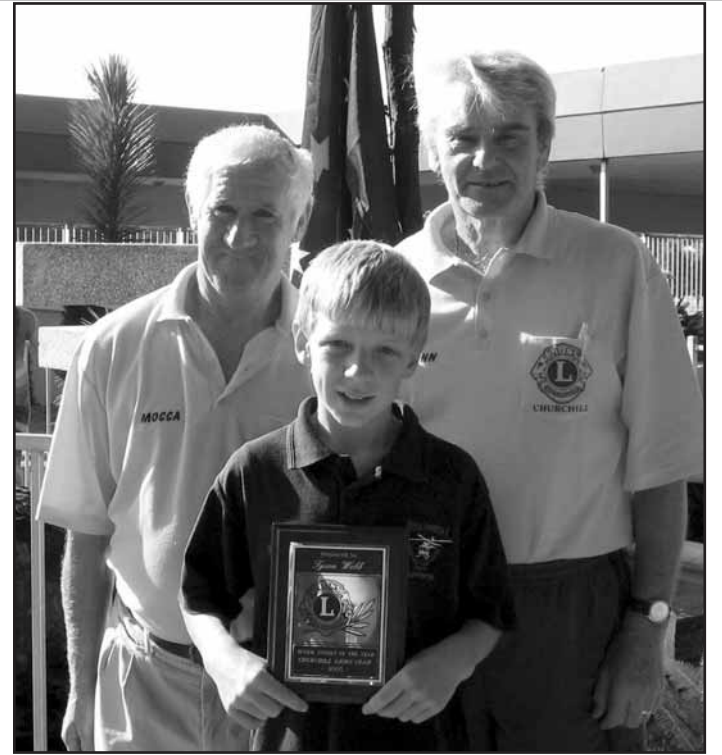


CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

Est. 1966



Young Citizen of the Year Tyson Webb with Kevin Rennie and John Barker

Eric and Dot Rowley receive their Churchill Citizen of the Year Award from Churchill Lions (below). Guides lead the National Anthem on Australia Day (above)



Mavis Thompson
Latrobe Citizen of the Year



Story page 2

Australia Day 2006

By JOHN BARKER

AUSTRALIA Day Celebrations were held in Churchill for the 4th year in succession. Organised by the Lions Club of Churchill & District and sponsored by Latrobe City, it is a Community Gathering enjoyed by all.

Organiser, Lion John Barker, welcomed a much larger crowd this year of over 200 people and thanked them for their attendance. Councillor Darrell White, representing Latrobe Shire, gave an address on Australia Day and what it means to be "Australian". Guides Kate and Sharon followed, with a reading called "About Australia Day".

In line with the Lions policy of supporting youth in the community, Hazelwood Guide Kate and Churchill Guide Emma proudly formed a Color Party to raise the flag. All the Guides from Hazelwood/Churchill District, their Leaders and members of LYNX Trefoil Guild led in the singing of the National Anthem.

The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the announcement of the winners of the Churchill Citizen of the Year Awards. Lion President Kevin Rennie presented commemorative plaques to the recipients.

The Lions Club of Churchill & District Young Citizen of the Year 2005 was presented to a couple, Dot and Eric Rowley. They have spent many years serving the Churchill

community in a quiet and efficient way. Their achievements include:

Resurrecting Hazelwood Football Club - Eric was a player and coach and now a life member

They were Committee members of Hazelwood South Hall, organising monthly dances and fortnightly euchre games

They were Primary School Committee members - providing wood for winter and cutting grass and have been involved with Fire Brigade, Tennis Club Committee and Rifle Club

They organised yearly bonfire night at Hazelwood Recreation Reserve and annual 'show day' with wood chopping etc on Caulfield Cup Day at Hazelwood Recreation Reserve

They fought long and hard against renaming of "Churchill"

They have given 20 years of service to Wattle Club and volunteer at Co-operating Church to garden and staff the kitchen for Christmas and Easter Clubs and they are committee members of Senior Citizens.

The Churchill community has much for which to thank this dedicated and exceptional couple.

Lions Club of Churchill & District Young Citizen of the Year 2005 was presented Tyson Webb an exceptional young man.

Continued on Page 2

Churchill & District News - Proudly Sponsored by:



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EDITORIAL

Welcome to 2006! The fire season is upon us and so far it has been a difficult and tragic one, with loss of life and property in Victoria. Our thoughts are with all those affected.

A report from our local CFA is on page 17, with a clear message - be prepared!

On a lighter note, the Churchill and District News has been busy preparing for the Churchill Festival on 1st April.

It promises to be a terrific day. Our aim is to inform and entertain people of all ages without any cost to visitors. Everything will be FREE! Food, drinks, entertainment, give-aways etc will all cost \$0!

Our photographic competition for 2006 is now underway with the theme of 'Natural Gippsland'. We hope to have plenty of entries. All the winning

entries will be printed in the paper and also displayed at the Co-Operating Church.

Congratulations to the Churchill Citizens of the Year, Dot and Eric Rowley, and Young Citizen of the Year, Tyson Webb. Congratulations also to Mavis Thompson on become Latrobe Citizen of the Year.

Volunteers in our community contribute a great deal. We are all volunteers at the News and we do give a lot of time and effort but we also gain a great deal. If you are interested in volunteering please give us a ring. If the press is not really your cup of tea - flick through this paper - there are many organisations that would appreciate your help. Retail at Lifeline, gardening at Mathison Park, or cleaning up Australia are all featured!

Ed

Contributions

Articles for publication and letters to the Editor can be sent to: Churchill & District News PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842

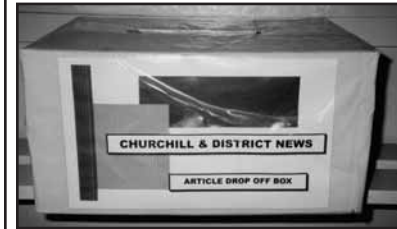
Or Email: cdnews@dcsi.net.au

All articles must be submitted by the 30th of each month for publication in the second week of the following month.

Advertising enquiries can be addressed to:

Peter Prokopiv Churchill & District News PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842

Tel: 03 5122 2589 or 0402 406 376



Look out for our Article Drop Off Boxes Located at:
Cafe Le Mac's, Churchill
Primary School, Churchill
Library and the
Co-Operating Church

Churchill & District News

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Australia Day 2006 - Continued from page 1

He supports Helimed 1 Air Ambulance by setting up displays handing out stickers, pens and balloons to children. He also supports the anti-cancer by selling bandanas and local basketball by handing out scoreboards, pump up basketballs, helps pack up and photocopying

He volunteered his help with the Pondage Pursuit by running an activity for 5 hours.

He puts out and takes in school crossing flags on McDonald Way every day for Churchill Primary and Lumen Christi students, and was elected by his peers to be school captain.

He was appointed peer mediator 2004 and attended Young Leaders Program in Melbourne 2005.

He is HPV team captain and three times player of the year for his soccer club, recently being awarded Gippsport Most Disciplined Player scholarship - donating \$100 back to his club. He takes out/brings in corner flags at soccer matches. He was nominated by school for Churchill Lions Club Leadership award 2005. He

excels in sports - cricket, soccer, netball and athletics and has been involved in: Churchill Basketball (5 years), Churchill Soccer (6 years), Churchill Cricket (5 years), Maryvale Fire Brigade (2 years)

Lion John Barker thanked everyone for their attendance and invited all present to join together in a breakfast prepared and served by members of the Lions Club of Churchill & District.

The day was a total fire ban day right across Victoria and our Lions Club was successful in obtaining an exemption permit from the CFA to run the breakfast cook-up. Many thanks to Lion, Peter McShane, for this effort.

Special thanks to for the day go to: Rob Whelan for the use of the facility, Craig Blanch, owner of Churchill Saloon Bar for making toilet facilities available, Churchill Noodle Bar and SP & J Fish and Chips for offering to assist with preparation of the breakfast in the event of not being able to organise a permit.

Mavis Thompson Latrobe Citizen of the Year!

CHURCHILL resident, Mavis Thompson, has been awarded Latrobe Citizen of the year. Her contribution to our community has been outstanding and very much appreciated over the years. Mavis is involved with the Girl Guides, Red Cross, Lifeline, National Council of Women and the Latrobe Information support centre. She also plays the organ at the Hazelwood North Church, Probus.

Mavis joined the Red Cross in 1958 and over the years has worked in the blood bank, catering and registration. She is currently the chairperson and secretary of the Morwell Red Cross. In 1996 Mavis was awarded the Australian Distinguished Service Award at Government House. She still organises Red Cross Calling.

Mavis joined the guiding movement in 1959 and in 1961 became Captain of the Hazelwood Unit. When Mavis was captain the girls became experts and were able to make themselves comfortable in camp wherever they went.

They camped many times at Burnet Park, Broguik Park, Baw Baw Regional Camp, Britannia Park, Willow Grove, State Camp at Yarra Junction, McKenzies's Farm, Martin Walker Reserve, Thompson's and Porter Farms. Certainly one of the strongest and best memories of guiding to most girls is the adventure and fun of camping. Mavis was farewelled from the unit in 1978 but is still involved with guiding through her membership of the Trefoil Guild. Congratulations Mavis!

Australian Plants Society Latrobe Valley Group

THE Australian Plants Society Latrobe Valley Group is a group of people who share a common interest in growing Australian native plants in their gardens.

Benefits gained from growing native plants in gardens are many. They provide habitat and food for native animals and birds. The plants are unique to our country, and there are so many unusual and attractive plants it is a struggle to find room in the garden for all you want to grow

There are native plants suitable for all areas and applications. Other benefits of growing Australian are that, once established, our native plants are adapted to need little extra watering. They also need less attention to keep them looking great!

Belonging to our group provides an inexpensive way to get started. Cutting, seeds, and plants excess to other member's requirements are freely shared, along with suggestions and ideas on what to grow where to achieve a desired effect.

We meet at 7.30pm on the Second Thursday of each month. Venue is usually the Morwell TAFE Horticultural Building. Members

share friendship, experiences and expertise. We often enjoy listening to an expert talk about a plant or garden design. At other times, we engage in practical activities such as taking cuttings, garden visits, field trips and nursery visits.

If you are interested in finding out more about the group please contact Colin 5122 1972 or Mike 5169 6543.

Plants in my Garden
Mike Beamish

Backhousia citriodora. Family: Myrtaceae. Common Name: Lemon Myrtle. Description: A medium sized tree to 15 metres, with dense foliage to ground level. Leaves are elliptical to 10 cm long and strongly aromatic and lemon flavoured. Profuse white or pale green glowers to 1 cm diameter are produced in late summer and autumn.

Opinion: A lovely tree in it's own right, it has the added benefits or being edible. The leaves are strongly aromatic with a beautiful, fresh, lemon scent and flour, which seems to intensify when dried. They can be used whole and fresh to add to drinks (eg lemon tea) or stir fries (eg

lemon chicken), or dried and powdered for us in a wide range of culinary pursuits or scents. Tarnuk, the bush food farm over near Leongatha, grow them commercially for just this purpose.

My tree is planted in the 'rainforest' section, under the pergola in the backyard. It is still only a meter or so tall after a couple of years, but looking very health with plenty of new growth and flowering for the first time this past summer. I certainly don't want it to reach 15 metres, but if I do the right thing and harvest (prune) it regularly, I should be able to keep it a manageable size. It has a reasonable amount of protection where it is, but our cold winters and frost might keep it smaller.

Other specimens in the area in exposed situations seem to yellow, whether by cold or too much direct sun, I don't know. The other rainforest trees that are all planted around it in far too small a space may also provide enough competition to stunt it.

Sources: Wrigley and Fagg: Australian Native Plants, 3rd Edition.



Churchill & District News Photographic Competition 2006



THE Churchill and District News are proud to launch their third photographic competition. The theme for this year is 'Natural Gippsland'. There will be lots of prizes and winning entries will be published in the paper. The competition is open to all ages from young to old! The closing date for entries is 13 April 2006. An entry form and conditions of entry are printed below.

If you require more forms or more information please ring Val on 5122 2589. Good Luck!

Churchill & District News 'Natural Gippsland'

Photographic Competition 2006: Conditions of Entry

CATEGORIES: Entries are accepted in 4 Categories:
Prep – Year 6 Year 7 – Year 12 Under 21 21 and over

PRIZES: Prizes can be won in all four categories.

JUDGING: Entries will be judged locally.

1. Each entry must be accompanied with an entry form and state where the photograph was taken.
2. Entries must be in the form of a photographic print. Photographs can be submitted in colour or black and white. They must be unframed. Size 150mm x 100mm (4"x6")
3. Slides will not be accepted. Computer generated images will not be accepted.
4. Multiple entries will be accepted
5. Photographs must be received by 13.04.06
6. The greatest care will be taken with entries, but no responsibility will be accepted for loss or damage
7. Unless otherwise specified, permission to reproduce entries for publicity purposes will be assumed.
8. Photographers will be credited whenever the images are used.
9. Entries from students under the age of 18 must have adult consent.
10. Any persons included in the photographic image must be consenting for the photograph and any subsequent use of the photograph. A consent form must accompany any entries that include images of people. Please ring 5122 2589 to obtain a consent form.
11. Entries will be returned only if they are accompanied by a SAE.
12. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
13. Signing of the entry form for this competition constitutes acceptance of these conditions of entry.

Churchill & District News Photographic Competition 2006 'Natural Gippsland' Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Title of Photograph: _____ Category (see below)

The Photograph was taken at: _____

I have read and understood the conditions of entry and agree to abide by them. I certify that this is an original photograph, taken by myself.

Signature _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian if under 18: _____

Entry Fee to be included with Entry Form:

Entry Fees: \$3.00 per photograph (\$2.00 per photograph concession or student)

Please make cheques or postal orders payable to 'Churchill & District News'.

No cash or stamps. Attach consent form if necessary.

Entries to be mailed to:

Churchill & District News
PO Box 234 Churchill 3842

Closing Date 13th April 2006

Improving and Developing Services in Churchill

LATROBE Community Health Service Inc (LCHS) wishes to address rumours in the community regarding the change to Churchill Clinic operating hours. The recent news that GP Dr Buras was changing the clinic's closing hours from 5pm on weekdays and will no longer open on Saturdays, has sparked a fear amongst some that LCHS is closing its services in Churchill.

LCHS would like to reiterate that this is not the case. Dr Buras' practice is independent of the services and programs operated by LCHS. Dr Buras contracted staff through LCHS and is a tenant at the LCHS Churchill site.

As a result of Dr Buras' decision to change the operating hours of his practice, and in the interests of more efficient work practice, the decision was made to reassess the staffing requirements. Four administration staff and two nurses, contracted through LCHS by local GP, Dr Buras, will be affected as the Clinic changes its closing hours to 5pm on weekdays, and will no longer open on Saturdays.

LCHS has offered alternative employment where possible to staff affected by this change. LCHS will continue to support staff affected by the changes.

"There is a degree of misinformation in the community about the changes; I assure you that LCHS is not closing its services in Churchill. LCHS is still very much committed to the provision of community-based health services to the Churchill community," said Toni Aslett, CEO of LCHS.

"We are committed to improving and expanding our services in the Churchill township."

Ms Aslett has been engaged in discussions with Dental Health Victoria and LCHS is actively campaigning for extra funding to reopen the Dental Clinic in Churchill.

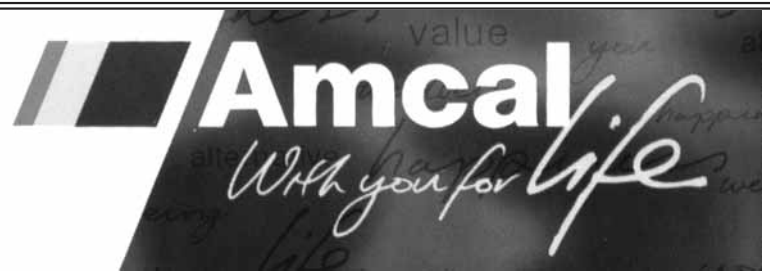
For more information on services provided, visit LCHS's website: www.lchs.com.au or contact head office on 5136 5400.

Churchill Neighbourhood Centre News

SCHOOL is back and so are the classes at your local Neighbourhood Centre. Located inside the Churchill Leisure Centre we extend a welcoming invitation to everyone. Young, old, beginner, or old hand, come and join us in a relaxed and warm atmosphere where our classes and tutors will fulfill your creative needs. Programs include creative writing, lead lighting, patchwork (beginner and advanced), yoga, embroidery and a variety of computer classes.

Give our co-ordinator, Christine, a ring on 5122 2955 to inquire about classes, times and costs or drop in for a visit to see what we have on offer.

Childcare is available for morning classes as well as services like photocopying and internet/computer access (bookings required). Office hours are Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 3.30pm. Semester 1 classes run from 6 February to 16 June. It is never too late to learn a new skill or update an old one!



