

# CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

*"Connecting Your Community"*

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Churchill Scouts - Page 6



Fed Uni Graduation - p 10



Possum Skin Cloaks - p 12



YYs Landcare - p 18-19

## Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition open in Yinnar

The Main Streets of Yinnar have been transformed with an abundance of sculptures for the fifth biennial Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition which officially opened recently.

With the exhibition going for six weeks and the interior gallery at ARC open daily, there is plenty of opportunity for people to view the sculptures and vote for the People's Choice awards.

With record number of entries for both interior and exterior exhibitions, music each Sunday along with free sculpture workshops, there are plenty of reasons to visit Yinnar over the period.

"We are delighted with the number and quality of entries for this year's

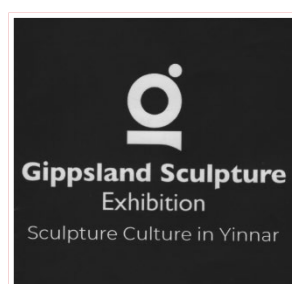
exhibition" said Committee Chair, Nicole Allen. "The judges had quite a challenge in selecting the winning entries with the beauty and complexity of the works and the wide variety of subject matter and mediums used. While some are very eye catching, other contemporary works challenge one's thinking about sculpture and nature." Ms Allen added, that "with over 135 sculptures to view, it may take a few visits to be able to absorb all the works."

Congratulations to the five prize winning sculptors, particularly Darren Gilbert who took out the major exterior prize with his work Embrace Circle, as well as Peter Schipperheyne who

once again provided an interior piece that stirred the emotions, Autumn Leaves. The Glover family prize went to local artist Kristy Mills, Emerge and See, while the Textiles prize for A Star is Born went to Domenica Wallace. Hayley Close won the Emerging Artist award for her interior pieces, Mosses and Mushrooms and Resting.

Apart from the exhibits, live music will be performed by local musicians each Sunday afternoon from 12 noon to 3 pm in Centenary Park, or ARC if the weather is inclement. Free sculpture workshops will also be offered each Sunday from

*Continued Page 3...*



### Churchill ANZAC Day Commemoration 2025

ANZAC Day, Friday April 25

Venue: Memorial outside the lower level of Churchill Hall

Time: **PLEASE NOTE** - 9.00 am

Ceremony followed by gunfire breakfast, tea and coffee

*All welcome*

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



MEMBER 2025

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Guests at our meetings

We try to keep our meetings informative and relevant (and not too long!). Having guests is one way we make our meetings of interest. Some guests are fairly regular attendees and others are by invitation. At the time of writing, we are awaiting confirmation from Engie and the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority (MLRH) that representatives from both organisations will attend our April meeting together. We think it would be interesting to hear directly about the works currently underway at the former Hazelwood Mine site and the future of not just the pit, but the extensive surrounding land-holdings that Engie has. At our February meeting we had a representative from the Churchill campus of Federation University fill us in on what is happening with enrolments, courses, programs and projects at the Uni. There was lots of discussion about vocational education in this day and age! Later this year we will likely have a guest attend to tell us more about the large Battery Energy Storage System proposed for a Tramway Road site (on the western side, as you head from Boldings Road to Morwell). It is a Canadian



company – EKU Energy – proposing to develop this project. One of our semi-regular attendees is from Energy Australia’s Wooreen Battery Project (you might have spotted the sign on the south-west corner of the intersection of Tramway Road and Bonds Lane). This project is underway, but CDCA gets to hear more – like the news that there is a new Energy Australia shopfront opened up part-time in Morwell, where not only can you see the models and drawings of the Battery Storage System, you can talk to someone about your electricity bill and how to make payments, reduce costs and so forth. Likewise, another semi-regular attendee is the Officer-In-Charge at Churchill Police Station. We get to hear, first-hand, about the types and number of crimes happening here (generally less than you would think), clearance rates (pretty good), the challenges police face in getting offenders to court (and sometimes outcomes that police wish were different). It is also very interesting to hear comparison statistics

between Churchill and other towns in Latrobe and Baw Baw LGAs. Makes you realise that, compared to both similarly sized and many larger police stations, Churchill is well staffed, has officers rostered on at the days and hours when most crimes take place around town, and have a pretty good response time for serious crimes. Another officer that is usually present is from Latrobe City Council. This is very helpful if we have an issue that requires follow-up at Council or we are trying to find the right officer to speak to. We also get news of various community projects, events, training, newsletters and other items of general interest. Our new Councillor, Leanne Potter, was present at our February meeting and has indicated that, all being well, she intends to be a regular guest at our bi-monthly meetings (and at Boolarra’s township association meetings for the in-between months). This gives attendees the opportunity to raise local matters with our Ward

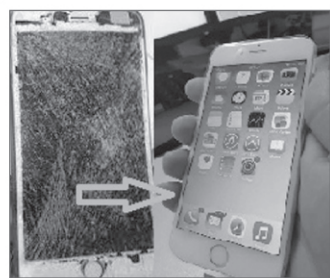
Councillor and hear a bit more about the issues our Council is facing. Sometimes we have more targeted guest speakers attend from Council – we are currently working out when a speaker involved with the “First 72hrs Preparedness Project” might be able to attend one of our meetings. This project focuses on “building a resilient community who can sustain themselves with the right supplies for the first 72hrs in the event of any emergency or major event such as flood, storm, power outage or bushfire.” These first 72 hours are a crucial time for members of the public (and emergency services) to be prepared for, while waiting for major support and recovery services to swing into action. Local residents of Churchill and district are most welcome to join us at our next meeting on Thursday June 12, at 7pm – downstairs in the Churchill Town Hall (enter from Philip Parade) You can find out more about CDCA through our website: [cdca.org.au](http://cdca.org.au) Contact CDCA directly by emailing your inquiry to [info@cdca.org.au](mailto:info@cdca.org.au) or send us a message via our Facebook page (search for Churchill District Community Association) or even write to us at PO Box 191, Churchill. We welcome your thoughts and contributions!

Rainfall



**Churchill**  
Total rainfall for March was 53 mm. Total Rainfall for the year to date is 106.5 mm  
**Rain at Hazelwood South**  
March started dry, with the top soil moisture very low, and the brown grass became crunchy underfoot. The deeper ground water remained adequate, keeping the trees in good condition.

The rain total for March was 52mm, and was 18% above the March average; this only started the greening of the grass. There is no need for the mower yet. Firewood is looking like a priority soon. Hazelwood South had 5% more rain than the Latrobe Valley weather station. The year so far, has 6% less rain than average.



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4.	58 mm x 260 mm	6 x 5.8 cm	93.00	150.00	84.00	134.00
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# Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition

... From Page 1

11 am to 4 pm in Main Street. The workshops are held in a marquee next door to Café 3869; participants will learn a variety of techniques in various mediums and complete small creative, fun, artistic projects which are free with materials supplied.

Volunteers are in ARC daily from 10 am to 4 pm to guide visitors through the exhibits, provide a detailed catalogue, advise on how to purchase merchandise, as well as your dream sculpture. Local businesses are also open daily for a variety of food and drink options, meat, your hardware and garden supplies as well as fuel if needed.

The exhibition has garnered an enormous amount of support locally and from across the region with funding provided by organisations like Latrobe City Council, Bendigo Bank, Mirboo North and District Community Foundation and Marinus Link, to name a few.

Ms Allen added, “many individuals, local community organisations and businesses, including throughout Yinnar and district, have got behind us in providing support in a variety of ways. These contributions and investments, the hard work of the organising committee and the involvement of all local

schools have enabled us to showcase sculpture and bring people together, which has been two years in the making.

The sculpture pieces created by local children provide an additional point of interest”, Ms Allen added. “While many exhibits are from renowned artists from across Victoria and interstate, the calibre of works produced by local artists matches these standards and showcase the capability of our Gippsland sculptors.”

The Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition organising committee is keen to let visitors know how they can support the exhibition in future years, to ensure it continues in 2027. New volunteers and members will be very welcome.

You can follow Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition on Facebook and Instagram, check out the website, donate, and take your chance with purchasing a raffle ticket to win some terrific prizes.

Viewers are also reminded to keep a look out for details on how you can join the auction of Rob Bast’s carved chainsaw sculptures which will be produced at a workshop scheduled for the following Sunday.

Enquiries to: Info@gippslandsculptureexhibition.com or

Phone Nicole Allen, Committee Chair 0416 435 070.



## We're currently doing planned burning to keep Victoria safer from bushfires.

To learn more about planned burning, or to receive notifications of upcoming planned burns via email or text.

Register at  
[www.plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au](http://www.plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au)





# CHURCH *news*



Our Lenten journey started with Nyree introducing the children to Lent through talking about the transfiguration of Jesus, which confirmed Jesus’

## Co-Operating Church Snippets

journey to Jerusalem and his crucifixion, which was his goal for coming to earth so our sins could be forgiven and we could receive God’s love and grace.

### Boolarra Folk Festival

The church was open for the Folk Festival in Boolarra from 11am- 12 noon for a favourite hymn sing-a-long. There was a good turn up and the singing was hearty.

