple young stems. Leaves are up to 20mm long

and 8mm wide, obovate to oblanceolate in shape and smooth in texture. Bright white flowers to 25mm in diameter occur in late spring and early summer, covering the branches in a good year.

Opinion: Nice plant this one, though once again I've not given it enough room and it is spreading across the footpath adjacent to its spot at the southern end of the Limonite Road nature strip bed.

It was a raffle plant win in March 2018 and went into the new bed pretty much straight away with the autumn break. It is now about 1.5m tall and broad and is starting to crowd its neighbours as well as the footpath, so will need some light pruning as soon as it finishes flowering or when I get around to it. First flowering was December 2019, but this season's flowering was twice as dense, with some branches completely covered. The crisp, white blooms stand out vividly from the dark

green/purple foliage, the only criticism would be that they don't last long enough, but three or four weeks seems to be normal for Teatrees. I haven't yet tried any propagation with this species, but I'd expect cuttings would succeed with similar treatment to *L. rotundifolium* 'Lavender Queen'. I don't think I'd have any viable seed on my plant yet, but there is no guarantee that seedlings would retain parental characteristics anyway.

Sources: Sharr – WA Plant Names and their Meanings.

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

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

Online – Gardening with Angus website.

For more information on the Australian Plants Society Latrobe Valley Group, please contact Mike on Email mcandcjb@gmail.com or phone 0447 452 755.



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We have worked so hard, and sacrificed so much, to being case numbers down. And this hard work is paying off and saving lives.

Our communities have looked out for each other and stayed the course together, and we remain united in our efforts to come through the biggest health and economic change of our lifetime together.

As we move towards recovery and the Commonwealth rollout of the coronavirus vaccine, the Andrews Government remains committed to supporting the Victorian community. The pandemic, however, is not over and it remains important to continue to look out for each other, and to do what you can to reduce the risk of transmission for yourself and for those who are relying on us all to do the right thing.

Information about the changes that are occurring across Victoria, and the support that's available for families, businesses and communities is at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

As always, if I can assist please call **1300 103 199** or email me at harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au

Please practice good hygiene, maintain physical distancing and wear a mask when you are unable to do so.

And if you have any symptoms at all, please get tested urgently and stay at home until you have a negative result.

THIS ONGOING WORK MEANS WE CAN REOPEN & STAY OPEN. LET'S STAY SAFE TOGETHER.



Harriet Shing MP

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Lions Club of Churchill & District

The Lions Club has again had to postpone the Churchill Family Fishing and Fun Day, which was to be held on Saturday April 10, to a date later in the year, most likely near the end of November.

The Club apologises but has attempted to hold this event on a number of different dates, but due to COVID 19 issues, has had to postpone the event at the last hurdle each time.

A lot of work goes into the organisation of this event, and it is an event that is very important to the club, as it's a day that brings the community and families out together for a spot of fishing and having fun together. More importantly to the Club, is the wellbeing and safety of the community, when holding any community event.

Lake Hyland is an open outdoor public space with many entry points, as well as being a very popular walking track which is used by many people during the day for recreational exercise. The Family Fishing and Fun day presented many challenges that were difficult to overcome, to meet all the requirements of the COVID Safe Event Registration with the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions (DJPR).

The Club therefore feels that in uncertain times, it is better to be safe than sorry, especially if the unthinkable



were to happen and that it is better to postpone the event now and stay safe till later in the year, when hopefully there will not be the COVID19 issues that we have at present.

So once again, keep your eyes peeled for all the details which will be here in CDN and on our Facebook page 'Lions Club of Churchill Community Activities'. We sincerely thank everyone for your continued patience and understanding.

Here you come again – and there you go again – COVID!

Remember that Dolly Parton song? It seems very fitting nowadays.

However being Lions we soldier on and get things done, but we sincerely hope that everyone out there is

copied and please remember, if you need help do not be afraid to ask and don't be afraid to ask others – R U OK?

Lions always rise to the occasion, so when lockdown hit again and our Bunnings BBQ was cancelled, we didn't panic we just made sure we were all organised for the next one which was the first weekend in March. Being a long weekend made sure we were kept busy cooking, serving and chatting. We always find the Sausage Sizzle day so much fun and remember, every sausage sold puts more funds towards Lions helping out the community and someone, somewhere in need.

Bunnings have installed a new payment plan so if you need that sausage fix and

you don't even have a coin on you, we can charge your card so don't forget, keep coming on over to see us at Bunnings Mid Valley for a super duper BBQ sausage, a fun chat and support your local community.

Now you will see a story in this issue of CDN about a little girl Lions have nicknamed Project Winnie, which all started with a 'can you please help' message on our FB Page. We did and quickly, as Winnie touched the hearts of every Lions Member in our Club and highlights two serious

points: it only takes a few seconds for a child to disappear and do you know CPR? A knowledge of CPR could save a life.

We kept in touch with the family and helped them as much as we could during Winnie's long stay in hospital, and as soon as the family was back home, our President Reg Grisotto along with Lion Bob Lowick went up to meet the family and check out what was needed. Items were purchased and some of our Members leapt into action over the next few days and erected a fence around the offending dam to ensure it was safe and off limits to all.

Remember our Lions Licola Wilderness Village? We have ongoing projects which we help out with there, and often have members up and down completing needy jobs. Over the past few weeks quite a few of our members have made many trips to ensure all the plumbing, pumps and electrics are running 100% perfectly for all the incoming visitors booked in. Currently there is a vacancy for a full time Maintenance/Gardner/Odd Job Man so in the interim one of our Members Lion Peter Savage (aka Nuts n Bolts) went up to help out for ten days but in the meantime – you guessed it, the last lockdown hit – so he was caught up there and was away from home for three weeks! He certainly did plenty of work leaving the grass and gardens looking



stunning, however he soon found the look at home was not quite so neat and his first jobs were – lawns and gardens!

As you see we are always busy and helping out where needed, so please remember, where there's a need there is usually a Lion, which means we're always looking for new like minded members - interested?

If yes or even curious – please give us a call, send a message, send us an email – we promise they will be answered asap!

Secretary : Lion Carol Kavanagh 5182 6995 or 0411 842 912.

Message on Facebook : Lions Club of Churchill Community Activities.

Email: churchill.lionsclub@gmail.com



Churchill / Latrobe City Neighbourhood Watch and Churchill Town Safety Group

Family Violence

This month, we are looking at family violence. Family violence can occur in a number of ways. ie: financial, sexual, psychological or physical abuse.

Who experiences family violence? Women, people with disabilities, children, LGBTIQ people, and many more.

Don't all couples have fights? Yes, disagreements are common in relationships. Family violence is different to the problems that may arise in a healthy relationship. Most couples argue and struggle with shared decision-making without violence, threats or actions that crush the other person's sense of self. Raising your voice during a fight doesn't mean that others will be afraid or feel controlled.

What can we do about it? If you know a person who is having issues, it's best to do this in a sensitive way, one-on-one when their partner is not around. Tell them you are

worried about them, explain why you are concerned and make it clear that you want to help.

Don't be discouraged if the person is defensive or denies abuse is occurring – don't try to make them talk if they are not ready to, just tell them you are there if they ever need support.

The best thing you can do to support someone experiencing family violence is help them explore options to become safe.

Specialist family violence response workers are available 24/7 via a phone line to assist women and children experiencing abuse. Let your friend know that they can call our phone line anytime on 1800 015 188 or send them a link (<https://www.safesteps.org.au/>) to the website so they can read about the services.

Stay safe and keep an eye out for others in the community that may be having issues.



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Yinnar Community Garden



The Mosaic Steps project is progressing well at the Yinnar Community Garden, with the bottom step complete and the background done for the middle step. Garden member Lisa Anderson created the Mosaic Steps design featuring the four seasons, the four elements, and the points of the compass, and she has been leading regular sessions to cut tiles, piece the mosaic and do grouting. We expect to finalise the project in the next few months.

Another project in the pipeline at the Garden is the "Yinnar Community Garden Welcome Centre". Thanks to a grant from Latrobe City Council through the Minor Capital Works program, the Welcome Centre is now

ready to be installed in the gazebo. The structure will house informative flyers for visitors to take, a blackboard with the latest upcoming event information, covered boxes which will hold some produce for donation, and a secure donations box. We hope the Welcome Centre will increase the Garden's outreach and connection with the community.

Upcoming events at the Garden include our AGM and a Bush Tucker Themed Feast on March 27, between 4pm to 7pm. Our AGM will go from 4pm-5pm and the Feast will follow. Visitors are welcome, however an RSVP to yinnarcg@gmail.com is essential due to COVID-19 restrictions. Funding for the Feast has been gratefully

received via a community food grant from Food for all Latrobe Valley, an initiative of the Latrobe Health Assembly.

In addition, the YCG will be holding a fundraising stall on March 21, from 1pm to 3pm to coincide with the Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition. Hand printed calico bags, magazines and books will be on sale and we will also be offering home produce, garlic, and bunches of herbs for a donation.

For further information about our events or how to get involved, email yinnarcg@gmail.com or visit the Yinnar Community Garden Facebook page.



STAMP MATTERS- A NEW EXPERIENCE



Saint Helena

Tucked away in the South Atlantic Ocean about midway between Cape Town and Rio de Janeiro lies the tiny tropical island of St Helena. Lying close to the mid-Atlantic fault line, it is volcanic in origin but the last volcanic action occurred seven million years ago. When it was discovered by the Portuguese sailors in the 1500s it was uninhabited and remained so until 1659. It was often visited as a wood and watering place by Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch and English sailors. The English used it as a convenient place to lie in wait for trading ships returning from the Indian Ocean colonies of Spain and Portugal. The ships were captured and the goods shipped to England. The Dutch claimed it in 1633 but gave it up soon afterwards when Cape Town was developed as a seaport.

In 1659 the East India Company was granted leave to form a settlement there by Oliver Cromwell and settlers began to trickle in to develop a largely agricultural economy. The numbers of settlers increased greatly



in 1666/7 with an influx of people displaced by the Great Fire of London. It became a waypoint for slave ships until the slave trade was abolished in 1792. Over the years its fortunes waxed and waned but the colony survived. Many navigators and scientists of the time visited there on the way to and from England, people like Edmond Halley who set up an observatory there, James Cook and William Bligh. In 1815 the Emperor Napoleon was exiled there where he died.

It was granted British Crown Colony status in 1836. In 1840 the island became a British Naval Base and remained so until the advent of steamships and the opening of the Suez Canal. In 1900 it became a POW camp for Boer War prisoners. A flax industry sustained it from then till the 1950s when synthetics made flax

production uneconomic.

Today it endures as a self-sufficient economy with tourism being the main source of outside income. It has a small fishing industry and timber and bottled water still form part of its economy as it did 500 years ago. The production of postage stamps forms a significant part of its economy. It is a small island, 16 kms by 8 kms. Its narrow coastal plain is drier than the inland which is thickly forested.

A great deal of effort has been made to re-establish native species on the island and it is gradually coming back to its original state, though many species were lost.

It has a population of about five thousand, made up of descendants of the English settlers and of African slaves and indentured labourers from India and China. St Helena has produced many colourful sets of stamps and can be quite an interesting and reasonably inexpensive country to collect. In 1967 it issued a set of four stamps celebrating the 300th anniversary of the arrival of settlers displaced by the Great Fire of London.



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Church News



Co-Operating Church Snippets



It has been good to be back in church for our services which have been well attended.

Chatting following the service has helped us to catch up with each other and share that time together we have all missed.

Thank you to all those who have been organising our services and presenting them.

We appreciate the work you put in to present encouraging, thoughtful worship. We still have

the options of emailing or delivering the service to those unable to attend.

This is one of the positives to come out of COVID restrictions.

On February 21 we had a lovely celebration service to acknowledge the end of a long co-operating partnership of all our denominations. Anglican, Uniting and Churches of Christ have been involved since the beginning of the Protestant church in Churchill.