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Church Times

Co-operating Churches of Churchill

Rev. Dr. Bob Brown
Williams Avenue, Churchill.
Tel: 5122 1480
Glenda and Ian Combridge
Tel: 5166 1819
Sunday Service: 9.30am.
Choruses: 9.20am

Lumen Christi Catholic Church

35 Walker Parade, Churchill
Tel: 5122 2226
Father Malcolm Hewitt
Saturday: Mass: 7.30pm
Sunday: Mass: 9.30am
1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays: Yinnar:
Mass: 11.00 am
2nd and 4th Sundays: Boolarra:
Mass: 11.00am

Churchill Christian Fellowship

Maple Crescent, Churchill.
Pastor Tony or Hermanna Marsden:
5122 2777
Sunday: 10.00am
Ladies Meeting: Tuesday 10.00am



Church Snippets

CHRISTMAS was celebrated in fine form. Lots of families- grandparents, children and grand children attended the Crib Service, which saw the children re-enacting the Christmas story with lots of talent. It is always a thrill to see the children's eyes light up when the cake is brought in with all the candles alight, and we sing Happy Birthday to Jesus.

The 11:00pm and 9:30am services were also well attended, with happy singing helping to raise our praise to God for His wonderful gift of Jesus His Son, who came to show us how to live in harmony with God and humanity, and to die

for our sins that we have the privilege of going to live with God in Heaven for eternity.

Most of our church groups have been taking a well earned rest from their usual activities. It is always good to have that space in which to do other things, or do nothing!

Our congregation was thrilled that Eric and Dorothy Rowley were nominated as the Lions Club Citizens of the Year. This is a truly well deserved award for two people who do so much without any fuss.

Pictured above: Eric and Dot Rowley

Chaplaincy Contemplations

WHAT a hot and for some horrendous time January has been, as fires have come so close to many and have engulfed others. People are usually kind and generous at these times and this is what loving our neighbour is all about. May this community continue to be a generous, supportive and giving one.

At the University, we are gearing up for the influx of students that begins on 17th February with a welcome picnic to overseas students and orientation week for all 1st years on 19 February onwards. The 27 February sees everyone back and Semester One beginning.

Gippsland overall remains a homogeneous community without the difference and diversity seen in the big cities and in many parts of

Australia. It is therefore very important that we welcome the students who come to join us in this community from all over the world. Let us make them feel welcome, share something of ourselves and learn from them about their culture, ideas, experiences and beliefs.

Welcome also to the many students who join us from across this region and beyond. They are leaving home and coming to a strange place and need our interest, care and support. I always think what a wonderful opportunity we have to meet so many new people and to reach out to them with love and care.

These students, when they graduate from Monash Gippsland, will go all over this country and the wider world bringing the talents and

skills they have to make a difference in many walks of life. The choice before us all is how do we use these learnings, talents and skills? To benefit ourselves or others? These choices are often difficult to make and unclear but helping others, as well as ourselves is always worthwhile.

As Jesus in Luke, Chapter 6, Verse 31 says "Do to others as you would have them do to you".

Happy New Year to everyone.

May God bless you and keep you through his son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Rev'd Lyn Porritt
Anglican Priest, Chaplain
Monash University Gippsland
Campus

Wattle Club First Day Back At School!

By RUTH PLACE

ON arrival at Wattle Club, I was introduced to the well-dressed teacher of a quite naughty class- Miss Fanacerpan, (Program Leader Kerri). She in turn introduced me to the Music Teacher - Miss Pinky, (Helper Lyle), and the Tuck Shop Ladies (Wendy and Dot). The pupils all responded to my cheery hello, particularly one very cheeky looking boy-Stephen (Program Leader Ann), who was hiding behind his opened case on the desk. He was still wearing his cap, which is very bad manners, and sporting several freckles, a legacy from his lazy hazy days in the summer sun.

School had started before arrival and already the pupils had shared their previous report cards and school photos in Show and Tell. Next, they had had Maths, and when I arrived, they were just about to correct the answers. One clever boy read out all the answers correctly and was given a lolly for his good work. But he wasn't good, as soon as the teacher turned his back he threw the lolly at her. For his efforts he lost one of his allotted smiley good faces from the list on the blackboard.

Then it was art, and after the pictures were drawn, the pupils were able to share

their efforts with the rest of the class. Meanwhile Stephen had made a paper aeroplane and decided to fly it at the teacher. Needless to say he lost one of his smiley faces.

Following her work program, the teacher went on to the next activity- Spot the 10 Differences. It was during this time that Stephen decided he needed to go to the toilet. The egg-timer was turned upside-down and he was told to be back before the sand all ran through. He wasn't, so Miss Pinky was put in charge while the teacher went to see where Stephen was. He returned declaring his excuse was that he had trouble doing up his pants. Another smiley face was erased!

The teacher sat down and demanded five minutes silence while she had a nervous breakdown!

Lessons were then resumed from the pupils school books, with similies, and spelling included. Stephen was a terrible speller.

This was followed by P.E. The teacher warned the students that they were not to go behind the shelter shed. On return from their jaunt around the outside of the building, one of the students and Stephen, lost two smiley faces for

being caught smoking behind the shelter sheds. Stephens's total of smiley faces was then zero!

And so the rest of the day proceeded to lunchtime!

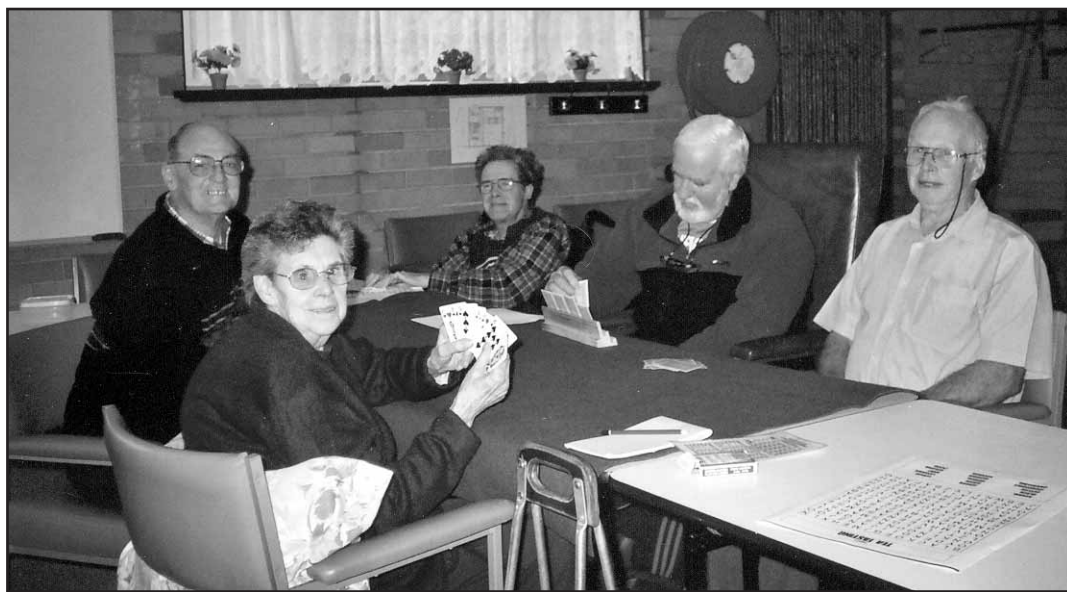
It was a great time with much fun laughter and high jinks.

Since starting the new years activities, the Wattle Club have been to Inverloch for (yes you guessed it) fish and chips. That very hot Friday, they had an outing to Wirilda Park, then Cowarr Wier, finishing with ash speckled lunch at Bert Thompson Reserve in Traralgon.

Ann and Kerri, Program Leaders, have recently completed and qualified in the exercise program "Easy Moves for Active Aging" This program will be incorporated into the program from now on.

Wattle Club is an ADASS group run by qualified personnel, through the Latrobe Community Health Service. ADASS is open to older people living at home. It provides socialisation and recreation for members, and respite for carers. For further information, please contact Shannon Vaughan, Co-Ordinator, on 51220400 or 0400 067 63.

Pictured below: Members of the Wattle Club



Join In The Celebration

PLANS for the 2006 Celebration of Roses are well advanced.

A project of Advance Morwell, the Festival has been strongly supported by Latrobe City and International Power Hazelwood; the Mid Valley Shopping Centre and a number of Morwell and Latrobe Valley businesses.

Chairman of Advance Morwell, John Guy, said that there would be something for everyone - children, adults and families with this years event featuring the Valentine's Theme and the appearance of Romeo and Juliet.

The Valentine's Celebration of Roses commences tomorrow with a Rose and Floral Art Competition at Mid Valley Shopping Centre. Residents of the Latrobe Valley will enter their Rose blooms.

The Latrobe Regional Art Gallery is currently staging a Watercolor Exhibition featuring the work of Ester Jago as well an Exhibition entitled "A Rose Is a Rose" from the 11th February. The Artrageously Red Ball will be held at the Gallery on

the Saturday evening of 11 February.

Mr. Guy said that the Main event would be centered on the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden on 11 February commencing at 10.00 am and running through to 3.00 pm with music and entertainment, wine and food stalls, a fashion parade, and the awarding of two children's bicycles to two lucky children who attend at the time of the draw.

The Historical Car Club will be transporting Romeo from the Mid Valley Shopping Centre to meet his Juliet in the Rose Garden.

The Car Club Cars will be on display throughout the day Mr. Guy said.

Much work by a few community-minded people has gone into the planning and preparation of this event and we now look to the people of the Latrobe Valley to support us by their attendance.

For further details regarding the Valentines Celebration of Roses please contact the Festival Organiser, Mary Hill on 5135 6157.

Valentine's
Celebration
of Roses

Red Cross Calling 2006

Red Cross Calling for 2006 will be held from 13th February to 13th March, to avoid the Commonwealth Games. Please give generously.

Boolarra Folk Festival

THE 4th March promises to be a great day out for all ages. The annual free event will once again be held in Centenary Park, with the hugely successful Art, Craft and Food market across the road in Railway Park.

Festival convenor, Ray Stewart is busy attending to a myriad of last-minute tasks that are necessary to ensure the event runs smoothly. "We are in our 4th year now, so things are getting a little slicker. Everybody has their own area of responsibility, so we just put our heads down and get the job done with a minimum of fuss."

The musicians have been selected from a strong field of quality performers. Most are from the local Gippsland area, with a few from Melbourne and interstate.

"This year's program is fabulous," says Mr Stewart. "The breadth of talent in Gippsland is amazing. There is a very diverse range on the bill this year, and we had so many fabulous applications, we decided to extend the festival into the evening, when we'll move across to the Memorial Hall, where the music will continue. The night time event will also be free, so we're expecting a great crowd."

The music will kick off at 12pm with the School Drumming, under the direction of Steve Schulz. This will be followed by 21 timeslots which will showcase the talents of performers such as The Sinclairs, The Molly Maguires, The Anita George Band, Khristian Mizzi, Willy Golightly, The Gum Nuts Bush Band, River Crombie, Clayton Cupples, Cool Grass and many more. The evening event will include an Open Stage section at 8.30pm.

The Kids' Tent and the Healing Tent proved to be popular additions in past years, where many festival-goers enjoyed the relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The Kids Tent provides some lovely activities for children, while the Healing Tent provides a range of free services, such as Reflexology, Aromatherapy and Reiki for the older members of the audience.

Organisers are impressed with the support that the committee receives from the local residents.

"The Boolarra community is small but strong. We have a population of around 400, and on the day of the festival, most of those 400 are working hard to ensure the success of the event." Mr Stewart remarks. "Boolarra folk are unique. They pull together to help one another out, which is the only reason we can put this festival on. We rely heavily on the support of the many hard-working volunteers."

To find out more about the 2006 festival go to our website at www.boolarra.gippsland.com or contact Regina on 51696243.



Anita George Band (above), Cool Grass (below)



Churchill Lions Club Student Awards 2005

By JOHN BARKER, Publicity Officer

THE Lions Club of Churchill and District decided to extend our contributions to the youth in our community by making two awards available to students in each of the four Primary Schools in our district. Starting in 2005, this will be an ongoing project.

The school staff were given the task of choosing the students to receive the awards. The categories were Academic Award – outstanding or greatly improved academic skills, and Leadership Award – outstanding organising and leadership skills

Each Award carried a voucher for \$25 and a certificate of recognition.

The winners of the awards were as follow –

Churchill Primary School – Leadership: Tyson Webb, Academic: Kayla Jongerius

Churchill North Primary School – Leadership: Crystal Slade, Academic: Cameron Burns

Lumen Christi Primary School – Leadership: Lina D'Alia, Academic: Sarah Skinner

Hazelwood North Primary School – Most Improved: Michael Xereb, Academic: Jim Hiscock

The Lions Club continued the tradition of awarding a Citizenship Award to a student nominated by Kurnai College, Churchill Campus. The student is chosen by the College based on their involvement in the school as well as being an active participant in the wider community.

This year the award, which carried a cheque for \$100 and a certificate of recognition, was presented to Matthew Stolk.

Congratulations to all recipients.

ADASS – Adult Day Activity Support Service

Latrobe Community Health Service's ADASS programs (sometimes called Planned Activity Groups) are held in Moe, Morwell and Churchill.

They provide socialisation and recreation for older people and disabled people who are living at home.

The groups are run by qualified staff and held in a supportive, friendly and safe environment. Transport to

the groups is provided.

Activities include outings, barbecues, games, craft, discussions and exercises.

If you would like further information please contact Shannon, ADASS Coordinator, 5136 5436 or 0400 067 632.



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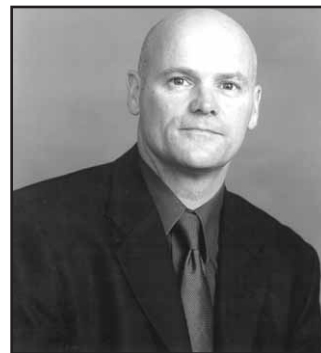
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Walkley Park Children's Centre AGM

Walkley Park is having its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 22nd February at 7.30pm at Mulcare Crescent Churchill.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

At Walkley Park we have two play groups and a three year old kinder.

If you have any queries or would like to join one of the groups please call Rosalee on 5122645.

The Inside Out Building At Lumen Christi

THE inside out building at Lumen Christi leads the way to an environmentally friendly approach to building.

The new parish hall at Lumen Christi is designed and built as a highly energy and water efficient building, not reliant on conventional mechanical air conditioning. It demonstrates a series of solar technologies, on a prominent eave structure.

A special feature is the reverse brick veneer wall construction, where the brickwork is on the inside, and the timber framing and

weatherproof membrane is on the outside, with substantial insulation in between. By placing the thermal mass on the inside of the building, with a high degree of insulation, the favourable thermal performance of bricks is utilised most effectively.

Windows are all facing north, and are as large as possible. This allows good net heat gains in winter. Summer heat gain is impeded via the solar eave. Low-e type glass has been used to retain the maximum amount of heat in winter.

The eave on the north wall has been constructed to provide total shading of the windows in Summer, while allowing the Winter sun, which is lower in the sky, to passively heat the building. Mounted on the eave is a 1.9kwp grid interactive photovoltaic system, a two panel solar hot water system and a four collector solar air handling system called Sun Lizards.

The Sun Lizard is an innovative product that provides solar winter heating and air circulation, which reduces air stratification in winter, and removes heat in summer. To achieve the required level of heating and air extraction, four Sun Lizards were manifolded via a common register inside the hall. A special control unit was

designed to operate all four units, which were connected to a single 160W PV module to power electronics and circulating fans



i.e. no mains electricity is required to power the system.

A rainwater catchment tank of 20,000 litres is installed underground. Water is collected off the roof and enters the tank through a filter. The water is used in the toilets, new hall, and for watering the gardens. At the lowest point of the tank, pipes have been installed, through which air is pre cooled and introduced into the tuck shop and meeting rooms in the building during summer. This works in conjunction with the Sun Lizards, extracting the heat from the hall with air introduced to the inlet pipes from the shaded garden area on the south side of the building.

A very high level of insulation has been used in the new hall, including insulation of the roof, walls and slab edge. The new hall is connected to the existing library, which overheats in summer, and is overheated in winter. The new building is designed to capture and reuse or extract the heat generated in the library through vents that connect the two buildings.

Vegetation was recommended to help moderate the micro climate. Trees act as wind and sun protection; vines on the exterior walls provide an external layer of insulation.



Cathy Blackford



Introducing Lumen Christi's New Principal

CATHY Blackford brings a wealth of training and experience to Lumen Christi.

She trained at Christ College, now the Australian Catholic University, and completed her fourth year at the University of South Australia specializing in Teaching English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL).

Cathy has also completed Post Graduate studies at the University of Melbourne, majoring in Student Welfare.

Her first appointment was at Sacred Heart, followed by St Paul's (Now Lavalla).

She has spent twenty years at St Vincent's teaching

all year levels. Her roles also included Esl (English as a second language), Student Welfare Resource Person, Deputy Principal, Acting Principal, for 2005.

Cathy and her family will move from Morwell to Churchill Area, to become a real local.

She is married with five children and three grandchildren.

Cathy has worked with SIDS and Kids as a parent supporter for 22 years, having experienced the tragic death of a son Josh, aged 1 year.

We wish Cathy well in her new position.

John Turner Moving On

JOHN Turner arrived at Churchill Primary School mid Term 3, in 2000, to teach grade 5/6. In the ensuing years he was appointed Assistant Principal, and later Substantive Assistant Principal. This year John takes up the position of Principal at Tobruk Street Primary School in Morwell.

As Assistant Principal, John was in charge of student welfare and management. To improve class and yard behaviour, John implemented programs to encourage good behaviour.

Some of those were Lunch With the Principal, Top Team (groups of children playing together well), Focus on Good Behaviour, Read All About It awards (prizes of books), Picture Perfect Behaviour, Hop To It (rewarded with Fredo Frogs), Gold Behaviour for Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You (rewarded with a gold coin).

These incentives saw an immediate impact on the children's behaviour in the yard. This then influenced the children's learning as they felt good about themselves.

John has assisted the staff stage two musical productions- 100 Year Rock, and Circus Splendida. These involved an invitation to all children to participate. John describes these shows as great for the kids, school, community and were great fundraisers.

The Walking School Bus was a sensible initiative. It aims to get students to school on a regular basis, encourages physical activity, social interaction, and saves the environment. Its main aim, however, is to get students to school so regular learning can take place. This program re-enforced and gave a means for carrying out the school's aim to have children at school "All Day Every Day". Over the last 3-4 years, the average number of days missed from school, per pupil has declined from 20 to 10. Through the Gambling Impact Fund, money has been supplied to pay for children to use the normal town bus through the Winter months, when the Walking School Bus does not operate. This is a significant reduction in absentisms but there is still room for further improvement.

John has been a successful submission writer, being responsible for acquiring the Hot House through Lions, and the Vegie Garden through Latrobe Community Health Service.

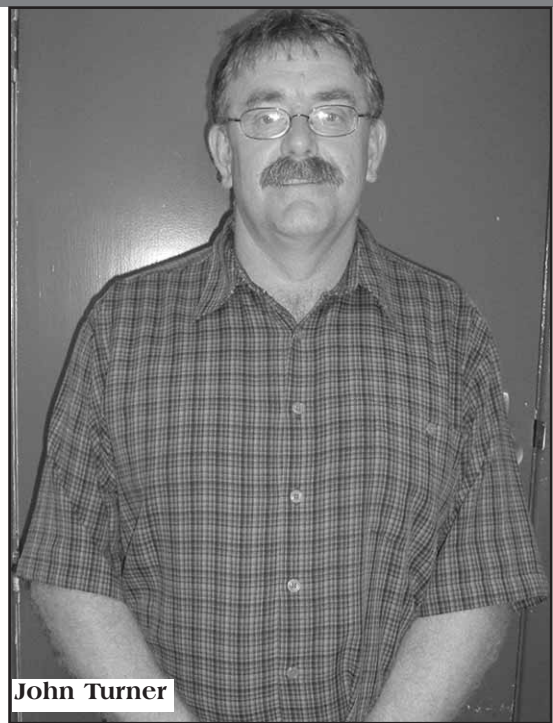
Move-a-thons, are another of John's initiatives. This gave students the opportunity to choose from a large range of activity options, to make it more interesting, and thus better as a fundraiser. Over \$10,000 has been raised in his time at Churchill Primary School.

The Brekky Program was another initiative close to John's heart. The Walking School Bus helped with getting the kids to school, but if your tummy is empty, it is still hard to concentrate on learning. The Brekky Program filled that gap!

Involvement with Neighbourhood Renewal has brought many benefits. It was used as a lever to employ a Welfare Officer, and so Jo Whitelaw was appointed. The HPV team received much needed funds. The Artist In Residence for Circus Splendida also came through this means.

Community Learning in Churchill (CLIC) was another initiative, to allow people to access courses and be aligned with TAFE benefits.

Then there was also the school's involvement with



John Turner

the 40th Anniversary panels, the panels for the hospital, and the artwork from CDCA funds.

Junior School Council has been a great fund raising motivator, as the senior students, suggests projects and work towards implementing them, eg the green matting for the cricket pitch.

Staff Development has helped the teachers deal with situations and model acceptable behaviour.

Re-Vamping of Assemblies to be a time of joy, celebration, praise, recognition of good behaviour and excellence, coupled with fun music and participation, has seen an increase in the number of parents attending.

The Guitar Group and the encouragement of the Instrumental Group have opened up the opportunities for the young people to experience the joys of music.

The school needs to acquire its own musical instruments as the loan time has expired. If you have musical instruments you no longer use or want, the school would be happy to take them.

Using corporate sponsorship and doing fundraising, the high fence which now surrounds a lot of the school, has allowed for the development of the school garden and play area with sand pits, extra play equipment, and the refurbishment of the fish pond, making the school attractive and useful.

Twenty bikes have been donated by Michael Morgan. These are used in Bike Ed courses and HPV training.

John moves to Tobruk St, to be Principal for at least five years. He has goals and dreams for his time there, including implementing many of the programs he has used so successfully at Churchill Primary, being visible at the front gate as children arrive and go home, introducing musicals and music, reversing the dwindling enrolments situation, supporting the hard working staff in their already great work ethic, and increasing the school's vibrancy, and buzz.

Who will take John's place?

Sue Davies has been appointed as Acting Assistant Principal, until the position is advertised through the year. Sue is an experienced teacher who has filled a very valuable role this past year. She is capable of filling the position very well. Her past experience in student welfare will allow her to continue on, and enhance the programs instigated by John. Sue will also be involved with the implementing of the new Victorian Essential Learning Standards, which replace the CSFs.

Sue admits she is not John, does not have musical ability, but has other skills to complement this job.



Churchill North Farewells Three Teachers

AFTER many years, Churchill North Primary School has lost three of its very valuable staff members, Principal Hilmar Batza, Prep teacher Trish Owen, and 5/6 teacher, Curriculum Co-Ordinator and Student Welfare Officer, Noelle Burdekin.

Noelle Burdekin

Noelle has been at Churchill North Primary School since 2000. She has mostly taught at the 5/6 level, being the age group with which she loves to work. Preparing the students for transi-



Noelle Burdekin

tion to Secondary College, she sees as very important, and an area in which she enjoys participating. Other areas this age group are ready for are the Peer Mediation roles and the encouragement of leadership qualities. In these two areas you can see the children blossom, she enthuses.

Student welfare is a growing concern in schools. Noelle has been required to monitor student's behaviour, and introduce a consistent approach to discipline throughout the school.

At times Noelle has been acting Principal in Hilmar's absence, but her biggest challenge of the last twelve months has been the familiarisation with and introduction to the staff of the ELS-new learning assessment standards. These are less complicated, will be a significant change but a positive one.

This year Noelle starts her new job as Cluster Educator, introducing these changes to all the Moe Schools.

Trish Owen

Trish has been at Churchill North Primary School since 1989. She arrived the same year as

Hilmar. Their association goes back to Teachers' College days when both attended Frankston Teaching College. Trish was one of the last Trained Infant Teachers Certificate (T.I.T.C.) trained teachers. Special care was taken to show teachers how to teach reading, writing, spelling, and maths. Since teaching at Churchill North Trish has been mainly associated with the Prep and Grade 1, where her personal preferences were acknowledged and accommodated. Trish has enjoyed her time at Churchill North. She feels she has been respected. Trish says Churchill North is a well resourced, wonderful school at which to work. It is small enough to allow for good relationships with the school community. The Parents Association has been supportive. Her time at the school has provided work and as well as part of her social life.

Trish has had the music groups over the years, giving many students opportunities in singing and playing of instruments.

Trish unreservedly states that her time at Churchill North has been a big part of her life, but she knows it is time to go. Retirement will see Trish and her husband leave their home of thirty years to go and



Trish Owen

live in Inverloch, three minutes walk to the beach, and a ten minute drive to the golf course, where Trish hopes to spend a lot of time.

Hilmar Batza

Hilmar began his teaching career at Frankston Teachers' College in 1967. His first five years were spent in one teacher rural schools. In those days, the teacher would board with a local family, or four throughout the year. He fondly remembers Grassy Spur. Here he was allotted a Sewing Mistress, who took over teaching the Preps to Grade 2. This gave Hilmar the opportunity to focus on the grade 4-6s. The school had a saddle room- a huge, old converted water tank, because over half of the pupils came to school by pony or horse. Like many rural schools it is now closed.

While at Leongatha, Hilmar decided to up grade his qualifications, so he enrolled at Morwell Technical School in Diploma of Visual Arts. Then when the Gippsland Institute of Advance Education (G.I.A.E.) was opened, he transferred there to finish the course. While at Morwell Park he was granted half time study leave for three years. It took 6 years altogether but he graduated with the additional qualifications required.

In 1980-82 Hilmar served as a teacher at Churchill North. Then in 1992 he returned under Mac Wood as Principal. In 1993, on Mac's retirement, Hilmar became Acting Principal, in 1994 was appointed Principal, and has been so ever since.

Hilmar has enjoyed his time at Churchill North. One of the fondest memories is of the camps on which he accompanied the students, examples of which were the trips to Swanhill, and the paddle steamers on the Murray River, the Avon Cycle Tours, the Canberra Camp. They were all great learning experiences for the students.

Some of the programs he has introduced to the school over the years have included

Support programs for students, the clubs program, Learning Assistance Program [LAP], Police in Schools, Country Connections, Junior School Council, Aussie of the Month.

Much of Hilmar's days have been taken up with day-to-day routine and management, which seems to be endless.

Changes over the years include decreases in numbers,



Hilmar Batza

from 390 when he started to 133 now, altering the rooms from open plan to floating wall, addition of more play equipment, and other physical changes in the outside areas.

One of the highlights of his teaching career occurred in 1988 when he and his family had an International Teaching Fellowship, exchange with a family in Bristol, Tennessee, USA, for twelve months. The two families swapped houses and cars. Hilmar says he still corresponds with David Wise, his then Principal. Hilmar describes the time as a great experience for himself and his family.

Over the years, in fact from age 10, Hilmar has developed an interest in Astronomy. This is one of the interests he hopes to further pursue in his well earned retirement. Next year Hilmar will be presented with his 40 Year Certificate, which will be proud moment. However, Hilmar says he is ready for a mental rest, with time for physical adventures like mountain bike riding and hiking, but also time to read, star gaze, and continue his book collecting.

Hilmar counts his years at Churchill North as very enjoyable. He has seen many graduations and many children come and go through the school. Churchill North has presented him with a great opportunity to pursue his teaching career from teacher to Principal.

He is very appreciative of the support he has received from staff and parents over the years. This he says is always helpful when all pull together.

Hilmar will miss the vibrancy of the kids, watching them learn, grow and achieve. He is sad to be loosing that contact with the children, but he is glad to retire, with no regrets, and move into the next chapter of his life!

A Great Start to the New Year at Hazelwood North



Hazelwood North Primary School has had a great start to the new school year.

Enrolments have increased to 169 students from 114 families.

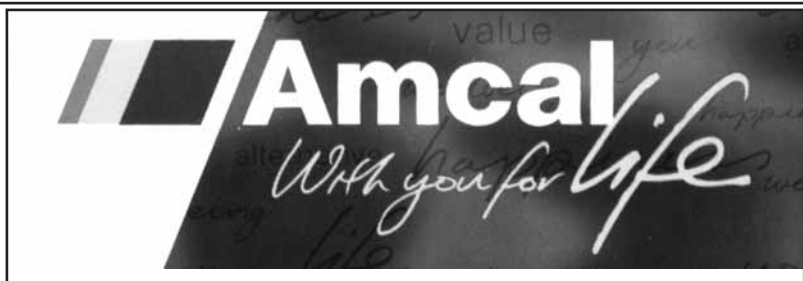
Students in all seven grades have settled into the school routine very quickly.

Specialist Programs for 2006 will be Music, Library and the Arts.

The students are looking forward to new playground equipment to be erected in February.

Parents, students and teachers attended a Back to School barbecue early in February. All grades will be holding Parent Information Sessions during February.

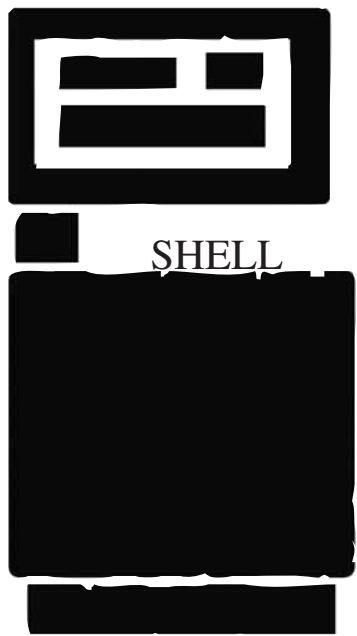




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Aaron Marriott Australian Scout Medallion

By John "SKiP" Barker, Australian Scout Fellowship

AARON Marriott set himself a goal – to achieve the Australian Scout Medallion.

In May 2005, having passed Citizenship, Camcraft and Water Safety at Pioneer level, gaining a Challenge Badge and taking part in a Patrol Activity, he gained the Pioneer Badge and Cord.

In September 2005, having passed Citizenship, Camcraft and Water Safety at Explorer level, gaining a further two Challenge Badges and taking part in another Patrol Activity, he gained the Explorer Badge and Cord.

In December 2005 he finally completed Citizenship, Camcraft and Water Safety at Adventurer level, gaining a further two Challenge Badges and taking part in another Patrol Activity, he passed the last requirement for the Adventurer Badge and Cord.

The Adventurer Award and attendance at a Leadership Course in December 2004 together with the subsequent completion of the necessary activity requirements enabled him to achieve his Scout goal by attaining the very prestigious Australian Scout Medallion – the highest award possible in the Scout section.

Each award, as well as being a personal achievement, has been a major inspiration to other scouts. The test work requirements affected every scout in his

Troop, with other scouts now striving for this award.

Some of the activities Aaron needed to be proficient in as a requirement for this award, included water safety and rescue, bike safety, the environment, camping knowledge, construction, navigation, estimations, first aid, safety and survival, leadership and fitness.

As well, he was expected to organise visitations to organisations and other Troops, Patrol Activities, hikes and camps, and prepare and run program nights.

Aaron was elected Patrol Leader of Kookaburra Patrol, an important position he took very seriously. He was nominated by his leaders to compete in the Hazelwood Rotary Scout of the Year for 2005, which included presentation and interview, knowledge, personality and scouting expertise, in which he was runner-up.

Aaron said "I want to thank my leaders and other scouts at 1st Yinnar Scout Troop for their support, assistance and involvement." I am honored that I was able to play a part in this achievement, helping Aaron along the path, advising and instructing along the way.

Aaron Marriott is now a member of the Venturer Unit in Churchill, and has already set his sights on the Queens Scout Award, his next scout goal. I know he will succeed.

Congratulations Aaron, and very best wishes for your future.



Jenny Poon (left) and Cora Pal (right)



'Words That I Write'

By WENDY BROWN

WHAT a wonderful group of skilled writers and creative minds we have in our community! I am referring to those members of the Creative Writing Class that meet weekly at the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre under the expertise and motivation of tutor Cora Pal, where participants can create such a variety of entertaining stories and poems which we can read in the anthology, "Words That I Write".

This, the fourth Anthology of the group (previous titles have been "Cows and Coal", "Reflections of Gippsland" and "Glimpses of Gippsland") - and the only anthology edited, produced and printed completely within the Neighbourhood Centre - was launched on 13th December at the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre by Jenny Poon, Co-ordinator of Traralgon Neighbourhood Centre. Jenny read snippets and praised the group for their high standard of work.

"We should learn something new every day, or we haven't learned at all," she said. During the launch, some of the contributors reading some of their works

entertained us. To round off an enjoyable and entertaining morning, we were treated to a selection of Christmas songs performed by another local talented group, "Sound Like Singing" led by Ruth Place.

Congratulations to all the contributors, and others who worked on the production. A great effort; and a most enjoyable end result!



Cora, Jenny and members of the Writing class

Old Time Family Dance

Jeeralang North Hall

Friday 24 February 2006

From 8.00pm - 11.30pm

Music From Harmony Plus

Admission is \$5.00

Door Prize and Novelties

Please Bring a Plate

Sandwiches supplied by the Committee

For More details please ring Zelma Mildenhall on 5166 1264

CHURCHILL FESTIVAL

Saturday 1st April 2006

Glendonald Park Churchill 10.00am - 3.00pm



Heaps of FREE Entertainment
FREE Sausage Sizzle
Everyone Welcome
FREE Bus Service*



*For Bus Time Table and Route see March 9th Edition of the Churchill and District News





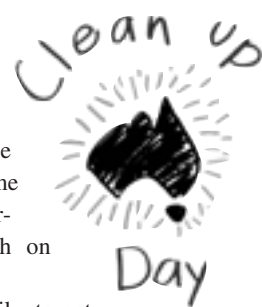
PDP



Back to School Computers from * \$814.00 *

The Computer Professionals
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Clean Up Australia Day



CLEAN Up Australia Day is on Sunday 5 March 2006. Every year hundreds of thousands of Australians help clean up their environment on Clean Up Australia Day.

Simply turn up on the day with gloves, supermarket bags, sturdy shoes, sunglasses and sun protection and sign-in as a volunteer.

The Co-Operating Church is cleaning up the park on the western side of the road opposite the shopping centre, McDonald Way down to the round-about near the fire station.

Start time will be 11.30am and Finish Time 12.30pm. For more information please ring Ruth on 5122 1961.

If your group would like to get involved, and you want more information on registering your site, please ring Wendy at Events at Latrobe City Council on 5128 5618.

Don't let rubbish become part of the scenery. It's easy, fun and everyone can take part.

That Bloody Track

By NORM HALL

As stated in a travel brochure I read prior to walking the Kokoda Track in September 2003:

'Papuan New Guinea is a country of wild beauty, of breathtaking landscapes of fascinating flora and fauna. Known as the land of a thousand cultures, there are well over 700 distinct languages spoken throughout the country. It is a place of drama, solitude and sophistication, recognized as the last frontier.

The country is a vast and sensationally beautiful destination for adventure travellers. The legendary Kokoda Track is the primary link across the rugged Owen Stanley Ranges, between the northern and southern coastlines of the country. The track was the scene of bitter fighting during World War 11 and still contains the scars of many of the desperate battles that raged across it.

Today it is a remote and peaceful window into an environment of unparalleled beauty and a link to a culture which remains isolated from modern civilization. The Kokoda Trek is an unforgettable experience, a personal challenge which brings you face to face with one of the thousand cultures of Papua New Guinea, a chance to be at one with nature in its most spectacular form and a rare opportunity to experience the conditions under which our diggers fought.'

At the beginning of 1942 New Guinea was an Australian Mandated territory and Port Moresby was garrisoned by raw Militia troops of the 30th Infantry Brigade.

It was about this time that the Japanese started their landings along the Northern coastline of New Guinea. As all of our experienced troops were fighting in the Middle East and elsewhere Militia troops from the 39th Victorian Militia unit was engaged to halt the Japanese advance towards Port Moresby and mainland Australia.

The 39th was composed of men whose average age was about 20 who had been recruited for home defence. Frequently mocked as 'chocos - chocolate soldiers' due to the colour of the puggies on their slouch hats, with insufficient training and with inadequate equipment they were in combat from July to the end of August, fighting in terrain that is still acknowledged as being some of the worst in the world. These raw youths fought tooth and nail against a battle-hardened enemy which outnumbered them 10 to 1.

Continually while I walked in the footsteps of those brave young Australians I wondered how they would have coped, let alone fought for their lives. The terrain was steep and the track mainly followed along very narrow ridges with almost vertical slopes on either side falling away into ravines hundreds of meters below.

We came across many fox holes and communication trenches. Our soldiers dug mainly rectangular holes while the Japanese were round.

One of the highlights of our trek was meeting two old Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels. This was an affectionate name given to the locals who assisted our troops by carrying stores from Port Moresby and then acting as stretcher bearers on the return trip. The labour of carrying was extremely arduous but was never shirked and the locals practically never left the patient until they brought him to his

destination. It is a proud record that no known live casualty was ever abandoned.

Another highlight was to meet the people from all the villages. They were all extremely friendly towards us and their children were all clean, neatly dressed and well behaved. The Seventh Day Adventist faith is followed by most of the village people along the track and each village has its own church and school. The religious day begins on a Friday evening and Saturday is spent on Church affairs. Our group attended one church service and was privileged to hear the wonderful singing. We also were lucky enough to listen to two other village choir groups who sang for us.

Whilst the children are taught English at school and church, they speak mainly pidgin and in their own language amongst themselves. School teachers are not paid very much and this is one of the many problems that are not being addressed by the PNG Government.

We camped in tents and huts, washed in the rivers and ate mainly from army style ration packs with fruit and vegetables from village gardens. These fruits and veggies were harvested from roughly cleared jungle patches where it was difficult to see the sugar cane, bananas, sweet corn, mandarins, nuts, a type of potato and a host of others goods.

The locals start work in their gardens at day-break and can be seen returning at sunset. They live mainly in one roomed thatched huts raised above the ground. A fire for cooking and warmth is situated in the middle of the hut which has no visible chimney. How they live in this smoke filled room in a building with a fire rating of about three minutes is beyond me.

All the villages along the track appear similar and one has a sense that these people are all happy with their lives which are completely different from the materialistic world that we know. Locals wash in the river, live in simple dwellings, work hard in their gardens, look after their children, have a religious faith, receive no government assistance, keep their villages swept clean, provide a poor box for the sick and needy and make visitors welcome. Some of the porters that carried our packs came from these mountain villages and were very happy for us to meet their families. The porters were an extremely fit and happy bunch ranging in age from 18 to 40. The boss porter, Colin, was only 20 and he was in complete command of the Trek, and our tour leader had to use reverse psychology if he wanted to change any of Colin's plans. Colin was a land owner and this gave him some sort of leadership privilege but as a black belt holder in one of the martial arts, who was going to argue with him anyway!

Our tour leader, who regularly conducted treks for PNG tour operators comes from Melbourne where he is a paramedic by occupation. Reg Yates was his name and he had 30 years service in the civil defence force. We soon christened him Captain Immaculate as, while the rest of us trekkers were disheveled in appearance, he never had a stitch out of place. Reg had a knowledge of every military action ever reported on the track and had his own version to add. It was a privilege to trek with a person like Reg

and learn from him.

We had a few near disasters. On the first day we drove out from Port Moresby in a mini-bus for about 40kms then transferred to the tray of a 4WD Toyota for the final 5kms to Ower's corner where we had a pre-packed lunch. We then began to trek firstly down a very steep ravine for two hours and then up and down for another two hours before making camp on a ridge above a river. The conditions were hot and humid, with an afternoon storm brewing up. The porters pitched our tents with six in a group together and mine and Reg's further up the ridge as there was not much open level ground. On further inspection of my tent location I observed one of the trees close to my tent had a 30 degree lean over it. With a gale force wind blowing through the jungle tree tops I began to feel a bit squeamish about sleeping in that location. The rest of the chaps had a good laugh at me when I suggest that we should move the two tents into the rest of the huddle. Mind you, there were huge trees all around us but my thoughts were that we should all die together rather than this leaning tree only squash me! Whilst I stewed over whether to shift my tent or take a chance we all went about getting something to eat and drink. It was about half an hour later that we heard a tremendous creaking and then the crash of a one hundred foot high tree falling only 20 meters from where we were all sitting on a log. The tree that fell was not the one leaning over my tent but one only a few meters away. It was then all hands on deck to quickly shift the tents to what seemed a slightly better location. All night the wind blew and we could hear the jungle trees shedding their limbs.

Another close shave occurred when we were negotiating a 2 foot wide ledge above a ravine, 400 feet vertically below. This ledge was slippery and had weak looking edges and a section gave way under my son Laurie's back foot. He made a mad scramble to remain on the ledge and in the process skinned his knee and hands. I was immediately behind him and took a deep gasp as he scrambled to safety. As a warning to others walking close to a precarious edge it is wise to always remain poised and balanced on one leg on the safe side before putting any pressure on the danger side. I noticed after this close shave Laurie gave a much greater respect to the edges of the track.

Another frightening incident occurred when a plane came into land at Menari Village Airstrip. As the plane roared down the runway towards us, a dog and several children began to cross the strip. It was the only occasion that I saw the locals go into frenzy. The plane travelled right up to the end of the runway and then made a broadside similar to how kids do on a bike. I was taking a video of all this and quickly had to make my escape out of the plane's way. The pilot brought the news that Collingwood had beaten Port Adelaide!

In one village we made friends with a bloke named Kevin. He demonstrated the art of shooting birds of paradise with a forked sling shot 'ging'. We then showed him how skillful we were and he was shocked to learn that we tried to kill one another as kids with this type of weapon!

At quite a few locations along the Track we

came across memorials to various battles fought, but the most impressive one was at Isurava. The Isurava memorial is situated overlooking the Kokoda Valley and is immediately adjacent to the place where Private Bruce Kingsbury performed the act of bravery for which he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. It was unveiled in August 14, 2002 by John Howard and Sir Michael Somare. The construction took two months and the 90 tonnes of materials were airlifted by helicopter to the site. This included four Australian black granite pillars, weighting 3.5 tonnes. The pillars are each inscribed with single words: courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice, representing the values and qualities of those Australian soldiers who fought in the campaign in 1942.

On our last night we stayed in the Kokoda hospital. This hospital was funded by Rotary and presumably the Australian Government. It is a large hospital with at least 50 beds and all except 3 were vacant during our visit. There was one nurse on duty and all the other rooms were closed. The hospital was opened in 1996 by Paul Keating and one wonders what has happened since. Obviously there is no ongoing funding and the nurse was very grateful to receive our unused medical supplies. There is certainly a need for this hospital as we witnessed many locals sick with malaria and some villages were caring for sick children with illnesses not diagnosed by medical people.

There are no doctors or medical people visiting the mountain villages on a regular basis and this should be a concern for the PNG Government.

We read from papers in Port Moresby that the local politicians were anguished by our Prime Minister's demand that the \$360 million in aid that our government gives to Papua New Guinea requires stricter control. It was also suggested in the same newspaper that corruption is rampant and that government money is being misdirected.

All major buildings and structures in Port Moresby are protected with razor wire fences and steel barriers. There are people everywhere and transport in the back of trucks or small mini-buses. Our hotel had a security guarded boom gate and was surrounded by prison like security fences with razor wire as an extra precaution. Whilst we felt safe we were advised not to go down the street alone.

As we only stayed in Port Moresby for a brief period it would be unfair to make a judgment about this city and its inhabitants.

As an Australian citizen I believe our government should become very interested in how our northern neighbour is travelling before we have another hot spot like East Timor.

In conclusion I believe that this trek is not beyond the average person that is prepared to get their fitness level to comfortably walk up to 20kms per day. Should any person be interested in the Kokoda Track please feel free to contact me.

Norm can be contacted via email: normhall@vic.australis.com.au or telephone: 51661681.



Stranded on an Iceberg

Antarctic Dream

By ROB HIGGINS

Many of us have dreams of places we want to visit, of regions we want to explore. For me that place has always been Antarctica, but as a teacher there were very few job opportunities for employment with the Australian Antarctic Division. Two years ago a plan was developed which would allow me to live my dream to visit the frozen continent down south. I drew together a group of 24 similar minded teachers and friends and through the Australian Company, Aurora Expeditions (www.auroraexpeditions.com.au) we booked our adventure for December 2005.

Travelling to the Antarctic continent from Australia takes many days sailing over open oceans, the quickest way is to fly to Ushuaia, Argentina on the southern most tip of South America and from there complete the two day journey over the Drake Passage. Departing on the 27 of December we had an extremely smooth crossing of the roughest oceans in the world and were rewarded with 6 days of exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula.

To describe this experience is nearly beyond words with the grandeur of the mountain ranges, the numbers of wildlife all adding to this amazing, pristine environment.

Highlights of our journey included:

*Penguin colonies with over 100,000 breeding pairs

and their chicks covering the hills and beaches.

*Seals lazing on small icebergs only metres away.

*An amazing snow covered mountain range exceeding anything I've seen in Europe.

*Iceberg cruises in our small, inflatable Zodiacs.

Seeing nature in action as if you were in the middle of a David Attenborough film.

*Living life on one of the smallest Russian expedition ships in the region.

*New Years Eve at Deception Island, inside the crater of a volcano. (It hasn't erupted in 30 years!)

*Visits to a British and a Ukrainian base.

*A two hour feeding frenzy of 30+ Humpback Whales all around our vessel.

This was only a small part of the whole experience. I have visited the frozen continent once and I know it will not be the last time, I was warned that Antarctica was addictive and I confess I am hooked. I have already made bookings for January 2008. I would love the opportunity to share my passion for this region with you at a free slide and film night at Churchill Primary School on Wednesday, 15 February at 7.30 p.m. If you are interested please RSVP to antarctic@gipps.net.au or contact Churchill Primary School on 51221343. Tea and Coffee will be provided. All ages are welcome.



Weddell Seal



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Away

Catering
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Cucumber,
Onion

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or

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Two local Principals

Churchill Intergenerational Community Hub Update



THE New Year brings with it a sense of enthusiasm and excitement in regards to the Community Hub project. The project committee monthly meetings ensure that the project remains focussed on travelling in the right direction.

Local community groups have come on board and made substantial contributions and commitments to demonstrate local and community support.

Hub Location

The location of the Hub has taken a step forward as the commitment of space neighbouring the Churchill Fire Brigade has been discussed with the relevant stakeholders and the transfer of land to Latrobe City appears to have been met positively.

This parcel of land suits the needs of the Hub as it is central to Churchill, the central business district, the education precinct, Monash University, Kurnai Campus, the recreation and leisure centre and Glendonald Estate.

It allows for the inclusion of the existing public hall in the design structure of the new Hub. This will enable a central focal point for the future growth and development of Churchill and District.

Building Design

There have been recent meetings with the architectural firm in regards to compiling an updated design for the Hub.

These meetings have come from the necessity to address the design requirements made evident from the public meetings and input and the ongoing desire to meet the needs of the groups that will be utilising the Hub.

Environmental sustainability is a key element of the design, which may increase costs in the short term but reduce the long term operational and maintenance costs.

The focus of the Hub is to bring together the individuals and community groups into a shared location with shared facilities to strengthen the resource and bonds of the community. Latrobe City is strongly dedicated to meeting community engagement principles to ensure a sense of community ownership.

Redevelopment of the Churchill Public Hall

The new design plans include the redevelopment of the Public Hall to establish it as part of the new Hub.

There were some interesting and exciting ideas put forward regarding the Public Hall which include the discussion of the existing roadways adjacent to the hall along Philip Parade.

The lower level of the hall will be developed to allow for studio space for local community projects, arts and crafts and neighbourhood learning programs.

The upstairs hall area will be utilised for the possible development of music and drama groups. However, as the redevelopment of the hall is in the design stage the possibilities have not been limited and there is room for change to meet community desires and needs.

Latrobe City is still very interested to receive feedback in regards to the development of the hall to ensure that the community have input into the services that the redevelopment of the hall will allow.

Management structure

Work is still under way in devel-

oping an appropriate governance and management structure. The emphasis is on a sustainable system that is driven by a co-operative approach of sharing resources, information and networks.

This approach has been considered in the design of the Hub as the resources and facilities have been designed to be conducive of these principles.

The facilities are strategically placed around a central kitchen and social meeting area.

Funding

The funding commitments to date are:

Latrobe City: \$650,000 (2005-2006 budget)

Department of Human Services: \$200,000

Department of Human Services – Children’s Services: \$500,000

There is also a Grant application submitted to the Department of Human Services – Department of Housing for a further \$200,000 as well as other applications for Grants that are still under preparation. These include:

Department for Victorian Communities – Living Libraries, Neighbourhood House, Community Infrastructure Fund: \$1,000,000

Regional Partnerships: \$750,000

Regional Development Victoria Small Rural Towns fund: \$250,000

It is also worth noting that local Churchill and District Community groups have made a target goal of fundraising approximately \$50,000 to go towards the development of the Hub.

This is a large figure and these groups would appreciate the community to get behind them in support to reach this target.

Community Fund-raising: \$50,000 for the Churchill Intergenerational Community Hub

By Margaret Guthrie, President

LATROBE City Council has requested that the residents of Churchill and district consider fund-raising efforts to equip the proposed Churchill Intergenerational Community Hub.

A target of \$50,000 has been set as the amount for the community to raise. CDCA has ‘opened’ the account with the proceeds from the December Community Christmas Market.

The Lions Club of Churchill made a substantial contribution by donating the money raised from their barbecue at the Market to the new fund.

CDCA has liaised with Latrobe City to open a special account to deposit funds raised by the community for equipping the Hub. The opening balance totals just over \$500.

We are asking all community groups and residents of the area to consider means by which they might raise money to donate towards the Hub.

Individuals are also invited to donate any sum towards the target amount. If each of the 5000 residents of the area were to donate \$10, we would quickly exceed the target amount.

Churchill residents have a proud history of fund-raising efforts for community facilities.

Some readers may remember ‘The Churchill & District Swimming Pool Establishment Committee’ of 1972, which set a minimum target of \$6,000 for the community to contribute towards a pool.

The proposed Hub will be a facility designed for all residents to access and

utilize, with a range of services on offer. The new building(s) will require furnishing, equipment, computers and other internal fit-outs e.g. kitchen, classrooms, work benches, etc.

Latrobe City Council has successfully applied for some funding for the Hub (including \$500,000 for the Children’s Services area), and awaits news of further funding success. These Grants will be used to build the new facility.

Equipping the building adequately will add further costs to the several million dollars already required for infrastructure.

Council has suggested that community fund-raising efforts will also demonstrate to potential funding bodies the amount of community support and interest in the proposal, thereby adding to the likelihood of further success with grant applications.

Please consider making a donation, or assisting your local group to raise funds for the Hub.

The success of the proposed Hub and its internal fit-out depends on this community. Contact our Secretary, Rob Whelan, on 5122 3602 for further information, or write to PO Box 191, Churchill 3842.

CDCA meets regularly on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Link Room at Monash University. All residents are welcome to attend.

Bike Safety Competition Winners!



Emily Vella



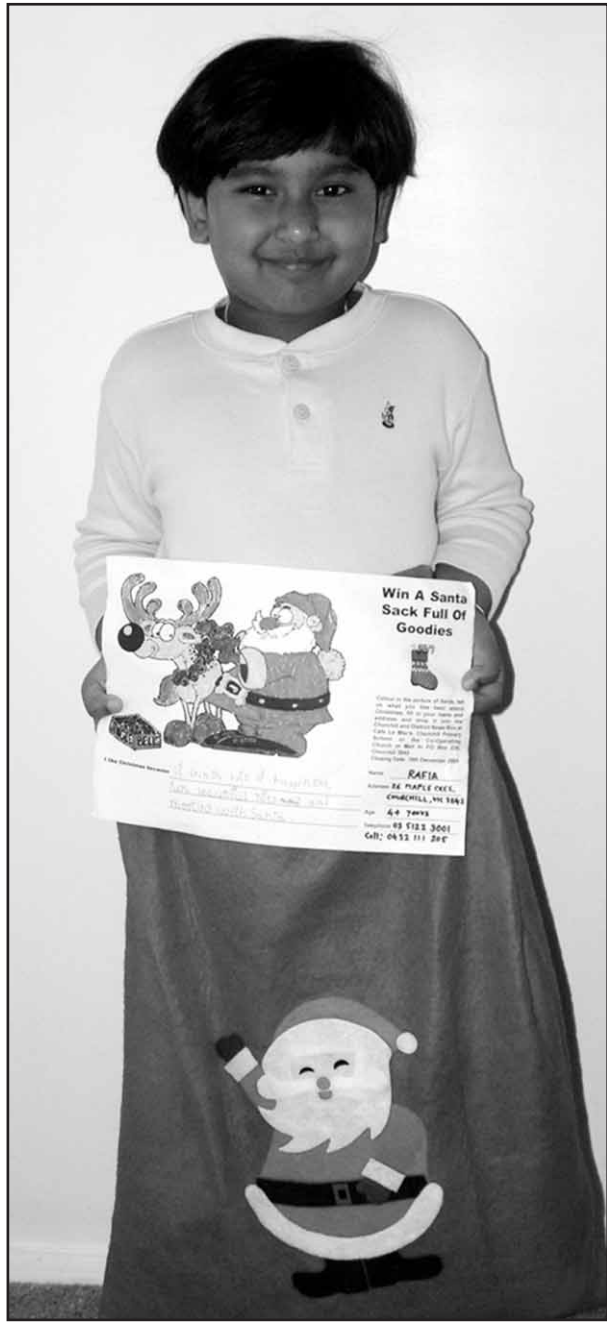
Jack Butler

CONGRATULATIONS Emily and Jack on winning a bike each in our Bike Safety Competition. We hope you will have many happy hours of safe cycling!

A big thank you goes to the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council for donating the bikes!

****Children's corner****

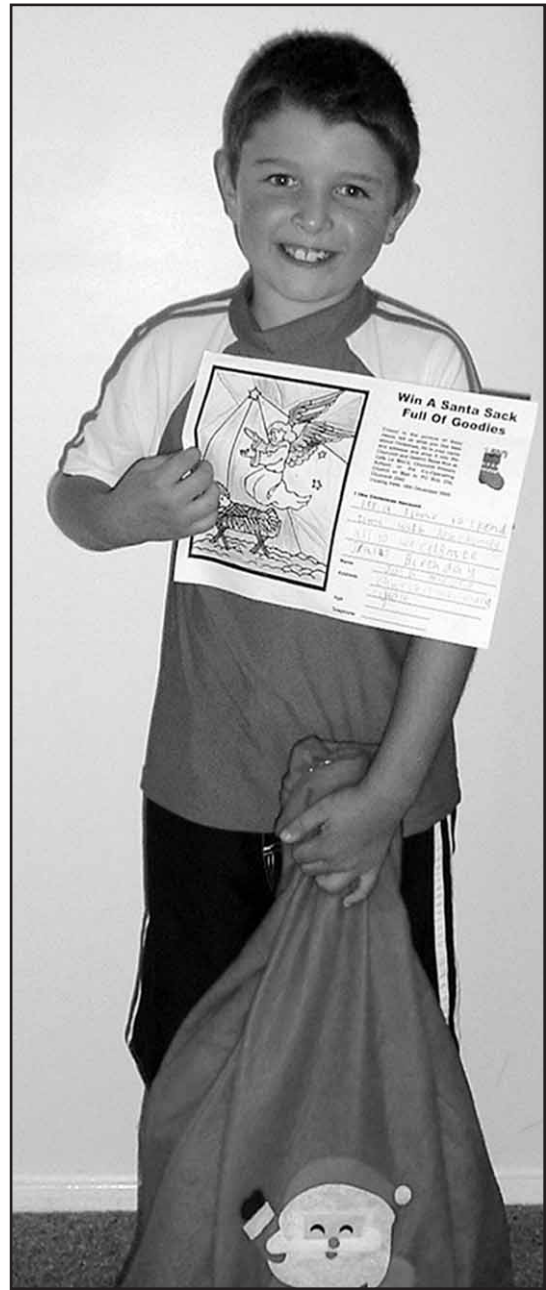
Lucky Winners of Our Santa Colouring Competition!



Rafia



Monica



Josh

Birthdayites!



Joshua KEMP, 12 years on the 20th December 2005



Megan KEARNS, 9 years on the 17th of December

LIONS BIRTHDAY CLUB

*Proudly sponsored by the
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Hi Kids,
If you are under 12 years old you can join the club. Ask your Mum, Dad, Guardian or Carer to ring the Editor of the CHURCHILL AND DISTRICT NEWS on 5122 2589 or write to

LIONS BIRTHDAY CLUB
PO BOX 110
CHURCHILL 3842

with your NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, BIRTHDATE, and whether BOY or GIRL

The randomly chosen "BIRTHDAYITES" for December 2005 were
MEGAN KEARNS and JOSH KEMP.

BIRTHDAYITES		BIRTHDAYITES	
JANUARY 2006		FEBRUARY 2006	
Josiah BERTOLI	12 years	Luke BERTOLI	7 years
Samantha BLANCH	11 years	Hayley BEYER	9 years
Alisha BRIGGS	3 years	Sam FLANIGAN	9 years
Brianna BRIGGS	5 years	Corey KOOTSTRA-DENTON	
Jordan CURTIS	7 years		8 years
Breanna DOWNES SMITH	11 years	Paige ROWLEY	9 years
Ashlee KEARNS	11 years	Ashlee SMITH	12 years
Shenae McLURE	6 years	Toby THAIN	6 years
Zac TALARICO	2 years	Madeleine TURPIN	9 years
Emily ZELA	6 years		

The "BIRTHDAYITES" for January are
SAMANTHA BLANCH and JORDAN CURTIS.
The "BIRTHDAYITES" for February are
LUKE BERTOLI and ASHLEE SMITH.

Congratulations, you have each won a \$15 voucher for Churchill Newsagency. We will be contacting you soon.

John Barker Publicity.

These "Birthdayites" were all smiles as they were each presented with a \$15 voucher for Churchill Newsagency by John Barker from the Lions Club of Churchill & District.

They were chosen at random from the December list. This could have been you - make sure you join so you also have the chance to be a lucky "Birthdayite".

Before Churchill - The Story of the Medew Family

By Ruth Place

In my pursuit of the history behind our town of Churchill, one sunny Wednesday morning in October 2005, I met up with, cousins Dave and Mervyn Medew. Their fathers were farming two farms on the land that now makes up Churchill township.

The two men are descendants of their great grandfather Charles Turner Medew who was born in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire in 1829. Charles Turner, a skilled cabinetmaker and stonemason married Mary Dunstan Battersby, born 1829 in East London. They had 7 children born both in England and here in Australia. They were Charles Turner Jnr. (born in England), Walter, Rosina, Henry, Edwin, Annie and Elizabeth, born in Australia.

The family sailed from England on the "William" and established themselves near Warrnambool, after arriving at Port Fairy termed the "birthplace of Victoria", on 25th January 1857.

Their first home was at Woodford. Charles tried his hand in the gold fields, but returned to select land at Allansford where the family lived for the next 19 years.

Son Henry left home and sailed to Inverloch in 1881. There he worked clearing land on Tarwin Meadows, with Jacob Thomas at Lyrebird Mound and on the railroad. Eight years after he arrived he married Catherine Smart, of Warrnabool, in Toorak at her brother's residence, and the couple settled on a farm at Koonwara. Here Henry not only set about putting the farm in order, but also became involved in the community life of the district, with a special interest in the Church. He was one of the founders of the Lyre Bird Mound Wesleyan Church, the first to be erected in that area. He was an unpaid lay preacher in this time. In 1900 he joined the Christadelphians, of which faith he was a sincere follower until his death. In 1901, the young couple took over Henry's brother Edwin's property in Jeeralang, again facing the hardships of taming the bush to create their farm and a comfortable residence. They had 9 children, Robert, Henry (named Henry Charles after his father and grandfather), William (Bill), Mary, John, Catherine (Katie), James (Jim), Ethel and Ruth.

Ten years later, in 1911, the family moved to Hazelwood South where Henry spent the remainder of his life until 1947.

In 1908 Henry acquired 160 uncleared acres of land from the Northways. They could not move onto their new property straight away, so for the first three years two of the older sons, Robert and Bill, camped there in a small hut, while they began to clear the land and establish it into a dairy farm.

In 1911, the house was built of sawn timber, carted by bullock wagon from Traralgon. Catherine and the younger children were able to move down from Jeeralang, with Henry, while Robert and Bill took over the Jeeralang farm.

Over the next few years the older family members married and moved away from Jeeralang and the farm was sold.

The farm was bounded on the western side by Alexandra Boulevard- now Midland Highway or Monash Way- where the Churchill shopping centre now stands. The Churchill Hotel is sited at the farm's front gate. Henry was a teetotalter and would have been upset about this. The schoolhouse was also on that front boundary.

The farm's southern boundary ran through the edge of Glendonald Estate, and part of Monash University is sprawled across the northern paddocks. The eastern boundary was on top of the hill, just past where Northways Road joins Robert's Drive. Northways Road was named after the Northway family who had owned that land and the adjoining property.

In 1922 Catherine died, leaving Henry and daughter Ruth as the house occupants.

In 1925 James married Helen Northway and they moved into the house. A few years later Ruth left to live with her married sister, Ethel.

Helen and James had five children, Ken, Mervyn, Gwen, Graeme (deceased at 18), and Ivan. All the children went to Hazelwood South. State School No. 3350, on the western boundary. Henry retired from active farm work aged 70. James took over running the farm full time. It was more than a dairy farm. Apart from the cattle, there were sheep, pigs, chooks, draught horses and cattle dogs. Potatoes and other vegetables were grown, including periodic crops of maize and oats. The house was surrounded by a productive orchard of apples, pears and plums.

The family lived there through the great depression and were fortunate not to go without good food with the plentiful bounty supplied by the farms lands.

There was no electricity, refrigeration or water supply other than tanks. In summer periods all dishes, clothes washing and bath water was carted out to water the vegie patch.

Baths happened twice a week, in a big tin tub, the same water being used by everyone.

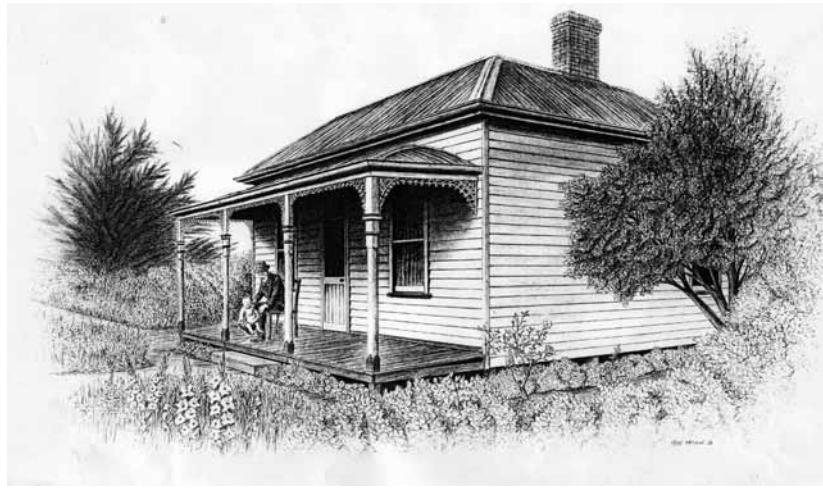
Helen worked very hard. Six in the morning saw her helping James with the milking of up to 34 cows, by hand, taking up to 3 hours. This was done twice a day. Cream was separated from the milk, by hand operated machinery, and sent to the factory at Traralgon. The skim milk was fed to the pigs to fatten them for market at the saleyards in Morwell, where Coles now stands, or Buckley St. where the Karma Theatre was. Later whole milk was sent to the Yinnar factory from 1939. This was easier. Helen used some of the cream to make butter for the family. She also made jam and preserved excess fruit. Nothing was wasted. Chooks were killed and dressed and sheep was killed and butchered.

All the children had their chores to do, their age determining the degree of difficulty. These chores included helping with the milking, collecting eggs, feeding the chooks and splitting wood.

After evening meals were finished, at about 8:00pm, came a time for relaxation. Henry would tell stories of the pioneering days as the family sat warmly around the open fire. James would play his violin and Helen would accompany him on the treadle organ and all would have a great sing-a-long until bedtime.

The community spirit of the farming families during that time was wonderful. School picnics were great social occasions in which all participated. Of special note was the nail driving event for mums, and the sheaf tossing for dads.

During the war years, young men of the district joined the services and went off to war in various parts of the world. Farewell functions were held in the community hall. Even though these occasions had a sad, hidden aspect of won-



dering if these young people would return home, the nights were overtly happy with dancing and laughter.

Through the later war years, farmers, being primary producers were not permitted to join up. But the threat of a Japanese invasion saw the formation of the Hazelwood Volunteer Defence Corps Unit. James joined at once. Through training, and taking his roll seriously, James rose to the rank of sergeant in a short time.

For the 1914-1918 War, one of those to be farewelled was Henry's son John. He returned to Australia but in a hospital ship after spending time in hospital in England, with a poisoned leg. For 18 months he underwent treatment at Caulfield Hospital. During his time in hospital he learnt the art of chip carving. After his discharge from the army he was considered unfit for farming and was thus refused a Soldiers' Settlement farm. Not daunted though, John managed with savings, and some financial help from his Dad, to buy 200 acres of land at Hazelwood, owned by English's. He successfully farmed there. That land is where the original part of Churchill is today. The farmhouse was situated just over the western crest of McDonald Way, looking down to Gaskin Park.

In 1924 John married Nellie Danks (born 1896) and they had 3 children- Elva, Ronald and David (Dave).

John was an active member of the Rifle Club and his interest in chip carving proved a useful hobby. He made many beautiful articles, some of which became trophies for the club and gifts to family and friends.

So there were now two Medew brothers farming adjacent farms and their children were great mates. Merv and Dave recount tales of the farms and life in the early years of their lives. Merv remembers doing Sunday school by correspondence, the lessons coming, he thinks, from the Church of England. The two boys shared a desk at school (Hazelwood South School) for 8 years, with only an occasional fight! Joe Howard was the only other child in their grade level. The men remember their two teachers - Mr. Jackman and Mr. Evison. Mr. Evison established a garden at the school in which the students were required to work.

Dave and Merv remember collecting cow manure from adjacent farms to help. At school they played cricket and football. School picnics at Billie's Creek were great fun and included swims in the creek's pools, which no longer exist. Interschool sports in Morwell are memorable also. Merv remembers winning the egg and spoon race one year by altering the spoon to fit the egg! Both Merv and Dave trapped rabbits. They sold the pelts which they dried on a special frame. Good quality pelts made 5 shillings a pound or approximately 6 pence each.

All the work on the farm was done by draught horses. This included clearing the land which needed to be done on both farms, ploughing, seeding and hay carting. Both Dave and Merv had their own pony.



The farm land was classed as reasonably good land, but needed more acreage to produce the same quantity of milk produced on the good (heavy) land, as in the Soldiers Settlements.

Both farms were dairy farms. They had sheds in which to milk, but no milking machines until 1939. While milking by hand the patient cat would be rewarded with a squirt of warm milk.

In 1930 James purchased a T-Model Ford, and John purchased an A-Model Ford.

In February 1944, tragedy struck when the bushfires raged through Hazelwood, Driffield and surrounding districts. Fuelled by long, dry grass and fanned by an extremely strong wind, the fire burned so fast and on such a wide front, that it was impossible to control.

John's farm was completely wiped out - house and all.

As it approached James' farm there was

time only to herd the cattle into a ploughed paddock near the house. The family huddled together in the paddock with the cattle, until the fire passed. When the smoke eventually cleared, it was to thankfully reveal the house still standing, the orchard and garden surrounding it having saved it from burning. However the milking and hay sheds were a pile of smouldering ashes.

Throughout the district 13 people died and more than a hundred families lost their homes. Dead cattle lay in paddocks, and badly burned animals roamed free as fences had also been burnt.

James' family had been lucky, but with grass and hay burnt their animals would have starved if had not been for hay donations from farmers in non-affected areas.

It took a long time to rebuild, but there was no mention of not going on, or not being able to succeed. Community spirit helped everyone to rally.

All the children grew up and obtained jobs, leaving the farm, after acquiring their education.

In 1956 James, whose health was not good, and Helen, moved to Morwell to "retire". James however worked 5 days a week, part time (four hours), at Maryvale Motors, up to 2 days before his death, age 70, also doing maintenance work on the farm. He put George Farley on the farm as a share farmer.

In 1962 James sold the land to a company and in 1963 the land was acquired by the Housing Commission.

James and Helen's children, including Merv are all living in Australia, except Graeme who died in a road accident in 1955. They have 8 children between them - James 5 children, John 3 children.

James died in 1971, age 70 and Helen died at Maffra in 1985, age 83.

John and Nellie moved to Morwell. Nellie died in 1974 and John in 1991.

Ronald, their second child married Ruby Garrett. They helped work the farm until it was taken over by the Housing Commission in 1963. Ron later died of a brain tumour.

Dave began his working life as a carpenter, but moved into trucking until 1972 when he returned to carpentry. He is now living in retirement in Morwell.

Merv has 2 children and 3 grandchildren. This will ensure the Medew Family names lives on.

Both Merv and Dave say they took trips out to Churchill in the early days, to see the progress of the town. I think they experienced a little nostalgia. However, life goes on and moves on, and takes people with it.



Latrobe and Francis Orchestra Introducing....

The Violin

The violin is the smallest stringed instrument in the orchestra and has the highest sound.

The violin has four strings. The strings are tuned in fifths, meaning that each string is five notes away from another string. The range of the violin is from the G below middle C, to the C an octave above the C above the stave. The treble clef is used to write the range of the violin.

One person from the violin section is called the Leader of the Orchestra. This person is responsible for making sure that the whole orchestra is tuned before the conductor comes in.

Violin music to look out for: Paganini's '24 Caprices'.

A famous virtuosic violinist and composer was Paganini. Although most composers played the violin, Paganini composed only for violin.

A piece for violins together with an orchestra is Bruch's Violin Concerto OP. 26 No.1 in G minor.

Why I love playing....

I have been playing the violin for two years and have come a long way. I enjoy lessons and learning new pieces. I love classical music. My favourite composers are Vivaldi and Mozart. My favourite piece of music is the Four Seasons.

One of the highlights of my week is meeting up with the Francis Orchestra every Thursday to learn pieces for our concerts. I also get to meet up with friends that I know I will have for life. Alison T is the best conductor ever and always holds a great rehearsal.

My name is Kaitlyn and I am 12. I have been playing the violin for a while and really enjoy learning new pieces. I am also a mem-

ber of the Francis Orchestra who practice every Thursday. The violin is a great instrument to play and I would advise anyone to take it up.

...

My name is Anne Turra. I am 13 years old and have been playing the violin for three years. After one year of playing Alison Dunn, my violin teacher, got me into the Francis Orchestra. As I progressed in the orchestra I met a lot of good friends and learnt a lot about music and other different instruments. I think part of my improvement on the violin was because of the Francis Orchestra.

I also really enjoy the concerts that we have, and playing in front of people and hearing their applause. It makes me feel good that I can be a part of something like this. Anyone else would say the same thing.

...

My name is Alison and I conduct the Francis Orchestra. I love conducting with Orchestra because I get to share music with people of a wide range of abilities and ages every week.

...

I enjoy playing the violin in the orchestra because I love the sounds and harmonies of all the instruments together.

...

My name is Melissa Snelten. I play the violin. I like playing in the orchestra because it is better to play with other people.

...

My name is Alison. I like to come to orchestra so that I can sit next to my best friend, Wilma.

...

I love playing the violin and socializing with friends. The Orchestra is my way to play and share musical talent with others.

Katelyn

Hazelwood Estate School Mountain Bike Ride

By David McKean

On the way up to Boola state forest we stopped at Tyers lookout. At the next stop we got 7 bikes off. Next Colin showed Ezra and I how to put on the brake pads. I was helping Peter to put on the brake pads so we could go on the ride. When we started I fell off the bike. When I got back on the bike I had to go up a steep hill.

Halfway up I had to walk my bike. When we got to the top Colin had to fix Peters seat for him. Next we came to a hill to go down which was fun. On the way down the hill there was a lot of sticks, logs, leaves and jumps.

At the bottom Colin got stuck in some mud and when he lifted his bike the inside of the rim was covered in mud. About 2 inches to be exact. Next Nick tried to get across the mud hole but he fell in. When we had all got across Peter took some photos of us. Next we all had to go up 2 or 3 hills to get to the next intersection.

At the top of the hill there were some mud pud-

dles which Ezra, Nick, Kahl and I went through. The second time round Peter took some more photos. Further along the track we came to a big hill, which was difficult to get up.

When we got to the top it was fun until we had lunch. Then we had to be behind Hayden, which was borrrring until Colin told us to pass him, which was better.

When we finished Hayden was crying all the way through the bush. On the way home we were laughing and carrying on like pork chops.



Inverloch

By NICK BOND

On Thursday 17th November, we went on an excursion to Inverloch. On the way we went through Mirboo North and we saw the brewery. We also went through Leongatha and saw the milk factory. When we arrived at Inverloch we drove for about 10 mins until we stopped at the sea caves.

We saw some friendly old people. After looking at the petrified wood that was stuck in the rocks we walked around to the caves. When we got there Colin said we could go in. We went in but I only went half way and chickened out because it was smelly and dark in there.

When the others were in the caves Hayden and I stayed outside and got splashed and wet by the waves pounding against the rocks. Soon we left and arrived at Eagles Nest. It was a long walk to the bottom of the stairs but it was worth it. Down there we saw crabs, baby fish, toadfish, star fish and lots of other slimy creatures. After looking in the rock pools we walked back up the stairs and

looked out off the lookout. Then we got in the van and drove around to Cape Patterson.

We didn't get to swim in the ocean but we got to swim in a rock pool that had fish in it. Kahl found a rusty \$2 coin and I saw 2 crabs and a lot of shrimp. Then it was time to leave. It was a long trip back but I had a great day.

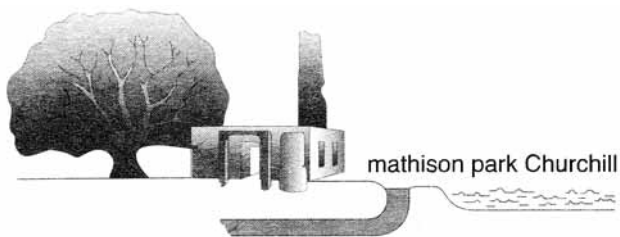


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mathison park Churchill

Plans To Extend Walking Tracks at Mathison Park

THE Mathison Park Development Committee wishes all its readers a safe and happy new year. We also hope you had a happy and safe time when you used the Park over the holiday period.

The committee has plans to extend the walking tracks to complete a circuit around the lake, and install some fishing platforms on the lake edge to preserve the banks. This all takes a lot of effort, not only to plan- that is the easy bit- but to carry out the work.

We are appealing to the public to give us some of their time to make these additions to the Park, a reality. You may have earth moving, or other equipment you are prepared to use. Alternatively, you may be good at path making, or building. If so, we would love to hear from you!

There are only about six regular workers at our working bees. Please consider giving us some of your time, or the use of your equipment to do this work. Those on the committee are busy people who are involved in many groups in town, some work part or full time, but they find the time to develop and maintain the Park for your benefit. Your help would be most appreciated.

Our next working bee is on Saturday 28 January from 9:30am - 1:00pm, or part thereof, to suit yourself. If you have any inquiries, please ring Terry on 51221440.

Australasian Coot

Over the late spring, early summer period, it was delightful to watch the Australian Coots hatch out and look after their brood of 3 surviving chicks.

Coots are found throughout Australia, in freshwater or brackish water in ponds, lakes, swamps, streams and rivers where there is a good cover of reeds and waterweeds.

They are slate black with white frontal shield and bill. The eye is red and the lobed toes and legs are grey.

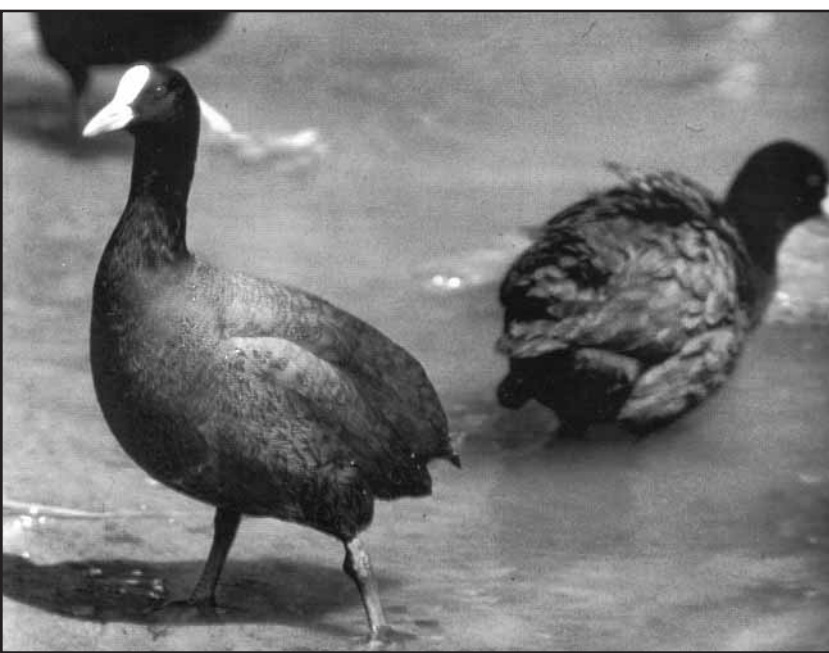
Coots feed mainly on vegetable matter- leaves stems shots of plants, rather than the seeds. In the water, they peck at emergent plants or else dive and bring up weeds, which they sort before eating. If you take the time to stop and watch, you will be able to see them do this.

Coots often come ashore to feed and can be seen on the banks leading down to Lake Hyland

The mating displays of the coot on open water involve much calling, pursuit, and striking the water with the wings, followed by pair formation. Mutual feather nibbling and greeting postures occur.

Nesting may occur in colonies. Both sexes help with nest building, incubation and feeding the young. More than one brood may be reared in one season. The nest is composed of a loose clump of leaves and stalks of waterweeds, with a ramp leading up to it. The nest is usually located in reed beds or other plant matter. 6-15 eggs are laid, sandy grey to bright clay coloured, thickly and uniformly covered with grey-violet speckles and spots. The shape is oval with an obvious blunt and sharp end.

This information and photo, is courtesy of the Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds.



Health and Wellbeing

Bushfire aftermath - hazards

HOUSES, sheds and other buildings or structures that are burnt in a bushfire can leave potential health hazards in the remaining rubble, ash and debris. You should take precautions to protect your health before you visit your property to recover personal items or arrange clean-up activities. For safety reasons, don't take children with you.

Hazardous household materials

Hazardous household materials that may be present after the fire include:

Asbestos

Toxic ash from burnt treated timbers - for example, copper chrome arsenate (CCA) from treated pine

Medicines

Garden chemicals

Farm chemicals

Other general chemicals such as cleaning products and pool chlorine

Metal and other residue from burnt household appliances

Ash and dusts.

Before going on-site

Health and safety issues to consider before you go include:

Electrical hazards may exist, such as downed 'live' power lines. Don't enter your property until advised by the proper authorities that it is safe to do so.

Buildings and other structures may be unstable to enter or walk over. Before attempting to recover items or start any clean-up works, seek advice from your council's building section to make sure the buildings on your property are safe to enter.

Smoldering coals and other potentially hazardous materials may be hidden under debris. For example, if you think buildings on your property may contain asbestos cement sheeting, take extra care when handling building wastes.

Contact WorkSafe Victoria for information about safe handling of building rubble, debris or ash as part of your employment.

Protective clothing

Make sure you wear protective clothing before entering your property. Suggestions include:

Wear sturdy footwear and heavy-duty work gloves to protect you from broken glass, sharp objects and smoldering coals.

Wear protective overalls, with long sleeves and trousers. If convenient, wear disposable overalls and throw them out with the site waste after use.

Any non-disposable clothing should be cleaned or laundered prior to reuse. Don't forget to clean your shoes too.

Wear a facemask.

Facemasks

Points to consider include:

Ordinary paper dust masks, handkerchiefs or bandannas aren't very useful to protect your lungs because they don't filter out fine ash or dust or any asbestos fibres that may remain.

Special masks called 'P1' or 'P2' should be worn to filter out fine particles, including asbestos fibres. These masks are available at most hardware stores.

P2 masks filter out a slightly higher proportion of fine particles than P1 masks.

Wearing a facemask can make it harder for you to breathe normally. Seek advice from your doctor before using a mask if you have a pre-existing heart or lung condition.

Facemasks are much less effective if there is a poor seal around the face and mouth. Men with beards can have difficulty getting a good seal.

Handling wastes

Make sure you wear protective clothing and equipment before handling any debris, ash or other waste. Other health and safety suggestions include:

Don't bury building wastes and debris on-site or in nearby gullies. Hazardous materials in the waste may contaminate surrounding land and water, and harm the environment and the community.

Don't spread ash around the property, particularly if asbestos materials were used in your home or other structures, or if CCA-treated timber posts or structures were burnt.

Minimise airborne dust and ash by keeping the waste debris wet. But don't use high-pressure water sprays for this, as this can stir up the dust and ash.

Use special care to handle and dispose of wastes such as asbestos materials and burnt CCA-treated timber. Contact the Victorian EPA for more information about transport and disposal of hazardous materials.

Asbestos hazards

Safety issues to consider include:

Buildings built before 1988 may contain asbestos cement (AC) sheeting in walls, roofs, floor underlays, eaves, some flues, or in the backing of some vinyl floor tiles. When intact, these sheeting materials are generally not a risk to health. However, sheeting materials that are broken up, cut, drilled or ground can release asbestos fibres into the air.

During a bushfire, the amount of asbestos fibres released into the air is likely to be low. This is because the intense heat of a bushfire causes fibres to stick together in clumps.

After a bushfire, fibres may become airborne when excavation and clean-up works disturb the

asbestos clumps. If asbestos is likely to be present on your property, a licensed asbestos removalist should be engaged to do the clean-up work. The waste must be transported in an EPA-approved vehicle and taken to an EPA-approved landfill for disposal.

If you are present during clean-up works, wear a P2 facemask.

If asbestos-containing material on your site is not burnt and is limited to only a few AC sheets, wrap them securely in two layers of heavy-duty plastic. Small fragments should be double bagged in two plastic bags. Take to a landfill approved by Council or the Victorian EPA.

CCA-treated timber hazards

Copper chrome arsenate (CCA) is a preservative that protects timber from insects. CCA-treated timber has been widely used in pergolas, decking, cubby houses, cladding, posts, gates, animal enclosures and landscaping. After a fire, the remaining ash contains up to 10 per cent (by weight) arsenic, copper and chromium. Safety issues to consider include:

Keep children, pets and other animals away from these ash areas until clean-up is completed. Young children are more likely to put things in their mouths - eating only a few grams can be harmful. Animals may also lick or eat the salty ash residue, which will cause poisoning. Small amounts of ash can be double-bagged, sealed and taken directly to your local landfill. Contact your council for advice on local requirements.

Large (commercial) amounts need additional precautions in transport and disposal. Contact the Victorian EPA for advice.

Where to get help

Environmental Health Unit of the Department of Human Services Victoria Tel. (03) 9637 4156

WorkSafe Victoria Tel. (03) 9641 1555, or 1800 136 089 after hours

Victorian EPA Tel. (03) 9695 2722, or 1800 444 004 after hours

Local council

Licensed asbestos removalist.

Things to remember

Make sure to wear protective clothing before entering your property.

Children should be kept off-site until the clean-up is finished.

Hazardous wastes, such as asbestos materials and burnt CCA-treated timber, need special care during handling and disposal.

This article has been sourced by Hazelwood Health to provide up-to-date information on topical subjects.

Cancer Help Group

THE Latrobe Cancer Help Group meets on Monday's from 1.30 to 3.30pm at Latrobe Community Health Service Moe Centre, 42 Fowler Street, Moe.

The group offers contact, information, support, understanding and friendship to those affected by cancer. The meetings are generally small and informal allowing time for sharing and questions.

New comers are most welcome.

For further information contact the Community Health Nurse on 5127 9100.



A Difficult And Exhausting Fire Season For Churchill Brigade

The fire in the Open Cut at International Power Hazelwood on New Years' Eve, was attended by members of our brigade. It started in an old fire hole. This is a hole in the coal which has been filled in, but which may be uncovered through wind, or coal winning procedures.



These can turn into hot spots which smoulder away, and can ignite when exposed to oxygen and fanned by the very hot and windy conditions like those of New Years' Eve. Embers were spread for about 100 metres along some of the levels, and batters (cliffs), which are between 30-40 metres high. This happened in a redundant area of the mine, so production was maintained, meaning that power supply was not interrupted.

It took just over 24 hours to be officially declared under control. Between 60-100 CFA members, from several brigades, along with IPH and R.T.L. employees worked long hours in temperatures up to the high 30s-low 40s to access the hot spots which needed the use of cranes to reach the required height.

Although there were no injuries, several firefighters suffered from heat exhaus-

tion. IPH has highly commended the firefighters who gave up their New Years' Eve and Day to attend the fire and do such a great job of containing and controlling it.

From Friday 20 Jan. when the Erica/ Moondarra fire began, at least two members of the Churchill Brigade were in attendance.

On Sunday 22 January with 40-degree heat, 10 tankers from the Morwell and Traralgon Groups were called to control a fire in Mill Road. This was barely under control, when a pager call was put out to attend a 20 hectare fire in Jumbuk Road. The same 10 tankers were all that was available under the circumstances. The fire was in a difficult area, with a house in the fire path. An experienced fire fighter expressed his view that this fire would not be contained. However, with great teamwork and effort, with all personnel doing an exceptional job, the fire was con-



tained and the house saved! Considering the heat of the day, the heat of the fire, the hot air and the smoke, these firefighter's efforts were beyond the call of duty.

THEIR EFFORTS MUST BE COMMENDED!

There were also several reports of fires between Morwell and Hernes Oak to be extinguished. It was quite a day but our volunteers were out there for you.

You need to do your part also!

So You Think It Won't Happen To You! Think Again !!!!!

Across our state, there have been numerous fires, in forests, both accessible and inaccessible, out on open farms, and in a coalmine. There has been loss of life, stock, farm's buildings, houses and fencing. Large areas of habitat have been lost for our native flora and fauna already suffering from a reduced comfortable living environmental region. Some of those fires have been on our doorstep.

But one of the most upsetting parts of all this is that some of these devastating fires were deliberately lit.

Fire is a largely untamable, unpredictable, monster. Largely untamable, but not entirely, if we are prepared.

Fire must be respected. We must be prepared. Our clean up around the property must be thorough. Water sources must be available. Any place an ember can enter and/or find a purchase must be blocked. We must be alert!

Facts show that if we are prepared with our fire plan, know what to do to activate it, know what to do when the fire front comes, know what to do when the fire front passes, we can contribute significantly to the saving of our property. We need to know when to stay and when to go. This can be assessed when we listen to the weather forecast for the next day. If a very hot day is predicted, we can decide the night before if we activate the fire plan, or decide to leave. Leaving

should be done first thing in the morning, not when smoke can be smelt. That could be too late. We could then drive into dangerous situations, or impede emergency fire vehicles trying to access the area.

If you would like further information or reinsurance, ring the Fire Brigade on 51223857 (voicemail only), and leave a message. Your call will be returned.

If there is the threat of an approaching fire in your area, you can find out about the situation by listening to 100.7 FM which reports on all fires throughout the state. Local radio stations will also carry news updates about fires, as released by CFA, and local councils. These updates will

tell you about public meetings, evacuation orders etc.

If you are away from home, camping or holidaying, also listen to the radio so you know where fires are situated, and when total fire bans have been declared. It is your responsibility to know, so you are not inadvertently, the cause of a fire!

If you are concerned with the uncleared state of the property next to, or near you, do not hesitate to report the situation to the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer at the council. Lance King is the M.F.P.O. for Latrobe city council.

Lions Club Of Churchill & District A New Year Starts

By JOHN BARKER, Publicity

THE Lions Club sponsored two new Awards for each of the four primary schools in our district this year. One is based on leadership skills and the other based on academic skills. Each school nominated a year 6 student to receive each of the awards, which were presented at an appropriate occasion before the school year ended. Each award consisted of a certificate and a gift voucher for \$25. Churchill Primary, Churchill North Primary, Lumen Christi Primary and Hazelwood North Primary all agreed to participate and we thank them for this opportunity to expand our involvement with youth in our community.

The club continued its tradition of presenting a Citizenship Award to a student nominated by Kurnai College, Churchill Campus. The award consisting of a commemorative certificate and a cheque for \$100 was presented to Matthew Stolk.

Each year we send a group of children to Lions Village Licola to 'have a break'. Four children, one from each primary school in our district, were chosen to attend in January. All reports were positive and all had a great time.

Over 200 people in Churchill enjoyed Australia Day celebrations this year. Dot and Eric Rowley were awarded the Citizen of the Year Award for 2005, Tyson Webb was awarded the Junior Citizen of the Year Award for 2005. Lions members prepared and served breakfast to the public.

Snippets –

\$450 was donated to CDCA towards Churchill Intergenerational Community Hub.

Camp Quality volunteers, Lion John Barker and Lioness Margaret Barker, attended a family Camp at Mount Buffalo.

Camp Quality volunteers, Lions John Barker,

Bob Lowick and Lionesses Margaret Barker, attended a family Camp at Waratah Bay

John Bayley resigned from club

The Christmas tree project was very successful with proceeds donated to St Vincent De Paul and Salvation Army for Christmas hampers.

248 "letters to Santa" were written – a very worthwhile project

Club members also successfully catered at – Bunnings on 10th December with proceeds going to Cord Blood Fellowship Appeal

Bunnings 11th December and 6th January with proceeds going to Camp Quality

Wights Nissan sausage sizzle with proceeds to Cancer Care Unit

Glendonald Resident's Group Christmas function

Lions members assisted Lioness Dog Show catering in Morwell

CMCA at Lake Narracan

Salvation Army

The Lions Birthday Club, sponsored and run through the Churchill and District News by our Lions Club, is a great hit. Megan Kearns and Joshua Kemp were each the happy Birthday Club recipients of a \$15 voucher in December. All children in Churchill and surrounding areas under 12 years of age are eligible to join. IS YOUR CHILD A MEMBER? IF NOT, WHY NOT? Make sure your child is registered – just follow the instructions in the Lions Birthday Club list published each month in the Churchill News. WE NEED MORE MEMBERS.

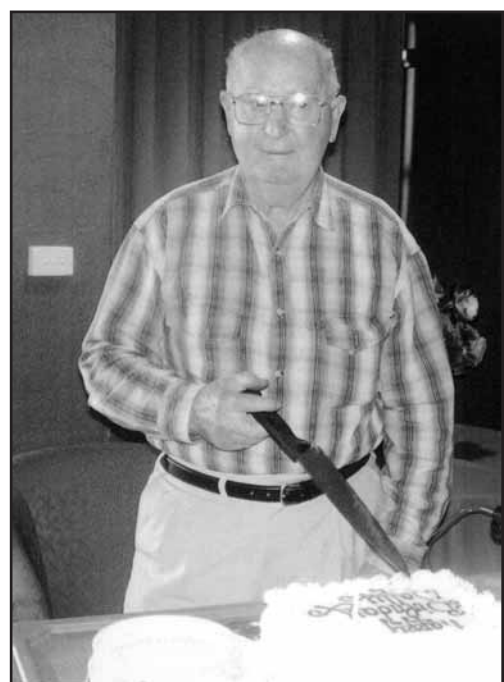
To all the families in our great community of Churchill and surrounding district, we thank you for your support. Need to contact us? Our address is The Secretary, Lions Club of Churchill and District, PO Box 110, CHURCHILL 3842.

Birthday's and Fishing at Hazelwood House

Wally Prater celebrated his 94th birthday in January this year. Friends from the Churchill Golden Oldies joined residents at Hazelwood House for an afternoon of tea and entertainment.

Elaine Wilden, a resident of Hazelwood House, nominated the hostel for an award during "International Day of People With Disabilities". The nomination was for great service, helpful and caring staff. Pictured are staff members Beth Price and Marianne Johnston with Elaine.

A group of residents from Dalkeith Hostel and Hazelwood House enjoyed a day of fishing at the Noojee Fish Farm. Between them they

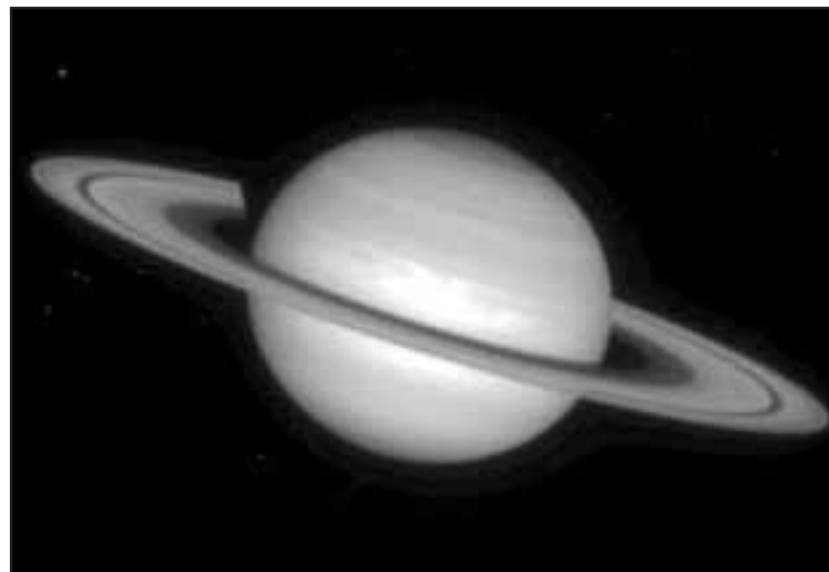


caught 6 kilograms of trout. Guess who was having fish for tea!

Pictured above right: Wally Prater celebrates his 94th birthday.

Left: Elaine Wilden with staff members Beth Price and marianne Johnston.





BY JEFF SING

Magnificent Saturn - best appreciated when viewed through a telescope - is now an all night object. It can be found in the north-eastern sky during each evening in February, providing the skies are clear.

Saturn reaches its maximum elevation above the horizon (33 degrees, or little over 1½

hand-widths extended at arms length from the north point on the horizon) close to midnight and setting around 5.30 a.m. the following morning, summer time.

Saturn can be found close to the Full Moon on February 11. At the moment the ringed planet resides in the direction of the constellation of Gemini, the Heavenly Twins. It is still much brighter than the two brightest stars in Gemini, Castor and Pollux (which are about the same angular distance apart as the two brightest stars in the Southern Cross) that are found about 15 degrees (about ¾ of a full hand-span) towards the west, but slightly lower in the sky.

Tonight, and during the next week, Saturn will be positioned just above the open star cluster, M44 in Cancer, called the 'Beehive Cluster'. The large cluster (about three Moon diameters wide) can be resolved into dozens of very faint stars using a low power telescope. The cluster can be seen as a very faint and hazy, fuzzy patch of light with the naked eye under a dark sky.

To the north, and slightly west in the early part of the evening lies the red-tinted Mars, setting earlier and earlier each succeeding night. During the middle part of February, Mars passes near the bright, large (four Moon diameters wide) open star cluster, M45 in Taurus, better known as the Seven Sisters. In binoculars, its dozen or more stars are much brighter, spread out and striking than M44.

Even the casual observer would notice some differences between the brightness of stars and

naked eye planets at various times of the year. The stars do not change in brightness like the planets. Some stars do change in brightness due to inter-

nal instabilities or are eclipsing binary (double) star systems etc., but most naked eye stars show little variability of brightness even over very long periods of time.

Mars, in particular, has quite marked changes in brightness over its 780 day period between oppositions (when Mars is directly opposite the Earth from the Sun) due to its highly elliptical orbit and rapid changing distance from Earth as a consequence of Mars' slower orbit around the Sun and a faster moving Earth.

How do astronomers measure the brightness of a star or planet, or any celestial body for that matter? [The single most important bit of information an astronomer (amateur or professional) needs to know whether a celestial object is visible or not is how bright it appears.] And what sort of scale does the modern astronomer use as a reference point to determine an object's brightness?

The ancient Greeks devised a classification system of dividing all visible stars into six classes, that is, from magnitude 1 (first class of importance) to magnitude 6 (sixth class of importance). So that a first magnitude star is brighter than a second magnitude star, which in turn, is brighter than a third magnitude star, and so on. If you substitute the term 'magnitude' for 'class' (or in order of importance) then a first magnitude star is deemed more important (brighter) than a second or third magnitude star.

When Galileo first used his crudely constructed, newly invented telescope to view the night sky around 1609 he discovered stars fainter than the sixth magnitude. The magnitude scale then had to be extended to higher positive numbers for fainter stars beyond magnitude six. It was also obvious that the Greek classification system needed to be revised in more precise terms.

Brightness Of Stars And Planets

With the development of more advanced astronomical instruments, combined with more precise measurements of 'comparison' stars, astronomers noted that a first magnitude star was 100 times brighter than a sixth magnitude star.

The magnitude scale runs contrary to how we usually measure or weigh things. The heavier or bigger things get, according to our everyday experience and normal logic, the larger the number increases. However using the magnitude scale the brighter the star is, the smaller the number it is assigned.

In 1856 an English astronomer, Norman Pogson, had proposed this precise method of redefining the Greek magnitude system so that a difference of five magnitudes corresponds to 100 (i.e. $2.512 \times 2.512 \times 2.512 \times 2.512 \times 2.512 = 100$). [Astronomers had calculated that from one magnitude to the next the ratio of brightness is the 5th root of 100, or 2.512.]

Therefore, a third magnitude star is 2.512 times brighter than a fourth magnitude star. A third magnitude star would therefore be 6.3 times brighter than a fifth magnitude star (i.e. a difference of two magnitudes, or $2.512 \times 2.512 \approx 6.3$) and so on.

Magnitudes can be subdivided so that magnitude 2.3 is just fainter than magnitude 2.2 and just brighter than magnitude 2.4. More strictly defined a first magnitude star is between 0.5 and 1.5 in magnitude, a second magnitude star between 1.5 and 2.5 and so on. There are 22 stars of the first magnitude or brighter.

Some stars within the Greek system turned out to be brighter than magnitude 1. These were classified as magnitude 0 (2.512 times brighter than magnitude 1). However, there are four stars brighter than magnitude 0. These are given negative numbers. They are Sirius (-1.4), Canopus (-0.7), Alpha Centauri (-0.3) and Arcturus (-0.1). The larger the negative number the brighter the object. The Moon is -12.6, the Sun -26.7. Because the Sun is by far the brightest object in the sky, one can see why stars are not visible during the daytime when you realize the magnitude differences between them.

Pogson's magnitude scale can also be applied to the planets or any other celestial object.

NOTE: When astronomers refer to 'magnitude' alone, they mean apparent magnitude or how bright a star appears when viewed from Earth regardless of its true distance from us. Taking a star's distance into account is called its

absolute magnitude or how bright it appears at a standard (fixed) distance of 32.6 light years. However, that is another matter that will be discussed in a future article.

The planet Mars now shines at magnitude +0.5 during this month of February. Mars was about two magnitudes (6.3 times) brighter at magnitude -1.5 in early November, 2005. Saturn is now a little brighter than Mars at magnitude 0.2. Mars and Saturn will then fade to magnitude +0.4 by early June, 2006 (a drop of over half a magnitude - or about 75% fainter than they are now).

With diffuse, faint extended objects such as found in the deep sky far beyond the solar system and nearer stars [e.g. gaseous nebulae (huge, hot interstellar gas clouds of tenuous hydrogen), star clusters and galaxies (great star cities)] their magnitudes are measured by combining the total light of each object as though compressed to a star-like point. For example, the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds, two galaxies in the southern sky that are visible to the naked eye, are magnitudes 0.1 and 1.2, respectively.

The faintest object yet detected in a telescope (using the Earth's largest telescopes) is around magnitude 30 or about four million million (four, followed by 12 zeros) times fainter than the brightest naked eye star (apart from the Sun) Sirius, at magnitude -1.4.

A typical pair of binoculars can resolve stars to around magnitude 9 or 10, or about 16-40 times fainter than possible with the eye alone. An eight inch diameter telescope with much greater light gathering capacity than binoculars theoretically can resolve stars to magnitude 14 or 630 times fainter than the naked eye limit. There are approximately 13,000,000 stars brighter than magnitude 14, - nearly 2,200 times as many stars as the naked eye limit of 6,000 stars of magnitude 6 or brighter.

The Latrobe Valley Astronomical Society meets every second Tuesday of the month from February to November each year. The first meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday, February 14 at the Wirilda Environment Park hall, near Tyers starting at 7.30 p.m. The topic for the evening is: "You've just bought a telescope for Christmas?" will be presented by member John Sunderland. For all enquiries call Gavan Dinsdale on 51746453 or visit the society's website at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~lvas> for further information.

Volunteer Funding Success

By David Guthrie, President
Local State MP, Brendan Jenkins, attended one of our children's holiday activities in January to announce that the Group has been successful in its application for a Victorian Volunteer Small Grant from the Department for Victorian Communities.

The funds are to be used to support existing volunteers and encourage new volunteers to become involved. The money will be spent during the year on training and other costs associated with volunteering.

Two children's school holiday activities were organised by GRG volunteers and held in January at Glendonald Park. The first was a morning BMX Competition. All place-getters in each age group received a prize-ribbon and everyone, parents included, enjoyed the BBQ provided.

The second activity was 'Water

Play Fun', held after 4pm (to minimise the risk of sunburn) on Jan 23rd. Each child attending was given a spray bottle filled with water to squirt at each other. Buckets of water were on hand for refills. Lots of fun and laughter for all concerned! A BBQ was also provided, along with icy poles for everyone.

Volunteers are again conducting Monday After School activities from 3.30 to 5pm in Glendonald Park during Term 1. All children are welcome. Equipment such as hula-hoops, cricket bats, tennis racquets, etc is on hand, for a variety of games and activities supervised by volunteers, that promote healthy outdoor activity. Fruit is supplied for afternoon tea. Drinking water, sunscreen and first aid for minor scrapes is on-site.

Many of our activities are focussed on providing free activities for local children, however this year

the Group would also like to conduct a few events for adults. Ideas and suggestions are most welcome! Working bees are also on the agenda, with a Park maintenance activity likely to be held to coincide with Clean Up Australia Day in March.

GRG Inc meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm (6.30 in Winter) in the Glendonald Kindergarten in Churinga Drive. Childcare and supper are provided. All residents of Glendonald are welcome to attend and have a say. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th February.

If you'd like to know more about our Group and its activities, we can be contacted at PO Box 245, Churchill or by phoning the Secretary, Barbara James, on 5122 1407.



Lifeline Gippsland Churchill Shop News

Now that the holiday season is over and the children have returned to school Lifeline Churchill shop is back to normal trading hours, 9.30am - 4pm each weekday.

With the hot humid weather we have been experiencing, you may have run out of fresh summer clothing. That is no problem if you come into the op shop, we can fit you out at a fraction of the cost of a trip to Morwell. If you were one of the many people who started to prepare their fire defence clogging kit and found you didn't have a 100% wool jumper, come in and see us. We can help you out.

We had a marvelous response to our Christmas Raffle with Narelle Scott, Jeff McDonald and Peter Pooley, the happy and lucky winners. A big thank you to those Churchill businesses who generously made donations to the raffle and also to the people who purchased tickets. If you did not win a fire extinguisher, have you remembered to buy one? Many

people said they would like to win that prize. They knew they should have one in their home but had not got around to buying one.

If you have not visited the op shop before why not pop in and have a look at what we have to offer. We have everything from small items of furniture, clothing, kitchenware, buttons, wool, linen and books to old LPs. We are in West Place, the bottom shopping centre, up the side walkway near the Churchill Pizza shop.

If you have some good, clean articles you no longer have any need for, drive up the driveway and we can help you unload them. Alternately, if you have large items and you are not able to take them to our warehouse at the corner of Fleming and Church Streets in Morwell, you may ring the warehouse on 5133 7512 and they will arrange a convenient time to pick up articles from you home.

Churchill Push-a-Pram

ALL Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Friends are invited to 'push-a-pram'. Push-a-pram is an event promoting healthy choices through fun activities and exercise. This is the chance to meet new people on a walk through a specially mapped out route on the 27th February 2006, starting at 9.30am at the Glendonald Preschool/ Maternal and Child Health centre (Churinga Drive) and finishing at Glendonald Park with refreshments.

So come along and join the fun with, with pick-up points anywhere along the way and the chance to win a lucky door prize. This is a free event with activities for the kids and you don't need a pusher or pram to partici-

pate... For further information contact Melissa (Thursday and Fridays only) Ph: 0402192369 or Bev Ph: 51220400.



Sports

Churchill Hockey Club

THE Churchill Hockey Club is looking forward to the 2006 season. The first training session will commence on Wednesday 1 March at 4.30pm, at the hockey field in front of Gaskin Park Stadium, in Manning Drive. Young people of all ages are welcome to play. Our Junior Competition caters for children of Primary School age.. Secondary age children play in the Intermediate Competition. There are also an A and B

Grade side in the Women's Competition. There will be a hockey meeting on Monday 27 February, at 7:30pm at our new club rooms at the old Teen Centre at Gaskin Park Stadium. Everyone is welcome! Any new players interested in playing hockey please phone Linda Cheater on 51222905.

Churchill & Monash Golf Club Results

Saturday Men's Comp: 3 X Person Ambrose 3.12.05
Winners: P Williams (14), P Kearns (15), D Jenkins (17) 56 1/3. Runners Up: T Sterrick (13), J Sterrick (30), G Down (17) (17) 56 1/3. DTL: B Murphy, A Vandenharn, P Junker 59 5/6, D McCafferty, S McCafferty, D Williams 60, R Welsh, W Peter, A Peters 60 1/3. NTP: 3rd D Jenkins, 5th G Down, 12th J Sterrick, 14th S Wotton.

Sunday Men's Comp: Stableford 4.12.05 CCR 68
Winner: D Taylor (20) 38pts. DTL B Barnes (26) 37pts
Sunday Ladies Comp: Stableford 4.12.05 CCR 70
Winner: E D'Alterio (22) 34pts. DTL: M Mitchell (42) 34pts.
Saturday Men's Comp: Stableford 10.12.05 CCR67
A Grade: Dael Scurlock (3) 39pts. B Grade: W Sutton (21) 42pts. C Grade: D Williams (24) 48pts. DTL: J Sterrick 43, R Hodgson 41, R Sheahey 40, A Casey 40, P Jordan 39, E Winter 39, C Barnes 39. NTP: 3rd C Barnes, 5th G Blizzard, 12th R Sheahey, 14th D Scurlock. Birdies: 5th P Williams, I Wilden, 12th D Scurlock.

Sunday Men's Comp: Stableford 11.12.05 CCR 68
Winner: J Ambrosini (21) 44pts. DTL: D Taylor 41pts.
Sunday Ladies Comp: Stableford 11.12.05 CCR 70
Winner: J Blizzard (28) 40pts. DTL: H Croft 40pts. NTP: 5th J Blizzard

Tuesday Ladies Comp: Stableford 13.12.05 CCR70
Winner: L Ollquist (36) 44pts. DTL: C Ellis 42, M McDonald 41. NTP 3/12 L Peake, 5/14 K Raber, T O'Brien. Lost Handicap: L Ollquist 36-33, C Ellis 34-32, M McDonald 34-32, K Raber 30-29, T O'Brien 44-42.

Saturday Men's Comp: Monthly Medal, 17.12.05 CCR67
Scratch: W Peter 82 C/B. A Grade: C Speekenbrink (13) 69. B Grade and Medal: J White (17) 66. C Grade: F Peel (26) 67. DTL: F Sedjak 66, C Waterman 66, J Dixon 67, R Jenkins 67, J McCafferty 68, W Peter 67, R Hodgson 68. NTP: 3rd G Fraser, 5th A Vandenharn, 12th J White, 14th J McCafferty. Birdies: 12th K Hills, J Ambrosini. Putts: R Sheahey 27.

Sunday Men's Comp: Stableford, 18.12.05 CCR 68
Winner: J Ambrosini (18) 35pts. DTL: B Barnes 34pts.
Sunday Ladies Comp: Stableford 18.12.05 CCR70.
Winner: M Mitchell (42) 30pts.
Tuesday Ladies Comp: Stableford 20.12.05 CCR 70
Winner: B Beebe (36) 39pts. DTL: M McDonald 38, M McConville 37, J Beck 37. NTP 3/12 33-45 Anne Hibbert, 5/14 0-32 Linda Jessop, 33-45 Barb Beebe.

Saturday Men's Comp: Stableford 24.12.05 CCR 70
A Grade: D Dickson (11) 33pts C/B. B Grade: G Down (21) 45pts. C Grade: V Monument (28) 35pts. DTL: R Welsh 39, R Sheahey 38, C Waterman 37, J Dickson 37, D Caldwell 35, B Peter 35. NTP: D Dickson 3rd, I Wilson 5th, G Fraser 14th.
Saturday Ladies Comp: Stableford 24.12.05 CCR 70

Winner: D Judkins (45) 30. NTP: L Jessop 5th, J Maher 14th.
Tuesday Ladies Comp: Stableford 27.12.05
Winner: V Verheyen (29) 36pts. DTL: T O'Brien (42) 35pts. NTP: 3rd Ann Hibbert, 5th V Verheyen. Birdies: A Hibbert 3rd.

Tuesday Men's Comp: Stableford 27.12.05
Winner: E Winter (32) 44 pts C/B. DTL: L Stein (13) 44. NTP: 3rd R Welsh.
Saturday Men's Comp: Par 31.12.05 CCR 68
A Grade: S McCafferty (11) +4. B Grade: G Fraser (15) +5. C Grade: J Trembatah (29) +4. DTL: S Wotton +3, B Barnes +2, D Taylor +2. NTP: 3rd J Dickson, 5th S Wotton, 12th P Ludlow, 14th B Barnes

Tuesday Ladies Comp: Stableford 3.1.06 CCR70
Winner: S Jeffery (31) 40pts. DTL: S Cooke 39, C Barnes 38, H Croft 37. NTP: 3/12 L Casey, 5/14 C Ellis/J Beck. Lost Handicap: S Jeffery 31-30, S Cooke 45-44.

Saturday Men's Comp: Stableford 7.1.06 CCR67
A Grade: M Smith 45. B Grade: R Sheahey 42. C Grade: I Wheldon 44. DTL: F Debono 45, A Vandenharn 43, T Trembath 42, G Down 41, A Casey 41, W Peter 40 K Garlick 40. NTP: 3rd M Smith, R Jenkins, K Hill, P Ludlow.

Sunday Men's Comp: Par 8.1.06
Winner: D Taylor (19) +7. DTL: L Maher +6 3rd.
Sunday Ladies Comp: Par 8.1.06 CCR 70
Winner: K Moroney (36) +7. DTL: H Croft +2 C/B. NTP: J Maher 5th.

Tuesday Ladies Comp: Par 10.1.06 CCR 70
Winner: S Cooke (44) +6 C/B. DTL: J Blizzard +6, K Moroney +5, V Verheyen +5. NTP: 3/12 0-32 S Jeffery, 33-45 C Barnes. 5/12 0-32 D E'Alterio, 33-45 B Beebe. Lost Handicap: S Cooke 44-40, J Blizzard 27-25, K Moroney 33-31, J Beck 36-35, S Jeffery 30-29, E D'Alterio 32-22, V Verheyen 30-28.

Saturday Men's Comp Stableford Guest Day 14.1.06 CCR 67
A Grade: J White (17) 41pts. B Grade: D Jenkins (18) 40pts. C Grade: G Blizzard (25) 41pts. DTL: F Debono 41, M Smith 40, J Sterrick 39, J Trembath 39, J McCafferty 39, B Sherridan 39, F Peel 38, R Hodgson 38. NTP: 3rd W Peter, 5th G Down, 12th C Speekenbrink, 14th F Kergham. Birdies: 14th G Blizzard, J McCafferty, 3rd W Peter.

Sunday Men's Comp: Stroke 15.13.06 CCR68
Winner: J Ambrosini (19) 67. DTL: I Wilson 72.
Sunday Ladies Comp: Stroke 15.1.06 CCR70

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* The Ultimate Elvis show featuring Rick Charles, The Speedsters and Dancing show girls will be held in the Anzac room. Tickets \$22 each and Sold at reception. Showtime *pm.
Trivia night teams of 4-6 people. \$5 each player. Held in Members Lounge.

M Mitchell (43) 62. DTL: J Blizzard 67. NTP: 5th M Mitchell. Lost Handicap: M Mitchell 43-35, J Blizzard 25-24, C Barnes 36-35.

Tuesday Ladies Comp: 4BBB 17.1.06 CCR70
Y Wotton, S Cooke 50pts C/B. DTL: S Jeffery, C Barnes 50pts. B Beebe, V Verheyen 49pts. NTP 3/12 0-32 K Moroney, 33-45 B Beebe. 5/14 0-32 J Blizzard, 33-45 P Hrynyszyn. Hole In One: J Blizzard 5th. Lost Handicap: S Cooke 40-38.

Saturday Men's Comp: Captains/Presidents Day Stroke 21.1.05 CCR67
A Grade: G Fraser (14) 67. B Grade: S McNamara (22) 56. C Grade: J Sterrick (28) 64. DTL: I Wilson 63, S Wotton 65, V Monument 66, W Peter 68, F Peel 68, F Keighran 68, J McCafferty 69. NTP: 3rd K Garlick, 5th B Murphy, 12th M Brereton, 14th I Wilson. Birdies: K Garlick 3rd, S McCafferty 12th.

Sunday Men's Comp: Stableford 22.1.06 CCR 68
Winner: D Taylor (18) 36 pts.
Sunday Ladies Comp: Stableford 22.1.06 CCR70
Winner: K Moroney (31) 46pts. NTP: M McConville 3rd. Lost Handicap: K Moroney 31-27, C Barnes 35-32.
Tuesday Ladies Comp: Stableford 24.1.06 CCR67
A Grade: K Raber (29) 41. B Grade: C Ellis (32) 49. DTL: B Beebe 41, V Verheyen 38, H Croft. NTP 3/12 0-32 V Verheyen, 33-45 B Beebe. 5/14 0-32 L Jessop, 33-45 B Beebe. Birdies V Verheyen 3rd. Lost Handicap: C Ellis 32-28.



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FUNNY FACT!

The average air speed of a housefly is 4.5 miles per hour.
 That's why you can't catch them!!!

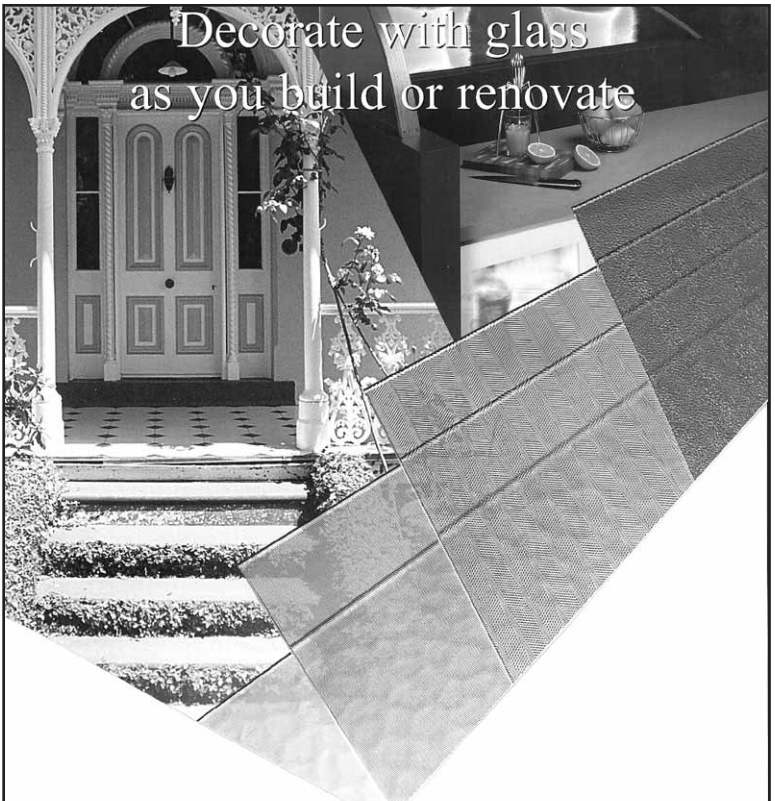
QUOTE OF THE MONTH

It's a shame that the only thing we can do for eight hours a day is work. We can't eat for eight hours. We can't drink for eight hours. The only thing a person can do for eight hours is work. William Falkner

JOB OF THE MONTH



If you are in the vicinity of the main street in Drouin, you will notice this women's clothing store, "TASTE DESIGNS". The shop has been extensively renovated and our team at Guy's Glass are responsible for the new laminated shop front windows. The large windows have made a huge improvement in the overall look of the building, while allowing the owners to display their clothes beautifully!



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TEXTURE GLASS IS AN INSPIRATION TO TRADITIONALISTS AND MODERNISTS ALIKE

Builders and renovators of older style homes will be quick to realise the design potential of Texture and Wired glass ranges. Imagine infill panels in your classical front door admitting streams of light but preserving much needed privacy. Now add matching sidelights and you've made a grand entrance. But don't stop there. Guy's Glass can offer you a wide range of exciting patterns that are sure to be inspirational in your room-by-room quest to recreate an authentic period home.

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"We see colour with our hearts not our heads."
Colour in Dining Areas
 Peaches, ambers or corals flare hunger and excite discussions.
Studios & Home Offices
 Lemon, Jasmine and golden yellows release ingenious ideas when used in studios and home offices.
 (Deb has a diploma in Colour Therapy and will continue to share her knowledge with you over the coming months.)

DEB'S NATURAL CLEANING TIPS

Using Essential Oils in Your Home

When guests enter your home the first thing that greets them is the aroma. Essential oils are often used to create a homely atmosphere within the home.



Add 6-8 drops of your favourite scent to water in a diffuser or place the drops directly into a bowl of boiling water. Lemon essential oil works great on odors!

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