Bec spoke of Jesus’ words where he described himself as a mother hen who will protect her chickens under her wings. Jesus is the protector of all of us so we should look to the chickens to teach us and run with everything we can muster, run to Jesus and he will save us.

Emma spoke about temptation. Not even the Devil could sway Jesus from his purpose. Jesus knew his scripture and could apply it to defeat the Devil. It is important to know our Bibles so we too can use the words to defend ourselves against temptation.

Liz said “Have you ever felt like you are wandering aimlessly in the wilderness, without a sense of direction or purpose in life?” I certainly have. Our wildernesses may be vastly different, but there may be similarities too. Where do we go from here? How can we get the help we need? Who really cares anyway? What is the point? How can we find the help we need, to get back on track and start living again? We may know in our hearts that God is always with us and loves and cares for us, but sometimes it’s hard to see the beauty of the world, when we are stressed.

God calls us all to live out our faith using our God-given abilities. For some that may be preaching, for others praying, connecting with those sick or dying, through teaching, listening, advocating, caring, showing gratitude. One way we can share our faith is through random acts of kindness. I encourage you, throughout this season of Lent, to show others you care by gestures of kindness, and by giving thanks each day for the blessings we have. Perhaps you could do some



random acts of kindness – give someone a call, or do something special for someone. We can also show kindness by offering to help someone when we see a need, stopping to check on someone you have not seen for a while, helping a mum with carrying groceries when she is juggling them and irritable children. Do not get offended if the offer is refused – it is worth asking anyway.

Another way of acknowledging gratitude is spending some time at the end of each day, thinking about ways in which you have been blessed.

As you journey through this season of Lent, may we continue to share and acknowledge the love of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Cathie started Lenten Studies using the Max Lucado study book “In the Footsteps of the Saviour”

Those who could not attend were able to study at home in their own time.

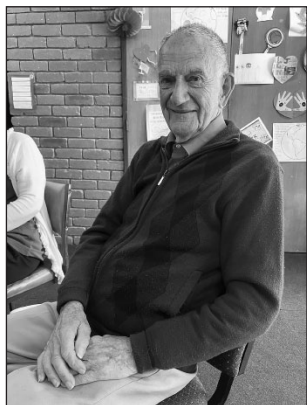
### Coffee Connections

Ron Bell spoke of his journey through life which was traumatic, but which became a wonderful way he, through God’s blessings, could help and inspire others. Ron suffered polio and was in a cast for three years, where he endured sexual abuse. Differences with his parents saw him become a street kid. His education was very limited. Through an invitation to a church, he remembered about God. He found the love of his life in Judith and

they married and had two children, but Ron continued his drinking and drug taking. Then a doctor enabled him to go into detox. He came out and with the love and encouragement of Judith he was given the job of looking after boys in need. He was able to tell them his story and be an inspiration to his boys, many of whom went on to make a success of their lives. Later he and Judith were foster carers to many babies up for adoption. Along the way they joined and were an inspiration and encouragement to many in AA and AlAnon, running meetings, events and weekends to support the members. He and Judith became Lions, with Ron progressing through the ranks to end up in the top jobs.

We have been blessed at our church to know Ron and Judith.

Judith has since passed on but Ron now continues his inspirational talks to groups all over Australia with the hope that his story will bring others to make better choices in their lives.



## Churchill Christian Fellowship

By Steve McNeilly (Pastor)

Singing has always been an important part of Christian life and worship. In the more than fifty years that I have been attending Sunday services, I am not sure I can recall a single occasion when no singing took place.

I can recall plenty of times when people complained about the singing. “Can’t we sing more new, modern songs?” or “Can’t we sing more of the beautiful old hymns?”

Singing has an interesting connection with Easter. The one and only reference in the gospels to Jesus singing occurred on the Thursday of Holy Week.

“And when they had sung

a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30).” Immediately after this, we read about Jesus praying in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest, which led of course to His crucifixion on what we now call Good Friday.

Every Bible version that I checked except one used the word ‘hymn’ to describe what Jesus and His disciples sang that night. That might be because the word used in this verse comes from the Greek word ‘hymneo.’ A hymn is basically just a song of praise that Christians sing to God.


We would love to know what hymn Jesus sang just

a few hours before His arrest! Scholars suggest it would have been a portion of Psalms 115 to 118, because that was traditional after the Jewish Passover.

At Churchill Christian Fellowship, we tend to have a mixture of old and new worship songs, plus the occasional more traditional hymn. However, we are planning a Sunday in May where all our music will be classic hymns.

Please feel free to come and check us out any Sunday at 3pm, or enquire about one of our Home Fellowship/ Bible study meetings. You will be most welcome.

For more information, please call 0409 173 747.

 Church Times	
<b>Co-Operating Churches of Churchill</b> Sunday Services: 10.00am Williams Avenue, Churchill. Tel: 5166 1819	<b>Churchill/Morwell Catholic Parishes</b> Tel: 5134 2849 Fr James Fernandez <b>Saturday 5.00pm</b> St Vincent’s, Morwell. <b>Sunday 9.00am</b> Lumen Christi, Churchill. 10.30am Sacred Heart, Morwell. Every 4th Sunday alternates Yinnar/Boolarra. <i>See Church bulletin or call 5134 2849</i>
<b>King of Glory Ministries International</b> <b>YINNAR</b> Service 1st and 3rd Saturday each month, 7pm at the RSL Hall. Bible study and prayer each Friday 10am - 12, at the Yinnar Bakery and Coffee Shop.	<b>Boolarra/Yinnar Co-Operating Parish</b> <b>Boolarra/Yinnar</b> 1st and 3rd Sunday: 10am Christ Church Tarwin St., Boolarra
<b>BOOLARRA</b> Ladies Craft, Cuppa n Chat, 10am - 12 Wednesdays Bible study and prayer, 10am-12 Thursdays at the Co-operating Church Hall, 19 Tarwin St. Info 0400 690 972 <a href="https://kogmii.com">https://kogmii.com</a>	<b>Churchill Christian Fellowship</b> 3.00pm Sundays at Haz S. Hall 762 Tramway Road Churchill (next to the soccer ground) Everyone Welcome 0409 173 747

## Easter Services at our Churches

### Co-Operating Churches in Churchill, Boolarra, Yinnar

April 17 Maundy Thursday Boolarra 7 pm

April 18 Good Friday Churchill Service 9.30 am, followed by Walk of Witness at 10.30 am at Mathison Park, around Lake Hyland ending with Hot Cross Buns and a drink. Lumen Christi and Churchill Christian Fellowship to join us. Stations of the Cross

at Yinnar at 10am, at the Roman Catholic church inside.

April 20 Easter Sunday UCA Holy Communion Churchill, Anglican Holy Communion Boolarra.

### Churchill Christian Fellowship

Will join Co-Operating Churches Good Friday Churchill Service 9.30 am followed by Walk of Witness 10.30 am at Mathison Park

around Lake Hyland ending with Hot Cross Buns and a drink.

Easter Sunday April 20 service at 3pm.

### Lumen Christi

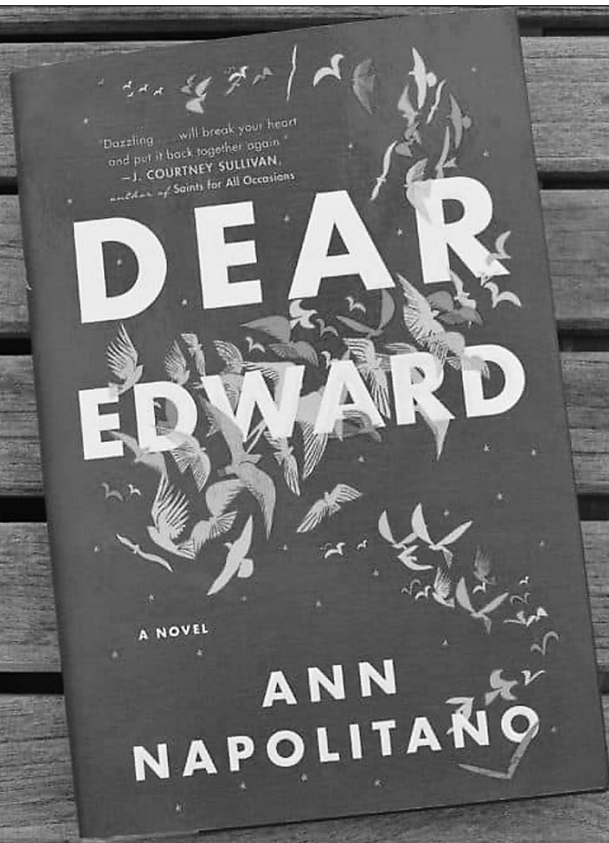
April 17 Holy Thursday the Lord’s Supper Lumen Christi 7.30 pm

April 18 Good Friday 3pm Commemoration of the Lord’s passion Lumen Christi

April 20 9am Mass.



# BOOK REVIEW



## Dear Edward" 2020 by Ann Napolitano

Ann Napolitano (21/10/71) is an American author who is married with two children. She studied at Connecticut College and the New York University where she achieved a Master of Fine Arts. She taught fiction writing at Brooklyn College, New York University and Gotham Writer's Workshop. She was associate editor of "One Story" from 2014 until 2020. Her other books are "Within Arm's Reach" 2004, "A Good Hard Look", 2011 and "Hello Beautiful" 2023.

The story begins with a young boy being rescued from a plane crash. He is the only survivor. After being released from hospital, where he was treated for serious injuries, he is placed in the care of his mother's sister and her husband. The couple desperately want a baby, but have had no success.

The room Edward is allocated is their nursery, complete with all the furniture needed for a baby.

The couple have the best of intentions but are feeling their way with Edward. They introduce him to Shay, the girl next door and they immediately start up a friendship. She is very protective of Edward and guides him through starting at the school and helping him to cope with all that he is dealing with. He asks if he can sleep on the floor in her room, and both families agree. This gives Edward some security as he is clearly missing his brother.

Time goes on and Edward adjusts to his new life. By chance, he and Shay discover a cache of letters addressed to him, which he has never seen, and they decide to reply to all of them.

Alongside the story of Edward and his recovery, we alternate with what is happening on the plane and

later what is happening in the cockpit. The tension in the story builds as we meet the various passengers and their reasons for travel, until the inevitable happens.

This story was easy to read but some of us felt that it would have had more impact if we heard the story of the plane crash and then the story of Edward - we already knew the result of the crash and the description of the passengers did not really flow or add much to the story.

The author had researched this unlikely story very well, and cites the incidence of a plane crash in Germany where a small boy was the only survivor. The description of what is happening in the cockpit is also very realistic and authentic. The ending was too predictable.

If you are planning to fly during the Easter break, do not read this until you return home!



# GIPPSLAND WATER

## Fulfilling careers flow at Gippsland Water

Gippsland Water's first VCE Vocational Major work experience student has entered the next stage of their career in the water industry, as a water and wastewater trainee.

Former Kurnai College student Harry completed his VCE studies last year and has successfully secured a two-year traineeship with the organisation.

Managing director Sarah Cumming said Harry was the first student to take the career pathway with Gippsland Water since the vocational major was introduced to the Victorian curriculum in 2023.

"It is fantastic to see the first of our vocational major work experience students transitioning into the next stage of their career with us," Ms Cumming said.

"As part his traineeship, Harry will complete rotations with our water and wastewater teams and gain a certificate in Water Industry Operations.

To see a young person be so passionate about the water industry and take full advantage of the career pathways we offer is truly inspiring."

Harry said he was fortunate to secure three months of part time work with Gippsland Water before starting his traineeship. "I literally finished high school on



the Friday and started at the Gippsland Water Factory on Monday," Harry said. "Then I found out about the traineeship opportunities available and started the application process, which included submitting my resume and doing interviews. There has not been a dull day on the job so far, there is always something to do and new things to learn. When I finish my training, I will have a qualification and lots of experience, which is great."

Ms Cumming said Gippsland Water offered several work experience opportunities each year.

"I would encourage anyone looking to

complete their VCE vocational major work experience with us to express interest early," Ms Cumming said.

"We want to give each of our students as much hands-on experience as possible, and by working alongside our experienced team, they get to learn new skills and build confidence in their abilities.

We also offer work experience for Year 10 students and have university graduate and internship programs available."

To find out more about career pathways at Gippsland Water visit, [www.gippswater.com.au/careers](http://www.gippswater.com.au/careers)

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# Adventurous fun for Churchill Scout Group



A photo of one of our local Joey Scouts on the high ropes adventure on camp

## 1st Churchill Scouts

Term 1 has been a busy time for the members of Churchill Scout Group, with lots of adventurous fun.

### Joey Scouts (for 5 - 7 year olds)

Our Joey Scouts enjoyed attending the District Joey Scout camp held at Gilwell Park Scout Camp. Churchill Joey Scout, Adelyn Barrett, wrote about the first day of camp

"I went on a bus to Gilwell Scout Camp. On the first day for afternoon tea I had a slushie and chips.

After that I made a tie-dyed scarf with water paints. After that I made cup animals. I made a tiger cup. After that I learnt how to tie a different type of knot.

At night we sang songs around a fake fire that the leaders made out of globes with lights inside them. They also put orange and red paper for the flames.

Then we played hide and seek behind a tree. We also played toilet tiggy and a Chinese game.

I enjoyed all the food and I had lots of fun"

Another Churchill Joey Scout, Charlie Grant, wrote about camp

"At Joey camp I got to do the tree adventures, I got to do the ropes course and the

zip line. I enjoyed making new friends and spending time with my old friends. The food was great too, the pancakes and supper were the best"

### Cub Scouts (for 8 to 11 year olds)

Our Cub Scouts decided to do a good turn for our community, and participated in Clean Up Australia Day. Starting from our Scout Hall on Manning Drive, they walked along the parkland corridor collecting litter along the way. They discussed the impact that litter has on our native wildlife and pledged to not litter.

### Venturer Scouts (14 to 18 year olds)

Our new Venturer Scout Unit may have been only meeting since the start of the year, but they have

managed to cram plenty of fun experiences into the term, including two camps, helping out at the District Joey Scout camp, a McFancy dinner at Maccas and much more. Their program culminated at the end of term with the investiture of our six foundation members in a candlelit ceremony at Mathison Park.

Churchill Scout Group has limited vacancies for new members to begin at the start of Term 2

Joey Scouts, for 5 to 7 year olds meet Thursdays from 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Cub Scouts, for 8 to 11 year olds meets Wednesdays from 6.30pm to 8pm

Scouts, for 11 year olds to 14 year olds meets Tuesdays from 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Venturer Scouts,



**Churchill**  
Scout Group

for 14 to 18 year olds meet Mondays from 7pm to 9pm

Rover Scouts, for 18 to 25 year olds meet Fridays from 7.30pm.

New prospective members can come and try three meetings before a commitment to join needs to be made. For more information or to register your interest to come and try please email the Group Leader Tammy Napier at [groupleader@1stchurchill.com.au](mailto:groupleader@1stchurchill.com.au)



A photo of our Cub Scout unit at the end of our Clean Up Australia Day night



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Invitation to the



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[www.gippslandsculptureexhibition.com](http://www.gippslandsculptureexhibition.com)



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We remember, honour, and pay our deepest respects to all who served, and who continue to serve.

We mourn those whose lives were lost.

And we grieve for those who continue to carry the heaviest burdens and scars of service that last a lifetime.

Today and every day, we recognise and honour their contribution and sacrifice, and we commit to supporting our veterans and their families.

*Lest we forget.*



**Harriet Shing MP** MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

216 Commercial Road, Morwell VIC 3840

P: (03) 5134 8000 E: [harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au)

[harrietshingmp](https://www.harrietshingmp.com) [@ShingvWorld](https://www.instagram.com/ShingvWorld)

Authorised by H Shing, 216 Commercial Rd, Morwell. Funded from Parliamentary budget.





## Australian Poetry

Australia has a rich and varied tradition in the most esteemed area of literature, poetry. Our contribution to the genre centres around the unique Australian landscape and the rich and varied stories of both the bush and the city and the characters who dwelt therein. It tells of the triumphs and the

tragedies, the humour and the heartbreak, and above all it paints pictures of the spirit of the common people, d i n k u m Aussies all.

Much of this has been lost because it relied on a verbal rather than a



## STAMP MATTERS- A NEW EXPERIENCE



written culture to spread the product. Reciting poetry was a part of the entertainment scene when

people came together. It took a great poem to spread beyond a local level and one poet who

was able to publish in the written form at this time was Henry Kendall, who wrote the vividly descriptive “Bellbirds”.As the colonies grew, literary publications began to appear. First in cities, where the population could support such enterprises and finally to the epitome of Australia-wide publication,

The Bulletin. It allowed anyone to put any form of entertaining writing into print if it met with the high level of editorial standard set by the publishers. One thing it did prove was that the standard of literacy within the general population was extremely high because

as well as those in the towns. Names like Henry Lawson, Banjo Paterson, Adam Lindsay Gordon, Dorothea MacKellar, Mary Gilmore and many others became household names and their new works were eagerly awaited by their avid readers. Some went on to have collections of their poems published in their own right.

Poetry, particularly Australian poetry became part of the educational curriculum, and children learned by heart the classics of the era. “An Australian Sunrise” described the subject to a T, and we all learned “I love a sunburnt country”.

If you loved horses, Adam Lindsay Gordon was your man. Life in the poorer parts of the city were personified in

Henry Lawson’s “Arvie Aspinall’s Alarm Clock” and Banjo told the hilarious tales of Mulga Bill and “The Man From Ironbark”.

The turn of the 20th century saw the advent of C.J.Dennis who wrote an anthology, “Songs of a Sentimental Bloke” in the vernacular language of the Sydney Pushes or gangs. His classic lines describing a part of “Romeo and Juliet”

‘And stabbed ‘im through the gizzard wiv his sword.

How I ongcored.’

still raises a smile. My particular favourites were “The Old Bush School” by John O’Brien and “Said Hanrahan” by the same poet.

Australia Post has issued two sets of stamps commemorating Australian poets and poems. Both were issued in strips of five stamps, one showing “Songs of a Sentimental Bloke” by C.J.Dennis and the other featured the bush ballad by Banjo Paterson, “The Man From Snowy River”. All worth a read.



# Health Hints

By Andy Gergis  
Gergis Churchill Discount Pharmacy  
Keep moving, why staying active is good for your health.

Staying active is one of the simplest ways to improve your overall health and well-being. Regular physical activity helps keep your body strong and your heart healthy. Whether it is walking, swimming, dancing, or gardening, moving your body gets your blood pumping, which improves circulation and strengthens your cardiovascular system. This can lower your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, and stroke. Even small amounts of daily activity can make a big difference.

Exercise does not just benefit your physical health; it is also great for your mental health. When you stay active, your brain releases chemicals called endorphins, often referred to as “feel-good” hormones. These can help reduce stress, anxiety, and feelings of depression, leaving you happier and more relaxed. Staying active can also boost your energy levels and improve your sleep, helping you feel more refreshed and ready to take on the day.

In addition to improving your heart and mind, staying active helps keep your body functioning as it should. Regular exercise builds stronger muscles and bones, improving balance and flexibility. This is especially

important as you age, as it can reduce your risk of falls and injuries. Staying active also helps maintain a healthy weight, which can lower your risk of diabetes, arthritis, and other chronic conditions.

The best part is that staying active does not have to be complicated. You do not need to spend hours at the gym or run marathons. Activities like walking the dog, playing with your kids, or even dancing in your living room all count. The key is to find something you enjoy and make it a regular part of your routine. By staying active, you will not only feel better but also improve your health and quality of life for years to come.



**Melina BATH MP**  
THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

**MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN**

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# Strzelecki koalas need our action



This summer and autumn have been extremely hot and dry, a harsh one for our native fauna and flora.

As previously mentioned in past articles, the Strzelecki koala is a vulnerable endemic koala population that has a diverse genetic makeup.

This population survived the culls in the 1920's and 1930's and is not like other koala groups.

The latter have poor genetics because their ancestors were bred from a few koalas on French Island and then translocated to other areas of Victoria.

At present it is estimated that only 2000 Strzelecki koalas remain in their habitat which is in and around the Strzelecki Ranges.

These individuals continually face many threats and stresses which

are: habitat loss, isolation because of lack of corridors, weather events (storms, extreme cold, drought and heatwaves), contact with feral animals and domesticated animals, car accidents and diseases.

The unique and important Strzelecki koala population needs our help if it is to survive in the wild

and into the future.

The Sandy Point community is a good model of how a focussed, dedicated group is working to improve the survival of a koala population.

"The Wildlife and Habitat in Sandy Point Action Group (WHiSPA) is under the Sandy Point Community Group" ([www.sandypoint.vic.au](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au))

According to the website the group in 2017 received a grant which provided them with the means to perform a number of vital tasks.

Firstly the group needed to find out important details and data about their local koalas.

The group had a DNA analysis done which found out that the Sandy Point koala population is a remnant of the South Gippsland population.

The Sandy Point koalas have low genetic diversity because of their isolation.

Lack of ample habitat and habitat corridors has restricted the genetic flow.

Inbreeding and over browsing of trees are issues that needed action.

This group with the help of other Sandy Point community groups has planted and restored vegetation for their koala population. The first plantings are already providing food and shelter for some koalas.

Revegetation and removal of invasive plants is continuing so that the koalas habitat will be extended. Corridors are continuing to be built so that fragmented habitat is connected. However, more corridors are needed for the adequate gene flow between different koala groups to happen.

Nevertheless data collection and an improved koala natural environment could not have happened without the support of the

community.

Therefore this group provided an education program for the local citizens.

With interest, awareness, appreciation and knowledge, community assistance made it possible for the aims of the koala strategy to be actioned.

As part of the awareness program, and action plan the WiSP group have published a pamphlet "A guide to Living with Koalas in Sandy Point" which is available at [www.sandypoint.vic.au](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au)

The content of this pamphlet is applicable to people living in areas where there is koala habitat like that found in and surrounding the Strzelecki Ranges.

Lastly the group designed a "community action plan for managing koalas long term". Now the group, which is currently called WiSP (Wildlife in Sandy Point), is continuing this work by creating an animal rescue program, doing a koala count twice a year and controlling of mange in koalas and wombats. ([www.sandypoint.vic.au](http://www.sandypoint.vic.au) 19-3-25)

While the Strzelecki koala population has many groups trying to save it and its habitat, could a more centralised body comprising of representatives of all these stake holders achieve more?

There is the Victorian Koala Management Strategy ([www.wildlife.vic.gov.au](http://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au) 33-3-35) seems to be lacking.

It is indeed a challenge but the community of Sandy Point with its' shared goals has achieved much and is continuing to do so for the benefit of the Sandy Point koalas.

Can we, the citizens of Churchill and Latrobe City Council do more for our Strzelecki koala too?

## Gippsland Performing Arts Centre

**A Night With Tina**  
Saturday May 3, 2025  
7.30pm

GPAC Little Theatre  
Tickets from \$50  
A fun, action-packed and loving drag tribute to R&B, rock and pop icon Tina Turner.

In a tribute show like no other, Fabio Cattafi performs to Tina's greatest hits including 'Proud Mary', 'Private Dancer' and 'Nutbush City Limits', this homage to his idol is pure energy! Theatrical and filled with the power and emotion that only a Tina Turner song can, this show will have audiences on their feet from start to finish.

**Artemis: Utter Mess**  
Saturday May 10, 2025  
7pm

GPAC Little Theatre  
Tickets from \$17

A musical comedy about identity and finding the right language.

Artemis: Utter Mess welcomes you to join Artemis Muñoz as they unpack their journey to self-acceptance live on stage. This 60-minute cabaret featuring nine original songs is a show for anyone who has ever wondered where they belong or been confused about living in a world that takes issue with words of identity and community but is keen to put us in the wrong boxes, nonetheless.

**NIUSIA**  
Tuesday May 13, 2025  
10.30am

GPAC Little Theatre  
Tickets \$14 to \$20  
Hindley Street  
Friday May 16, 2025, 8.10pm  
GPAC Main Theatre  
Tickets from \$100

After a breakout year in 2024, HSCC are set to embark on their first national theatre tour in 2025 with their awesome 11 piece band of premium musicians, spectacular enhanced production values, with fresh new songs and your favourites in an all killer no filler two hour set that will

leave you dancing in the aisles - 33 dates nationwide from March to June coming to a venue near you.

**Nurse Georgie Carroll: Infectious**  
Friday June 20, 2025  
8pm

GPAC Main Theatre  
Tickets:  
Full price \$59, Child \$54, Concession \$54, Access \$50  
Group of 10+ \$54

Georgie Carroll?is back?with her brand-new show -?Infectious?

An undeniable live comedy powerhouse and a natural storyteller, she is?razor sharp and riotous.

Nurse turned comedian, Georgie Carroll is not only brilliantly funny, she is unstoppable on the comedy circuit having performed her smash hit award winning show Sista Flo 2.0 for three solid years of sold out seasons (UK, NZ, AU)?. Do not miss her brand new show.

**Mamma Mia!**  
Friday August 22, 2025, 7.30pm

Saturday August 23, 2025, 1.30pm and 7.30pm  
Sunday August 24, 2025, 1.30pm

Thursday August 28, 2025, 7.30pm

Friday August 29, 2025, 7.30pm

Saturday August 30, 2025, 1.30pm and 7.30pm  
GPAC Main Theatre.  
Tickets from \$44

Over 60 million people worldwide have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make 'Mamma Mia!' the ultimate feel-good show! Latrobe City, now it's your turn!

ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise.

On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.



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# Friends of Morwell National Park

## March Activity Report

The day started wet and the forecast was for rain throughout the day, so it was good to see so many people turn up for the activity. We had the most members of the Friends group along with another five community members.

The group introduced themselves around the circle, so everybody knew who some of the old and new faces were. Over the last month while the Billys Creek section of the park remained closed, work has been done on and adjacent to

the main track. More pruning of trees close to the track has occurred, widening the track all the way to the weir. In one section the track has been remade to avoid where the creek is underwashing the track. The track would soon have been lost into the creek. A new culvert was installed under the new track to direct water from the hill into the creek.

This track enhancement will improve access and allow contractors and vehicles into the bridges that need replacement. The next stage for the bridge

replacement process is soil testing, which should occur soon. The tender for the bridge replacements should be released soon. With the tree pruning and track realignment completed, it is hoped that the Billys Creek part of the park should soon be reopened to the public.

Since it was wet and more rain was forecast for the rest of the day, the nesting box survey was not completed. The camera and connectors do not operate when wet, so it was wisest to leave the nesting box survey to the activity next month.

Although the Billys Creek track is currently closed, we had Parks Victoria approval for our activity in that area. We split into two groups with one group heading off to check upon the track realignment and the second group taking a slower pace to see which birds they could find.

The track in places was slippery where rain fell on the recent track works. With the soil being dry the water held on the surface rather than being absorbed, so the walkers needed to be careful with their footing. Beyond

the track realignment it was good to see that shrub clearing had been done at the site for each of the new bridges. Each site had been cleared ready for the contractors to erect new bridges, the old shelter just before the first bridge had also been removed.

Despite the rain, it was an enjoyable day. It was good to get out into this part of the park which has been closed for a while. When people had finished their walk, they took the opportunity to head home where they could dry off and have lunch.

## April Activity

Sunday April 20, 10am (Easter Sunday)

Location: Junction Road (different to the 2025 calendar of events)

The group will meet in the Junction Road car park for two different activities. One group will complete the annual survey of the nesting boxes (delayed from January and March), while the other will conduct some track maintenance. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.



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## COMMUNITY SAFETY Words of Wisdom

### Safety on the roads

As daylight savings has ended, we need to look at the lesser times of sunshine and safety on the roads and around town.

Remember to turn on your cars headlights a bit earlier as the days get shorter and the nights get longer.

Be on the lookout for people on bikes and very importantly, kangaroos and other wildlife, when

travelling between Churchill and other towns.

Travel at speeds that enable you to avoid hitting animals on these roads, and watch out for broken down vehicles that have collided with animals.

It might only add a couple of minutes to your journey, but at least you will get to your destination safely.

**FOR EMERGENCIES, RING 000**  
**FOR NON URGENT POLICE ASSISTANCE OR ATTENDANCE WITH NO SIRENS, RING 131444**

Police advise members of the public that, if you require police assistance, call 000. The police communications operator will be able to assess your need and either send a police vehicle, relay a message or find out when the police station will be attended.

## Churchill & District Lions Club

Meet  
1st and 3rd Wednesday  
of each Month



Contact Secretary Phone:  
**Peter Tait 0421 167 915**



# Gaskin Park Plan

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester is backing a Latrobe City Council plan to undertake a major redevelopment of facilities at Gaskin Park in Churchill.

Mr Chester has met with Latrobe City representatives and inspected the facility, which he says does not meet the growing needs of the community.

“By working closely with Council and community organisations in the past, we have been able to secure funding for some much-needed improvements to recreation reserves and change room facilities across Latrobe City,” Mr Chester said.

“I am lobbying my colleagues in Canberra for funding to help deliver

projects like the Gaskin Park redevelopment. Providing opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle means investing in facilities that cater for men and women. This project is well-designed and ready for an investment by the Federal Government to bring it up to modern standards.”



# FedUni Graduation



## Gippsland graduates mark milestone

More than 215 students from Federation University Australia's Gippsland campus celebrated their education milestones at graduation ceremonies recently.

Among them is Gippsland nursing student Melissa Glasgow who was diagnosed with breast cancer just after applying for her course, but was determined to realise her dream, studying full time while undergoing 18 months of treatment.

“My studies coincided with one of the worst times of my life and it probably happened for a reason because it kept me busy. It was great to have something other than cancer consuming my life,” Melissa said.

“Being sick and studying at the same time also really made me realise nursing is what I wanted to do, because my chemo nurses were amazing.”

Throughout her degree, Melissa received two scholarships including a Federation Foundation Commencing Scholarship and a Dr EB Morgan Scholarship, enabling her to take time out of the workforce and focus on her recovery and studies.

Now in remission, Melissa is looking forward to completing her graduate year with Bass Coast Health.

Federation University's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Duncan Bentley said he was incredibly proud of the Gippsland graduates,

many of whom juggle study, work, health and caring responsibilities.

“I extend heartfelt congratulations to all of our graduates and encourage each student to take a moment to reflect on their remarkable achievements, surrounded by family and friends,” Professor Bentley said.

“We are proud to celebrate this milestone with our graduates and look forward to seeing them apply their knowledge, skills, and passion as they make a positive impact in their communities.”

More than 1300 graduates across the University's campuses marked the academic milestone in front of family, friends and classmates in March.



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# *cooking* with Noelene

<https://thegardeninggastronomer.blogspot.com/>



## What do you know?

Here are the answers to last month's challenge:

1. Zucchini.
2. Egg.
3. Joint.
4. Marbled.
5. Plain flour.



## Here is my challenge for you this month:

1. What we call a dish or sauce that is highly seasoned with spicy ingredients?
2. To cut into small pieces?
3. A black tea flavoured with bergamot?
4. Freshwater and saltwater snake like fish, sold fresh or smoked?
5. To moisten meat or vegetables during cooking?
6. A restaurant term, meaning each item on the menu is priced individually?

## Sweet chilli chicken with pantry ingredients



**Ingredients**  
4 chicken marylands with skin on, flour to coat, 4 tbs of apricot jam, 4 tbs of tomato sauce, 4 tbs of soy sauce, 4 tbs of sweet chilli sauce. Coat your slow cooker with cooking spray, turn on high and cover. Pat the chicken dry with paper towelling. Place the chicken marylands in a plastic bag along with enough flour to coat the pieces when the bag is shaken. Shake off excess flour and place the pieces on paper towelling. Mix the remaining ingredients in a large bowl and add the chicken pieces to coat. Arrange the chicken pieces, skin side up in the bowl of your slow cooker, pour any left over mixture over the marylands. Cover your slow cooker and cook on high for 4 hours, or low for 8 hours. Serve over rice and/ or with vegetables, spoon over any remaining juices.  
Simple, inexpensive and delicious.

## Nut loaf



**Ingredients**  
125gm of butter/ marg, 1 cup of granulated nuts, 2/3rds of a cup of brown castor sugar, 3/4 cup of milk, 2 cups of self raising flour, pinch of salt. Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Liberally grease 2 nut loaf pans (20 x 8 cm), including the lids. Melt the butter/ marg in a small saucepan. Add the granulated nuts and stir over a low heat for 3 minutes. Remove from the heat and transfer the nuts to a medium bowl. Add the sugar and milk to the saucepan and stir over a low heat until the sugar has dissolved. Cool.  
Now add the flour to the milk mixture and mix till just combined, lastly stirring in the granulated nuts. Divide the mixture between the 2 prepared loaf pans. Bake in the preheated oven for 45 minutes. (standing loaf pans upright). Remove 1 pan and remove a lid to test with a skewer, the loaf is cooked if the skewer comes out clean.  
Serve sliced and spread with butter/ marg.

## Sweet potato and zucchini pie



**Ingredients**  
300gm of chopped bacon pieces, 2 cups of quinoa grain, 2 cups of water, 2 tbs of oil, 1 medium onion, peeled and chopped, 2 tbs of minced garlic, 400gm of zucchini, coarsley grated/ chopped, 500gm of sweet potato, cooked and mashed, 4 eggs lightly beaten, 1 cup of tasty grated cheese, 1 packet of cherry tomatoes. 1 tsp of fennel seeds, 1 tsp of ground cinnamon. Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Lightly grease an ovenproof dish or as I did 3 medium aluminium trays, (convenient for sharing). Place the quinoa in a small saucepan with the water. Bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer until all the water is absorbed. Heat the oil in a small pan and fry the onion until tender and golden. Place in a large bowl and add the cooked quinoa, minced garlic, zucchini, the sweet potato mash, the fennel seeds, ground cinnamon, grated cheese, cracked pepper to taste, the beaten eggs, and the chopped bacon pieces. Mix thoroughly to combine. Pour the mixture in the prepared ovenproof dish or in between smaller trays. Sprinkle sparingly with any left over grated cheese. Slice the cherry tomatoes in half lengthways and place on top. Bake until the pie is set and golden on top. All that is left is to enjoy.

## Strawberry and raspberry pavlovas



**Ingredients**  
2 egg whites, 115gm of castor sugar, 1/2 tsp of cornflour, 1/2 tsp of white wine vinegar.  
**Topping**  
300ml of thickened cream, finely grated rind and juice of 1 medium lemon, 3 tbs of strawberry jam, 200gm of fresh raspberries, 200gm of fresh strawberries, hulled and sliced.  
Preheat your oven to 140 deg C. Line a baking tray with baking paper.  
Beat the egg whites in a large clean bowl, until you have stiff peaks, gradually add the sugar in a tablespoon at a time. Once all the sugar has been added, continue to beat until the meringue is thick and glossy.  
Mix the cornflour and vinegar together in a small bowl until smooth, then fold the mix into the meringue.  
Spoon the meringue onto the prepared tray in about 20 mounds, spreading the mounds into 2" circles, and lightly indent the centres using the back of a teaspoon. Bake in the preheated for 30 minutes or until the meringues are a very pale biscuit colour and can be easily lifted from the baking paper.  
Leave the meringues to cool on the baking paper.  
Put the jam and lemon juice in a saucepan over a low heat until the jam has melted, stir in the raspberries and strawberries, then remove from the heat and allow to cool.  
For the topping, pour the cream into the bowl of your mixer and beat until soft peaks form, then fold in the lemon rind. When you are ready to serve the pavlova treats, spoon a dollop of the cream onto the top of each pavlova and transfer to a serving plate.  
Spoon the fruit mixture over the pavlovas to serve.  
You can make these pavlovas in advance and keep them in an airtight container for several days and just make the topping when you are ready to serve them.

## Cheese and onion soup

**Ingredients**  
60gm of butter/ marg, 3 medium onions, peeled and finely diced, 3 tbs of plain flour, cracked black pepper, 1 tbs of fennel seeds, 1 tsp of dried sage, 3 cups of milk, 1 cup of cream, 160gm of grated tasty cheese, 1 tbs of Worcestershire sauce. 1/3rd cup of sour cream and dried chives for the garnish.  
Melt the butter in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add the chopped onions and stir while cooking until tender. In a separate small bowl combine all the spices and then add to the saucepan and cook till combined.  
Gradually add the milk and cream, while stirring continuously over a low heat until thick and smooth.  
Add the grated cheese and stir until melted. Season with the Worcestershire sauce. Garnish with sour cream topped with chives.



 *cooking* with Noelene



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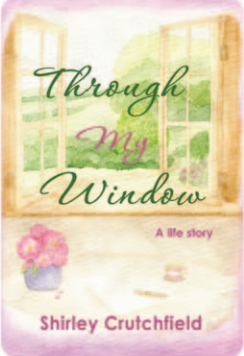
# THROUGH MY WINDOW

by Shirley Crutchfield

Gippsland Writers Network is delighted to launch this book of love, grief, healing and joy.


Shirl tells us about her early years in Melbourne, then takes us on her journey through the good, the bad and the ugly of life on the farm and being a wife and working mother.

Join us for a reading, book sales, and light refreshments.



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# Possum Skin Cloaks



The cloak came about with the funding from Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way – Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families. Dhelk Dja is an Aboriginal-led agreement to address family violence in Aboriginal communities. GCASA

(Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault) applied for funding to create three Possum Skin Cloaks for our current and future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients to use on their healing journey with GCASA. Clients who have been impacted by sexual assault and family violence can have the cloak with them during their counselling sessions at GCASA knowing that the cloak has been made for them by their community to support and protect them while they are with us.

The cloak has been made over three days by community members and completed, with guidance and assistance of our well known and respected elder and artist, Aunty Gina Bundle.

The project has seen our staff and organisation connecting and consulting with First Nations community over the last 12



months and three separate cloaks have been created. Each of the three cloaks will take pride of place in our Warragul, Morwell and Wonthaggi offices and be made available to our First Nations community while at GCASA.

The celebration and presentation of the completed cloak for Latrobe will take

place at Lake Hyland, Mathison Park Churchill on Tuesday April 22 from 4pm. There will be a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony followed by some formalities and activities, finishing with a light meal.

To register your attendance please email [prevention@gippscasa.org](mailto:prevention@gippscasa.org)



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# Community Update: Churchill Public Toilets and Local Events

I am pleased to share an update on the long-awaited public toilet project in the Churchill shopping precinct. While progress is being made, I understand it may not be happening as quickly as the community had hoped.

Last Tuesday, I met on-site in Churchill with a member of the Latrobe City Council planning team to discuss possible locations for the new facilities. Given that West Place Shopping Centre and Hazelwood Village, along with their car parks, are privately owned, Council has limited options for available land in the precinct. This has made the search for a suitable site more challenging.

Despite these constraints, three potential locations have now been identified. A detailed report is being prepared to determine the best option, considering key factors such as foot traffic, public transport access, and the availability of essential services like power, water, and sewage.

While the new Churchill Business District toilets remain in the planning phase, improvements have been made to existing public amenities. The toilets beside the bakery in Hazelwood Village are now cleaned twice daily and open from 8 am to 5 pm on weekdays and Saturday mornings to better serve the community.

## Celebrating our region's biggest events

It has been a privilege



South Ward Cr Leanne Potter

to officially open two of the region's biggest events this month, highlighting the vibrancy and creativity of our local communities.

At the 22nd Boolarra Folk Festival, I had the honour of opening the event alongside Mayor Councillor Harriman. The festival started with an energetic performance by Boolarra Primary School drummers, who led the crowd through the streets. The main stage was alive with music all day, and the Strzelecki Stringbusters were a particular crowd favourite, busking under the trees. The bustling markets, the friendly conversations, and the shared joy of the festival remind us just how important these events are in bringing people together. A huge thank you to the organisers, volunteers, performers, and everyone who made it such a fantastic day—Boolarra, you have done it again!

Yinnar continues to thrive as a hub for the arts. The town has embraced

a Sculpture Culture, with amazing smaller sculptures on display in ARC and permanent installations along Main Street creating an eclectic and inspiring atmosphere. What began as Nicole Allen's vision has now grown into a nationally recognised biennial event, attracting Australia's most talented sculptors.

Of course, an event of this scale would not be possible without the hardworking organising committee and volunteers, whose dedication has made the Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition a highlight on the arts calendar.

The exhibition is still running until April 20, with workshops and live music on Sunday afternoon, proudly supported by Latrobe City. If you have not visited yet, now is the perfect time to experience the creativity and energy that make Yinnar so special.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our local events and initiatives. Your involvement helps shape our region into the vibrant, welcoming place we all love.

If you have an issue that needs bringing to Council's attention, please call 1300 367 700 or contact me at Leanne.potter@latrobe.vic.gov.au or 0488 078 744. I will also be at the Churchill Shop Local Market on Saturday May 3, 9am-1pm. Usually up near the bakery. Pop by and say hello.

# Darren Chester

## Putting Locals First

### #lovegippsland



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Authorised by Darren Chester MP, National Party of Australia, 126 Franklin Street, Traralgon VIC 3844

# Quantum Support Services

## Australian-first partnership launched to combat youth homelessness for young people leaving care in Victoria.

A landmark initiative designed to combat youth homelessness for Victorian young people leaving care was launched recently. The Youth Housing First (YHF) Partnership, an Australian-first collaboration between MCM, Junction Support Services, and Quantum Support Services, will provide stable housing and comprehensive support for 67 young people leaving care.

Funded by the Department of Families, Fairness, and Housing (DFFH), the initiative adopts principles from the internationally recognised Housing First model, Advantaged Thinking, and Sustaining Tenancies principles, ensuring that young people receive stable accommodation before addressing other life challenges such as employment, education, and wellbeing.

Currently there are no guaranteed housing pathways for young people leaving care.

With 30 per cent of young people becoming homeless immediately after leaving care, the program offers a preventative bridge for young people leaving care transitioning to autonomy and a pathway to the life of their choosing. About 1000 16 to 18-year-olds leave care each year in Victoria.

The YHF Partnership represents a significant shift in how we approach youth homelessness in Victoria. By prioritising stable housing and holistic support, we can create meaningful, long-term change.

Quantum Support Services CEO Natalie McDonald said through this pilot program, we were not only providing young people with homes but also advocating for long-term, guaranteed housing solutions

for young Victorians leaving care.

"We believe this is the missing piece in addressing youth homelessness for those leaving care," Ms McDonald said. "Quantum Support Services is proud to be a part of Youth Housing First and offering important solutions to young regional Victorians."

For more information about the program visit [mcm.org.au/youth-housing-first](http://mcm.org.au/youth-housing-first)

## Danny O'BRIEN MP

### State Member for Gippsland South



*Working for Gippsland South*

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[danny.obrien@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:danny.obrien@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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# Plants in my Garden

By Mike Beamish

**Species:** Microtis arenaria.

**Family:** Orchidaceae.

**Derivation:** Microtis: From Greek micros, meaning 'small', and otos, meaning 'ear', referring to the ear-like auricles on each side of the panther.

arenaria: From arenarius, a Latin word meaning 'pertaining to or growing in sand'.

**Common Name:**

Tall Onion Orchid.

**Distribution:**

There is a lot of confusion with Onion Orchids like this one, as the flowers are tiny, making it difficult to see and compare characteristics. Historically, most plants with this name are more likely to now be called Notched Onion Orchid Microtis biloba, a widespread and common orchid throughout southern NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and south-eastern SA, as far west as the Eyre Peninsula. True M. arenaria may be restricted to Tasmania, western Victoria and south-east SA. As my plants came from a legal source and were labelled as M. arenaria, I will retain this name for the time being, though they may be M. biloba or the even more common M. unifolia.

**Description:**

Arising from an underground tuberoid, plants send up a hollow onion-like leaf up to 800mm long and 7mm wide. Flower spikes emerge through a

split in the leaf and can be up to 600mm tall and hold up to 60 densely crowded flowers. Each flower consists of six highly modified tepals (three sepals and three petals) sitting at the top of an ovary. The dorsal sepal forms a hood about 2.5mm long and wide with a pointed, up-turned tip, with two erect petals nestling under its lateral edges and two recurved lateral sepals spreading downwards. The third petal is called the labellum, which hangs down at the front of the flower, is rectangular with crinkled margins and numerous tiny cell-clusters, has two dark green fused mounds at the base (called a basal callus) and either a small point or small notch at its tip.

**Opinion:**

Orchids are great little plants, but keep in mind that they are all protected in the wild, some are very sensitive to disturbance and hence, are vulnerable/threatened/endangered. Never collect plants from wild populations and take care if you are undertaking activities around their habitats. My plants are obtained from reputable and legal sources (yes, I know that they all originated from plants collected from the bush back when that was the norm and before we knew better, but now we do know better, so do not be part of the problem!) with the aim of taking the pressure off the wild populations and hopefully increasing their



numbers in cultivation.

I have a number of Onion Orchid plants with the M. arenaria label, but they may turn out to be other species. Some are in hanging baskets, others in standard pots, all put up a leaf each year, most flower. They also self-seed easily and with the seed being tiny and dust-like, they readily spread themselves around, with seedlings appearing in nearby pots and garden beds, and even in the patches of weedy grass that I call lawn. Despite the dimensions given above, last season several of my plants exceeded expectations. The largest leaf grew to 90cm tall and its flower spike was 80cm tall, pretty impressive even though the individual flowers are tiny and plain green.

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

Sources: Backhouse - Guide to Native Orchids of Victoria (2023).

Jones - A Complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia (2021).

Sharr - WA Plant Names and their Meanings.

# Mathison Park

Even though we have had a couple of thunderstorms, we have had nowhere near enough rain to sustain our newly planted trees. Our wonderful volunteers along with the Gippsland

Interchange Crew have continued watering each week. The bird signs have been erected and already people are commenting on how great they look.

Thanks to the Council

and Young Signs for a fantastic job with layout and production. We are grateful to Ken Harris and David Mules for supplying the outstanding photos and commentary.



Want to use your voice to improve community health? The Customer Voice Group is for you!

When Brian McMahon attended a physiotherapy appointment at Latrobe Community Health Service more than a year ago, he did not think he would end up helping shape its services. Now, he is part of the Customer Voice Group—a group of LCHS clients and their family members, who use their personal experience to provide advice on how LCHS can improve its services or create new ones.

"I like the fact that our group can help make change," Customer Voice Group member Brian McMahon said. "I also enjoy that it challenges me. We are all here because we want to be, we are all friends—but we sort of challenge ourselves and each other while we are at it."

LCHS Customer Voice Group and Experience Lead, Jazz Griffiths, has watched the group grow over the years, and wants to see this growth continue to include a more diverse group of people.

"Our members have found being part of the Customer Voice Group really worthwhile. They have found it is a great opportunity to learn new things and learn how our organisation operates. They feel listened to, and they love that they are contributing to the community," Ms Griffiths said.

"I would love to see the group grow to include more diverse people who speak English as a second language, or identify as LGBTQIA+, people who are young and older, and everyone in between."

The only requirement of joining the Customer Voice Group is that you or someone you care for has engaged with LCHS services in the

past few years, or are eligible to access LCHS services—and want to have a say.

"You need no special skills or previous experience to join the Customer Voice Group," Mr McMahon said.

"All you need is your own good self to turn up, and you will be provided with everything you need to make a great contribution. And you will be feeling that you are doing a good thing for the community."

"We want you exactly the way you are," Ms Griffiths added.

Interested in using your voice to shape the services at LCHS? Phone 1800 242 696 or email customervoicegroup@lchs.com.au to find out more.

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# Churchill Fire Brigade



## Smoke Detector Checks

The brigade's Community Engagement team is currently organising for the annual smoke detector checks for our senior citizens. We already

have a list of over 30, however if you are a senior and would like the brigade to check your smoke alarm, please ring Craig on 0488 131 444.

If the brigade has previously done an inspection of your smoke alarm, we will be in touch soon to arrange a time for a checkup.

## Volunteering with CFA

In over 1200 communities across Victoria, CFA Brigade volunteers are proudly making a difference. Will you join us?

There are many ways you can lend a hand. Fighting fires, educating your community on fire safety or supporting the team from behind the scenes. With full training and support from our fire brigade, you can learn exciting new skills, connect with new people and play a vital role in your community.

### What volunteer roles can I do?

There is a role for everyone as a CFA volunteer. Not all roles in a brigade require you to attend an emergency. There are operational roles as well as support roles in each brigade like social media, fire extinguisher maintenance or community education.

Many volunteers find that operational roles - responding to emergencies like fires and rescues are highly rewarding and give them valuable new skills. Operational volunteers respond to incidents where risks are posed to life and/or property. This may include: Responding to wildfires - such as grass and bush fires; Attending 'structural fires' - such as fires in homes, buildings and sheds; Attending road accident rescues; Assisting with other emergencies, including floods; Attending incidents with hazardous materials; and managing vegetation - such as fuel reduction burns.

### Who can be a volunteer?

Do you live or work near a CFA brigade? CFA brigades welcome all members of the community of all ages and skills, with our members coming from all walks of life. CFA offers both emergency



response and support roles, so there is something to suit your availability, interest and skills.

Are you:

\*Over the age of 16?

\*Living or working nearby to your local CFA brigade?

\*Available to attend Brigade meetings and training during the evenings and some weekends?

\*Are available at some point during a 24 hour period to attend emergency incidents?

\*Have spare time during your week to perform a support role function?

We welcome all ages and backgrounds. You do not need to have experience with emergencies, and all training is provided to you by CFA and your local brigade. As a Child Safe environment, we require our members to have a Working with Children Check, and undertake a National Police Check as part of the application process.

Firefighting (operational roles) can involve strenuous and physically challenging activities, so a certain level of fitness is required to undertake this role. You can discuss this with your local brigade to determine your suitability for this role. Training in specific

firefighting or other operational roles is provided.

### Our Values

We are driven by our values of "We put Safety first, we excel through Teamwork, we are dynamic and Adaptable, we act with Integrity, we Respect each other", and we have a strong commitment to inclusiveness and keeping our communities safe.

### Churchill Fire Brigade Volunteer information night

An information night is being held on Monday May 5, 2025 at 7.30 pm at the Churchill Fire Station.

We will be able to answer any questions you may have about becoming a CFA volunteer, and we will help you submit a membership application if you would like to join CFA.

Joining your local CFA is one of the most rewarding ways you can give back to your local community. Our CFA members are dedicated and skilled and each volunteer makes a valuable contribution through the roles they perform.

If you think this sounds like you, we invite you to apply to become a CFA Volunteer. Applications are only accepted online - see [cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers/volunteer-with-cfa](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers/volunteer-with-cfa)

## Remembering Darren McLean



At our monthly meeting nearest to March 7 each year, we hold a small ceremony around our Firefighter's Memorial outside the fire station. For our brigade, we

particularly honour our member Darren McLean who died following a fire truck rollover 43 years ago.

Our President Allan conducted the ceremony

remembering Darren and other firefighters who have given their lives in the course of duty and the service of others. A minute's silence was held before Allan read The Firemen's Prayer.

## Strategic fuel reduction burning

The brigade has identified two strategic areas with bushland on the town borders that are due for fuel reduction treatments to help make our township safer should a fire start in our area.

The first is the bushland area bounded by Ikara Way, Philip Parade and Northways Road. This is very likely to be the first planned burn in our area this autumn as soon as the weather and conditions are right for us to conduct the burn. Residents in areas adjacent to the burn will be given advanced notice through signs and a letterbox drop in the weeks prior to planned ignition.

The second is a strip of bushland that runs behind the Scout Hall on Manning Drive, parallel to the private farmland interfaces. Last year we were able to successfully burn the triangle of grassland in

this vicinity, which assists in the propagation of the native grasses and kangaroo paw. However, the strip of bushland was too wet at the time, so has been carried over into our autumn fuel

reduction program. Again, residents in areas adjacent to the burn will be given advanced notice through signs and a letterbox drop in the weeks prior to planned ignition.

## FIRE DANGER PERIOD AMENDMENT



The Fire Danger Period will be lifted as of **1.00am 7 April 2025:**

**Baw Baw Shire Council**  
**South Gippsland Shire Council**  
**Wellington Shire Council**  
**Latrobe City Council**

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod)

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we remember those who  
served our country  
so that we may live in peace**

*Lest we forget*



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☎ 5174 7066

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✉ [melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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**THE NATIONALS** for Regional Victoria



By Leo Billington

How people are remembered and, hopefully not forgotten (series continued)

On Wednesday evening, October 10, 1917, popular Morwell resident, Private Ernest (Ernie to his friends) Gaston Rowell, was given a magnificent welcome home celebration hosted by his employer, Mr John Durham Leslie.

It was a prestigious civic function held at Sale's Temperance Hall with guests including the Mayor and Mayoress, Shire President, President of the Sale Branch A.N.A, Mr G Terrill, and most staff members of W. D. Leslie & Co. (Pty Ltd).

Ernie certainly was the centre of attention, and rightly so. He was honoured with a toast "of the King." Subsequent speeches mentioned his quiet, modest demeanour, that he went to war without any "flourish of trumpets." Apparently,

many were not sure they would see him ever again. Yes, this was a horrible war, said Mr Leslie. Ernie was a "striking contrast to Yarra bankers who will not go to war."

With discretion, Mr Leslie remarked "we are all thankful to say he has been spared to us although in a mutilated condition." (Morwell Advertiser, Friday, October 12, 1917). Ernie had lost his left arm.

Ernie thanked the crowd and related his experiences on the battlefields well known for hundreds of casualties - Battle of Lagnicourt, Battle of Armentieres and the Battle of Pozieres.

At 25 years of age, he was wounded in action (gunshot/high explosive shell wound left arm fractured radius) -in France, March 26, 1917. He was discharged on July 7, 1917 and returned to Australia with "a stump at left

## Hazelwood Cemetery

elbow; amputated left arm in Birmingham (at the 1st Southern general hospital in Birmingham on May 18, 1917)." Ernie was subsequently discharged as medically unfit in January 23, 1918.

Being an ex-pupil Ernie was remembered at an ANZAC Day ceremony at the Morwell State School on April 25, 1917. After working in Sale as a grocer's assistant, he followed his family's business establishing himself as a storekeeper, in Morwell.

Ernie married Stella Winnifred Ivey on Saturday, October 27, 1923 in Brunswick. Stella's parents were former Morwell residents.

Ernie's story was featured in the Churchill & District News - August 2024 edition. That story drew wide attention and subsequently, Morwell RSL decided it was appropriate to memorialise Ernie and Stella in the Hazelwood Cemetery.

Previously buried together in an unmarked grave, a permanent plaque now means Ernie and Stella will not be forgotten.

The Morwell RSL has been most generous in supporting the Hazelwood Cemetery Trust, together with special thanks to Bruce Jeffery and Graham Burgess.

When Theodore Oswald Surman was born on January 11, 1876, in Cardigan,

Victoria, his father, John Watkins Surman, was 44 and his mother, Janet McLeod Gunn, was 39. Theodore lived in Yinnar, and on December 3, 1914, aged 38 years and 10 months, enlisted for service in World War 1.

Theodore's enlistment papers show his trade as "independent" - being appropriate as both parents had passed away before enlistment. Within the Australian Imperial Force, his initial rank was Corporal about two months after enlistment, and then in May 1915, was promoted to Sergeant.

He suffered from a variety of diseases and injuries while in Gallipoli, Alexandria and England. Sciatica and a damaged pelvic bone soon took over and Theodore returned to Australia during March 1916. Late in July 1916, he was discharged.

He died on May 17, 1918, in Melbourne, Victoria, at the age of 42, and was buried in Hazelwood Cemetery, Hazelwood, Victoria.

During February this year, Theodore's grave was renovated through the auspices of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. His newly maintained grave is testimony to one who was prepared to confront warfare. He will not be

forgotten.

When Edward Murray Maxwell enlisted for service in World War 1 on July 19, 1915, his employment was given as "a single farmer". Aged 27 years, he described his address as Hazelwood, Victoria, and next-of-kin was his mother, Mrs Sarah Maxwell also living at Hazelwood.

Edward's unit was the 1st Machine Gun Battalion, A.I.F. His previous service was serving full time with the Australian Light Horse. Before embarking overseas he served as a Private with R Company, Training Depot Battalion at Ascot Vale from July 30, 1915 until August 20, 1915.

Subsequently, he served as an Acting Sergeant with D Company, 11th Battalion from August 20, 1915 for several months. Then it was as a Private with C Company, 10th Battalion from November 1915 for a month. Afterwards, Edward served as a Private with 7th Battalion, 13th Reinforcements from late November 1915 until deployment overseas.

He embarked from Melbourne on December 29, 1915 with the 7th Battalion, 13th Reinforcements aboard H.M.A.T. A64 "Demosthenes".

Edward served in the Middle East, England

and France, before being discharged Medically Unfit on November 15, 1918. He died in November 22, 1956, and, together with his wife, is buried in the Hazelwood cemetery.

Edward Murray Maxwell also enlisted at Morwell for Part Time Duty with 12th Battalion, Voluntary Defence Corps at Warragul during the second World War. He attained the rank of Captain and his Regimental number was V380886. He had married Mary Keegan on June15, 1919.

Edward Maxwell was President of the Morwell RSL in 1940 and 1941, and his wife Mary Maxwell, became the first President of the Morwell RSL Women's Auxiliary in 1936.

Their grave is appropriately adorned with a plaque to remember that a long period of service is not forgotten.

As borrowed from a line in a well-known poem written in the 19th century, the phrase 'lest we forget' means 'it should not be forgotten'. We say or write 'lest we forget' in commemorations to remember always, the service and sacrifice of people who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.



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# CDCA

Churchill & District Community Association Inc.

**supports Churchill & District News**

*We love our community newspaper!*

CDCA meets on the 2nd Thursday of every 2nd month

Next meeting - 7.00 pm Thursday, June 12, 2025  
Downstairs in Churchill Town Hall

Contact CDCA via our website - [www.cdca.org.au](http://www.cdca.org.au) or find us on Facebook!





A Churchill &amp; District History Series

# Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



By Leo Billington

## A bit of Morwell's history worth recalling

Recently, a rarely used word came to one's attention. Presentism.

Official meaning - uncritical adherence to present-day attitudes, especially the tendency to interpret past events in terms of modern values and concepts.

In relation to history, when Morwell was considered to be the "...Cinderella town of the main Gippsland line?" (Morwell Advertiser, Thursday June 28, 1945), is this an example of presentism?

Quite the opposite. Contemporary history is explained by what was recorded from earlier times. These two "historical bookends" are knitted together.

To know it took almost ten years between 1945 and 1955 for agreement to have a comfort station (public toilet) built in Morwell's business centre. Modern values about conveniently located public toilets are just as relevant and applicable these days as they were years ago.

Therefore, to spotlight

Morwell's contemporary history, let us consider some past history. Plenty has been written, analysing what can be done with Morwell's central business district; and more will be written as life goes on. Back in the day, suggestions for improvement were made, and seemingly discarded.

For example, in editorial (Morwell Advertiser, Thursday, July 16, 1953), it was written the then Morwell Shire Engineer, John Connan, announced Maryvale Motors would donate trees to be planted along the north side of Commercial Road.

He provided a list of trees to be donated - and placed between Hazelwood Road and the railway goods yard entry (approximately opposite to today's Mannys Market). What a picture if the 15 silver birch trees and 150 coprosma shrubs best known for their glossy picturesque leaves had been planted.

However, there was more in this donation - including 32 desert ash in Church Street and 40 claret ash in Hopetoun Avenue.

In mid-August 1947, following a local deputation

to the Country Roads Board, it was advised that the Board was "sympathetic" to a suggestion to have an avenue of honour planted along the Princes Highway, through the town, dedicated to those who did not return from World War 2.

When Mr Harold Winthrop Clapp had literally stepped from his Railways Commissioner's train on Tuesday February 14, 1939, Councillor Alf Ronald "cornered him" to inspect a strip of ground adjacent to Commercial Road, opposite the railway goods shed.

This patch had been converted into quite a beauty spot, and in addition to flower beds enabled the street to be widened some extra feet. Mr Clapp appeared very pleased with what he saw and suggested that the plantation be extended further west.

The Morwell Advertiser (Thursday April 13, 1939) printed a letter to the editor submitted by "Progress" - who remained anonymous.

This writer wanted central Morwell to be beautified with lawns and flower beds to the eastern end of Commercial



Road. Also, that there be similar plantations to the western part of the then Princes Highway.

"Progress" even went further with radical suggestions - that there be "a foot bridge, or better still, a subway" to assist residents crossing from homes and businesses northside to southside of town.

Further did "Progress" venture with what was a topical issue in town - the beautification strategy would "cut out back views of shops in the railway reserve (these back views have always been a noted eye-sore) and at the same time, would create another shopping site which is so much needed."

"Progress" made the final conclusion - "we would become more of a happy family than what we are at present."

Morwell would then progress because the town would attract the majority of business that passes by at present and would stop at Morwell instead."

Also back in June 1939, Councillor Alf Ronald was vocal about the stability of shop verandas, and petrol bowsters being located on street kerbs.

He was apparently the only Councillor in attendance at the first annual meeting of the Morwell Civic Association where vital matters were being discussed and debated.

Councillor Ronald also explained the Colac Council had "provided 42 seats for their towns and gardens", while emphasising "it was the duty of Councillors to attend Association meetings."

This same meeting discussed preparing an action plan in connection to widening Commercial Road and leasing railway reserve land (north side of Commercial Road). About 40 years earlier, Councillors had "approached the Railways pointing out that the type of buildings existing (Commercial Road northside) were not in keeping with their situation in the town."

To a visiting business delegation from Bendigo in May 1950, Councillor D J White referred to Bendigo's wealth of gold, saying "that coal was Gippsland's 'gold', in quantities that could serve the State for centuries."

At the same occasion, Councillor A. L. Hare expressed the opinion that the Latrobe Valley was the garden of Victoria. and assured the members of the delegation that, "should they return in the years ahead, they would find Morwell the capital of Gippsland".

Mr. F. Maw, engineer in charge of the Morwell (SEC) Project, told the delegation "that the Latrobe Valley was now seeing something akin to a gold rush. Morwell was an interesting place, suffering from growing pains, which the Council was endeavouring to control in an orderly manner".

Four months later in September 1950, Councillor Les Hare was elected Morwell Shire Council President. In his acceptance

speech, he congratulated retiring President, Councillor Ronald on "the presentation of a report, the first retiring president's report in the history of the shire". (Morwell Shire Council was established in 1892.)

Councillor Ronald maintained his stance about Morwell's future - "To split the main business centre, spreading it over a wide area, with the railway and highway in the middle, would, at this stage of Morwell's development be a mistake."

(Councillor Alf Ronald - Morwell Advertiser, Thursday March 26, 1953; