

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

Established 1966

Distributed Free

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CFA - p 7



Hazelwood Cemetery - p 20



Four generations of art at Matchbox Gallery



By Leo Billington

According to Picasso, if you do not notice the passage of time when working, you are doing something you enjoy. Your work and studies will become more interesting if you become passionate about them.

Such is the case of Gilio Barbara as he presents an exhibition of art work from four generations of his family.

Commencing March 17 until April 3, a collection of family art work by Gilio's father, Gilio, son Julien and grandchildren will be showcased at Yinnar's Matchbox Gallery.

According to Gilio, 'I'm extremely proud to co-ordinate this exhibition.'

"We are very passionate about creativity, using our imagination, being inspired and inspiring others if possible in the process.

As highly passionate individuals our exhibition describes a great deal of positive emotions at work; we are interested, confident, proud, and happy. The art work brings out the inner self in all of us."

Gilio's father, Joseph was a carpenter with the State Electricity Commission after arriving from Malta and settling in Newborough. Back home Joseph was a sculptor having worked restoring the Sanctuary Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady commonly known as the Rotunda of Mosta. The church narrowly avoided

destruction during World War II when on April 9, 1942, a German aerial bomb pierced the dome and fell into the church during Mass, but failed to explode.

At home in Newborough after work, Gilio would sit with Joseph watching and learning finer details about sculpture and intricate woodwork.

One of Joseph's masterpieces, a marvellous, elaborate fireplace surround, resplendent with fine plaster inlays is displayed in the exhibition.

Another, a plaster fresco with its fine lines and complexity on display, depicts the patron saint, St Gilio. One will certainly marvel at its intricacy.

"Our whole family is arty", explains Gilio. "On display will be classically inspired work, fashion design paintings (oil and acrylic), ceramics, wood sculpture and stone work."

Brazil based popular cult artist, Mathiole, several years ago made the point that art speaks for itself most of the time. He believed any text that accompanies art should serve to connect you with the artist's approach or motive in order to add to your experience of it. 'Art speaks where words are unable to explain.' There is a time and a place for art speak.

The artistic talents of Gilio's family allows art to speak.



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CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"
Established 1968

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

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The DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of articles and advertisements for the April 2022 edition is March 25, 2022

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



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

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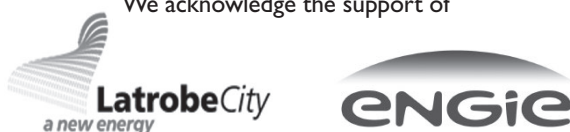
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We acknowledge the support of



Churchill Town Symbol

Many people refer to The Cigar or The Spire or even The Bird's Nest, but it is officially known as Churchill's Town Symbol.

It rises above Monash Way from its roadside location next to the local petrol station. The Pioneer Memorial Wall is also located there - the Wall was erected as part of Churchill's 25th anniversary celebrations in 1990.

The Town Symbol was constructed by the Housing Commission of Victoria in 1967. The Housing Commission architect who designed the town symbol considered a tall structure was desirable as a landmark so the locality of the new town of Churchill could be seen from a distance. It has stood in the centre of the Churchill for over fifty years.

The structure is lit at night (when the lights are working!) Various lighting arrangements have been installed over the years - currently the Symbol is up-lit externally to its mid-point. (Because of its tapered shape, the lights currently installed at its base do not reach all the way to the top.)

CDCA was able to liaise with Latrobe City Council to have red and green lights on the Town Symbol over the Christmas period, as occurred in December 2020.

Much of the local commentary was positive but many feel the Town Symbol should be lit all the way to the top so it can be seen from afar, as was originally intended.



CDCA wrote to Latrobe City Council asking that the lighting be upgraded with the re-installation of internal lights that shine all the way to the top of the structure.

Correspondence from Latrobe City Council to CDCA states "This can be referred to Council's future budget process for consideration along with other project requests previously received. However, officers are required to investigate this further, to determine the costs associated with this request, prior to making any decisions or submitting this for a future budget bid. An initial capital investment will be required to fund a detailed investigation and design, and then a bid can be put forward to the 2023/24 financial year budget process."

We have been advised that Council officers have conducted an initial inspection of the structure and found a number of old fluorescent light fittings inside, all with no globes and broken covers. They also found six large internal flood lights on the north side, facing upwards, which appear not to have been working for an extended period.

Given that the likelihood of retrofitting or finding parts for these old lights would be near impossible (not to

mention the advance in technology that has rendered fluorescent lights outdated), a new design is required.

CDCA has been advised that Council officers will undertake a detailed design (plan) during the 2022/23 financial year from existing budgets. This work will then inform the stated future budget bid within Council.

We are pleased that Council has addressed our request on behalf of the Churchill community and that we may see a future upgrade of the lighting at the Churchill Town Symbol.

The task now, for us, is to keep this matter on the agenda. We believe Council is genuine in its commitment to consider our request, but with so many competing priorities for expenditure, not to mention a limited budget, Council can only undertake some, not all, of the capital works projects that are requested by the community.

A CDCA member, present at a recent meeting, raised the issue of lighting at the Town Symbol and requested that CDCA pursue the matter with Council. Those present agreed that this was a good idea.

CDCA members are always welcome to raise local matters of concern at our meetings. From the tabling of concerns and ideas for discussion by members,



CDCA is able to identify priorities and determine appropriate action.

CDCA meetings are held on the first Thursday of every second month. Our next meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday April 7, 2022. We meet in Studio 1 downstairs at the Churchill Town Hall (enter from Philip Parade). Guest speakers are often a feature of our meetings.

Locals are welcome to attend and observe or you can apply for membership of CDCA by downloading an application form from our website: cdca.org.au - membership is free and there are no obligations although participation is encouraged.

You can contact us via our website or our Facebook page (search for Churchill District Community Association) or you can write to us at PO Box 191, Churchill.

Rainfall

Churchill Rainfall

The rainfall for Churchill for February was 9.5mm and the total for 2022 is now 59.5mm to date.

Rain at Hazelwood South

What a contrast. Record floods saturating TV stations, but Hazelwood South only had 7.3mm for the month of February, and only 16% of the average. Only one wettish day for the month.

For the year of 2022 the rain is down by 40%. Surprisingly most grass has not browned, but is starting to feel crunchy underfoot. The danger of grass fires has increased. The gardens require much more watering. La Nina has not brought rain here, but did help to keep temperatures and evaporation down.

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- Mailed to: PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842
OR put in our collection box at: the Co-Operating Churches.
Advertising enquiries can be emailed to: cdnadvertising@cdnews.com.au

Churchill & District News
FLASHBACK

1980

Mathison Park launch by Kevin Heinze

Mr Kevin Heinze, horticulturist and well known T.V. personality will participate in a public meeting to be held at the Churchill Public Hall in March at which the report of the development of Mathison Park Churchill will be presented to the public. Mr Heinze is currently acting as a consultant to the State Electricity Commission who agreed to his participation in this meeting in order to encourage public debate on the Mathison Park Advisory Committee report. Mr Heinze will discuss matters of general gardening interest with people attending the meeting.

Churchill Citizen's Association

The provision of bicycle tracks in and around Churchill is being actively pursued by the Churchill Cycling Committee and the Churchill Citizen's Association. Various alternatives are being considered, if you wish to have an input contact one of the Committee members.

Fire brigade banter

It has been a busy few months, several burn offs all carried out without any problems, about 20 fire calls including one Churchill home which was damaged after a container of fuel exploded on the back porch.

The occupants extinguished the fire before the Brigade could get there mainly because we were given the wrong address.

We were wrong!!!!

We regret that in the last issue of the news in the advert for the Churchill Jeeralang rural fire brigade ladies auxiliary supper dance ... we printed the price per double as \$2.00 per double... It should have been \$20.00 per double. Sorry about that.

Reply from education department:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter February 20, 1980 regarding a post primary school at Churchill and apologise for the delay in responding to your initial submission.

At the Regional Priority Review Committee meeting of October 5, 1979 a recommended list of Capital Works projects to the end of the 1980/1981 financial year was prepared for the Minister's approval. Churchill was not included at this time.

The provision of secondary schooling for Churchill children is a matter that is being continually reviewed by the Region.

Letter signed by Denis Forrer, Assistant Regional Director.

Churchill swimming champions:

The swimming season ended on a high note for Churchill swimmers with the Gippsland Swimming and Diving Championships held at Sale on the long weekend in March, and the Shell All Junior State Finals at Olympic Pool Melbourne at the same time.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the Championships at Sale for Churchill was the record breaking win in the Girls 4x50 freestyle relay by Simone McKay, Melissa McDonald, Julie Wells and Fiona Ollquist. These budding champions all won Gold Medals for their efforts.

A vote of thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the excellent works carried out by Mrs Allan who for the past 14 months has been Co-ordinator of the Meals on Wheels service for Churchill and district.

Out and about

The Good Friday Children's Hospital Appeal

was once again a great success, with a grand total of \$2081.00 from Churchill.

Mrs Foster, Community co-ordinator and seven pupils from Mr Henshaw's class at Churchill Primary School presented the cheque of \$531.11 raised by the pupils and staff of the school to Kevin Beer, appeal agent for the Churchill area.

Letter to the Editor:

Are we rearing a town full of teenage orphans? How many of our teenage boys play in the thirds and fourths at Hazelwood Churchill football club?

The boys go every week to play their best with a handful of parents to watch them. The boys practise two nights a week and play each Saturday morning - that is about 46 boys not on our streets trying to find something to do or get into trouble.

Where were the parents when they played Thorpdale, when a coach had to make two trips to Thorpdale to get his team of thirds there?

Come on parents, the boys need your support...

Police report

I have received complaints from the Fire Brigade that people are parking cars incorrectly in some of our narrow streets. Several have already received tickets. Cars have been noticed parking under the 'No Parking Any Time' signs in the shopping car park.

We have the following property on hand at the moment; two amounts of money, one pick, three rifles and one skate board.

Citizens 50 and over Club

It has come to my notice that our local milkman Mr John Koedyke has been giving our club a carton of milk each week for years, for our afternoon cuppa. That is a very nice thought and well deserving of a mention in our column and a big thank you John from us all.

Lions skin cancer caravan visiting Churchill



The Lions Skin Cancer van hosted by the Churchill & District Lions Club will be conducting skin care checks for free in the Churchill Shopping Centre car park.

In 2019, the Lions V District Cancer Foundation decided to take a leading role in improving skin cancer awareness through screenings, information and support - and in 2020 they began gathering funds to build, resource and operate a Mobile Skin Cancer Screening unit.

Australia has one of the highest skin cancer (melanoma) rates in the world. This is nothing to be proud of. With our love for the outdoors and our, at times harsh climate, as a people we are often exposed to the dangers of excessive amounts of ultra violet radiation.

Despite many campaigns and promotions, people remain ambivalent to checking for possible lesions, and attitudes about sun protection and prevention remain mixed, with many people still not taking adequate measures to protect themselves.

Access to trained practitioners who use a dermo scope is the way to go. They will check for skin cancers, please note, that

if they find anything that needs further investigation, you will be referred on to a Specialist - they do not do any treatments.

People living in regional areas are at more risk, with mortality rates higher in those areas, being attributed to a higher

proportion of outdoor workers, poor accessibility to dermatologists and inadequate approach to skin protection.

See the Lions ad in the paper to contact the secretary, Sue, for an appointment on either of the days.

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Safety during and around roadworks

In the past few weeks, there has been a fair amount of roadworks going on around Churchill.

It is pretty evident that there are safety issues that go along with the roadworks.

After the works are completed, a fair bit of cleaning up needs to be done before the new road lines can be applied.

Drivers must adhere to the speed limits and the various road signs that state there are no lines, etc.

Quite often, with no roadside lines, it is hard to negotiate the road when it is dark and it is easy to end up on the very

edge of the road and do damage to the car.

Loose stones are also an issue and can lead to cracked windscreens, driving at a reasonable speed will help avoid those issues.

A fair amount of rubbish has been left by the roadside also and before it can be collected, some of it gets blown on to the road, causing various issues to drivers and riders of bicycles. Be on the look out for rubbish on the road, and report to the "Snap Send Solve" app.

Stay safe and look after your community.



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Church News



Co-Operating Church snippets

Our Anglican Holy Communion service gospel reading was about Jesus calling his disciples who were fishermen, and telling them he would make them fishers of men. The children's talk was based on it too. It also involved a game of fishing using a magnet. On the fish caught were the types of people we could catch, the lonely, teachers, friends, family and others when we cast out our nets to tell others about Jesus. The children made a collage of a large fishing net in the water with fish on which were the names

of their friends and family. The Combridge team delivered the All Age Worship service. The message was in whatever you do, consider which of the fruits of the Spirit you will need to employ. Their use helps to make life choices much more positive and worthwhile helping the other as much as yourself. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The children made a pouch and in it put the words for the fruits of the Spirit to remind them to use

them when doing tasks. Cathie's service was based on Luke 6: 27-49. There are some challenges in that passage from the Bible for us to take up. Love your enemies and do good to those who hurt you. Ask God to bless those who curse you and are cruel. Be generous. Offer not only your coat but your shirt. Give and don't expect the money to be returned. Treat others as you would like to be treated. The Golden Rule. Love and be kind to all not just those who will return the favour. God is good to everyone so His

example is what we should follow. Don't judge others and God won't judge you. Forgive others and God will forgive you. Challenging but true, how we can make life easier for others and derive satisfaction for ourselves while setting a Christlike example. The children made love hearts with some of the Bible verses from the reading and those in the congregation could choose one to take.

Our services are posted on our church Facebook page and sent out by email to those not on Facebook.



Message from the Lectern

By Cathie Halliwell

As we journey through Lent, I would like to start with a quote from Nelson Mandela...

"We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road. For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning.

I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried

not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.

I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended."

(Source: Long Walk To Freedom, Nelson Mandela)

Each day we have free will and choice. We can choose to let our circumstances dictate our lives or make a stand and say "Lord I don't know

what your plan is but I make the choice to live in your promises and trust". We have free will to choose to live a life of faith when we are lacking understanding as to why things are happening. To stand firm in the face of all opposition to the calling he has placed on our lives.

We are called to walk the narrow path and at times it is not easy. At times you are crawling, struggling to edge forward.

To some who don't have a relationship with Jesus it is hard to explain the depth of the strength we have at our disposal if we ask.

It comes back to 'choice'. To constantly acknowledge that I can't do it on my own. To choose that whatever we

are going through will have a purpose for good in God's grand plan. To choose that the bad stuff will not define me. I can choose to celebrate all the little blessings.

As you wander through our community, I invite you to look around at your fellow travellers. Each and every one made in the image of God. Let us remember that we are all called to care for one another. How we treat each other reflects the love of God.

I would like us to continue to reflect on those words of Nelson Mandela, each minute of every day we have the opportunity to respond, to make the choice to follow the path that Jesus is calling us to journey.

Chaplain

Bumper stickers can have some negative messages at times, but one New Zealand person decided to make a very positive one...with an amazing impact.

A 22-year-old university student decided to help others after receiving help to get through depression. Making 600 signs that read 'Please don't take your life today.

The world is so much better with you in it. More than you realise, stay'. The student hung laminated copies on bridges and overpasses, and near railroads and waterways, as well as making a few as bumper stickers.

However the sentiment

was not front-of-mind for the student on seeing a piece of very unusual correspondence on the windscreen of their car when parked at their university.

It was first thought that the note was about poor parking technique, but the student was totally amazed to find a handwritten note under the wiper blade that was a thank you for a life saved.

It read 'Your sign saved my life today. I left my house with a plan and asked for a sign, any sign,

I was doing the right thing when I saw your car in the parking lot, thank you'.

The New Zealand student expressed her joy that someone had been saved as a



result of the bumper sticker, adding 'You never know who needs this reminder.'

It is something to bear in mind...the smallest act of kindness can turn out to be the light at the end of the tunnel. A heartfelt message, even something as simple as a sign or a bumper sticker, can save a life.

Worth thinking about!

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Church Times

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 Boolarra

Eel Hole Creek walk

By Delma Hodges

My interest in Eel Hole Creek began some years ago, while having a long discussion with a delightful gentleman, great in years, but quite strong in memory. He told of his years as a dairy farmer living south of Glendonald Road in Churchill.

He told of the wet winters and the need to drain the farm for his dairy cattle, so he started to dig a drain. It commenced on the rise of his property and ran the full distance down to the lower northern end of his boundary. Whether fissures in the ground joined up to his drain in the wet winters is unknown, but his work allowed his land to be productive, and tolerable for the cattle.

A smile and a chuckle could always be heard as he said they now call his drain, Eel Hole Creek. There was no creek he said, till he made his drain.

I took a wander down the Eel Hole Creek recently, taking the pathway leading to the culvert at the end of Philip Parade opposite the entrance to the Glendonald subdivision. The path follows the water flow from the concrete culvert, past some of the Fed Uni living quarters and tennis courts and finishing at the pathway that links the

Kurnai school and the Uni to the Churchill shops. At a leisurely stroll, it took an hour as I paused to enjoy the birds and photograph some of the plants, then returned to our car parked near the commencement of the walk.

The pathway provides an easy walk past native endemic trees and hardy shrubs. I saw a very cheeky red wattlebird at the start of the walk and of course as I walked along there were lots of sounds coming from other small birds dancing in the trees. The ever-present magpie was also busy searching for anything edible.

The culvert and creek, that the pathway follows, does need a bit of maintenance as both blackberry and ivy have taken advantage of our lockdowns to make their presence obvious.

I am sure this job will have been noted already by the relevant authorities.

An exciting find was a Gymea Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*), soon to flower again. Aborigines are reported to have cooked the young flower head and roots. It is lovely to have it in our park.

I hope you will take the time to wander along this section of the walk that leads to Lake Hyland at Mathison Park. Churchill is rightly proud of this recreational



gem.

In February's edition of Churchill & District News, Mike Beamish wrote about the Lyrebird Walk close to Mirboo North. I went there in early March so I missed seeing the tongue orchids unfortunately, but I did keep an eye out for some of the birdlife he mentioned. There was a delightful stillness in the forest. It is a tonic for the soul no matter when or where we walk.

Sources: Wriggley & Fagg - Australian Native Plants 5th edition

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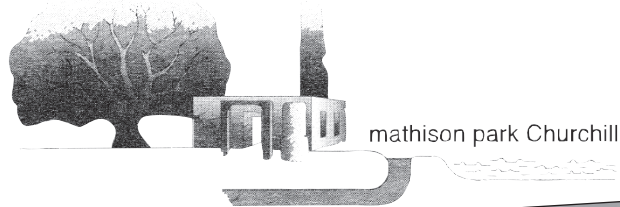
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Mathison Park new pathway



The new pathway through what the committee call the top paddock, was started one Sunday and completed a week later. It was not long before people discovered the path and used it.

It gives you a view of the park from a different perspective, one which we feel you will enjoy. We acknowledge and thank Latrobe City Council for the Community Grant which enabled us to proceed with this path which opens up an area hitherto inaccessible.

As you will have noticed the old house has had some structural re-enforcing done to stabilise it into the future.

Even with this work it was deemed for safety reasons that it should be fenced and therefore unable to be accessed by the public. The fence is looking attractive. We thank the project teams for the work they have carried out according to instructions.

The working bee was a huge success with twelve turning up. It was great to welcome back Max who had

been off ill with pneumonia. With three vehicles and three trailers we were able to cut up and clean up lots of fallen trees and branches and move those from our December working bee, as well as clean up a pile which was in a difficult position.

We thank Bruce for bringing his machine which is enabling fallen trees to be retrieved from the waterways.

One other member continued his dismantling of our unneeded wire fences while another with great determination

whippersnipped huge areas ready for mulch to be laid.

The Gippsland Interchange crew, along with several dedicated volunteers, have each week been whippersnipping and spreading mulch on some of our east side garden beds. How good it is to have their help.


It was with trepidation that we watched the fire burning over the road from the east side of the park. Thankfully it was extinguished by our local brigades.

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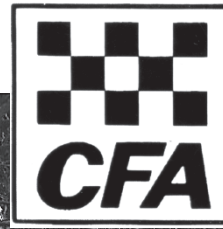
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Hazelwood Rotary Club

Churchill Fire Brigade



Suspicious Grass Fires in Churchill

Over the last couple of weeks, there have been a number of suspicious grass fires in Churchill.

The first on February 10, started on McDonald Way, was fanned towards the north east by a strong afternoon breeze and burnt just over seven hectares, with a fire perimeter of 1.5 km. Churchill was supported at this fire by our neighbouring

brigades from Driffield, Morwell, Hazelwood North, Boolarra, Yinnar South, Yinnar, Traralgon, Traralgon West, Traralgon South and Newborough and Fire Rescue Victoria Station 78 at Morwell.

The second smaller fire was in the orchard area adjacent to Lake Hyland on February 26, and burnt 0.56 hectares.

Thanks to all supporting brigades for their help

in keeping our Churchill community safe.

Fire Restrictions are still in force

Our community is reminded that although we have had milder weather this summer, the declared Fire Danger Period is still in force and Fire Restrictions still apply.

You must get a permit to burn anything in the open air while fire restrictions are in

force.

Please contact the Latrobe City Municipal Fire Prevention Officer or CFA District 27 Headquarters in Morwell to discuss applying for a permit.

CFA and our emergency services partners, Fire Rescue Victoria and Forest Fire Management Victoria, will be discussing an appropriate date to lift the restrictions in the near future.



Valley TYRE Service

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Good food leads to better mood



Dozens of Latrobe Valley parents and carers are better equipped to cook fresh, healthy meals and grow their own produce after a series of 'mood and food' workshops. Latrobe Community Health Service teamed up with food security coalition Food For All Latrobe Valley, to show families how food can improve their mental health and wellbeing. The workshops, held in Churchill, Yinnar, Glengarry, Traralgon, Morwell, and Moe, taught families how to prepare simple snacks and healthy meals, grow nutritious foods, and improve daily routines to support better mental health. "Food can affect the way we feel, and emerging

evidence shows the impact nutrients, food and dietary patterns have on mental health," LCHS Health Promotion Officer Gabrielle Francis said. "We know preparing and cooking food can be a great way to connect with family and friends, and eating healthy food can also benefit our brain and gut health. When the opportunity arose to deliver a project that increased community connection and reduced social isolation, we thought, what better way to achieve this than through food and cooking in a group setting?"



Using Community Activation and Social Isolation (CASI) funding, granted from Latrobe City Council, LCHS and Food For All Latrobe Valley delivered six 'mood and food' workshops. An LCHS dietitian, an LCHS counsellor, and two local gardening experts presented the sessions, helping participants to prepare their own healthy snacks, plant seedlings in pots, and share stories about how they were coping throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"One participant told us the workshop introduced them to food they hadn't tried before, and they left willing to try a wider variety of fresh produce," Ms Francis said. "Another participant said they were keen to grow their own food, many were pleased to learn about soil health, while one person said socialising with others and learning tips about enjoying life were most beneficial to them. Several people also showed interest in seeing a dietitian and a counsellor. We are so pleased to see more Latrobe Valley families are making positive lifestyle changes after attending these sessions."

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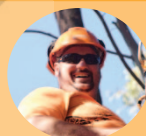


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Tribute to Captain Ian Green of Morwell



By Rob de Souza-Daw
Captain Ian Green was the son of Arthur and Katie Green of Morwell. The Greens were long-time residents of Morwell and Arthur Green managed a draper's business in Tarwin Street, Morwell. Ian Green was born in Morwell in 1911 and attended the Morwell State School. After school he joined the militia and worked as a bank clerk in the National Bank in Melbourne, and then transferred to Sale where he was working when he enlisted. Consequently he was the first from Morwell and also Sale to lose his life in World War II. Captain Green is remembered on both the Morwell and Sale War Memorials. When World War II

Division in early January 1941 was ordered to capture the Italian garrison at Bardia, a coastal fortress in Libya. The Battle of Bardia was the first British military operation of the Western Desert campaign and the first battle of the war for Australian troops. The Battle of Bardia was a decisive victory for the Australian Army and was predominately led, planned and fought by Australians. The defeat of the Italians at Bardia was well publicised in Australian newspapers. Although the 6TH Division consisted of 16,000 men, they overwhelmed the Italians and 36,000 Italians were taken prisoner. Captain Green was one of the 130 Australians killed during the Battle of Bardia.

broke out in September 1939, Ian Green enlisted in October. He was promoted to Captain and posted to 2/7TH Battalion, a part of the 6TH Division, Second Australian Imperial Force. This was a volunteer battalion, predominately from Victoria. After initial training at Puckapunyal, Captain Green's battalion sailed for the Middle East in April 1940. The 6TH Australian

Churchill CHATTER

Churchill Primary School
Churchill Primary School was the talk of town on February 16 when the school and students were featured on the front page of the Age newspaper. The school story and photos told of their achievements in literacy after Principal Jacque Burrows abandoned balance literacy for a "purist" phonics based approach.

Churchill Primary is one of the few schools in Victoria that has switched to systematic synthetic phonics to the exclusion of other established literacy techniques. Big advances in reading, writing, spelling and grammar results have been achieved.

Classes at Neighbourhood Centre

Term 2 classes begin in April. Check out the wide range of available classes which include Country Kitchen Cooking, Meditation Relaxation and Mindfulness, Creative Writing, Art Craft and Conversation, and Computers for Everyone.

If you would like further information on any of these classes or more that may be available contact Rachael at

the Neighbourhood Centre on 5120 3850.

Pine tree plantings

As the grass has dried off with the summer heat, thousands of small pine trees can now be seen growing on the property where once the blue gums stood tall. What will become of the large piles of old timber left on the property?

Churchill Community Centre

It is with regret that Abigail is leaving our Neighbourhood Centre where she has been working for the past seven years. Abigail has obtained a position with Life Skills Victoria at Moe. Although she is leaving our Neighbourhood Centre she will sometimes return and volunteer with them. Business at the Centre will be carried on as usual with Rachael as Acting Manager.

Our wildlife visitors

Churchill is a lovely place to live. Those lucky people who live on the edge of town have the pleasure

of a visit from some of our natural wildlife. The day is very special when they visit for breakfast as they did recently.

Help! help! help!!

This is your space. Please help us fill it each month with interesting bits of chatter from Churchill and district. Send us a few lines about what is happening with your group. What time and days does your group meet, who made a hat trick, or broke a record last week? Let us know about your coming garage sales and stalls. Give us a few lines to help us out and let others know about what is happening at your place? Send details to Churchill Chatter cdneditorial@cdnews.com.au

Thought for the month

The key to happiness is letting each situation be what it is, instead of what you think it should be.

Our next edition

Look out for the next edition of Churchill and District News on April 20.

Hazelwood Rotary Club

Churchill ANZAC Day Ceremony

The Rotary Club of Hazelwood in conjunction with Churchill News will again coordinate the ANZAC Day Ceremony at the memorial at the Churchill Public Hall on Monday April 25 at 9am.

More details in the next edition of Churchill News, but we encourage community members to join us for the ceremony which will be followed by a breakfast and tea and coffee with ANZAC biscuits.

Christmas in July Fundraiser for Gippsland Rotary Centenary House

After a number of cancellations due to COVID the Club's fundraiser, Christmas in July finally went ahead in December last year.

The well-attended event held at the Traralgon Vineyard featured a dinner with live music, raffles and auctions and raised some \$5,560.00 to support the work of Rotary Centenary House. Centenary House is an accommodation and support facility beside the

Latrobe Regional Hospital that cares for families of people receiving treatment in the hospital for cancer and other serious illnesses.

Although a facility supported widely by Rotary Clubs, the idea and impetus for the facility originated with our Club. It provides an invaluable service to families at a very difficult time for minimal cost.

A further fundraiser, 'Autumnal Dinner Dance', will be conducted again at the Traralgon Vineyard by Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Inc. Fundraising Committee on Saturday March 26 at 6:30pm. For tickets please call Kay on 0407 460 188.

Christmas Wrapping - Mid Valley

Our Club once again conducted the Gift Wrapping service at Mid Valley Shopping Centre throughout December in the lead up to Christmas.

Presents are wrapped by a team of volunteers for a donation.

Assisting us was a range of community groups with funds raised being distributed



between groups. Hazelwood uses funds raised to support the work of Rotary in the worldwide eradication of polio and prevention of malaria, Gippsland Rotary Centenary House, needy families and individuals in our area, disaster relief including fire and floods, as well as supporting a school and orphanage in Kenya with which we have direct connections.

Wrapping is a great service to community members and a wonderful way to meet and interact with our community.

The Rotary Club of Hazelwood meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Morwell Bowling Club at 6:30pm.

Any interested persons are most welcome to join us.

Latrobe Health Advocate

Thank you again to the Churchill News for inviting me to contribute to this edition. I would like to share some highlights from my most recent quarterly report.

Health Equity and Access to Services were the top aspirations identified by Latrobe communities this quarter and it was the first time Health Equity was included in the top five.

I heard about the struggles of some older residents who required direct support to access technology and government apps to demonstrate their vaccination status. Without this support from family or friends they were unable to participate in their community.

Healthy Lifestyles and Education were also among the top aspirations identified by Latrobe communities this quarter. A local teacher shared their enthusiasm for using education as a mechanism to improve healthy lifestyle skills and knowledge and to break the cycle of poor health and education outcomes.

I continued to hear from people about the importance of Community Engagement. A local community group continued to provide feedback and raise concerns with me about the development of a Used Lead Acid Battery plant in Latrobe. I heard about the group's desire to see health and wellbeing protected and to transition to a clean and green energy future.

Social Inclusion was an aspiration for people in the LGBTIQA+ community. I heard about a new program for LGBTIQA+ people in Latrobe that is tailored mainly for adolescents but open to all ages. Staff involved with the service are there to make transition easier for people, to support individuals and to influence the service system. They want to ensure that everyone has someone to whom they can speak.

During this quarter the Latrobe LGA experienced the highest number of COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic. At the same time, the Commonwealth and State vaccination programs were being implemented and 95% of eligible people in Latrobe were recorded as receiving two doses of vaccine. Over the three months, there was a notable shift in government policy, moving from hard lockdowns towards what was described as a vaccinated economy.

During this quarter I have seen several system changes that can provide opportunities for better health and wellbeing across Latrobe, and some of them are highlighted in the full report.

I continue to hear from communities who share their goals, barriers, and suggestions and how they want to be engaged by governments and services across Latrobe. I look forward to hearing from



Latrobe Health Advocate

more of you in the coming months.

If you, or a group you belong to, would like to share your experiences with me please get in touch with Kylie on 1800 319 255 and she will organise a time for us to catch up.

The full quarterly report can be found on our website at <https://www.lhadvocate.vic.gov.au>. Printed copies are also available from the office. If you have any questions about the report or the information provided, please contact us.

You can also keep up to date with my work through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. I look forward to hearing from you in the coming months.

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Churchill & District Lions Club

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Russell Northe

With schools now well and truly into term one I hope all teachers, students and staff are enjoying the school year thus far, with remote learning hopefully a thing of the past. In terms of education it was pleasing to recently read some positive articles with regards to the achievements of one of our local primary schools in Churchill. By way of background Churchill Primary hadn't been achieving great outcomes in NAPLAN testing which is an annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It tests the types of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. The tests cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

Churchill Primary's principal, Ms Burrows decided to try new methods to improve outcomes for her students. Ms Burrows and the school adopted systematic synthetic phonics which teaches children the 44 sounds, or phonemes in the English language and the letter combinations that make them. Essentially it breaks written language down into small and single components. Systematic Synthetic Phonics is recognised as an evidence-based, structured approach to teaching children to read. This method of reading helps children to learn the relationships between the sounds (phonemes) of spoken language and the letter symbols (graphemes)

of the written language.

Subsequently the transformation of NAPLAN results at Churchill Primary has been astounding. In 2018 and prior to the program being implemented 31% of Grade 3 students were in the bottom two NAPLAN bands and just 17% in the top two bands. Fast forward to 2021 and not one student at Churchill Primary was in the bottom two NAPLAN bands and an amazing 75% were in the top three bands. To Ms Burrows, your teachers, staff and students we say well done on the incredible outcomes and improvements you have made!!

On a sadder note, I did wish to recognise the passing of two local icons. First, condolences to the families and friends of Gerry Riess who was a legend of the local soccer community and a stalwart of the Churchill United Soccer Club in a variety of roles over many decades. Gerry was a highly respected player, life member, coach and administrator of the Churchill United fraternity and I know his passing has hit many people hard. None more so than Gerry's family including his wife Maureen, and children Alyson and Michael, Trevor and Emily, Stephen and Alana, Paul and Kate, Fred and Ann who I know will be receiving enormous support from all at the Churchill United Soccer Club and the community more generally. With the 2022 Latrobe Valley Soccer League season to soon

get underway we wish all teams at Churchill United Soccer Club the very best for the season ahead. It is also pleasing to see the new clubrooms taking shape and I am sure all are looking forward to utilising the new facilities in the not too distant future.

Second, it was terribly sad to learn of the passing of Churchill resident Don Di Fabrizio. Don's list of achievements is simply remarkable across family, business, sport and community. Don established Di Fabrizio Steel Fabrication and Erection in the early 1960's and at its peak his family businesses employed up to 300 people. Don was also prominent in local, state and national soccer circles including the Morwell Falcons venture into the National Soccer League. Not only does Don have a grandstand named after him he received a knighthood from the Italian Republic in 1995, an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 1996. He wrote a book in 2011, he was inducted into the Gippsland Soccer League Hall of Fame in 2012, he was named Churchill Citizen of the Year in 2013, Latrobe City Citizen of the Year in 2016 amongst other notable accolades. What a story from a humble Italian migrant. I express our sincere condolences to Don's wife Maureen and his children Steven, Anthony and Mark and their families at this difficult time.

This koala looks very pleased with himself, and so he should be! He is a Strzelecki Koala and because of his parentage, ancestors and locality, he has a diverse genetic makeup. He belongs to one of the populations of Victorian koala that survived the koala fur trade of the 1920's and other changes in its habitat.

However, more needs to be researched about his population and more protection given to this unique and wonderful animal that lives in Churchill and the surrounding areas. This population is crucial to the survival of the koala species.

What is genetic diversity?

According to biologyonline.com genetic diversity not only enables the existence of different species but differences within species. This difference in inherited traits occurs when animals or plants have many different alleles in their genes. These alleles give direction to the formation and function of the organism and its ability to fight disease and overcome adversity. "The combined differences in the DNA of all individuals in a species make up the genetic diversity of that species" kids.frontiersin.org

Genetic diversity is the result of many mutant genes over time causing changes in the individuals. Sometimes these mutant genes are beneficial and increase the likelihood of survival, whilst others can be negative and prevent an animal from reaching adulthood and then breeding.

This is called natural selection. For example, as the weather warms, koalas with less fur or fur that moults in warmer weather, but thickens in cold weather, may survive better than those that do not have this capability. Additionally koalas that can eat drier eucalyptus trees may have a higher chance of surviving climate change and the resultant drier weather.

However the benefit of positive mutant genes occurs over a long time, and at present climate change is happening faster than species can adapt.

This Strzelecki Koala has inherited many different genes from each of his



parents and he will pass on half of his genes to his offspring every time he mates. In isolated communities where habitat loss prevents movement of koalas some gene variety can also be lost over time. This loss of diversity in genes impacts greatly on the population's ability to survive in the long term. Any change in genetic makeup could cause any animal species to become endangered or even extinct.

Why is genetic diversity important?

Genetic diversity enables a population to adapt better to changes in the environment and therefore increase its chances of survival. Genetic diversity enables individuals with the suitable genes to survive and to pass on these genes to their offspring.

The Strzelecki Koala is under increasing risks. Recent fires and storms have damaged sections of the Strzelecki Koala's habitat causing many koalas to die.

Trees collapsed on them and the wet and cold conditions caused some koalas to die of pneumonia. Continual loss of habitat and other constant dangers like traffic and dogs all impact on this precious Strzelecki Koala population. The Strzelecki Koala needs to maintain and hopefully increase its population to ensure its survival.

The more diverse mating individuals there are in a population, the more opportunities there are for breeding a strong and adaptable population of Strzelecki Koalas. Every individual koala existence is important in maintaining a

population's genetic diversity. Genetic diversity enables a population to be healthier and to fight disease better. Like other koala populations, the Strzelecki Koala can be affected by chlamydia, retrovirus and other diseases.

The population size, spread, and the location of individual koalas is not completely known for the Strzelecki Koala. Scientists are trying to find out more. There is a citizen science mapping project happening now. If you are interested and want to find out more go to melbourne.for.org.au and lookout for the brochure #HangInThereStrzKoala for details too.

How can we help the Strzelecki Koala maintain its genetic diversity?

Help to minimise the risks for this iconic Australian animal. Be aware as you drive on country roads especially in the Churchill, Jeeralang area and its surrounds. Keep pets in areas away from koala migration routes, and lock pets up at night.

Help create native wildlife corridors by planting more trees and by requesting action for this to happen in your local area.

Contact representatives of your local council and government about doing things to help protect the Strzelecki Koala and its habitat. Find out more about groups that are actively trying to gain more protection for the Strzelecki Koala and its habitat.

An interesting fact: The Australian Museum's Koala Genome project found that a koala has 26,558 genes. More than a human.

Gippsland artists stage end of year exhibit at Churchill

Gippsland residents with an eye for art will have the chance to see and purchase works from our next generation of budding artists at Federation University Australia's End of Year Exhibition (EYE) at Churchill's Switchback Gallery.

The exhibition showcases works by five students from Federation's graduating class of 2021 in the Bachelor of Arts (honours) (creative arts),

and Bachelor of Visual Arts programs.

Featuring paintings, sculpture, drawing, digital imaging, video and collage, the exhibition is an opportunity for students to curate works under the guidance of their lecturers and present it in a professional setting.

The exhibition is open to the public from Tuesday to Thursday until April 20, 2022, between 10am and 4pm.

To accompany the physical exhibition, an online gallery featuring works from EYE across the Ballarat and Gippsland campuses has been created, giving students an opportunity to reach an even broader audience.

The online gallery can be viewed at artspaces.kunstmatrix.com/en/exhibition/7917181/2021-virtual-eye-end-of-year-exhibition



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Yarragon Book Fair

E-books and Kindles may be popular tools for the discerning reader. On-line audio books are a big thing for many who enjoy a good story. However the feel of a good quality book still has great appeal. This is the experience of the Officers and members of the Yarragon Fire Brigades which run the annual Yarragon Charity Book Fair.

This event has been running for fifteen years and had become a major event on the book lover's calendar until the COVID Pandemic wrought huge changes on all our lives. The 2020 and 2021 events were both cancelled in the interests of public safety.

"The passion we have seen for books is amazing" said Yarragon Fire Brigade member and Book Fair Coordinator, Geoff Conway. "People from all over Victoria have come to Yarragon to search for books that you just cannot get in the stores any more. We hope that after a two year break those who enjoy a good read will return to Yarragon again."

The 2022 Bookfair is scheduled for April 9 and 10. Mr Conway said, "We have brought the event



forward to mid-autumn this year to fit in with pandemic management constraints. Our previous scheduling for mid-winter is a problematic time for public health and we are determined to run a COVID-safe event." This year the brigade has assembled a stock of over 35,000 books of every description. "Novels seem to be the favourite but we have people looking for biographies, cook books, self-help manuals and travel books", said Geoff. "Our favourite part of the Book Fair is the children's books. It's wonderful to see the kids searching through the huge stock we have for them with a gleam in their eye. This year we are re-organising the venue to make greater allowance for children's books."

Stock has been donated from residents of the district

and charitable groups across Eastern Victoria and the quality is amazing says Geoff. "We have many books that are virtually brand new and will be sold for a fraction of the original price."

Prices for the books are the big attraction with soft covers for \$1 each, hardcovers for \$2.50 and children's books for \$5 a bag or box. Doors open on Saturday morning from 9 am and 10 am on Sunday.

"Fresh stock is available on Sunday because there simply is not enough room in the hall to display all the stock we have from the start of the fair", said Geoff. The Yarragon Public Hall is in Campbell Street, just 50 metres from the Princess Highway and a short walk to any number of excellent coffee shops, cafes and galleries.

Boolarra Community Event

Easter Saturday April 16

Easter Egg hunt for the kids, at 9.30am, in Railway Park.

Free music in the Park from 11.00am.

A community wide Garage Sale will be held on Easter Saturday April 16, from 9.00am to 2.00pm.

There will be great opportunities for finding heaps of treasures with garage sales in Boolarra and the surrounding district. Maps of the location of the

garage sales will be on sale at Centenary Park, Boolarra for \$2. The handout will also include information about larger items available at the sales.

In addition there will be a car boot sale in Centenary Park, Boolarra with many stalls, live music, food stalls and plant sales.

In case of wet weather the stalls will be located in the hall.

The day's events have been organised by

the Boolarra Community Development Group to promote the community and to bring people together having fun in the search for hidden treasures, chocolate and otherwise.

Special thanks to Latrobe City for their support with the Easter Egg hunt.

You can get more information from the Secretary of the Boolarra Community Development Group, Colin Brick, on 5163 1212.

Book Review

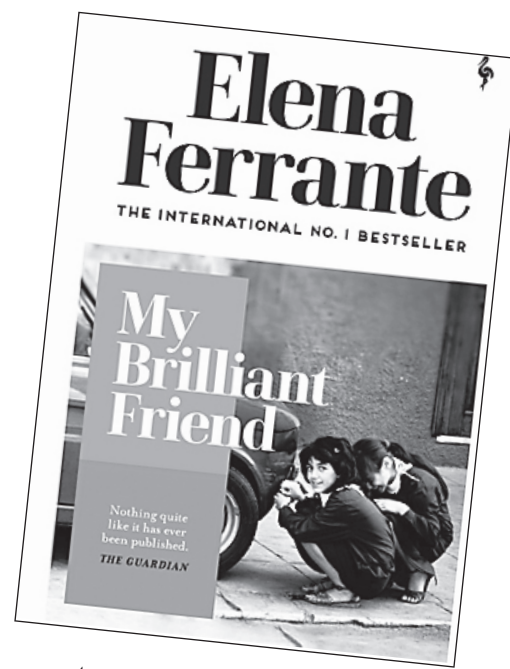
"My Brilliant Friend"
2012 by Elena Ferrante

The Italian author of "My Brilliant Friend" writes under the pseudonym of Elena Ferrante and as such little is known about her. This book is the first in a series of four novels about two girls from the ghettos of Naples. She has also written "The Days of Abandonment" 2005, "Troubling Love" 2006 and "The Lost Daughter" 2008.

The story begins in the 1950's and follows the lives of Elena, known as Lena, the daughter of a porter and Rafaella, known as Lila, the daughter of the shoemaker, from childhood to adolescence, as told by Lena. They live in an impoverished and densely populated part of Naples. On the top floor of their building lives Don Archille, black marketer and feared by all – his murder casts a dark mood over the entire community.

Lila is bold and seems fearless to Lena who follows her into situations she would not normally encounter. A close friendship develops, but there is also a competitive element to the relationship. The daily struggles and rivalries of the community form the basis of the story, but the author concentrates on the ability to have an education and what that might mean for them both.

Both girls are able to attend junior school and it is obvious both are very intelligent. When it comes time to go to senior school, which although it



represents

an economic difficulty for Lena's family, she is able to continue her education. Lila's parents don't see the need, and Lila is kept at home to help in the house or the shoe repair shop. However, her thirst for knowledge is great and she keeps pace with Lena by studying books from the library.

Both girls wish for a better life than their parents have had and for Lena this means an education. As Lila is denied this she thinks of ways to increase her family's wealth and comes up with the idea of creating designer shoes with her brother.

The ones that are made are highly impractical and their father is not supportive. However a pair is purchased at a ridiculous price, but at what cost to Lila and her family.

Whilst adolescence has transformed Lena from a pretty little girl to an overweight and blotchy teenager, lacking in self-

confidence, the opposite has happened to Lila, who has become the most sought-after girl in the community. She is wooed by Stefano, son of Don Archille, and the book ends with their marriage.

The members of our group had quite different reactions to this book, with some finding it tedious while others really enjoyed it.

The characters of Lila and Lena were well drawn and the petty spats of children and teenagers were evidenced in the book, making it seem quite authentic.

Being set during a time of change for most parts of the world after the war, especially the attitudes to girls being able to have an education, the inability of Lila to reach her potential and her early marriage was disappointing. The book also portrayed the undertones of crime and corruption in the city and the violence it engendered.

\$250 power saving bonus extended until June 30

The Victorian Government is extending the popular \$250 Power Saving Bonus payment to support more vulnerable households doing it tough with energy bills.

Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing said that the extension would provide crucial financial support for eligible households which have yet to receive the payment.

More than 350,000 Victorians have already accessed the one-off \$250 payment since it was launched in February 2021, providing more than \$87.5 million to those who need it most. Households receiving payments through the Pensioner Concession, JobSeeker, Austudy, Abstudy or Youth Allowance programs, or who hold a

Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card are eligible. The payment is transferred electronically into bank accounts or provided via cheque on request, and typically takes about two weeks to arrive.

To assist eligible households who may not have access to a computer or require assistance with their application, the Government is providing support through the Power Saving Bonus Community Outreach Program.

The \$250 Power Saving Bonus is part of a \$797 million household energy affordability package announced in November 2020.

The payment is delivered through the Victorian Energy Compare website, which

receives more than one million visitors each year. Victorian Energy Compare is a truly independent price comparison tool that helps consumers find the best energy deal available.

Data shows that seven out of every ten users can save money by switching energy offers with a typical annual saving of \$330.

To apply for the one-off \$250 Power Saving Bonus, go to www.compare.energy.vic.gov.au or, if you need assistance with your application, phone 1800 000 832.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio said "We are proud to continue supporting vulnerable households with the \$250 Power Saving Bonus payment

program until June 30.

In its first year this one-off payment has provided much-needed assistance, delivering \$87.5 million to more than 350,000 households, but there are still many Victorians on support payments who have not yet applied for what could be crucial help with their energy bills.

I encourage all eligible Victorians to apply either online or by calling the Victorian Energy Compare helpline."

Applying for the Power Saving Bonus can be done online or over the phone. Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing's office can also help people to apply, so please drop in to 216 Commercial Road, Morwell or call on (03) 5134 8000.

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Plants in my Garden



Children's books and toys for sale at St Matt's.

During the week of February 14 to 18, we celebrated St Matt's Op Shop's third birthday. The vanilla slices were very popular, and many people took advantage of our \$5 per bag special, along with our sale on children's toys

and books. However, we still have lots of lovely children's books for sale. We also have wonderful sports equipment - cricket bats, snorkelling gear, a big tub of golf balls and a lovely golf bag full of right-handed irons of every description. We also have

lots of camping cookware at low prices, and a big basket of farming clothes which are available free of charge - spread the word.

Do come in and meet our friendly staff and discover what amazing treasures we have.

By Mike Beamish

Species: *Boronia crenulata*.

Family: Rutaceae.

Derivation:

Boronia: Named after Francesco Borone (1769-94) of Milan, Italy, a very acute botanical observer and assistant successively to Sir James Edward Smith in Europe, to Afzelius in Sierra Leone and to John Sibthorpe in Greece.

crenulata: From Later Latin *crenatus* with the added diminutive *-ul-* and meaning "having the edge divided into fine teeth", referring to the leaves of some specimens.

Common Name: Aniseed *Boronia*.

Distribution: There are five subspecies (one with two varieties) of Aniseed *Boronia* in Western Australia, with most occurring south-west of the line drawn from northern Perth to Albany and the Stirling Ranges, with some outliers (one subspecies) further north in the Shark Bay area.

Description: A dense, dwarf shrub to 1m tall and broad, with upright branches. Leaves are glabrous and aromatic, up to 15mm long and 7mm wide, spoon-shaped, with entire or toothed margins. Flowers are borne on very short, thick stalks either terminally or solitary in the upper leaf axils, are about 15mm in diameter, with four petals in various shades of pink.



Opinion: I have had my plant in a tub for years without actually knowing its name! It is only the writing of this article that has prompted me to finally identify it and then only to species level; I have no idea of the subspecies or whether it is a variety that has been bred/alterd/manipulated by the nursery industry. The tub is shared with another WA plant, an *Adenanthos*, and is positioned in the western garden bed, inside the fence, surrounded by the Tasman Flax Lily that is taking over the area. Even though it is at least 20 years old, it is still only small, no more than 50cm tall and broad, but seems to be happy enough and flowers regularly every year. Like most of my garden, neglect is the main interaction between me and my *Boronia*; it has never been fed and it was probably only re-potted once, when its companion joined it in the

tub. I do throw a bit of water at it though, on those rare occasions (like now) when the real stuff doesn't fall from the sky like it usually does in Boolarra. Back in the early 2000's I did try to propagate it from cuttings, with some success in that roots did strike and several were potted up into tubes, but none made it further than that. Probably time to give it another go!

Sources: Elliot & Jones - Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 2.

Sharr - WA Plant Names and their Meanings.

Online - FloraBase: Flora of WA.

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



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The Latrobe Chorale Inc. present Fauré's Requiem



The Latrobe Chorale Inc members with Musical Director Simon Loveless (centre) after rehearsal at GPAC

By Nyree Allen

President: The Latrobe Chorale Inc.

Come and enjoy The Latrobe Chorale Inc.'s return to live performance since 2019. Under the Musical Directorship of Simon Loveless, The Latrobe Chorale Inc. with the support of Latrobe City Council, bring to you, Gabriel Fauré's Requiem (1887-1900). This requiem is a Latin Mass that centres on eternal rest and consolation. The Latrobe Choral Inc. is confident that their audience will enjoy hearing this well-known and well-loved choral work. The requiem will be preceded by a variety of short pieces of sacred music composed between the late eighteenth and early twenty-first

centuries. Composers include Britten, Bruckner, Holland, Gjello, Mendelssohn, Mozart, and Vaughan Williams. All works will be accompanied by Lisa Fraser.

The Latrobe Chorale Inc. will give the community a small taster of their upcoming performances when they perform at the grand opening ceremony of the much-anticipated Gippsland Performing Arts Centre.

The Latrobe Chorale Inc. is a soprano, alto, tenor, bass (SATB) choir based in the Latrobe Valley. The choir rehearses on Tuesdays from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, in Church St, Morwell (enter from the rear car park in James Street.)

New members are welcome.

Performances will be held over the weekend of March 26/27.

Traralgon: Saturday March 26, 2pm. Uniting Church, 19-29 Park Lane, Traralgon

Warragul: Sunday March 27, 2pm. Wesley of Warragul, 64 Victoria Street Warragul

Online bookings/tickets are now open at TryBooking.com or can be purchased at the door.

Full cost: \$20. Concession: \$15. Under 18 free.

Enquiries: 0490 115 357 info@latrobechorale.org

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/The-Latrobe-Chorale-Inc-379255692168>

Next Churchill Shop Local market

We are pleased to tell all that the next Churchill - Shop Local Market Day will be held on Saturday April 30.

Craft and market stalls will be at various sites around the Churchill Shopping Centre (both Hazelwood Village and West Place) from 9am to 1pm.

Saturday April 30 is a week before Mother's Day, so the market is just in time to find that special gift for your mum, wife, nanna or grandma.

There will be free sausage sizzles from 10am - 12 and give-aways.

Once again we will have shopping vouchers to

give away to some lucky shoppers who are buying goods from our local retail businesses. These vouchers can be spent in-store at a variety of nominated Churchill businesses.

Latrobe Valley Neighbourhood Watch will be cooking sausages in the car-park near Churchill Newsagent and will also be conducting their Anti-Theft Number Plate Screw Replacement program.

You can have these Anti-Theft screws fitted to your vehicle's number plates for the cost of a small donation.

Our musical entertainer,

Bryce, will be back with his guitar outside Café Alfa, playing songs that you know and love.

If you wish to have a site at the market, then contact Churchill Neighbourhood Centre on 5120 3850 to make your booking.

With COVID restrictions eased it looks like there will be no QR Code scanning or masks required for members of the public.

All are welcome - come to Churchill Shopping Centre on the morning of Saturday April 30 and show your support for our local retail traders.

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LABOR MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

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**SATURDAY
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Latrobe Visitor Information Centre

The Latrobe Visitor Information Centre opened seven days a week at the Gippsland Performing Arts Centre from Friday February 25.

The facility forms part of the Gippsland Performing Arts Centre project, offering visitors to the region the information they need to explore Latrobe City and the wider Gippsland region.

Centrally located in Kay Street, Traralgon the centre has nearby long vehicle parking and accessible toilet facilities, making it an ideal stop for visitors.

The existing Visitor Information Centre, in the

Old Methodist Church, remained open to the public until Thursday February 24.

Council is continuing to work with interested community members and groups to arrange a heritage assessment of the building. This follows Council's unanimous vote to undertake additional engagement with the community to determine the future of the building.

The Latrobe Visitor Information Centre will open every day from 10.00am to 4.00pm at 32 Kay Street, Traralgon.

The \$42.1 million Gippsland Performing Arts Centre project has been made

possible by collaborative investment from the Victorian Government (\$12 million), the Australian Government's Community Development Grants Programme (\$10 million), and Latrobe City Council.

Mayor of Latrobe City Cr Kellie O'Callaghan said: "We can't wait to welcome visitors to this purpose-built facility in the Gippsland Performing Arts Centre. Our Visitor Information Centre is a valued touchpoint for people visiting our region and also to locals who might be planning a trip to other parts of the wider Gippsland region."

Latrobe City Council update

Here is an update on some of the current projects taking place in our district.

The project teams are well underway with lots of them, and below are some key details.

Hazelwood South Reserve
Total funding: \$1.2 million

Sport and Recreation Victoria - \$1.1million

Latrobe City Council - \$100,000

Current status: Building construction works are currently underway.

Structural rectification to western wall at Latrobe Leisure Churchill

Total funding: \$130,000 through Latrobe City

Council's Building Renewal Program.

Current status: Works are yet to commence and are currently awaiting the appointment of a contractor.

Structural Rectification and Squash Court Refurbishment at Latrobe Leisure Churchill
Total funding: \$583,000

Latrobe Valley Authority: \$472,000

Latrobe City Council: \$110,000

Current status: Project is complete, including an upgrade of the squash courts and kitchen facilities

Renewal of amenities at Churchill Tennis facilities and renewal of change

facilities at Gaskin Park Churchill

Total funding: \$190,000 though Latrobe City Council's Building Renewal Program

Current status: Works on the tennis facilities are due to commence soon, while works on the Junior Football rooms are delayed until the end of the 2022 season.

Mathison Park Churchill,
Stabilisation of Hare House and installation of fencing.

Total funding: \$30k through Latrobe City Council's Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program

Current status: The project is nearing completion, with structural works completed and fencing underway.

Landslips

Council is working in collaboration with Regional Roads Victoria to accelerate the remediation works on over 40 landslips across the Strzelecki ranges. These works have an estimated cost of \$14.5 million dollars, and are being progressed through the State and Federal Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement and where approved, the majority of the landslips are expected to be completed within the next 12 months.

Melina Bath MP

The year is fast disappearing as we head into autumn, with Easter only around the corner!

There are many varied issues important to locals – here are some of the issues that I have been working on.

Lead Battery Project environmental concerns uncovered

A recent Freedom of Information (FOI) request showed the planning approval to fast-track the Used Lead Acid Battery (ULAB) project was made despite the state government being unaware of the long-term impact of lead emissions.

The FOI revealed three key issues:

In June 2019, Treasurer Tim Pallas flew to China to be pitched the proposal by Chunxing Corporation, a participant in the Chinese Communist Government's Belt and Road Initiative.

The EPA says modelling results for various pollutants weren't presented, criticising the company for failing to adhere to proper standards

The long-term fate of lead emissions and impact of having a battery processing plant in the Latrobe Valley is unknown.

Multiple requests for an Environmental Effects Statement (ESS) on the project were all rejected on the grounds that Chunxing Corporation self-assessed its environmental impacts.

When questioned on why it was approved without an independent ESS, the Minister said that the facility had been "comprehensively

assessed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)".

The FOI showed the EPA says modelling results for various pollutants weren't presented and it criticised Chunxing Corporation for failing to adhere to proper standards.

Additionally, it also said the long-term fate of lead emissions and impact of having a battery processing plant in the Valley is unknown.

Many locals remain justifiably concerned that construction has commenced, especially as it is licensed to emit 54kg of lead annually and is located close to homes, a school and agriculture land.

I will continue to meet with residents, advocate on behalf of the community and carry their concerns to government.

Inquiry into the LVA and the closure of power station

The State Parliamentary Inquiry into the Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA) and the impact of the closure of Hazelwood and future closure of Yallourn power station on jobs in our region is an important investigation to have.

March hearings included the LVA, Energy Australia, Union representatives, Committee for Gippsland, and the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain partner – J Power.

There is now an opportunity for the public to complete a survey on the LVA – and I invite you to share your thoughts. It is



important the Inquiry hears from people living and working in our community.

You can complete the LVA survey by visiting this link - <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/eic-ic/article/4848>

On the spot fines for farm trespass still delayed

Important protections for farmers and their employees, in the form of 'on-the-spot' fine legislation is finally set to enter the upper house of state parliament.

It has been three and a half years since the Gippy Goat in Yarragon was raided by animal activists and livestock stolen, and two years since the Parliamentary Inquiry I established and recommended 'on-the-spot' fines in Victoria.

The Inquiry exposed serious flaws in farm trespass laws in Victoria, ongoing delays on strengthening these laws is unacceptable and our farmers should be a priority.

The Victorian Farmers Federation said the delays showed a lack of respect towards farmers.

I will continue to support farmers whose farms are frequently also their homes.

Scholarships available for regional students

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester is encouraging local students needing financial assistance to apply for round six of the Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships (RRES) program. Mr Chester said the scholarships would help students from regional and rural areas complete tertiary education.

"There are many barriers that young Gippslanders

face when completing tertiary studies and these scholarships are designed to provide financial support and help those who might not otherwise be able to afford to study," Mr Chester said.

"Higher education is an important step for young Gippslanders looking to further their education and it should be accessible to all no matter their financial situation.

The scholarships of up to \$18,000 support students studying remotely or needing to relocate.

Students looking to undertake courses ranging from Certificate IV to PhD level are eligible and I encourage Gippslanders to check their own eligibility and apply."

For more information, visit: <https://www.qtac.edu.au/rres-program>

Ask your pharmacist

by Andy Gergis, Pharmacist
Churchill Discount Pharmacy

Vitamin D3

What is it?, Why do we need it? And how can we get it ?

All these questions and more is what we will be talking about today.

Vit D3 or Colecalciferol is both a nutrient we consume and a hormone our body produces through exposure to sunlight.

Vit D3 is available only in a small number of foods and as many of us spend less time outside Vit D deficiencies are becoming increasingly common and the demand for Vit D supplements has increased significantly in the last few years

But why do we need Vit D ? What does it do to our body and mind ?

Probably most of us know that Vit D3 is essential for bone formation but that is not everything.

- It is also essential for muscle strength and functions.
- It supports antioxidant activity.
- It helps (with probiotics) in

maintaining a healthy gut.

- It helps in maintaining good oral health and dental integrity.
- It supports fertility and the reproductive system.
- It plays a key role in supporting the nervous system, brain development and its functions.
- It supports a healthy mood and it is essential for our mental-wellbeing.


Unfortunately Vit D3 is not found in many foods (and where it is found, it is a really small amount).

Also exposure to sunlight is not enough to give us the required levels of Vit D3.

But we can improve our Vit D3 levels by taking it orally in the form of a supplement.

It comes in tablets, capsules and even in liquid form for adults and children.

If you or someone in your care is low in Vit D3, talk to your pharmacist to find out which supplement is best for you.



CDCA
Churchill & District Community Association Inc.

supports Churchill & District News
We love our community newspaper!

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

Next CDCA meeting scheduled for 7pm,
Thursday, APRIL 7, 2022.
downstairs in the Churchill Town Hall (park and enter from Phillip Pde). Check meeting details on our website close to date.



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Friends of Morwell National Park



Over the last month there has been a number of gatherings to collect seed for future plantings. Before the regular activity, two seed collection outings occurred. On Australia Day and Sunday February 5, groups went out to collect seed.

Below is a report from Jay about February's work. Saturday was a useful day and we had ten collectors at work, so we seem to have given that section of the Park a good going-over.

My un-modern phone didn't get e-mail to say that Merrin set off but had to turn back because of car trouble. Audrey was a surprise addition to our crew and proved to be, among other skills, a valuable climber-upper of steep slopes.

For the record, we have yet to manage to get up Side Creek and the bottom of Lodge Track / Blue Gum Hill Track (north end). I

have heard from our ranger that the creek crossing has washed right away in the floods, so it may not have been possible just yet.

Zig Zag track on the other side of the creek was a useful substitute collection area.

Walking to Potato Flat was feasible without getting wet feet by setting off from Braniffs Road track. The bridge wasn't exactly safe (no railings in the middle) or easy for some to climb on to, but it exists. Perhaps not exactly where it was before the June floods according to Ken.

Opening the Pipeline track has made this a very short walk indeed and seeing two Rufous Fantails along the track was a bit of a bonus.

Peter was the sole enthusiast for after-lunch action and went to round up any remaining Blackwood seed from the end of Tebb

Terrace and maybe the top of Braniffs Road.

Pomaderris aspera (Hazel Pomaderris) has had a weird season. Some seems not to have flowered and some is about to start! We now have a few that have flowered that we can monitor for ripe seed. We think we have a bit of time now before Cassinia seed will be ready. Ditto Sweet Bursaria.

February Activity Report

For the regular activity we had Ken, Mike, Cathy, Rose, Tamara, Anita, Gordon and Darren. We had apologies from Beryl, Matt, Graeme, Jay, Joelle and Peter.

Over the last month Park staff have been into the Park slashing and cleaning up around the tracks.

Between activities, Matt tested the old camera and was not able to resolve the problems with it, so he triple charged the new camera

used in the last activity. Fortunately the battery lasted a lot better this time. Long term we will need to investigate a charging pack for these cameras.

The tasks for the day were to finish the nesting box survey (boxes not surveyed last month) and some seed collection from some of the late blooming trees. With no ladders or other tools, it was not possible to complete any maintenance to, or replacement of nesting boxes.

Rose (armed with bags and many collection tools) and Tamara (with a great knowledge of the different trees) travelled to Moran's Road to collect seed in this corner of the Park above the Clematis Track.

The rest of the group travelled in to survey the nesting boxes off Braniffs Road and up the Butt Butt track.

Amongst the boxes up

Butt Butt Track one box had come off the tree, another was horizontal instead of vertical while a third was upside down (but still attached to the tree).

Surprisingly the upside down box had a sugar glider asleep within, near the top (originally the bottom).

The work by Parks staff have cleared the creek crossing making it possible (previously there were feet of mud and silt) to drive across the creek.

Now across the creek the Braniffs Road boxes were surveyed to find less future maintenance will be required on these boxes. Over the day at least 12 sugar gliders were observed in the boxes.

This makes a total of over 40 sugar gliders, one ringtail possum and a few Agile Antechinus that were observed over the two outings.

The number of animals found in the boxes was less

than in previous years.

When the nesting box survey was completed the group travelled around to Moran's Road to offer assistance to Rose and Tamara.

The walk in was longer than expected with a tree down across the road near the beginning of Moran's Road. With the pine plantation now removed there are lovely views across the Valley and the old pondage.

As we neared the park gate we met Tamara and Rose on their way out. They had managed to collect a few seed species to add to the seed previously collected.

A large thanks needs to go to Wendy who is storing and managing this seed collection.

The group drove back to the car park for lunch. With no other pressing tasks we were able to leave after lunch.



Where we live

First school

In January 1900 the first school was opened at what is now the junction of Balfour Place and Monash Way. This school was named the Eel Hole Creek State School as Eel Hole Creek was the name submitted by the petitioners for the school. The petitioners were local parents and many lived at Eel Hole Creek. In early 1904, the local parents recommended the school be known as South Hazelwood. They considered that firstly, as the school served more than the community at Eel Hole Creek and secondly, as the district was in the southern part of Hazelwood, South Hazelwood became the accepted name for the district. In June 1925, the second Hazelwood South State School was opened 400 metres south of the original school.

After WW1 horse drawn

vehicles gradually gave way to motor vehicles.

In March 1962 Lindsay Thompson, Minister for Housing announced that brown coal under Yallourn would be required for power generation and a new satellite town would be built south of Morwell. There was a mixed response to this announcement as some farmers would lose their land and the establishment of the new town was seen by some as adversely affecting the development of Traralgon and Morwell. Others enthusiastically welcomed the new town with its modern infrastructure and housing close to employment.

Reprinted with the permission of author Rob de Souza-Daw from his book, "Street and Place Names of Churchill." published in 2010. The book can be purchased from the Morwell Historical Society.



STAMP MATTERS- A NEW EXPERIENCE



Country Women's Association of Australia.

Over the last two years we have experienced a form of isolation because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was not generally a pleasant experience. We should, therefore, be sympathetic to those who live in the more remote areas of the country where isolation is the norm. As we have become more mobile with improved transport and infrastructure, this sense of isolation has diminished for many but it was hard a hundred years ago. After World War I, many small communities grew rapidly as ex-servicemen took up small farms as part of the Soldier Settlement Scheme. As these farms developed, often in marginal farming areas, the population grew and the needs of the women and children there needed to be considered. One woman rose to the occasion and organised the formation of the Country Women's Association in N.S.W. Her name was Grace Munro, a long-time charity worker from Warialda in

north-western N.S.W. She set up a framework of clubs for women where they could meet together and share their day-to-day experiences, and develop interest in the arts and skills with the crafts considered suitable for women at that time.

A singular outcome very early in their time was the production of the CWA Cookery Book, a must have in every kitchen for many years. The idea quickly spread throughout N.S.W. and Queensland, and then into the other states and territories by 1936. The first club in Victoria came together in 1928. Today there are over 5000 country-wide with 300 in Victoria. There are a number still operating in our area, including Morwell, Traralgon, Gormandale, Mirboo North and Yarram. Probably the most visible presence of the CWA is at the Royal Melbourne Show, where you can sit down to tea and hot scones and rest your weary feet. The CWA is a non-profit organisation, and raises money to provide aid to those living in country and



remote areas in hard times. It was particularly active during the great depression and WWII when the ladies put their knitting skills to use, providing socks and balaclavas for the troops and refreshments for travelling troops and those on leave.

Since the war, they have provided relief in times of drought, floods and fires. They also provide educational scholarships for children from country areas. All women are free to join, with no barriers to race, religion or political ideas. In the small country towns they provide a meeting

place for the women-folk to get together after the weekly shopping trip and meeting times often are organised to cater for this. Many clubs have built halls for this social activity and are often the social centre for the whole community.

A 7c. stamp was issued in 1972 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the CWA and its 100th Anniversary will be remembered with the issue of a \$1.10 stamp in April, featuring Grace Munro and honouring the intrepid ladies of the CWA.




Morwell & District Red Cross Branch

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

New members are welcome to attend


For further information contact the Secretary

Phone 0427 273 910








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Cooking with Noelene



Simple strawberry shortcakes

Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Grease and line 2 oven trays with baking paper. Using an 8 cm fluted cookie cutter, cut out 12 rounds from 2 sheets of shortcrust pastry. Place rounds on the trays, bake rounds for 10 minutes or until crisp. Set aside and cool. Slice and quarter 250 gm of fresh strawberries. Beat 300ml of cream in a small bowl until peaks form. Now spread strawberry jam over eight rounds. Place 4 rounds on a serving plate. Top shortcakes with half the strawberries and cream, then top with another shortcake, jam side up. Repeat with remaining strawberries and cream, sandwich together and top with remaining round. Dust with sifted icing sugar to serve.

Beef Rendang

In a large bowl mix together 1 tsp of salt, 1 dsp of soft brown sugar, 1 tbs of tamarind paste. Toss 1 kg

of cubed chuck steak in the mixture. Now add 120 gm of desiccated coconut making sure the coconut and beef mixture is well combined. Set the bowl with the beef mixture aside. Ok, now using a medium sized bowl add 2 peeled and thinly quartered onions along with 1 tsp / 1 dsp of dried chilli (your call), 1 tube of lemongrass paste (80 gm), 2 tbs of minced ginger and finally 2 tbs of minced garlic. Stir till well combined. Heat 3 tbs of rice bran oil over a medium heat. Add the spice mix to the pan, add 1 tsp of turmeric, 1x 100gm jar of Kaffir lime leaves (drained and finely chopped), 3 tbs of chopped palm sugar (otherwise known as jaggery, coconut sugar), 3 tbs of soy sauce, 1 tsp of salt and 1 dsp of cracked black pepper. Continue to cook and stir for 3 minutes. Spray the bowl of your slow cooker, place the contents of the pan into the bowl of the slow cooker. Add the beef mix and stir through. Stir through 1 x 400ml can of



coconut cream and 1 tbs of coriander. Cover and cook on high for 4 hours or until meat is tender. This is traditionally served with rice.

Chicken satay skewers

You will need 600 gm of chicken tenderloins and thread them on to 8 metal skewers (if you don't have metal skewers use bamboo skewers that have been soaked for 30 minutes in water to stop them from burning through cooking). Cook the skewers under the grill or on a barbeque, until browned and cooked through. While the skewers are cooking, combine together in a small saucepan 70 gm of crunchy peanut butter, 2 tbs of sweet chilli sauce and 2 tbs of water. Cook over a low heat, stirring until the sauce slightly thickens. Drizzle the sauce over the skewers to serve. Delicious.

Kung Pao chicken

Slice 500gm of skinless chicken fillets into slices or

cubes. In a small bowl mix together 1 tbs of rice wine vinegar, 1 dsp of sesame oil, 2 tbs of soy sauce, 3 tbs of water and finally mix in 1 tsp of corn flour. Add the sliced chicken to the mixture and set aside. Heat a pan and add a little peanut oil. Add 2 tbs of minced garlic and 1 tbs of minced ginger. Add the coated chicken. Stir until just cooked. Add 1 tsp of dried chilli (or to your liking), 2 tbs of chives, 1 tbs of apple cider vinegar, 1 dsp of brown sugar and 1 tsp of cracked black pepper. Stir fry till cooked through. Serve with cooked noodles or steamed asparagus and green beans or a mixed leaf salad with cherry tomatoes.

Fruit leather

This recipe ticks all the boxes. It is healthy, made with fresh fruit, but takes 8 hours to prepare. Is it worth it? Yes. Preheat your oven to 50 deg C. Spray and line 2 baking trays with baking paper. Place 800 gm of ripe stone fruit, chopped and



with skin on in a pan with a squeeze of lemon juice and a splash of water. Simmer, stirring occasionally until fruit releases its juice. Cover and continue to cook over a low heat for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until very soft. Remove the stones. Blitz the fruit in a blender or food processor until smooth. Now add 1 very ripe banana and blitz again until smooth. Pour and divide this mixture between the 2 baking trays, spread out evenly, place the trays in the oven for 8 hours or until firmed into a gel that peels easily off the baking paper. To serve, cut into long strips and roll up.

Black bean chocolate cake

I prepared this dessert cake with trepidation, I had no idea what to expect. Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Grease and line a log pan. Place 2 tbs of instant coffee in 1/2 cup of hot tap water, stir to dissolve and set aside. Drain 1 x 400gm can of black beans and place in your food processor along

with 300 gm of date paste or 300gm of pitted Medjool dates (chopped) and 3/4 cup of liquid coconut oil. Blitz on high until a paste is formed. Add 2 beaten eggs, 1/2 cup of Dutch cocoa powder, 1 dsp of baking powder, 1 dsp of bicarbonate soda, 1/2 cup of maple syrup, 1 tsp of salt and finally 2 tbs of the pre-made coffee (discard the rest). Blitz until everything is well incorporated. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and smooth over the top with the back of a spoon. Bake for 45 minutes at which time insert a skewer into the cake and it is cooked if the skewer comes out clean. When the cake is cooked, remove from the oven and let sit in the pan for 10 minutes and then carefully remove the cake using the baking paper lining as a guide from the pan to a cooling rack, cover with a tea towel till the cake cools completely. Slice and store cake in an air tight container in the refrigerator or the cake can be kept in the freezer. This is amazing !!



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CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

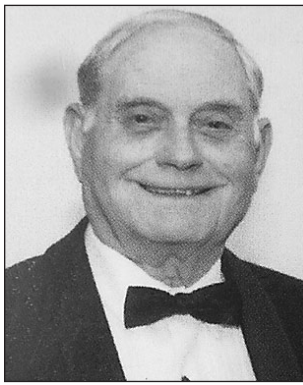
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Vale Donato Di Fabrizio OAM 1933 - 2022

Don was born in Lama Dei Peligni, Abruzzo, Italy on November 15, 1933.

He was educated in Italy and really enjoyed school. In 1954, a few years after the war, he could see no future for himself in Italy so at the age of 20 he decided to follow his older brother Joseph who had emigrated to Australia two years earlier. He arrived at Station Pier in Melbourne on July 8, 1954 and commenced work in Geelong as a riveter, rigger and boilermaker.

When the job in Geelong finished, Don and his brother Joseph moved to Morwell for the next job and lived in the men's camp on the Ridge. In 1956 Don's younger brother John also emigrated to Australia and joined them in



Morwell.

Don enjoyed dancing so together with some friends he went to the Saturday night dance at the local RSL in Morwell. It was here he met Maureen who became his wife five years later.

In 1963 whilst Don and John were working at their jobs they saw an opportunity to manufacture wrought iron

fences and balustrades for the many new commission houses that were being built in the area. They did this after their working day, in the evenings and on weekends in a shed in the backyard. Soon they had so much work they decided to leave their day jobs and they put a deposit on a small workshop in Madden Street Morwell.

The brothers' work was very successful, their company grew and led to them purchasing much larger premises in Tramway Road Morwell which saw the DiFabro group of companies incorporated.

Hard work and attention to detail saw them expand and they completed major jobs such as part of the Hazelwood Power Station, Loy Yang B Power Station, the Great Southern Stand at the MCG, Jeff's Shed and they supplied steel for Esso's offshore oil rigs as well as countless other projects all over the country. The business had a wonderful reputation for excellent work. Don's business ventures were directly responsible for the employment of a multitude of individuals from the Latrobe Valley and surrounding areas and at one time employed about 300 employees.

Generosity

Don was a very generous person. There are many organisations and individuals that he gave to and helped over his lifetime, not only here in Churchill but in the wider Latrobe Valley community. He felt his adopted country had given him so much that it was only

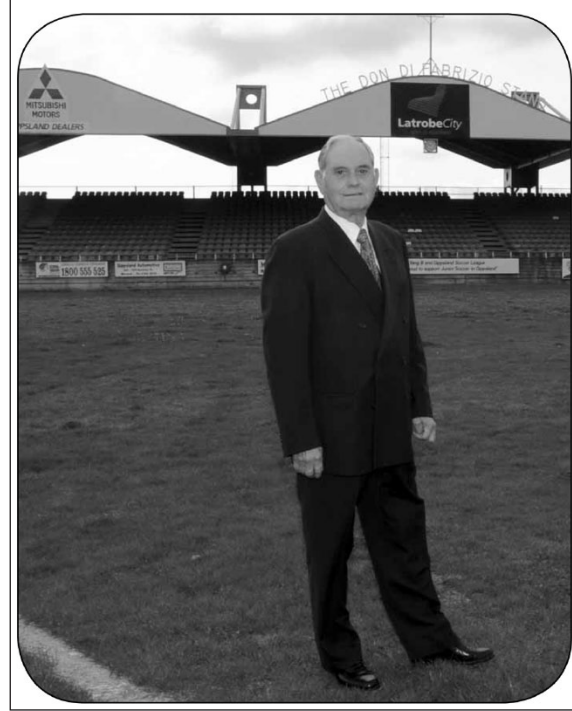
right that he should give something back in return.

Soccer

In 1969 Don became involved with the Morwell Falcons Soccer Club and over the years was instrumental in taking the club from a small country league status to the pinnacle of soccer in Australia participating in the Australian National League. After serving the club as president for 23 years he retired from his official position. He then became a Commissioner of Soccer Australia, serving as Chairman of its Hall of Fame Committee. Altogether he served the soccer community in Australia for almost 40 years. He was honoured to be made a life member and later patron of the Morwell Falcons Soccer Club in 1977- 1978. In addition he was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) by the Australian Government for his services to business, sporting and community organisations.

Immigration Park

Don initiated and took a leading role in the development of the Gippsland Immigration Park - Heritage Walk at Kernot Lake, Morwell. He had a small, dedicated group of committee members who worked voluntarily throughout the years to develop and maintain this wonderful acknowledgment of our migrants and their contribution to our communities. The Wall of Recognition features a beautiful bronze statue of a man with a suitcase, newly



arrived in Australia. In a semi circle around the statue are seven granite walls on which are engraved, in gold the names, dates of arrival and country of origin of the many immigrants who settled in the area.

The Heritage Walk has two beautiful steel arches (designed and welded by Don) at either end of the walk. As you follow the path around the lake there are 12 stations with 72 informative panels which tell the history of the Gippsland region. The Walk is now a place of much interest to the many visitors who go there.

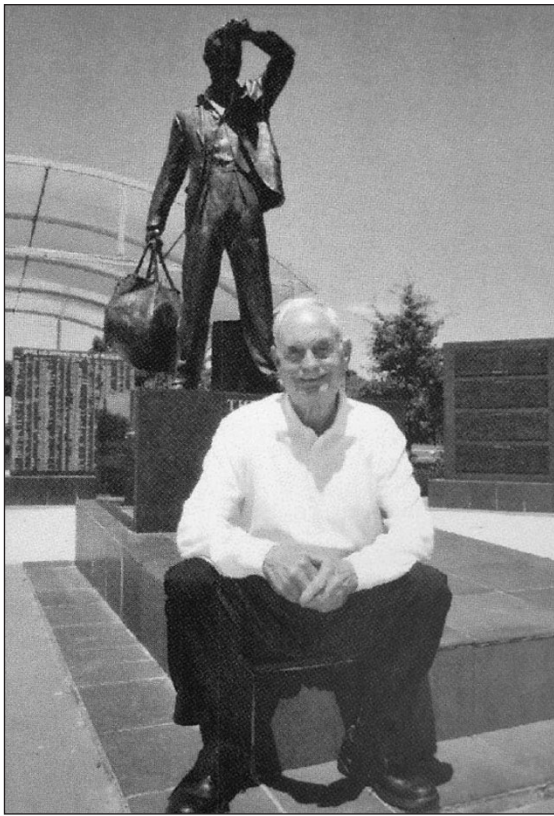
The park itself has become a great asset to the local community and to the people of Gippsland.

Don considered himself lucky to have had the opportunity to make a new life in Australia. He acknowledged that he had a

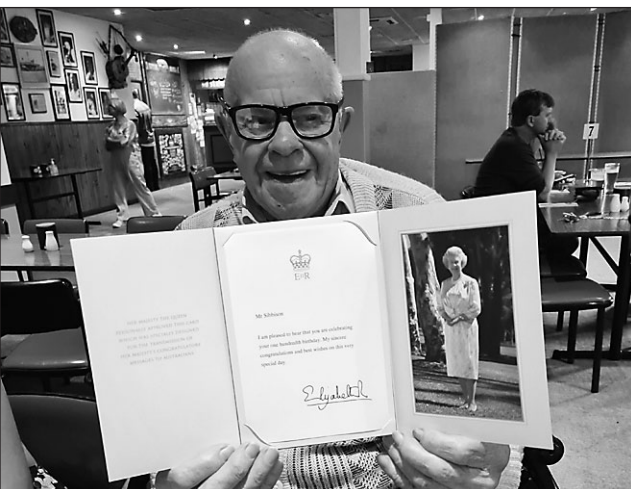
fortunate life here in his adopted homeland. He felt he fulfilled and far surpassed all the dreams he had when he left Italy so many years ago as a young man. He had a long and happy marriage to his Maureen for 61 years. He was so proud of the wonderful family he and Maureen had created. Together they had three sons Steven, Anthony and Mark who in turn gave them 17 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Don's contribution to our community, the Latrobe Valley and wider state has been enormous and we are all better off because he has lived. He has been an initiator, innovator, an action man (who gets things done) a volunteer and a gentleman of the highest degree.

He passed away in Melbourne aged 88. A life well lived. RIP.



Vale Ron Sibbison



Ronald Albert Sibbison passed away at Heritage Manor on October 15, 2021 in his 101st year. He was born in West Geelong on November 24, 1920 and then moved to Auburn Hawthorn district attending Auburn Central Primary then Swinburne Technical School. Ron then commenced his plumbing apprenticeship in 1935 but it was delayed due to war being declared in 1939. As his father served in WWI his parents begged

him not to go to war so he worked assisting in the war efforts as an aircraft fitter and in munitions. He married his wife Gloria on September 30 1944. He returned to plumbing in 1946 and they moved to Camberwell. Ron became fully licensed in 1947. Ron and Gloria had three children William (Bill) in 1945, Rhonda(now Dunn) in 1948 and Jennifer in 1949. They moved to Morwell in 1951 after Ron built their family home in Keegan



Street. He worked in various positions including working as a maintenance plumber at Yallourn Hospital and at the APM. Ron then moved to teaching, working at a variety of schools including Swan Hill, Heidelberg and Morwell Tech. At this time he also wrote three volumes of the Year 11 plumbing course, "Gas", "Air" and "Water".

Gloria and Ron moved to

Kallista in a log cabin built by Ron in 1983 with him staying there until 2010.

Ron maintained good health up until the final weeks of his life which he credited to his 73 years of dancing, including ballroom and square dancing as well as 23 years of sequence dancing. Ron has had two other partners in his life after Gloria, Norma for 16 years and Dorothy for 15 years and

has enjoyed dancing with them all.

Ron resided at the Grenville Villas in Yinnar up until his final year, close to family which he enjoyed. Ron and his mate Ron who also resided at the Villas enjoyed regular meals at the Yinnar Pub after the loss of both of their partners. Ron valued his family and beside being a proud father and father in-law of Bill (dec),

Rhonda and Garry (dec) Dunn and Jenny (dec) and Alan Coad, was a very proud Grandpa of Steven, Angela, Christopher, Paul and Diana and their partners as well as Great Grandpa of Rebecca, Nicole and Graham, Dylan, Curtis and Maddison, Isabelle and Hermione and Great, great, grandpa of Jasper, Ivy and River and Hannah.

He is sadly missed.

Hazelwood Cemetery



By Leo Billington How people are remembered and not remembered

Recently it was remarked that cemeteries hold a lot of history.

This history is given freely, sometimes with pride, sometimes with anger. Sometimes with disdain, perhaps even dismissive.

Headstones reveal plenty of the past. That is, if there is a headstone.

For example, at 2½ years of age, young Mahomed Jofset Khan drowned in a pond at a Morwell farm while apparently chasing some ducks. Hazelwood Cemetery Trust records show he was buried on October 21, 1916. Muhammed (alternative spelling) was

born in Morwell, and as a regular visitor to his grandfather's Morwell farm, "the little chap was last seen alive at about midday, on Saturday, when he was playing among some ducks, of which he was very fond." His body was recovered the following day.

Mahomed's headstone names his parents. It is not readily known that his mother is buried in an unmarked grave in Melbourne as is his father, buried in another Melbourne suburban cemetery.

His grandfather was a prominent Morwell citizen in the day, however, social norms and expectations did not tolerate mixed marriages. End of story – so to speak.

Mahomed's grave is not

elaborate. Plain and simple actually. It deteriorated over decades, the headstone showing faint lines of cracking. Brilliant yellow daffodils and snow-white jonquils had found a suitable home.

Mahomed "lives on" in the strong memories of his extended family 106 years later.

His grave has been fully restored in past weeks, a fitting and respectable memory to a loving child.

On the other hand, Mr William Lacey, a resident of Gunyah, lies in an unmarked grave.

His death in November 1926 resulted from a fractured skull sustained by falling from a horse while returning home from

Boolarra. At 62 years of age, Mr Lacey had been living and working as a farm labourer on Samuel Swindell's dairy farm at Gunyah. Evidence given at a magisterial inquiry included "there was a full bottle of whisky in the deceased's coat pocket."

William Lacey was a regular at Ashley's Boolarra Hotel. He liked a whisky or two. An extra bottle for the long return trip home was quite on order. Returning home, William's friend, James Cranny, "hit the horse with a stick." William's horse "set off at full gallop."

A consequent magisterial inquiry was held before Mr L Vary JP and concluded – William Henry Lacey, died from fracture of base of the skull caused by accidentally falling from a horse near Boolarra on Tuesday, November 16, 1926.

William's unmarked grave is recognised by a lone brick – see accompanying photograph.

However, William is, respectively, not alone. Miss Maria King's grave is right alongside.

Her faded headstone

shows her death on March 26, 1904 tells us Maria is "at rest." Maria's mother and sisters grieved.

Maria's obituary recorded 'the sudden death of Miss King, postmistress, which sad event took place at the local post office on Saturday afternoon last.

The deceased lady succeeded Miss Vigar as postmistress at Morwell in February, 1902, having been previously stationed at Penshurst for a number of years.

She was not in good health when she settled in Morwell, and during the past twelve months suffered severely from asthma which had affected the heart."

Maria King lived upstairs above the Morwell Post Office, then located at the corners of Tarwin Street and Commercial Road. Her sister, Maude King was with Maria at the time of death.

On April 26, 1943, Beaufort A9-304 of 1 Operational Training Unit (1 OTU) based at East Sale in Victoria, crashed near King Island killing its crew of four as follows:- Sgt Edward John Offer 415676 (pilot), Flt Sgt

Edward Waterman 405282 (observer), Flt. Sgt. James Henry Catterick 401742 (WAG) and Flt. Sgt. Graham Charles Nichols 405495 (WAG).

Flight Sergeant James Henry Catterick was born and raised in Morwell. Known locally as Jim, he was very popular through his involvement with football, scouting, cricket and a variety of community occasions.

A headstone names all family members and various 'In Memorium' notices placed in the local paper in subsequent years show a strong family bond was evident in the Catterick family.

Finally, an accompanying photograph of an old, rather solid, hard-wood cross placed in memory of someone. Hazelwood Cemetery records have been thoroughly trawled but to no avail. More intriguing, this cross is not in line with adjacent rows. It sits slightly aside from more substantial, neighbouring concrete graves. Our research will continue as further leads are followed up.

A message about
Recycling at
the Churchill Hub

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

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

“ Save your 'scrunchable' plastics in the Red-Cycle bin – Yes! It's back! ”
Located in West Place concourse (between Woolworths and BWS entrance.)



RUSSELL NORTHE MLA

Member for Morwell

"On behalf of our community I wish to thank all those who volunteer their time and service in Churchill and surrounds"

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PO Box 214, Morwell VIC 3840
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e. russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au
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A Churchill & District History Series

Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



Hazelwood North Community Hall



By Leo Billington

In its Thursday December 23, 1948 edition, the Morwell Advertiser announced that 'Land was to be acquired near the recreation reserve' for re-building of their hall.

Back in March 1947, at a well-attended community meeting at Hazelwood South, there were various aspects of an area of 12½ acres planned for purchase from Mr Harold Jones, for recreational purposes.

'It was reported to the meeting by the secretary (Mr. J. Bolding) that all the preliminary work of making the ground fit for football during the season had been completed by voluntary labour, including cartage. The furrows had been filled in and graded off to conform to the contour of the ground and the filling sown down with grass. The boundary furrow had also been run and goal and behind posts erected.

After some discussion as to the financing of essential buildings for dressing rooms and lavatories, it was agreed that a letter be addressed to the Council for its March meeting applying for a grant towards the purchase of the material for these constructions. The Council was to be informed that the need of the Hazelwood residents for assistance in this matter was considered to be a priority.'

'Their hall' referred to the then Hall Committee of the Hazelwood South Hall who had managed to collect 300 pounds in insurance because two local community halls were destroyed in the February 14,

1944 fires.

Those two halls were the Hazelwood North and Hazelwood South halls.

The Hazelwood South Hall Committee was keen to re-build and subsequently took the insurance payout – history doesn't explain why they were assumed to be special – and made application to the Victorian government for a subsidy for re-building 'of their hall.'

The land purchase was estimated to cost 210 pounds; 69 pounds was already in hand. Further community donations and assistance from Morwell Council did the trick. Five trustees were duly appointed to co-ordinate the Hazelwood South project.

The five persons lived close by; each one was a very keen footballer. A Committee of Management for the Hazelwood Hall site was appointed in June 1947.

At the December 1948 meeting, Mr L Northway moved, and Mr S Young seconded 'that the residents of North Hazelwood be invited to participate in the building of the hall at the Hazelwood Recreation Reserve.'

This motion was supported by Mr. J. Bolding on the grounds that the move would concentrate Hazelwood sporting and recreational facilities in one central position. Mr. E. Furnell pointed out that it was more 'economical to put effort into one good hall than spread it over two.'

The motion was carried.

A vote of thanks, submitted by Mr. Cyril Hare, seconded by Mr. Bert Northway, to Mr. Harry

Jones for his public spirited action in making the land available, was carried by acclamation.

In his reply, Mr. Jones said he would have donated the land if needed.

There is an irony in this bit of history.

While Hazelwood South scored a brick building, Hazelwood North made do with a wooden structure sourced from over Traralgon way – and placed on land donated by Harry's brother, Charlie.

Before detailing Hazelwood North's quest for a community hall, it was reported in September 1945 that this hall committee was quicker off the mark in terms of seeking government assistance following destruction of the hall.

Mr Herbert Hyland MLA was the man to lobby. He was an everywhere man appealing each and every constituent.

However for Hazelwood North to be successful to obtain a government grant, the site had to be transferred to either the Morwell Shire or the Crown.

An answer was subsequently received:

'With reference to your recent interview and representations when presenting a letter addressed to you by Messrs Bruce, Frost-Samuels & Littleton, who are the solicitors acting for the committee of the Hazelwood North Mechanics' Institute, advising that instructions have been given by the committee to transfer the hall site to the Crown, I desire to inform you that any assistance granted towards

the cost of erecting a new hall will be made through the Morwell Shire Council and be subject to the following conditions:

'The work shall be carried out subject to the general control and supervision of the Public Works Department, must be supervised by an engineer or architect, and plans and specifications of the building approved by the Public Works Department and the Department of Health before the work is commenced.

The hall shall be available for use by the public generally, and shall be insured for an amount equal to the cost of re-erection.

The Government shall not be responsible for any portion of the cost of maintaining the hall.'

'On the understanding that the new hall will cost £1,250, I Herbert Hyland am prepared to authorise a subsidy of £834 to the Council towards the cost of

the work.'

The 1943–44 Victorian bushfire season was marked by a series of major devastating bushfires following severe drought conditions throughout Victoria. On February 14, 1944 a fire broke out near Hernes Oak and quickly took hold and destroyed 16 houses and the post office before moving through Morwell, Hazelwood North, Hazelwood South, Yinnar and everywhere in between, where it destroyed houses, and farms with consequent casualties.

The government letter referred to the Hazelwood North Mechanics' Institute. Further research makes reference to a hall built beside the Hazelwood North State School. This suggests a school building and community hall were located on today's state school site. Both were destroyed by the raging fires, and all records were burnt.

Hazelwood North's history up to about 1946 makes constant reference to either the North Hazelwood Hall, the Hazelwood North Mechanics' Institute or the Hazelwood North Hall. It is the same facility; in constant use by a wide community, extremely keen to let everyone around know that this community played a central role in both the Morwell and Traralgon Shires.

As a new replacement hall, a wooden structure was used until another fire dealt a blow, but Hazelwood North was not defeated, and another hall was found and placed on-site.

That hall is now the crowning glory of Hazelwood North – and the other hall over Hazelwood South way is locked up, unused.

Story to be continued in the April 2022 edition of the Churchill & District News ...



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

St Vinnies
SOUP VAN
EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

5.45 pm

Churchill Community HUB

6.15 pm

Glendonald Park

****Note these times are approximate**

SCHOOL NEWS

HAZELWOOD NORTH PRIMARY

It is wonderful to all be back at school together! Our "Welcome" barbecue event provided an opportunity for our new families to meet each other and the staff, with excited students showing family members through their classrooms. Many parents/carers attended the information sessions presented by staff in the School Hall during the evening.

We have eight classes this year with two each of Foundation/Grade 1's, Grade 1/Grade 2's, Grade 3/Grade 4's, and Grade 5/ Grade 6's. We welcome new staff members Miss Cave teaching Grade 1/2, Miss Robbie teaching Grade 3/ 4, Mr Tate teaching STEM, and Miss Ashworth in Education Support.

School Student Leaders
Congratulations to our

2022 School Student Leaders who were presented with their badges at Assembly recently. School Captains are Lucy and Brooke, and Student Voice representatives are Mason and Abbie-ray. House Captains are Indy with Michael vice-captain for Red House, Iylee with Harry vice-captain for Yellow House, Katy with Lucas vice-captain for Blue House, and Aston with vice-captains

Riley and Ruby for Green House. Keeping our library tidy and relevant will be our inaugural Library Assistants Abigail and Jordan.

P.E. Program

It has been an exciting start to our Term 1 PE program with middle and senior students competing in the District and Division Swimming competitions, and Hockey Victoria visiting our school as part of their

roadshow program. All students from Foundation to Grade 4 had fun learning and practising new hockey skills through game-based activities.

As well as PE classes our twenty-six Foundation students have received their library bags and had their first Art, STEM and Chinese lessons.

Coming in March they will take part in their first

District School Athletics competition. Our House Captains have been organising and leading weekly game and skills practice for the middle and upper students in preparation for the upcoming competition.

We are Respectful
We are Responsible
We are Resilient.

Left: Student Leaders
Right: Swimming competitors



SCHOOL NEWS

KURNAI JUNIOR CAMPUS

Welcome BBQ

Every year Churchill Campus holds a BBQ to

welcome all of our new families, students and staff. This year's event was held

on Thursday, February 24. It was a great opportunity for students and families to catch

up in a relaxed atmosphere, have a sausage or two and to hear the Year Level Team

Leader give information about the upcoming year. Thank you to our music

students who provided the entertainment for the evening.



SCHOOL NEWS

LUMEN CHRISTI PRIMARY

Recently the season of Lent began in the Catholic Church with Ash Wednesday. The children of Lumen Christi finally went back to their Parish Church and

celebrated this important day with a whole school Liturgy. Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of the school's annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal.

Caritas Australia brings together thousands of schools and Parishes who stand in solidarity together for the world's poorer communities.

The aim is to alleviate poverty, hunger and injustice both in Australia and around the world.

The children took home a small box for donations

as part of their almsgiving during Lent, which is 40 days of personal reflection, prayer and giving to others as they prepare for Easter.

Through their generosity,

the money collected this year will assist the people of Ukraine and others who experience injustice, suffer harm or poverty..

Year 3 / 4 students from Lumen Christi school with their personal Lenten reflection leaves displayed on a school Lenten tree.



SCHOOL NEWS

KURNAI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Valentine's Day Fundraiser
Valentine's Day was celebrated with the Student Representative Council holding a fundraiser for a very special cause. Heartkids Australia supports those impacted by congenital or childhood acquired heart disease. Roses, chocolates and an array of gifts were sold during lunchtime and then delivered to secret valentines, friends or partners. The SRC raised \$430 for the cause and it was an enjoyable way to celebrate the day.

Friday Crafternoons

Students and staff

have enjoyed crafting during Friday lunchtimes. Students and staff have the opportunity to craft and lunch in a relaxed and friendly environment, a perfect way to end busy the week.

International students returning

We are happy to be able to welcome back our international students returning to continue their VCE studies with us. We still have a number of students who have been unable to return for various reasons, however we look forward to welcoming them back in the

coming months.

From Madagascar to Churchill.

Our campus was particularly happy to welcome Jiaheng all the way from Madagascar. Due to the impact of COVID, Jiaheng was unable to enter Australia as planned to begin his studies with us in 2021. As a result he had to complete his year 11 classes on line. Due to the time zone differences Jiaheng would start his school day in the early hours of the morning. Despite these challenges Jiaheng was the recipient of the Year 11 English as an

Additional Language award for excellence, attending the awards ceremony on his English teacher's laptop. Jiaheng is relieved to finally be in the classroom and to be able to play basketball with his fellow students.

Excellent VCE results

Our college is pleased to announce that we have achieved excellent results for VCE in 2021. We had a record number of seven students achieving an ATAR over 90 and 8.7 percent of students receiving a score of 40 or above in individual subjects. As a result of these excellent achievements our

campus is currently ranking number 33 in Victoria's VCE Ranking of public schools.

Dux of the school

Sophie Koostra has taken out the honour of becoming the Dux of the school for 2021. Her ATAR of 95 is testament to her determination and hard work. Sophie returned to school to be congratulated in front of the Year 12 students of 2022. Sophie has received and accepted an offer to study a Bachelor of Nursing and Midwifery at Monash University. We are particularly proud of our year 12 students in 2021 with a

pleasing number of students achieving over 90 ATARs.

Year 10 VCAL Pathway Program

The VCAL Year 10 students have been working on a number of jobs at the Hazelwood Estate Primary Flexible Learning Options campus. The aim of this work is to give back to the local community and give the students valuable vocational experience.

Current work includes maintenance and repairs to fencing, tennis courts, sheds and the vegetable garden.



Churchill & Monash Golf Club Results

Tuesday 25/1/2022 Par
Winner L. Brent (25)+4
DTL P. Mc Gann (29)+1
NTP 3rd P. Mc Gann 5th
L. Brent 14th S. Gosling
Saturday 29/01/22
Monthly Medal
A Grade B. Barnes (12)
78 66 and Medal Winner
B Grade J. Woodbridge
(18) 88 70
C. Grade R. Meredith
(24) 94 70
D Grade P. Watkins (30)
99 69
Scratch Winner B.
Barnes 78
DTL M. Soppe 71 G.
Beyer 71 A Quinn 72 C.
Cumming 72
P. Flanigan 72 P. Jordan
72 P. Smart 72 R. Welsh 72
T. Collins 73
D. Taylor 73 G. Harvey
73
NTP 3rd R. King 5th B.
Barnes 12th P.Collins 14th
C. Waring
Putts B. Barnes 26 C/B
Monthly Medal Tuesday
1/2/22
Scratch M. Dear 84
Medal Winner M. Dear
84 (12) 72
DTL S. Caldwell 75
Putts M. Dear 27
NTP 3rd L. Brent 5th R.
Davey 12th M. Mc Conville
14th S. Caldwell
Birdies 12th A. Quinn
14th C. Gilfillan
5/2/22
Stableford
A Grade B. Barnes (11)
43
B Grade G. Harvey (23)
40
C Grade D. Taylor (24)
33
D Grade J. Sterrick (31)
38
DTL F. Keighran 39 C.
Cummings 39 M. Allen 38
M. Brereton 37
M. Soppe 36 B. Rowley
35 A. Sharrock 35 P. Junker
34 C/B A. Quinn 34 C/B
NTP 3rd W. Sutton 12th
A. Sharrock 14th C. Gilfillan
Birdies 12th A. Quinn
14th C. Gilfillan
Tuesday 8/2/22
Stableford
Winner C. Barnes (40) 36
DTL S. Caldwell (20) 35
NTP 3rd. B. Beebe, 5th.
B Beebe, 12th F. Keighran,
14th S. Caldwell
Birdie F .
Keighran 12th
Saturday 12/2/2022
Stroke
A Grade M. Brereton 69
B Grade M. Soppe 71
C Grade L. Anderson 67
DTL R. Timbs 69 M.
Allen 71 C. Stevens 70 G.
Blizzard 71 B. Skinner 70
P. Kerns 72 C/B F. Keighran
70 N. Lugton 72 C/B
NTP 3rd F. Keighran
12th M. Brereton 14th M.
Brereton
Birdies 3rd D. Byer
12th R. Madigan 14th M.
Brereton
Monthly Medal Tuesday
15/2/22 Stableford
Captain and President
Day Winner Captain's Team
304
A Grade L. Brent 40
B Grade M. Hutchinson
38
DTL C. Barnes 36 V.
Verheyen 35 T. Davey 34
NTP Ladies 3rd J.
Tattersson 5th V. Verheyen
12th L. Brent 14th L. Brent
NTP Men 5th T. Davey
Saturday 19/2/22 2
Person Ambrose
Winners P. Smart and R.
Scurlock 61.25
Runners Up P. Bolding
and T. Sterrick 62.25
DTL R. King/K. Hogan.
62.50
G. Corponi/M.Allen.
62.50
P. Jordan/T.Collins. 64.25
P. Watkins/ R. Madigan
65
S. Gosling/C. Gosling 65
NTP 3rd. D. Burrige 5th
P. Smart. 12th C. Hogbin.
14th P. Smart
Tuesday 22/2/22 Stroke
Winner S. Gosling 117
(45) 72
DTL J. Blizzard 74 C/B.
C. Stevens 74
NTP Ladies 3rd V.
Verheyen 12th S. Gosling
14th L. Brent
NTP Men 5th T. Davey

Yinnar Community Garden

On Sunday January 30, the Yinnar Community Garden hosted Soil Care in a Wildlife Garden, a workshop with presenter David Sparks. Do you know your soil profile – is it sandy, clay or loam or a combination? It is intriguing to know what is below the surface.

Soil is an active, dynamic living eco-system and understanding your soil type is a priority before deciding what to plant, or how to amend the soil. For annual veggies you need to know your topsoil, for trees your subsoil.

In this hands-on workshop we brought along soil samples and identified the type of soil we had and how it could be improved with organic matter.

Using a mason jar we watched the different soil types settle out and we did a ribbon test by rolling the soil in our hands to feel its texture. Clay soil sticks, loams are easily moulded and non-sticky, sands can't be moulded.

Indigenous plants have evolved to adapt to the local soil type so in ideal conditions you won't have to amend the soil. Historically potash and phosphate levels were good due to the indigenous fire regimes and

the soil was often fluffy due to tilling for yams and other native farming techniques. However within five - ten years of cattle and sheep Australian soils changed profoundly. Now decades of compaction with hard hooved animals, digging teeth from sheep and habitat removal have led to degraded landscapes sometimes with little biological activity. For best results add organic matter such as compost to the surface. Seaweed solution and worm-juice can improve soil for a while.

Bark mulches and leaf litter are good sources of organic matter for native gardens and assist with hydrophobic soils.

Planting pioneer indigenous species such as allocasuarinas and wattles can improve soils and providing habitat for echidnas and antechinus is great as they loosen up the soil, forking helps too!

We also did a pH test on the soil. Did you know pH tends to be higher (alkaline) when soil is cool, and lower (acidic) in summer. Most garden plants prefer pH between 6 - 7.5. Over time soils tend to return to their natural pH.

Chemical fertilisers can acidify soil over time. You



can buy a pH test from good nurseries and it's easy to use. Dolomite or lime can raise pH if its too low (acid) and adds calcium. Clay soils can need more lime. If the pH is too high (alkaline) it can be lowered with garden sulphur in the warmer months when soil microbes are active. Clay soils with a high sodium content are usually sludgy and crack when dry. Adding gypsum increases the calcium without changing the pH. Add rock dust and charged biochar to sandy soils.

The afternoon workshop Weeds- A Dance with Nature had us out identifying key

weeds for organic integrated management. At the YCG couch grass is an absolute priority and unfortunately regular weeding by removing the roots is necessary.

Heavy mulching may assist in lifting up the roots making removal easier. Hard barriers can help, a 30cm deep root barrier should be sufficient. Sheet mulching with layers of cardboard and newspaper covered with mulch 5-7cm thick is good and solarisation with thick black plastic is worth a try. It can take at least six months or up to a year for some weeds to die. Don't put couch into your cool

composting systems or weed tea. Many weeds are edible and those with lower dispersal rates can be useful to protect the soil from heat, wind and heavy rain. Weeds can create conditions to begin ecological succession and provide habitat and contribute to compost. Encourage native living mulches like the use of Warragul Greens to out-compete less useful weeds. Hugelkultur creates a spongy mass that can make pulling out weeds easier.

Cath Thompson, President, Yinnar Community Garden. For more info on garden

activities contact Rosemary at yinnarcg@gmail.com.

These workshops by David Sparks from Sustainable Gardening Australia have been part of a series funded by Department of Families, Fairness and Housing in partnership with Food for All Latrobe Valley, Yinnar Yinnar South Landcare and the YCG. David is a lead teacher in Horticulture at Melbourne Polytechnic at Fairfield. This article has incorporated SGA notes handed out at the workshops. Checkout www.sganonline.org.au for further information and online workshops.



Mary and Ray

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