As we have only a

couple of Churches of Christ parishioners, it was agreed that the Churches of Christ would leave the partnership.

The service was attended by the Right Reverend Richard Treloar, Bishop of the Gippsland Anglican Church, Reverend Deacon Peter Batten Presbytery Minister and Ron Gowland Presbytery Chair, with Michael Vanderree of Churches of Christ.

Each was able to speak to the occasion.

A Word from Cathie

As this issue comes out in print, we will be half-way through our Lenten Journey.

Lent is not a time of starving yourself from something we like, for example chocolate. It is all about getting our priorities right before God before we enter Holy Week.

It is giving something up to increase our focus on the things of God. It is sharpening our focus on the things that really matter. An opportunity to maybe deepen our knowledge about God and learn something new, whether from the ancient histories of our faith heritage or a more contemporary view of our theology.

We often hear the question "What are you giving up for Lent?" even by those who may not have a deep faith life.

I would like to suggest that unless you are giving up an item that means something to you, does it really matter?

To put it another way, what is the one thing most people find important?

Their own time. Not the time when we spend at work etc. but our down time, those precious hours when we get to choose how they are spent.

To give up some of our time for Lent has meaning, especially if we redirect that time in doing something for others.

For example give up the time of watching one episode of your favourite show to go and visit someone you know who is socially isolated.

My daughter bakes every

Lent to sell biscuits and give the money to Charitas. It takes her a significant amount of time to do that project but it has been her commitment since attending Lutheran Christi, that now continues as she attends high school.

Lent is a time when we listen more intently for the still small voice of God.

The themes of Lent are fasting, praying, serving, thanking, giving, reflecting and worship.

Some Christians use those themes for the different weeks of Lent.

You will notice that these themes are all action words, doing something.

This week I would encourage you to focus on giving.

As I mentioned before one of the most valuable gifts to someone is your time.

Taking time to listen to one another, check out how they are really going, not just the socially conditioned "fine" we usually respond with.

Spending deliberate time with your family with no interruptions from others or technology.

Giving your time to



make life just a little better for someone else, like volunteering for an hour.

No matter how insignificant it seems, God will know the intent of your heart and the love that is driving your action.

Giving also helps us remember the giving that God did for us when Jesus died on the cross.

The ultimate gift of love, the son of God given to restore the relationship with God for all eternity.

To quote David Cole from 'Celtic Lent - 40 days of devotions to Easter',

"I pray that God will challenge and encourage you, build up and dismantle things within your heart, soul and spirit, so that through Lent ... you will become closer to God and grow more and more in the divine character as you allow yourself to be transformed."

Blessings and Peace.

Chaplain

After 11 months away from Campus, working from home, I have finally been able to attend 'in person' again.

I had forgotten how much walking was involved, just getting around. The fact that there are signs helped me to reorient myself again...I could even point out where a particular place was to another person.

Which reminded me of a quote, that "God's Word describes God as hidden, and we have to make an effort of faith to find Him.

There are lots of clues to follow, and if there weren't it's difficult to understand how we could really be free to make a choice about Him.

If we had absolute proof instead of clues, then we could no more deny God than we could deny the sun.

If we had no evidence at all, we could never get there. God gives us just enough evidence so that those who want Him can find Him".

That quote was from 'A Case for Faith' by Lee Strobel (visual edition copyright 2005) and was itself a quote from Peter John Kreeft (used with permission) which Peter pointed out was from an idea by Blaise Pascal (1623-1662).

Finding our way sometimes involves following the signs (clues/evidence) that are there if we look, as well as sometimes having to be pointed in the



right direction.

Hope this does just that. Worth thinking about!

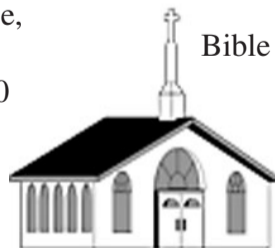
Church Times

Co-Operating Churches of Churchill

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

Churchill Christian Fellowship

Sunday: 2.00pm
Churchill Community Hall
7.30pm MidWeek
Bible Study/Fellowship meeting
0409 173 747



Lumen Christi Catholic Church

Williams Avenue, Churchill
Tel: 5134 2849

Fr Edwin Ogbuka/Fr James Fernandez

Saturday: Mass: 6.00pm
Sunday: Mass: 9.00am
1st and 3rd Sundays:
Yinnar: Mass: 10.30am
2nd and 4th Sundays:
Boolarra: Mass: 10.30am

Boolarra/Yinnar Co-Operating Parish Boolarra/Yinnar

Sundays
1pm

Christ Church Tarwin St. Boolarra

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Cooking with Noelene

Fresh spring rolls



Prepare 24 green prawns, removing the heads and shells, leaving the tails intact. Clean the digestive tracts and wash. Next make a paste by mixing together 6 tbs of minced garlic, 3 anchovies crushed and 1 tbs of minced chilli and 1 tbs

Place vermicelli noodles in a bowl with hot water, they will soften in a few minutes. Strain the noodles. Mix together 1/2 cup of tamari with 1/2 tsp of sesame oil, divide into individual dipping bowls, one for each person. To prepare the rolls you will need rice paper wrappers, nori sheets cut into thick slices, 2 carrots julienned, 1 Lebanese cucumber julienned, 8 spring onions diagonally sliced, 2 avocados peeled and sliced, 1 cup each of chopped parsley and coriander. To prepare the rolls, soften the rice paper wrappers individually in warm water and remove to a lightly oiled bench. Place a nori sheet slice in the centre of the rice paper, then add the pieces of carrot, a piece of cucumber and a slice of avocado, a small amount of noodles and spring onions. Finally sprinkle with a little mint and coriander. Roll up by folding over the end closest to you, tucking in the outer edges and continue to roll. The rolls will stick together so there is no need to add water to bind them. Serve with the dipping sauce.

Chilli garlic prawns



of sesame oil (if you don't like anchovies replace with panch phoron, Indian spice mix). Mix together and rub the paste all over the prawns. Add 3 tbs of rice bran oil to a large pan and toss in the prawns. Cook until the prawns turn pink and lose their translucence. Turn off the heat and stir through 1 cup of Italian parsley chopped and a handful of baby spinach leaves.

Season with cracked pepper and serve with lemon wedges. P.S it's ok to leave the heads on, they give crunch to the prawns.

Apricot slice

Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Line a slice pan (30x20 cm) with baking paper, leaving a few centimetres overhanging on the long sides.

Combine 225 gm of self raising flour with 110 gm of castor sugar in a large bowl. Using your fingertips rub in 115gm of chopped butter, make a well in the centre and add 1

lightly beaten egg stirring with a butter knife, and then use your hands to form a soft dough. Press the dough into the prepared pan, using the back of a spoon



and spread with 225 gm apricot jam. Finally prepare the topping by whisking together 75 gm of castor sugar with 1 lightly beaten egg then stir through 90 gm of desiccated coconut. Scatter the topping over the jam. Bake in the preheated oven for 35



minutes or until golden. Slice into squares when cooled.

Rhubarb chutney

Place 1 kg of chopped rhubarb in a large pot along with 2 medium brown onions chopped, 660 gm of soft brown sugar, 240 gm of sultanas, 750 ml of apple cider vinegar, 1 tbs of mustard seeds, 1 tsp of mixed spice and 1 dsp of minced ginger.

Now bring this mix to the boil. Then reduce the heat to a simmer, stirring occasionally for about 1.5 hours when the mixture will have thickened. Pour into hot sterilised jars and seal.



I have recently released my quarterly update for the period October to December 2020 and would like to share some highlights of this report with you as we move into a new year.

COVID 19 continues to impact us all and recently Victorians again found themselves experiencing another disruption. For some, this may have been hard to manage but I have heard from communities in Latrobe that it's important to observe all the rules and to care for each other.

Better mental health was again among the aspirations most spoken about this quarter.

Young people and people from the LGBTIQ community have expressed their concern about the lack of mental health services and supports in the region. I have consistently heard that it makes a difference when people feel a sense of belonging, and where there is a holistic approach to health that includes physical, mental, and spiritual care. Young and older people alike, have shared their concerns with me about how they can maintain a healthy lifestyle in Latrobe. I heard about the importance of nutritious food and how



Latrobe Health Advocate



COVID 19 restrictions had impacted both the physical and mental health of older people in Latrobe.

I continue to hear from people about their frustration at not being able to get in to see the GP of their choice and while access to telehealth is good, it is not always appropriate for every health issue.

My office continues to hear from communities who share their goals, barriers, and suggestions and how they want to be engaged by governments and services across Latrobe.

Insights from my engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were published in December and made available on our website. During this quarter I heard from young people aged 12-25 years and am inspired by the number of young leaders in our community

who are ready to take on the challenges that life can present us. I am also encouraged by their long-term goals and their capacity to care for others.

I look forward to sharing the insights of this engagement with you in a new report due out shortly. For the full update please go to our website <https://www.lhadvocate.vic.gov.au/publication/quarterlyupdate-october-to-december-2020>

You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook @LHADvocate

If you would like to share your experiences with me, please contact Kylie on 1800 319 255 and we'll make a time for us to catch up.

This can be done face to face providing COVID restrictions can be maintained and we can also chat over the phone or via a video chat if you prefer. I look forward to hearing from you.

Churchill and District News



Like us ...



Café ALFA

EST. 2021

A new year brings new beginnings with Shop 7, Georgina Place becoming a new and improved location for customers to come and enjoy a state of the art coffee and delicious, mouth watering food.

We look forward to meeting and greeting you all with a smile and a positive attitude to ensure Churchill continues to grow and develop well into the future.

Café ALFA invites you to come in and enjoy the dining experience with either breakfast or lunch in our fresh, new, fully renovated cafe and relax over a coffee with family and friends.

CDCA
Churchill & District Community Association Inc.

CDCA Memorial Seat Project - Formal Unveiling

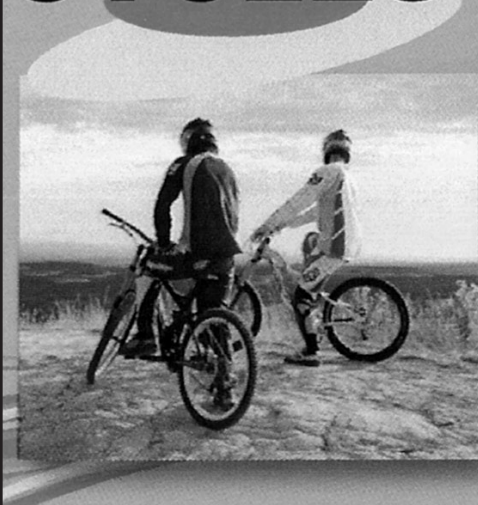
Residents of the Churchill and district community are invited to attend the formal unveiling of CDCA's Memorial Seat project to honour the legacy of the late Rob Whelan.

**Date: Wednesday,
March 24, 2021
Time: 11am
Venue: "on site"**

(Pathway along Eel Hole Creek wetlands between McDonald Way and Northways Rd)

CDCA thanks Latrobe City Council for funding this project and wishes to acknowledge our project partners, Federation University Churchill and Churchill Neighbourhood Centre. Thanks also to family members for their support and to all those involved in the construction and installation, particularly Theo Tewierik, Ronald Edwards Pepper and Jeff Kemp.

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Russell Northe MP

Well, a lot has been happening these past weeks, and it's difficult to believe that the Easter period is nearly upon us. In February, the State Government in its response to a relatively minor COVID 19 outbreak in Melbourne, suddenly announced a prompt five day lockdown across all of Victoria. This led to my office and I receiving copious feedback from employers and employees alike, given the forced closure of many businesses and the subsequent impact this had upon people's livelihoods. Whilst I understand, these are never easy decisions for Governments there was much angst across regional communities about the decision itself given the lack of COVID cases over previous months, along with the lost revenue incurred by a number of businesses, and the loss of wages for many employees.

2020 was a year to forget for many businesses given COVID 19 restrictions were in place for a significant period of the year. For many, 2021 was commencing brightly; however the five day lockdown last month really did impact various sectors and industries and their employees, particularly when Valentine's Day trade was lost right in the middle of the most recent lockdown. In response to the impacts of the lockdown, the Government did announce its Circuit Breaker Action Business Support Package, which hopefully provided some meaningful assistance to those who did

endure genuine hardship at the time. One such initiative announced was the Business Costs Assistance Program, which can assist eligible small businesses, including sole traders, in highly impacted sectors, such as hospitality, food wholesaling, tourism, events, and selected retail. The program offers grants of \$2000 to small businesses, including sole traders, regardless of whether they employ people or not. The grants will support businesses in eligible sectors who have incurred direct costs because of the five day lockdown, such as the loss of perishable goods, flowers and booking cancellations, and cancellation fees and charges. Businesses with an annual payroll of up to \$3 million, whether they have employees or not, can receive grants of \$2000.

In addition, and just a reminder that the Regional Travel Voucher Scheme is still open and will provide eligible Victorians an incentive to explore the state including the beautiful Gippsland region. Vouchers will be offered to Victorian residents to contribute to the costs of accommodation, tourism attractions or tours undertaken in regional Victoria. Victorians who receive a voucher and spend at least \$400 on paid accommodation, experiences, tours or attractions during their stay will be eligible to receive a reimbursement of \$200 on presentation of receipts. The program works on a first-come-first-served basis and each round will close

once all places have been filled for that particular round. The next round of the Regional Travel Voucher Scheme opens on March 30, 2021 at 10:00am with vouchers available for the travel period April 6, 2021 to May 31, 2021. For more information on the above-mentioned programs and other State Government supports please visit the Business Victoria website: <https://www.business.vic.gov.au/>

Of course, COVID 19 vaccinations are also being rolled out across the nation with specific cohorts of persons being immunised first, including aged care and group disability care workers and residents, quarantine and border workers, frontline health workers (including clinical, medical students and administrative staff) most likely to be exposed to COVID 19, ambulance and paramedics service, GP respiratory clinics, and COVID 19 testing facilities. I appreciate there are varying views on the vaccine rollout, and it is important to note that the Federal Government has stated that the vaccination is voluntary to the general public when the time comes. For further information and questions on the COVID 19 vaccine program please visit the following website: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-vaccinated-for-covid-19> In closing, I hope everyone has a safe and fabulous Easter and that the Easter bunny is kind to all!!!

Plan now for your firewood needs



Firewood collectors across Gippsland are being urged to start planning their firewood needs as part of the opening of the autumn collection season.

From March 1, designated firewood collection areas opened across Victoria, allowing communities to gather wood for personal use. Forest Fire Management Victoria Gippsland's Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Geoff Conway said: "We are anticipating an increased demand for firewood this autumn due to a range of impacts, including the coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic and the 2019/20 bushfires.

We are urging people who rely on firewood for heating and cooking to consider all energy options, including purchasing firewood from local merchants selling legally obtained wood. Financial assistance is also available for people on low incomes who purchase firewood or wish to transition to other energy sources," Mr Conway said. "For more information please visit: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support>

Where firewood supply is scarce, priority access can be given to particular sections of the community such as local residents, Traditional Owners and those who depend on firewood for heating. This

is managed at a regional level, so local factors can be accounted for. In Gippsland, firewood collection areas are being more realistically mapped for the benefit of communities to reflect where firewood can be practically and legally collected. Many firewood collection areas have changed from block areas to linear roadside areas where firewood can be collected within 50 metres of a road."

"There will be firewood available in some districts in VicForests coupes and along fuel breaks and planned burn boundaries for a short time before the planned burning program starts in those areas. Please note that there are no domestic firewood collection areas available south of the Princes Highway in Latrobe District in autumn 2021. We want to remind the community that firewood can only be taken from designated collection areas in state forests or parks during approved collection seasons and is for personal use only and cannot be sold," Mr Conway said.

"Designated collection areas are selected for a range of reasons including the availability of firewood, community safety, and to protect sites of cultural and environmental significance. It's important to stay within collection limits, which are in place to prevent

households stockpiling large volumes of firewood from public land and denying others a supply. Collection limits include taking a maximum of two cubic metres per person per day and a maximum of 16 cubic metres per household per financial year. The felling of trees and cutting of hollow logs for firewood is also prohibited. Hollow logs and dead trees provide critical habitat for a wide variety of native species."

In addition to collecting firewood safely, remember to be COVID safe. - wear a fitted face mask, follow physical distancing directions, use hand sanitiser and observe group size limits. Firewood collection from roadsides is managed by local government agencies and usually requires a permit. Residents are encouraged to contact their local councils directly for further details. Under the Forest Act 1958, people who collect firewood outside designated collection areas or season or take more than the maximum allowable amounts can face fines of up to \$8,261, or a maximum penalty of one-year imprisonment or both, if the matter goes to court. The autumn season closes on June 30. Further information, including interactive online maps, is available at www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood



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Member for Morwell


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Family Violence

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Who can support me?

Victim-survivors who have had their self-confidence shattered by family violence often underestimate their resourcefulness and resilience. The reality is that if you are a victim-survivor of family violence, you are already taking action to keep yourself and others safe, and you have been highly successful so far. Now it's time to reach out to others for help.

"I'm finding it hard to ask friends and family for help"

We often hear victim-survivors tell us that it is hard to ask friends, family and neighbours for help. Victim-survivors' relationships with the people they would otherwise be close to might have been damaged by the manipulation and behaviour of the person using violence.

It can be difficult to reconnect with people. It is not uncommon to feel embarrassed to ask for help.

Yet often the people who have been closest to you in the past are waiting for you to reach out to them. Often, these friends and family members prove to be your greatest allies and sources of support.

Not only is it important to let trusted friends and family know what is happening, but you could also talk to others in your community such as your doctor and the schools your children attend. Increasingly, organisations and institutions in our communities are recognising the role they have in supporting people who are experiencing family violence.

Phone support services

A good place to start exploring options for creating a safe environment for you and your family are phone support services, such as WIRE (Victoria-wide) or

1800 RESPECT (Australia-wide 24/7). These services offer a free, anonymous and safe place to talk things through, develop a safety plan, explore possibilities and put you in touch with further support.

Family violence services

Another step might be contacting a family violence service to get assistance and support to keep you and other members of your family safe. With experienced guidance, you will be able to make a plan for your future that includes general legal advice, so you are informed about the range of options that are available.

Orange Door

Orange Door hubs are a free service that you can access directly, designed to respond to the multiplicity of needs of victim-survivors as you move on from the family violence you are experiencing. Family violence workers from your local Family Violence Outreach Service are available to speak to you on the phone or meet you in a safe place. They provide ongoing support and assistance with your safety planning, legal information, finding accommodation, court support, counselling for you and your children and links to support groups.

Safe Steps Response Centre

This is a 24/7 family violence crisis line that victim-survivors can call for immediate support and assistance. The Centre provides short-term crisis accommodation for people leaving violent relationships, and can help you access a refuge (about six weeks stay). It also connects you to your local family violence outreach service for longer term and ongoing support.

Support groups

Support groups enable you to meet with others who have experienced family violence and connect with their strength, knowledge and experiences. Call Domestic

Violence Resource Centre Victoria on (03) 9486 9866 for a list of family violence support groups in your local area. For more information on support groups visit the website: www.dvrcv.org.au/talksomeone/support-groups

Consider using a support worker to think through a conversation with a person or organisation you want to connect with. - WIRE Women's Information: 1300 134 130, 1800 RESPECT: 1800 737 732, WIRE Information Booklet.

Family violence counselling

Counselling, also known as therapy, talking therapy or psychotherapy, gives people the chance to talk to a trained professional in a safe and totally confidential environment, to explore feelings, thoughts, and behaviour. Counselling can offer a supportive place to explore what's happening at home.

Talking through problems is often very helpful, but sometimes, the people close to you can be too involved in the situation to be objective. Friends and relatives may also feel obliged to try to help fix challenges, by offering unwanted advice or blanket reassurance. Counsellors exist to provide an independent, trained listening ear, able to view your situation without involvement, and able to help guide you to the approaches to your problems that suit you best.

Many clients also report that having an appointment at a set time and place can be very helpful in working through issues.

Finding the right counsellor

Check that your counsellor has a sound understanding of family violence and knows how to work with people who have experienced it. Relationship and anger management counsellors are not appropriate for family violence support unless they are also trained and

experienced in this area. Before you commit to a particular counsellor, make sure you're comfortable with them. A referral service such as WIRE will help you to find a suitable counsellor in your area. For more information on how to choose a counsellor, see WIRE's counselling information page: www.wire.org.au/counselling/. Worried about your own behaviour? Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491 or mrs.org.au, with respect: 1800 LGBTIQ or withrespect.org.au any woman any issue 25 WIRE Women's Information Booklet CHAPTER 8 WIRE Information Booklet

A safe place to stay

It is important to have a safe place to live when ending an abusive relationship. If the person using violence has been removed from the home, many victim-survivors are able to remain living there with some extra security such as changed locks. For other victim-survivors finding a safe place to live might be with the family and friends, even if it is only for a short period of time. For others, the only safe option might be a refuge. Talk to a family violence service to work out what your accommodation needs are and how you might be able to maximise your safety.

Staying in your own home

You have the right to stay in your own home and ask for the person using harm to leave.

The person can be made to leave the home using an Intervention Order or the police might order them to leave and list you as a protected person on a Family Violence Safety Notice.

You can then change the locks — you have the right to change the locks if you are a protected person listed on an Intervention Order or Family Violence Safety Notice, even if you are living in a rental property.

You do not need to be

named on the lease, but you do need to live at the property. You can also stay in your current rental property on a new tenancy agreement and you are entitled to reduce the term of your fixed term tenancy agreement. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) has a family violence support worker who can give you nonlegal information and support with residential tenancy matters, especially if you are experiencing family violence and you believe your safety is at risk. For legal assistance or advice contact Tenants Union of Victoria www.tuv.org.au/advice/familyviolence-and-your-tenancy/ WIRE Information Booklet 26

Crisis accommodation

It is an unfortunate reality that crisis housing services are overwhelmed by demand. You can usually stay for a week or two in crisis accommodation, depending on service availability and your needs.

Friends and family

If you are planning to leave, it might be worth identifying someone you know who might be willing to help you out. Trusted friends and family are often the best option for temporary accommodation.

It is not uncommon for victim-survivors to feel a range of emotions (guilt, shame, embarrassment) at having to ask friends and family for help. Yet, we also know that these people can become our greatest support. For support to work out how to have a conversation with others, call WIRE on 1300 134 130.

Housing refuges

After you leave crisis accommodation, or if you're unable to stay with family and friends, Safe Steps may be able to support you to access refuges. Refuges are safe places in secret locations that offer short-term accommodation (approximately six weeks)

for victim-survivors and their children in urgent need.

What about my pet(s)?

It can be hard to move on from an abusive relationship if you have to leave your pets behind. Unfortunately, very few crisis accommodation services take pets. Some animal refuges and hospitals also offer shelter for pets of victim-survivors and their children who are fleeing family violence. Contact your local Family Violence Outreach Service for further information. Also see: petsofthehomeless.org.au. Alternatively, contact Lort Smith Animal Hospital on (03) 9287 6426

Somewhere to stay after they have fled family violence

As demand exceeds supply, refuges often have long waiting lists. For more information on crisis and short-term housing, download or order the WIRE information booklet Dealing With a Housing Crisis — Needing Help Right Now: www.wire.org.au/resources/dealing-with-a-housingcrisis/ Transitional and long-term accommodation options Your regional Family Violence Outreach Service can provide information about transitional and long-term accommodation options.

For long-term housing you can apply for priority public housing, however the wait is likely to be many years. Private rental is another option and rental support is available by requesting assistance through your regional Family Violence Outreach Service.

To find your local family violence service visit The Lookout website (www.thelookout.org.au/service-directory).

For more information about long-term housing, download or order the WIRE information booklet Finding your next home — looking past a housing crisis: www.wire.org.au/resources/findingyour-next-home/

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Holiday locally



Federal Member for Gippsland, Darren Chester is encouraging Gippslanders to use their local travel agent when booking a domestic holiday. Mr Chester said with overseas holidays currently off-limits, plenty of people are looking for a place to holiday within Australia. "Now is the perfect time to explore our own backyard, we have so many wonderful

places right here in Australia and indeed Gippsland," Mr Chester said. "If you're thinking of booking a domestic holiday, please ensure you think local and support our local travel agents. Our travel agents have had an extremely rough year with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic still being felt." Mr Chester said many of the big online travel websites

are foreign-owned and their profit goes overseas. "Your local travel agent can do a face to face or phone appointment and use their expertise to find the perfect location for your next trip," Mr Chester said. "Like many local businesses travel agents support our communities, sporting clubs and charities. Remember to please keep putting locals first and supporting local jobs."

Official opening of Yinnar and District Memorial Hall refurbishment



The Yinnar community now has a public hall with a modern interior after the refurbished Yinnar and District Memorial Hall was opened on February 25. The Yinnar and District Memorial Hall refurbishment received a \$318,181 grant from the Victorian Government through the Latrobe Valley Authority's Community and Facility Fund, and a contribution from Latrobe City Council, following advocacy from the Yinnar community.

The hall refurbishment included:

- New flooring
- New kitchen
- New insulation and ceiling
- New meeting room and kitchenette
- New storage areas
- A refurbished foyer
- New amenities including a fully compliant accessible toilet.

The hall opened in 1955 and has been a popular venue within the community ever since, being used for dances, weddings, parties, funerals, health and wellness classes, playgroups, two markets a year, craft groups, farmers groups, celebrations, and kinder and school groups. Latrobe City Mayor Sharon Gibson said, "Halls are the lifeblood of country communities and this is especially the case at Yinnar. This hall is where the people of Yinnar come together and celebrate life in the local community. They deserve a hall with a contemporary interior that makes holding events easier and more comfortable." Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing MP said, "Community halls play such an important role in our regional

communities, helping to bring people together to socialise, celebrate and connect, and this refurbished hall will improve the amenity, accessibility and versatility of this much-loved feature of the community." Yinnar and District Memorial Hall Committee President Glenys Webster said, "Hopefully we will be able to have cooking classes and even be able to teach children how to cook. The hall is the hub of the community and is used by so many groups, and that's why the many volunteers of Yinnar and district worked so hard to get the facilities to where they are at. The refurbishments will ensure the hall continues to meet the needs of our growing community for many years to come."

Al-Anon: A fortunate decision

I knew nothing about the program but an AA friend recognised my anguish and pleaded with me to attend Al-Anon. He assured me that Al-Anon would help me with the problems I was having with my dad. I finally gave in and consented to give it a try.

The love I found and the simple slogans helped me through some tough times. But most of all, I appreciated the First Step. It offered the most relief. A ton of grief and pain was lifted from my shoulders when I realised that I could not control and could not

cure dad. I also learned that I had not caused his problems. This new awareness changed my life. As I let go, I was able to listen to my dad - truly listen. During those last few weeks of his life, I became acquainted with my father. Thank you Al-Anon.

A message about Recycling at the Churchill Hub

New Things to Recycle at Churchill Hub: TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE TUBES & DENTAL FLOSS CONTAINERS! Look for the new bin outside the Neighbourhood Centre office



- PLUS ANY OF THESE ITEMS**
- CLEAN used aluminium foil
 - X-rays
 - Printer cartridges
 - Household batteries
 - Mobile phones and chargers
 - All small e-waste items

(Note: The Hub is no longer collecting old bras or P5 containers – thanks to all those who brought them in – sorry; we can longer recycle these items through our program)

“Don't forget you can recycle your “scrunchable plastics”, too – put them in the bin provided by Red-cycle outside Woolworths (near bottleshop entrance).”

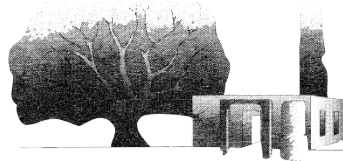


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Mathison Park



mathison park Churchill



Due to the five day stringent lockdown, our working bee was cancelled unfortunately, as it was a lovely day for working together in our beautiful park.

On Thursday afternoons though, we have welcomed the Gippsland Interchange folks who, helped by Reg and Andy, do a lot of clearing up of fallen branches and debris willingly, with smiles on their faces and an enthusiastic work ethic. Thank you to you all.

On the last Thursday of the month they discovered an echidna and were fascinated by it.

Some new signs have been put up in the park reminding people to have their dogs on leads, and to pick up their droppings with a bag you bring yourself or in one provided by the

committee.

Thank you to the Council mowing crew who are doing such a great job keeping the

park looking neat and tidy. It takes hours as the park is so big.

A big thank you to the

Council tree crew who have trimmed several trees of concern along the pathway near Kurnai College.

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Churchill Fire Brigade -

Campfire Safety

Don't let your campfire go bush!



Tips for building a safe campfire:

- Use a built fireplace (where provided) or dig a 30 centimetre deep trench to prevent fire from spreading.
- Create a border around the fire using large dry rocks - never use river rocks as they can explode.
- Clear 3 metres of ground surrounding the fire - remove branches, leaves and twigs and check there are no overhanging branches above the fire.
- Ensure the fire is at least 3 metres away from tents and other camping equipment, especially flammable items such as gas cylinders and fuel.
- Never use flammable liquid or fuel such as petrol or diesel on a fire.
- Always keep a 10 litre bucket of water, and a shovel nearby.



Things to remember:

- Before lighting - always check the weather conditions and fire restrictions in your camping area.
- Do not light or maintain a campfire on hot or dry days if the wind is more than 10 kilometres per hour.
- Campfires are **not** allowed on days of Total Fire Ban.
- Never leave your fire unattended, not even for a short time.
- Children and pets should be supervised at all times when near a fire.
- Keep your fire just big enough for cooking and keeping warm, not exceeding one square metre.
- Do not burn dangerous or flammable items, such as aerosol cans as they can explode.
- Check the 'Can I or Can't I' brochure for what you can and can't do during the declared Fire Danger Period and on Total Fire Ban days or visit cfa.vic.gov.au/can

Putting your campfire out:

- Make sure your fire is completely extinguished using water before leaving. **Remember, it's cool to touch, it's safe to leave!**
- Do not use soil. Fires can still smoulder under soil and can stay hot for more than eight hours. This is a danger to anyone walking in the area on you have gone.

Have you checked the

FIRE DANGER RATING today?

Download the VicEmergency App

VicEmergency Hotline: 1800 226 226

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Churchill Fire Brigade - Celebrating 75 Years of Service to the Churchill, Jeeralang and surrounding communities

2021 is the year of our 75th Anniversary - a fantastic milestone for any volunteer organisation. The brigade will be celebrating this milestone in 2021, and will hold 75th Anniversary celebrations/events across the year.

The following information compiled by Ron Bennett provides a brief chronicle on what is now the Churchill Fire Brigade.

Information has been compiled from Brigade minute books, Register of Members books, and information supplied by the Country Fire Authority and other sources.

Information shows that the brigade started out as the Jeeralang North Rural Fire Brigade on October 7, 1945.

This brigade was first registered with the Country Fire Authority on February 6, 1946 by Certificate of Registration No: 25.

The name of the brigade was changed on February 27, 1961 to Jeeralang Junction Rural Fire Brigade.

This brigade served the Jeeralang district for many



years until 1967, when the brigade moved into the newly formed town of Churchill.

The brigade continued to serve the Churchill and surrounding district as the Jeeralang Junction Rural Fire Brigade until October 29, 1974 when the name was again changed to become the Churchill / Jeeralang Rural Fire Brigade.

The Churchill / Jeeralang Rural Fire Brigade area was that bounded by Boldings Road, Tramway Road to Bonds Lane, across to Nadenbouschs Road, Frasers Road, up Billys Creek to Jeeralang North Road, down Jeeralang North Road to Thomson Road and down Thomson Road to Boldings Road.

On December 19, 1990 the Country Fire Authority granted the Churchill/Jeeralang Rural Fire Brigade, Class D - Urban Fire Brigade status.

At a special meeting held on January 8, 1991 the brigade name was again changed, this time to the Churchill Urban Fire Brigade.

The Churchill Urban Fire Brigade area changed slightly from that of the Churchill / Jeeralang Rural Fire Brigade to that which is now gazetted as the Churchill Urban Fire District.

This area is the area bounded by Boldings Road to Tramway Road intersection, north westerly to the intersection of Monash Way, (old Midland Highway) Brodrigg Road, along Brodrigg road to Yinnar Road, south along Yinnar Road to Switchback Road, east along Switchback Road to Fraser Road, south along Frasers Road to Billys Creek, up Billys Creek to Jeeralang North Road, down Jeeralang North Road to Morwell City boundary (as it

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BRIGADE



Celebrating 75 Years of Service

was at the time) on Thomson Road, across to Bennetts Creek, north up Bennetts Creek to Farrens Road and back to Boldings Road.

The area between Bennetts Creek and Thomson Road is covered by the Hazelwood North Rural Brigade with support from the Churchill Fire Brigade.

If you have been a member of the Churchill Fire Brigade or any of the brigades mentioned above and would like to be involved in some way please contact our Secretary Lisa Cannon on 0418 102 626 or via email to secretary.chur@gmail.com

Fire Danger Period Still in Force

Just a reminder that the Fire Danger Period is still in force, so there are restrictions on when you can burn off. This is despite the cooler weather, so please do not burn off any materials in the open air without a permit. You also need to ensure that you comply with the local Council bylaws, and notify your adjoining land owners.

CFA and the other fire services have now implemented a simple, online system, which can be accessed at the Fire Permits Victoria site firepermits.vic.gov.au Here you can Check, Apply, and Notify fire permit activity.

Easter and School Holidays

As we look to our next opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and our wonderful Gippsland region, we must think about what we need to do to ensure that we are fire safe when camping, and how we can keep our campsite and our neighbouring holiday makers safe. This image shows how much clear area we need around our camp or cooking fire to ensure that our property and wonderful bushland can remain safe.

Do - Clear around your camp fire for three metres in all directions

Do - Take a nine litre water fire extinguisher or a knapsack with you

Do - Wet down the coals and ashes before you leave to make sure your campfire is completely extinguished



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SCAMWATCH

Australians reported a record-breaking \$37 million loss to Scamwatch last year for dating and romance scams. Total losses are expected to be much higher and scammers are now using dating apps to lure victims into investment scams.

This new technique, called romance baiting, involves scammers meeting people on dating apps and then moving the conversation to an encrypted chat site.

After a few weeks of developing a relationship, the scammer will begin asking about the victim's finances and encourage them to participate in an investment opportunity.

"These scams prey on people seeking connection and can leave victims with significant financial losses and emotional distress," ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.

"While traditional dating and romance scams tend to target older Australians, almost half of all losses to romance baiting scams come from people under the age of 35."

Scammers often encourage victims to initially transfer a small amount of money to prove how easy the investment is. Victims will be told to top up their accounts to increase their profits but when they run out of money to transfer, the scammer will cease all communication.

Last year Scamwatch received over 400 reports of romance baiting scams with over \$15.2 million in losses and the majority involved cryptocurrency investment scams.

"Don't take financial advice from someone you met on an app and never give financial or personal details



to someone you've only met online," Ms Rickard said.

Scammers may use a technique called 'love bombing', where they contact the victim several times a day professing their feelings for them.

The victim starts to develop feelings in return, making them more likely to participate in the investment scam.

"If you match with someone on a dating app, get to know them in the app as you have more protections than if you move to a different chat site."

For example, if someone reports a potential scammer on a dating app, the profile can be removed. Other people currently communicating with the scammer on the platform are then protected by the removal of the scammer's profile.

"Remember that you are in control and if you start to feel pressured by someone, stop communicating with them," Ms Rickard said.

"You can also do an internet search with the name or photo of your love interest or some of the phrases they have used to help identify if it is a scam."

If you have been the victim of a scam, contact your bank as soon as possible and contact the platform on which you were scammed to inform them of the circumstances.

In 2020, there were 7,314 reports of investment scams with losses over \$66 million.

Weeks of planned activities will help Federation University's newest students settle into university life and get to know their peers as part of a revamped Orientation schedule.

A series of online social and information sessions have kicked off, while small, in-person events will continue into semester at Federation's regional campuses.

Virtual music lounges, virtual library tours, scavenger hunt and trivia sessions will feature as part of the online schedule, while morning tea and lunch events will highlight the small, on-campus festivities.

So far, more than 3000 new students will begin

their studies across the University's Victorian campuses including online students, while more than 6000 students are continuing their programs.

Once again, new students will be allocated a mentor from their study area to help with the transition to university. They'll host question and answer sessions and facilitate online catchups for students to get to know one-another.

Semester 1 will see Federation University move to mixed-mode educational delivery to comply with density limits in workspaces.

Large group lectures will remain online and as part of orientation, students can complete an online

technology bootcamp to give them the support they need to study better online.

Federation University Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Duncan Bentley said - "Students are at the heart of Federation University and we want to give them the best possible learning experience as we follow the necessary government guidelines."

While large lectures will remain online, we are excited to welcome students to our vibrant and spacious regional campuses where, over the next few weeks of orientation, they will get to know their peers and the support that is available to them."

Red Cross Calling March 2021



Red Cross Calling is a major national fundraising campaign that has been running for over 70 years.

The event is held in March every year and harnesses the power of thousands of Australians who come together to fundraise for Australian Red Cross.

Among the crowd are community groups, schools, workplaces and Red Cross members right across Australia.

Money raised will go

towards supporting the everyday work of Red Cross, assisting the most vulnerable people in our local communities, here in Australia and in overseas communities.

Red Cross Calling funds will help Red Cross to assist elderly and isolated people to remain independent at home, help newly arrived migrants and people seeking asylum to settle safely in their new home, support those in the justice system, deliver

preparedness programs to communities and schools prior to the bushfire season and support people affected by war, catastrophic events and disease.

Morwell and District Red Cross will be holding a Bunnings BBQ at Bunnings Warehouse Morwell on Saturday March 27. All funds raised at this BBQ will be donated to Red Cross Calling 2021.

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WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND READ ON ...

The importance of public relations

Let Churchill & District News help you.

If you are a member of a sporting, community, or other group, it is important that you emphasise to your committee, the value of public relations through publicity.

Publicity can involve letting the public know what your group does, where it meets (days/times) and the benefits of being a part of it. It can increase interest and promote it for new membership. It also lets the community know the variety of groups we have.

A regular report of your activities including special occasions and highlights with photographic coverage, is recommended.

There are many new people moving into Churchill & District News distribution area, and we find that it is through reading the paper that new arrivals find out about the activities in the region and who to contact to join.

We at Churchill & District News look forward to helping you promote your group in our well-read and esteemed monthly newspaper.

rotary
humanity in motion

Hazelwood Rotary Club

Contact: Ray Beebe, Secretary 0408 178 201

MEETINGS:
Mondays 6.30pm - 8.00pm
MORWELL BOWLING CLUB
ALL WELCOME

Lift the Lid on Mental Illness (previously known as Hat Day) is Australian Rotary Health's national fundraising and awareness day for mental health research.
Consider a donation to your local Rotary Club during World Mental Health day - October 10, 2021.

Friends of Morwell National Park



Replacement nesting boxes made by Churchill Men's Shed



February Activity report

For the activity we had Cathy, Mike, Ken, Matt, Tamara, Graeme, Beryl, Joelle and Jay.

Darren came later and we had an apology from Rose.

Ranger Gabrielle reported to the Friends group that a group from Disaster Relief Australia has completed work on the Grand Strzelecki Track.

Disaster Relief Australia is a group of Australian Defence Force veterans who volunteer in disaster situations around Australia and around the globe.

They want to serve communities impacted by natural disasters.

The group met in the car park and planned the work to be completed over the day.

Jay spoke about seed collection and what needs to happen when collecting seed.

Jay and Joelle went off to collect seed while the rest of the group worked on repairs to the nesting boxes.

In the January activity, a list of nesting boxes needing repair or replacement was made while the nesting box survey was completed.

This group worked through the list to locate and

make repairs to these boxes.

Some boxes needed to be reattached to the tree, some boxes needed repairs, while others were needing replacement with a new box.

Previously the Churchill Men's Shed had constructed some new nesting boxes for us and this was the opportunity to get some of these boxes onto trees.

Matt had brought a collection of tools, a ladder and other equipment to fix the boxes to the trees.

While Cathy, Beryl and Tamara searched for the boxes requiring repair or replacement, Graeme, Mike and Matt completed the repairs.

Some boxes need replacement of bases or lids, while others required more strapping or more nails to resecure the boxes to the trees.

Boxes beyond repair were cut up for extra lids or bases.

The new boxes needed a number added to help with future location and to match the site map.

In one box that needed a new base, tapping on the box had the group thinking that it was empty.

But when the old leaf litter and then some fresh leaves were removed, three sugar gliders also came out of the box.

They safely climbed the tree.

Hopefully they returned back to the same box which now has a new base fitted.

After the activity when walking near Billys Weir, a group of three deer were seen.

They were elusive but I was able to collect a shot of them among the trees.

Deer tracks have been previously recorded but confirmed sightings of deer in the park are rare.

March Activity

Sunday March 21, 5.30pm

The group will meet in the Kerry Road picnic area for a BBQ, spot light walk and moth survey.

You will need to bring a torch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the evening outdoors and the weather conditions.

For the BBQ, a seat, cutlery, plates, drink, etc. would be very useful.

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"Connecting Your Community"
 Churchill & District News is looking for volunteers.

We are looking for people who would like to be involved in advertising !!
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Remembering Black Saturday 07.02.09

NEED A HOLIDAY?
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Death of a public eyesore

Going... Going...

Morwell Power Station chimneys fall

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"Connecting Your Community"

The Gift of Giving...

CDCA

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS
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Local juniors gain Gipstar Award gold

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Cooking with Noeleen

Melina Bath

Jambuk Communications

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Launch of "Churchill - Shop Local" campaign

Churchill & District Lions Club

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CDCA BeInvolved

Mathison Park

Christmas Gifts and Crafts Market

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Morwell Historical Society Exhibition
Celebrating 100 years of aviation in the Latrobe Valley

Local Rainfall

Christmas service times

SPORT
Churchill & Monash Golf Club

FOR SALE
REAR 100 PLE & FOOD WAREHOUSE

Latrobe Valley Ladies Darts Association

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Queen's Scout Award to 1st Churchill Venturer Scout

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Cooking with Noeleen

One thousand walks Heart Foundation Award

St Matt's Op Shop

Latrobe City Neighbourhood Watch and Churchill Youth Safety Group Reporting Issues Solved

Strut Re-Gas

RE-GASSED

Church News

Co-Op Church Snippets

Chaplain

Church Times

Christian Creators Fair

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Yinnar - Yinnar South Landcare Group

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Zelma Mildenhall retires from Guiding

GIRL GUIDES AUSTRALIA

Churchill and District News

CDCA

Mask making mayhem

We're Back

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Morwell Power Station chimneys fall

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A very new memory has now been made as the final two chimneys were felled this month.

Hazelwood Rotary Club was a staunch supporter of the Hazelwood Cemetery by providing funds for development of the gardens.

We were shocked by the announcement that the Commonwealth Bank in Churchill closed our branch almost without notice.

Issue 186 Sept 2019

Churchill United Soccer Club celebrated their 50th Anniversary in our September 2019 issue, and told us the history of the Club to remind us of their past achievements.

Bendigo Bank said "no" to the possibility of a new bank branch here in Churchill. They stated they had no appetite for new branches in Victoria.

Issue 188 November 2019

"Churchill - Shop Local campaign" was launched.

In November 2019 many shoppers braved the wet and windy conditions to join in a new Churchill Shop Local Campaign launched on the Saturday morning.

Unfortunately the wild weather did not permit the planned outdoor sausage sizzle to proceed. Members of the Churchill Lions Club were soaked!

Death of a public eyesore - Early November saw the dilapidated United Petroleum Service Station at the edge of Churchill demolished at last.

Morwell Historical Society displayed an exhibition celebrating 100 years of aviation in the Latrobe Valley.

It was not until 1919 that the first bi-plane landed first at Morwell and then Traralgon.

Churchill History demolished - Churchill's first kindergarten Watson Park was demolished.

Sadly the building was vandalised and then an attempt to burn it down left the property in very poor condition.

Issue 191 March 2020

1st Churchill Scout

Group gave congratulations to Kelly Nickson, a Venturer Scout who was awarded her Queen's Scout Award and received her certificate from the Governor of Victoria at Government house.

One thousand walks Heart Foundation Award - David Connell received a Certificate and Letter of Commendation from the Heart Foundation for achieving one thousand walks in Churchill.

David is the coordinator of the Churchill Heart Walkers.

Peter Carter opened the first gathering of Coffee Connections for 2020.

During the sharing of morning tea they discovered that Coffee Connections would soon have its 13th birthday.

April issue 192

Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare group was interested in habitat protection, revegetation, weed control, water quality, and increasing their knowledge of the environment and its sustainability.

Zelma Mildenhall retired from Guiding in 2020 after 50 years of participating in many activities in the Guide movement.

Issue 193 August 2020

Issue No 193 in August of 2020 was our first printing after a recess of three months due to the COVID pandemic that made life so different for all of us.

This series has been a quick look into the news and history that has happened in your town and printed in the local Community News.

Copies of Churchill News printed from 1966, can be read at the Latrobe City Library Morwell.

All copies from November 2002 can be read on our web site at cdnews.com.au

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

Morwell & District Red Cross Branch

Members will meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm at Morwell RSL, Elgin Street, Morwell

New members are welcome to attend

For further information contact the Secretary
Phone 5163 1565

CDCA
Churchill & District Community Association Inc.

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We love our community newspaper!

Next CDCA meeting: 7.00 pm Thursday, 1st April, 2021, Churchill Hub, Philip Parade
All local residents welcome.

Contact CDCA via our website - www.cdca.org.au or find us on Facebook!

Book Review

“The Clockmaker’s Daughter” by Kate Morton

Kate Morton was born in South Australia and moved with her family many times before settling on Tambourine Mountain. Her early education was at a small country school. She later studied speech and drama and graduated from Trinity College London with a Licentiate in Speech and Drama. She completed a Summer Shakespeare Course at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and continued to act in community productions while completing Honours and Masters Degrees in English Literature. She realised she preferred writing to acting and has written six novels, all best sellers around the world. She is published in 42 countries and translated into 34 languages. Her novels include “The House at Riverton”, “The Forgotten Garden”, “The Distant Hours”, “The Secret Keeper”, “The Lake House” and “The Shifting Fog”. “The Clockmaker’s Daughter” was published in 2018.

This is really two main stories within a story, a mystery of murder and the disappearance of the famous Radcliffe Blue Diamond, and a young archivist’s quest to identify a house in a sketchbook, and a photograph of a very beautiful woman she found in a satchel in her office. The first story is set in the mid 19th century when Birdie Bell, whose mother died when she was very young, is put into the care of Mrs Mack while her father goes to America to make his fortune, planning to send for Birdie in due course. Mrs Mack makes her living by



putting her charges onto the streets of London to pick the pockets of the wealthy and unsuspecting, and as Birdie is a particularly beautiful child she grooms her to mix with the upper echelons of society. Birdie is befriended by Lily Millington, one of Mrs Mack’s older charges and she takes Birdie under her wing and shows her the streets of London. She also tells Birdie to never tell anyone her real name so when Lily dies Birdie takes on Lily’s name.

At a function in London, Lily is noticed by a well known artist, Edward Radcliffe, and he asks to paint her portrait. Mrs Mack agrees to allow it for a fee, and despite Edward being engaged, he falls in love with Lily. He belongs to a group of artists who go under the name of the Magenta Brotherhood and after he purchases a grand house, Birchwood Manor, he invites the group to spend the summer there. One of the group is a photographer and he suggests they all dress up and he will take a photo. Unfortunately, Edward’s fiancé arrives uninvited, so

Edward’s younger sister Lucy is told she can no longer be in the photo to make way for Fanny. She becomes upset and returns to the house, Lily follows her and they come across Martin, Mrs Mack’s son, who has come to collect Lily. They hide in the house, a shot is fired and Fanny is murdered, the famous Radcliffe Blue Diamond has disappeared along with the two tickets to America which Edward had purchased for himself and Lily, and Lily is nowhere to be found. It is assumed that Lily has taken the diamond and the tickets, and murdered Fanny. Edward’s life is in ruins and he leaves the house to Lucy, who turns it into a school twenty years later.

The second story takes place in 2017 when Elodie Winslow, an archivist with Stratton, Caldwell and Co finds a satchel in her office, and when she opens it she finds a sketchbook and the photo. The house fascinates her because it seems very familiar, she believes it is the house in the fairytales her late mother used to tell her. She visits her mother’s Uncle Tip and shows him the photo and the sketch and it clearly has an impact on him, but he clams up and won’t discuss it any more.

Elodie is determined to find the house and when she eventually does she discovers it is now a museum, and there is another person showing interest in the house, but more particularly, the diamond. The story follows her search and eventually the whereabouts of the diamond is revealed – hidden in plain sight. This was an intriguing story, told in part by the ghost of Lily Millington, and through the voices of past generations who had a connection to the house.

The book received a mixed reaction, some feeling that there were so many characters, all in different eras, that it was hard to keep up with the story.

There were common themes about loss and abandonment in both the first and second stories as Birdie and Elodie had both lost their mothers at an early age.

One of the back stories that was perhaps unnecessary was Elodie’s upcoming marriage to Alistair and the tensions behind the planning of the wedding, with his mother Penelope making all of the decisions.

However the book was easy to read and the characters were well drawn, even if there were so many.

St Matt’s Op Shop



Jean quilt created by Tania Butler

St Matt’s Op Shop Yinnar is dedicated to helping the environment by keeping good quality items out of landfill. One of the ways in which donated items can extend their lifespan is through upcycling. Unlike recycling which requires energy and water to process, upcycling creatively repurposes old products into something new using just your imagination. One of our clever customers, Tania

Butler, has upcycled second hand denim jeans to make a king size rag quilt. She says she used 80% second hand jeans, and the other 20% new denim fabric from Spotlight. Tania backed the quilt with blue polar fleece but didn’t add any filling, as denim is so heavy and warm already. She estimates it took her about 50 hours to create the quilt.

St Matt’s has plenty of pairs of jeans ready to be

upcycled into your latest craft project. As well as quilts, you can make denim tote bags, purses, bean bags, and even baby shoes. Of course if you are looking for a pair of jeans to wear, all our jeans are in great condition and ready for a new lease on life as part of your favourite outfit. For our latest opening hours and events, look for St Matt’s Op Shop Yinnar on Facebook.



Latrobe Community Health Service

How to get your kids to eat their veggies

It seems to be a challenge every parent faces: how do I get my child to eat their vegetables?

We can tell you now, force feeding isn’t the answer. Neither is bribing, threatening, nor punishing your child for steering clear of the good stuff. The secret? A healthy relationship with food.

Our children’s dietitians have shared their five top tips to raising vegetable lovers.

Remember your feeding jobs

You provide, the child decides. So do your job by putting vegetables on the table every day and let your child do their job of deciding whether to eat them and how

much to eat. The more we force a child to eat vegetables the less likely they’ll want to try them.

Get them involved

Start a veggie garden or get your child to help prepare the vegetables at meal times. You’d be surprised – when your child has helped to grow or cook a vegetable, they might be more likely to try a taste.

Be a good role model

You can’t expect your child to eat vegetables if you don’t eat them yourself. New foods are scary to small children.

Your child needs to see you eating those scary foods to learn they are safe.

If they see their parents, brothers and sisters eating vegetables a lot, they’ll be

more likely to give them a go themselves.

Make mealtimes enjoyable

When you sit down to eat dinner as a family, try to take the focus off what and how many vegetables your child eats. Use the time to catch up on each other’s day and the latest news instead. When mealtimes are enjoyable, children eat better.

Don’t give up

To grow to like vegetables, a child needs to have pleasant or neutral experiences with them – over and over again.

Keep offering vegetables even if your child doesn’t eat them.

Over time they will learn to like them, so the earlier you start, the better.



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A tragic accident that could have been prevented

Over five years ago, The Hazelwood Cemetery Trust was keen to establish a support group, Friends of the Hazelwood Cemetery.

While not formally members of the Trust, enthusiastic volunteers could provide assistance, for example, seeking out information regarding unmarked graves.

Unfortunately, there was a lack of interest in this idea.

Since then however, identification of unmarked graves has progressed, although a slow process for various reasons.

Generally, identification is sometimes, a logical next step if and when a recollection, a story or even an old newspaper editorial prompts a lead.

Such was the case since December last year when three unmarked graves were identified – one adult who passed away in June 1961, and two children, who died in 1888 and 1898.

In what was described as a community tragedy, Henry George Roff was killed near the Morwell railway level crossing (about near today's pedestrian underpass – the former underground subway) on his way to school.

There is a slight variation in some details, however, it seems that Henry was about

nine or ten years old and the accident occurred on Thursday May 3, 1888, at approximately 9.00 am.

Henry was interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery on Saturday May 5 – two days after his death and one day after a Magisterial Inquiry was conducted in the Morwell Mechanics Institute.

It all seemed so clinical and swift considering what seemingly was reported from those few hours.

A wide range of Victorian newspapers reported the accident.

The Bairnsdale Advertiser (May 5, 1888) described the fatal accident “by which a boy named Roff was killed under very painful circumstances.

Henry was killed by a steam locomotive knocking the boy down and running over him.

The injuries sustained by the poor lad were so terrible that he did not survive very long.”

What was described in other newspapers depicts a gruesome scene – “The body was fearfully mangled, one of the arms being completely severed” (Gippsland Farmers Journal May 3, 1888);

“The little fellow was knocked down and dragged along by the engine, getting his head so completely smashed as to defy all identity. The sight was

horrible.

A great crowd collected, but only to go away appalled and shocked” (Gippsland Farmers Journal May 3 1888).

The accident was reported in the Warragul Gazette, the Gippsland Times, The Argus, the Albury Banner and Wodonga Express and the Hobart Mercury.

News even travelled across to Victoria's western district.

The Morwell Advertiser on May 5, 1888, carried a relatively detailed account of a Magisterial Inquiry conducted in the Morwell Mechanics Institute.

It is here where amateurs priding themselves as purveyors of justice need to be questioned.

Mr Samuel Wesley Vary conducted the Magisterial Inquiry.

Vary carried his title as Justice of the Peace with aplomb.

After all, he was a grazier holding a massive freehold known as Merton Rush.

He is credited with naming his neighbourhood Driffield.

Vary had local credentials - Narracan Shire Councillor 1878-1888, President 1880-1881, 1882-1883, Morwell Shire Councillor 1894-1903, President 1897-1898, 1901-1903. Impressive.



The accompanying photograph circa early 1930's shows the infamous at-grade Morwell railway crossing. Railway crossing signage had improved by then, but note the rail tracks at street level

Samuel Vary was the first Justice of the Peace appointed in Morwell, and for many years acted as Chairman of the local Bench, a position he apparently filled with honour and credit to himself and gave genial satisfaction to all concerned.

Owing to failing health and his advanced age, (died in October 1930, aged 90 years) he retired from the Bench, and it was deemed fitting that his son, Mr E. L. Vary, be appointed a Justice of the Peace, as well as Chairman of the local Bench.

The father of the deceased objected to an enquiry made by a Justice of the Peace as he (Henry's father, Thomas Roff) considered it was a case for

coronial investigation and he was not represented by Counsel.

The decision arrived at was that Henry George Roff met with his death by accident on May 3.

A verdict of accidental death whilst crossing in front of a train was recorded

At this point it's best to read editorial printed in the Morwell Advertiser, May 12, 1888, and reflect on what was truly a travesty of justice in Morwell.

“With all due respect to the gentleman who conducted the enquiry into the cause of the death of Henry George Roff, we are strongly of the opinion that it should have been adjourned on the responsibility of the presiding magistrate.

The father of the boy objected to the inquiry being conducted by a Justice of the Peace on the ground that it should have been made the subject for coronial investigation; and, furthermore, he was not represented by counsel.

He was perfectly right in urging this objection, but he could not help being overruled in the matter when he was informed that he would have to pay any expense incurred by an adjournment at his request, and that the presiding magistrate was wrested with the powers of a coroner.

In this case, especially in the absence of legal acumen, why was not a jury impanelled ?

A mere spectator has no locus standi, and he therefore is not in a position to ask questions that will naturally present themselves to his

mind which, if answered, might throw a totally different bearing on the case.

We do not wish to impugn in the slightest degree the acumen of the presiding magistrate; but we aver (assert) that, had a jury been empanelled, a greater amount of satisfaction would have been derived by the general public; and we venture to assert that, had this been the case, a bare verdict of accidental death would not have been recorded.

That we are right in the expression of this opinion is borne out by the fact that the principal and most material witness of the occurrence was not examined – the man who was waiting at the gate in his waggonette, and who first picked up the lifeless body.

This alone will prove that too much care cannot be exercised to prevent any laxity in an inquiry of the kind.

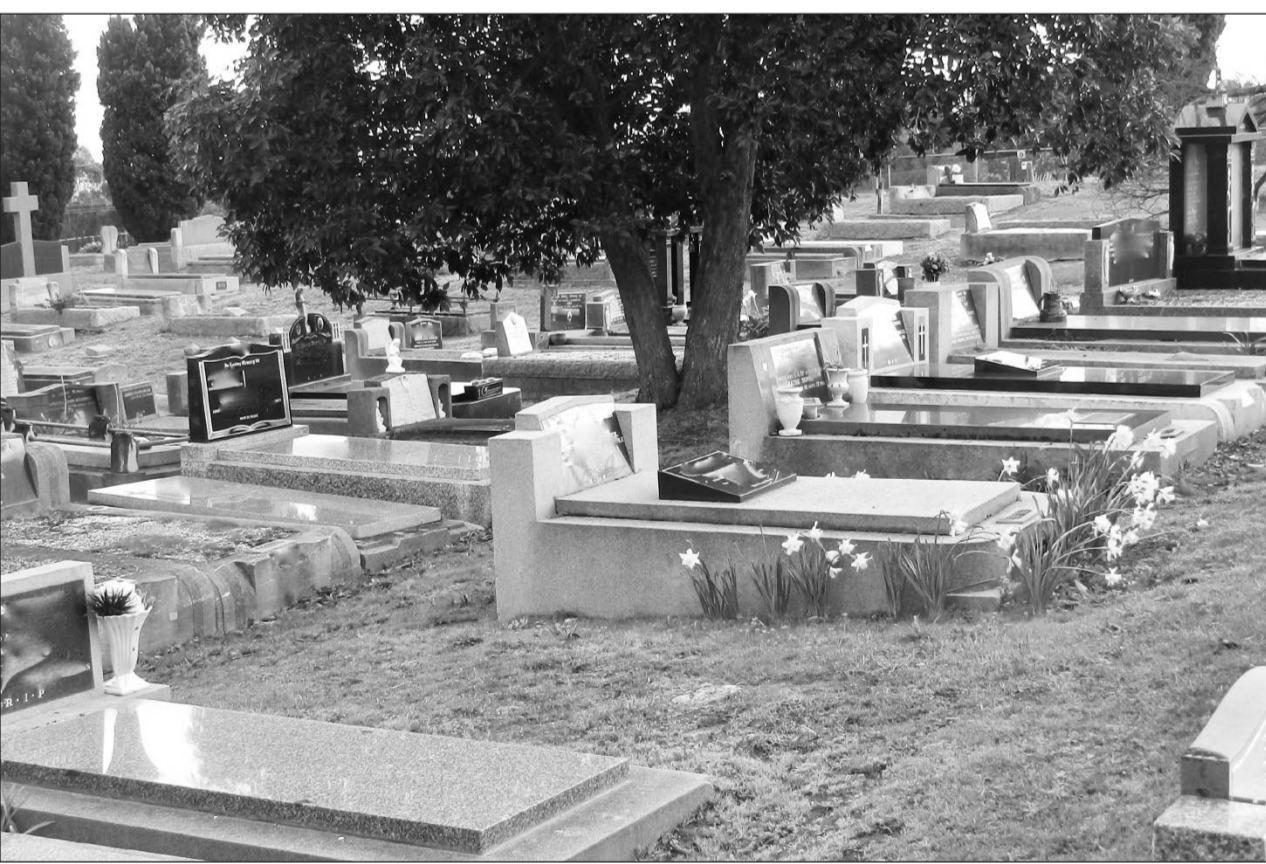
It is strange how anomalies of this nature can be allowed to exist.

On one hand we have a Justice of Peace vested with the powers of a coroner, but powerless to empanel a jury.

On the other hand, a rule prevents a publican from taking a commission of the peace, while, should he be a shire President, in virtue of his office he is allowed to discharge all the functions of a magistrate.

We commend this for consideration to the Attorney General.”

Alfred Schneiders was the “principal and most material witness of the occurrence.”



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Cemetery

It seems accurate to write Mr Schneiders was not examined at the Magisterial Inquiry.

He explained: "I am a Commercial Traveller, residing at Flinders Lane, West Melbourne.

Was at Morwell on 3rd inst. I was waiting near the railway gates. I saw two children together, they appeared to be talking to each other at the gates. The train was then about a dozen yards from the gates.

I saw one of the children cross the line: he could not have seen the train, because he was looking in the opposite direction; the gates were closed and he entered by the turnstile; he heard the train whistle.

It was some considerable distance away; Before I had time to shout to the children the train had passed over one of them.

I fancied they were joking; the train had passed over him before he had time to go back."

Mr Schneiders immediately informed the driver what had happened.

He did not think the engine driver saw the child on the line.

He did not think if he had, he would have been able to pull up as he was too close.

Mr Schneiders told Mr Roff, "There was no railway official at the railway gates. I believe the accident would not have happened had there been any official there."

One wonders who or what was being protected.

Mr Roff told the Magisterial Inquiry that the gates were improperly guarded, and had proper care been exercised, the accident would not have happened.

On May 8, 1888, both the Morwell Advertiser and the Traralgon Journal voiced their opinion - "There are several weighty questions for the public of Morwell and district to consider.

To the question of the establishment of public

offices may be added: a safe bridge crossing at the railway station: the construction of the long promised bridge at West end; proper precautions to guard against danger at level crossing; the formation of a new Shire, etc., etc., at which we hope to see Mr Kelleher conspicuous, and adopting a less masterful policy of inactivity than has been his wont." (Councillor Edmond Kelleher supposedly represented Morwell on the former Traralgon Shire Council which pre-dated the Morwell Shire Council.)

Editorial opined in the Morwell Advertiser and Weekly Chronicle (May 7, 1887) regarding the dangerous railway crossing throws more light on this situation - "Those whose business compels them to reach the platform in time for a coming train; generally find the passage blocked by an almost interminable line of trucks, and they have frequently to resort to

the dangerous expedient of creeping through beneath the coupled trucks.

Should an accident occur in consequence, the Government will, be directly liable, and that liability will in no way be lessened by the fact, that there is no light to mark what is a very dangerous crossing.

No later than Wednesday evening (May 8, 1888) a Shire Council caucus meeting decided, that a public meeting should be convened on Monday next (May 14, 1888) to consider the steps necessary to be taken to obtain a safe bridge and level crossing between the two platforms.

Many narrow escapes from accident have lately occurred and it has become absolutely necessary for the safety of the public that a bridge crossing be provided."

However, The Argus reported on May 12, 1888, that Victorian Railway Commissioners were "urged

to erect a footbridge, which was promised one year earlier. But the Council's overdraft, having reached its' limit, it was decided not to undertake more works until October 1888."

Samuel Vary went on to become a member of the Victorian Legislative Council, Gippsland electorate from December 1, 1903 to May 1, 1904. Parliamentary records show he did not make any speeches during these six months and he was defeated in a May 1904 by-election.

Readers are able to decipher what might have been a less tragic outcome had the railway crossing been supervised, as it should have been. Could negligence have been proven?

However Samuel Vary JP dispensed with Mr Thomas Roff's request for a coronial investigation.

It is noted that Alfred Schneiders was not examined at the Magisterial Inquiry. Morwell policeman,

Constable Johnston, appears only to answer a question about speed limits (for trains) coming into a station.

There were delays in state government decision making to make the crossing much safer. Then it was pointed out Council's overdraft had apparently reached its' limit to even give proper priority for a safer railway crossing.

As is suggested in other historical records, Councillor Edmond Kelleher was a friend of Samuel Vary.

Somewhere in recollections of Morwell's past history, the town was described as "the wild west."

In an obituary for young Henry George Roff, it was written:

A sudden change all in a moment fell,

He had not time to bid his friends farewell;

Think nothing strange, death happens unto all,

His lot to-day, tomorrow thine may fall.

Churchill & Monash Golf Club



Churchill & Monash Golf Club Team Winners of Drouin Silver Salver 26/2/21 at Drouin L-R Lia Brent 36 points, Christine Stevens 37 points, Vanessa Reid 44 points, team total 117 points. Well done girls.

Saturday 23/1/21 Foursome Stableford
Winners R. Davidson and D. Radnel 40 Points
Runners Up G. Blizzard and V. Monument 39 Points
C/B
DTL P. Bolding/J. Sanders 39, D. Taylor/G. Spowart 38, T. Sterrick/D. Byers 37
G. Corponi/M.Allen 36
C/B

C. Gosling 44 Points
DTL G. Harvey and R. Harvey 43, T. Sterrick and R. Zomer 42,
P. Smart and J. Tettman 41
NTP Ladies
5th S. Turner
14th S. Caldwell
NTP Mens
3rd P. Bolding 5th
D. Dunne
Secret Score
C. Stevens and S. Gosling 35

Monthly Medal
T. O'Reilly 80 C/B
A Grade P. Smart (11) 81 70
B. Grade T. Sterrick (19) 87 68 C/B
C. Grade R. Davidson (29) 100 71
D. Grade T. Lio (34) 100 66
DTL B. Cleland 68-
B. Downie 71- Mamun
71- R. Scurlock 71- R. Sands
71- M. Brereton 72 J. Barnes
72- D. Byers 73- T. O'Reilly
73 -D. Ellwood 74 C/B
NTP 3rd T. Sterrick
5th Hogbin 12th P. Walsh

14th P. Junker
Putts R. Scurlock 25 C/B
- Eagle B. Cleland 8th.
Birdies 3rd T. Sterrick
12th P. Walsh 12th T. O'Reilly
Tuesday 2/2/21 Monthly Medal Stroke
Medal Winner M. Dear
Scratch 93 - Day Winner L. Brent (25) 71 C/B - DTL
C. Barnes (41) 71 C/B
NTP 3rd M. Mc Conville 5th V. Reid 12th L. Brent 14th M. Dear
Putts S. Caldwell 30

Saturday 30/1/21 Monthly Medal
Scratch Winner and

Tuesday 26/1/21 4BBB
Winners P. Bolding and R. Sands 51 Points
Runners Up L. Brent and

Aaron Pearce

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SCHOOL NEWS

BOOLARRA PRIMARY



Boolarra Primary School is a wonderful place. Students behave very well at Boolarra, teachers help children when they need it and children help teachers when they make mistakes. Every one learns and gives feedback to each other. Our school is brilliant and amazing. We have lots of sports - example: discus, shotput, high jump, long jump and sprints. Students say their favourite subject is art. Others say they like the sport and the homework. When you're new you get very kind compliments to you, and if you come to Boolarra I hope they say that to you because everyone is special just like you. At the start of the year the homework you get is reading but later on in the year we get maths and science. If you think this information is helpful, please send your child/children to Boolarra Primary School.

B.P.S is an excellent place to grow our mindsets stronger

Here at B.P.S we get encouraged to do our work the best we can. As well as what we do we have great sports games and a sports shed that holds lots of equipment for our fun. Our wonderful teachers teach us all the things we need to learn. We get sheets to test what we need to work on and what we don't, it makes our minds bigger and stronger.

Now you know some of all the great things about B.P.S, well it's a great school, so send your kid or children here to B.P.S.

Fun with Brain Breaks

Boolarra Primary School is great at making brain breaks. Brain breaks are breaks to have fun when transitioning through activities. They make you think clearer and, well, give your brain a break.

One of the best breaks so far was one we did recently, it included Oreos. I had done it before at parties but never would

have thought you do it at school. Boolarra PS is full of surprises! You had to place an Oreo on our forehead and try to wiggle it down to our mouth. I got it on my first try!

Brain breaks are fun and included lots of laughs. Since we are such a small school, the Grade 5/6's and Grade 3/4's often do it together which makes it double the fun! Brain breaks help me learn better and all the kids enjoy them. Overall, they make everybody happy, better learners and I think all schools should do them.

Rail Trail Walk

The walk on the Rail Trail on 24/2/21 was really fun. We split into groups and looked at the area. We wrote down what we saw and heard. It was the start of our biological science investigations. We wrote and drew things like habitats, animals, insects and plants.

Year 5/6 students

Music

In music we are learning about beat, rhythm, timbre, pitch. We have been learning some new songs and adding some instruments and percussion to them. We enjoy warm ups such as "Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?" and "There are no Bananas in the Sky" which is always a bit funny. This week we used a digital program to compose some beat box music which we really enjoyed.

Year 5/6 students

Somers Camp

When I first arrived at Somers I was really scared I wasn't going to make any friends. I found out my group and hut numbers after we had lunch and everyone arrived. When I unpacked my bag I was already on a great track to making friends.

Orienteering was my first activity, it was definitely more fun than it sounded. Every night

there was a special activity to do. With the whole camp we did bush dance, campfire, new games and hiking. I would say that hiking is the best way to catch up with your new friends.

My favourite highlights would be challenging myself in high-ropes and in the giant swing, looking back on what I did in scrapbooking and competing against others on the flying fox and surfing

In the end we still had heaps of fun even though it was five days and not nine, I made lots of friends and I don't regret going there at all as I enjoyed it.

Kallarnie

Before we went on the bus I was a bit scared but I kept calm and chilled. But when we got off the bus I said, 'Somers was awesome!' My favourite activities were archery, orienteering, boating, ES, farming, surfing, art, bike, free time. It was all fun, in art we made a hooded plover.

I made a new friend his name is Caden. He was nice and he showed me drawings. It was cool. I wish I could go back.

My favourite activity of all time is archery. I got five points for my team.

And my second favourite activity was boating. Me and my partner boated to the red flag. Somers's camp was really good, I want to go back it was that much fun. There were so many people there.

I was group eight hut eight. My group and hut teacher was Nick. He was nice. On the first day I was table host at dinner time, I washed a load of dishes.

My favourite lunch was chicken burgers. I loved it, I gave it a 600/600. I recommend going to Somers's camp. It's so awesome and nothing bad happened, it was amazing but the bed was a little uncomfortable!

SCHOOL NEWS

LUMEN CHRISTI PRIMARY



Typically there would be tears on the first day of a new school year, but not this year! The Foundation students were bright and bubbly, eager to commence their first day at their new school. Teacher, Miss Smith, was impressed with how quickly the children settled once they were dropped off. They gathered on the mat and were greeted by Principal, David Cooper, who too was astounded by the keenness of the new students. "The first day was so successful because even though transition opportunities had to be adjusted last year due to COVID19, it actually made the students so much more independent", Mr Cooper said.

towards each other", Miss Smith said. "I've had the best day ever", said Harrison from Foundation at the end of his first day. "This is the best day of my life", said Kiara on her first day.

The children also participated in specialist subjects of Italian, visual arts, library and music in their first week, where they actively engaged in a diverse range of learning opportunities.

Also during the first week of school, the whole school gathered together for their annual beginning of school Mass. The new Foundation students received a special blessing at the Mass from Father Solomon. Also at the Mass, the new senior School Captains were blessed and presented with their badges. "I'm so excited to be a Captain. I've been waiting for this for so long", said Cooper from Year 6.



SCHOOL NEWS

YINNAR SOUTH PRIMARY

Harry Potter Book Night

On Thursday February 4, we participated in the world wide event Harry Potter Book Night. Families came into the school to participate in a variety of different activities such as a wizarding gold hunt, designing our own wizarding shop and practising magic spells.

It was fantastic to see so many students and families who came dressed up for the event showing off their wonderful wizarding gear.

We utilised this amazing event to welcome new families to our school and for students to showcase the learning they had been doing for the first couple of weeks of school. Parents and students alike loved the event.

Our participation in this event linked perfectly with our schools focus on literacy as it is a fundamental skill that we incorporate into all subject

areas. Getting students excited about books and reading is one of our aims and we are embedding this love through a comprehensive phonics program, reader's workshops and writer's workshops.

Portraits

In art this term we have had a focus on portraits. First students explored the medium of pastels and created self-portraits. Then utilising some construction skills students used hammers, nails, bottle caps and other materials to create their own portraits onto a block of wood. The creativity that is being shown is outstanding as it has allowed students to explore the different materials that can be used to create art.

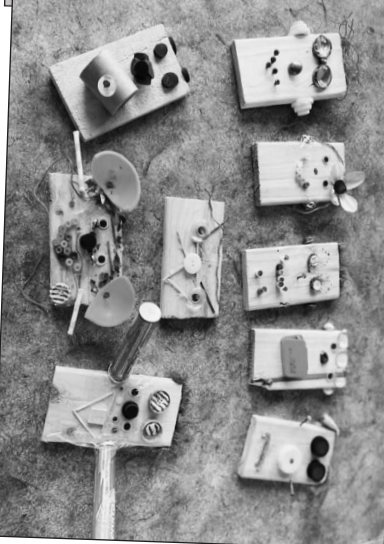
Garden

Since returning to school this term we have been working hard at getting our kitchen garden and greenhouse back

into tip top shape to prepare for the next growing season. Students have recently planted carrots and peas to complement our cooking program. This term we have been treated to some student made plum muffins, zucchini slice and fruit sorbet all created with the fruits and vegetables from our own garden. It is a wonderful experience for students to be involved in both the growing and cooking aspects of healthy eating.

Playgroup

Run in conjunction with Latrobe City Council our Yinnar South Nature Playgroup is back up and running and it is wonderful to have these children and families back on site. Playgroup runs from 9:30am to 11:30am on a Wednesday morning and we would love to see more families there.



SCHOOL NEWS

HAZELWOOD NORTH PRIMARY



Our first weeks of school have been filled with learning and fun!

Welcome to our new teacher Miss Khanlarian who is teaching one of the 3/4 Grades this year. Our other classes consist of two Foundation/Grade Ones with Miss Milner and Miss Xuereb, Grade 1/2 with Mrs Morgan, Grade 3/4 with Mr Atherton, and two Grade 5/6s with Mrs Alexander and Mr Simmons. We also welcome Mrs Judy Bishop who is teaching visual art during Term 1, and welcome back Ms Deborah Dean who is teaching STEM.

Congratulations to our 2021 School Leaders who have been presented with their badges at Assembly. School Captains are Gracie-May and Eli, and Student Voice representatives are Maddison and Jackson. House Captains are Jack with Bailey Vice Captain for Red House, Mitch with Iylee Vice Captain for Yellow House, Mackenzie with Lucy Vice Captain for Blue House and Connor with Max

Vice Captain for Green House. At assembly we also celebrated the first of our weekly School Values Awards winners.

Our twenty-seven Foundation students have had their first art, STEM and library lessons. Thanks to Mrs Hughes, our PE teacher, we have had a great start to our sporting year with Melbourne Victory players visiting us for two days demonstrating soccer skills and teamwork, and Hockey Victoria presenting hockey clinics to all the students. Several middle and senior students represented our school in the recent Division Swimming Meet led by Swim Team Captain Tyler. Well done to Mackenzie, Maddie, Chelsea, Mitch, Connor, Xavier, Indy, Katy, Katherine, Abigail, Riley, Declan, Aston, Ruby, Charlotte, Macy, Amelia, Cody and Christian. The whole school is now practising their skills in preparation for the upcoming Yinnar and District School Athletics competition.



SCHOOL NEWS

KURNAI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS



The weather was perfect for our Kurnai College swimming day, held in Moe on Thursday February 11. Attendance and participation was at an all-time high.

Students from across the college came together and participated in events ranging from the serious to the silly. A favourite event is the lilo race which requires students to swim, pushing a teacher on a blow up mattress to the end of the pool.

It was fantastic to see our senior students competing, encouraging and getting into the spirit of the day by wearing the colours of their teams.

This event was the first in the busy school calendar where our democratically

elected House Captains were able to try out their brand new positions. School Captains used their leadership skills to organise students into events and to encourage individuals to do their best. It was also pleasing to see students participate in events outside their comfort zone in order to earn valuable points for their houses.

Team Forsyth (Blue) was the winner with 427 points, followed closely by Freeman (Green) with 416 points. Third place went to Siddle (Yellow) with 278 points and Thorpe (Red) placed in last position with 257 points.

Congratulations to our competitors and all of those who attended. A huge

thankyou to all the staff and students who helped to make this day a success. A special shout out from our senior campus to Ms Candy White who worked tirelessly to ensure that the day ran smoothly.



SCHOOL NEWS

CHURCHILL NORTH PRIMARY



Churchill North Primary School is on a roll! All of the students have settled in well to their new grades and are loving all the new and challenging work! In the junior building, the Preps have settled in and are learning so much already! They have been enjoying working with their buddy grades in the 5/6s and enjoy having help from the older kids with their work, and seeing friendly faces out in the yard and knowing they can ask for help if they are worried!

Some feedback from the students:

"I love buddies it is fun!"

"Having a buddy is great because I get to help them out with their learning."

"I love having a buddy outside I get to play with them."

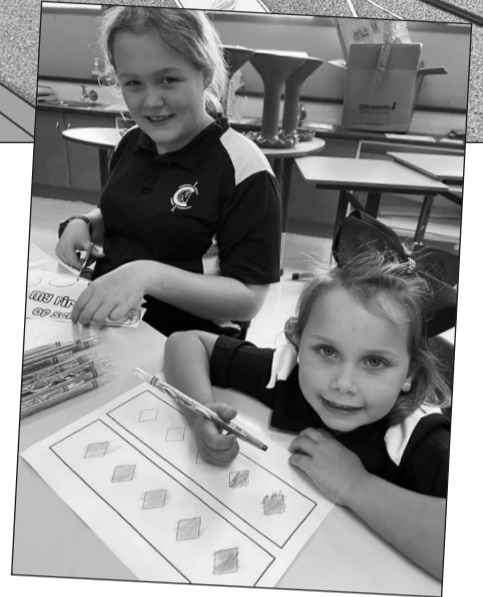
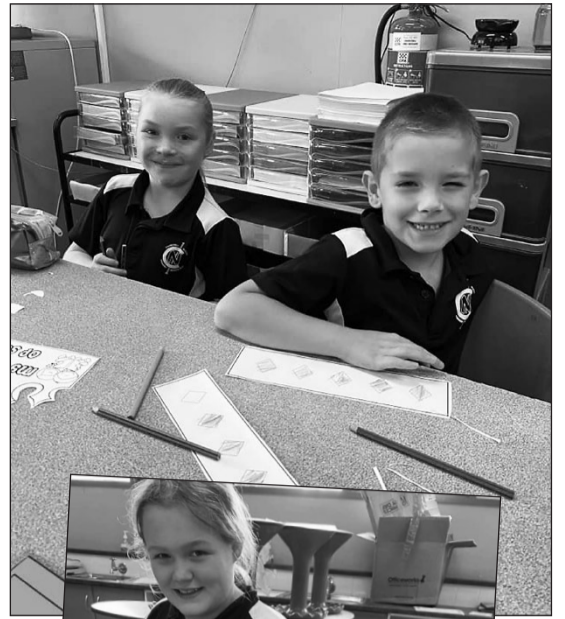
"My buddy helps me outside."

Gardening club's first meeting has been a huge success! Students from across the 3/4 Grades along with our principal Debbie Bosdet spend their lunch time going around the school, weeding, picking up rubbish and making sure our gardens are looking beautiful! The Gardening group is highly passionate about our environment and it shows with their huge amount of dedication to our school and making sure it is neat and tidy! We can wait to see what the Gardening Club comes up with next!

Here is what some of the members think -

It is where we clean up and sometimes you try and get weeds out of all the cracks.

I like that we get to garden, because I don't get to garden at home and it is so much fun!



SCHOOL NEWS

CHURCHILL PRIMARY



Oskah gives Winne a pat

Meet Winnie
Towards the end of 2020 Churchill Primary School held a Krispy Krems fundraiser which was extremely well supported by the families and our wonderful Churchill community, raising a little over \$2000. This money was put towards securing a very special (and fluffy) new addition to the Churchill Primary School team - Winnie!

Winnie is a five month old Border Collie who will be trained as a therapy dog once she reaches a year old. When not at school she lives with Mrs McColl who is really looking forward to doing the training alongside Winnie when the time comes!

The role of a therapy dog is to react and respond to people and their environment, under the guidance and direction of their owner.

For example, an individual might be encouraged to gently pat or talk to a dog to teach sensitive touch and help them be calm.

Research suggests that using therapy dogs in response to traumatic events can help reduce symptoms of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety.

Benefits of therapy dogs can be:

- Teach empathy and appropriate interpersonal skills

- Help individuals develop social skills
- Be soothing and the presence of animals can more quickly build rapport between teachers and students

- Improve individual's skills to pick up social cues imperative to human relationships.

Therapy dogs are being used to support children in schools with social and emotional learning needs, which in turn can assist with literacy development. Research into the effects of therapy dogs in schools is showing a range of benefits including:

- Increase in school attendance
- Gains in confidence
- Decreases in learner anxiety behaviours resulting in improved learning outcomes, such as increases in reading and writing levels
- Positive changes towards learning and improved motivation, and
- Enhanced relationships with peers and teachers due to experiencing trust and unconditional love from a therapy dog. This in turn helps students learn how to express their feelings and enter into more trusting relationships.

In the meantime, while we wait for Winnie to grow and learn, she visits the school on a regular basis so that she becomes familiar with the surroundings.

The students take her outside at recess and lunchtime and she is spoiled with belly rubs and pats from everyone.

Thank you so much to the Churchill community

for supporting our fundraising efforts and giving us the ability to afford such a wonderful support for all our students.



Winnie the Wonder Dog sits like a good girl, and Ready to Play!



Saxon enjoy playing with Winnie in the playground





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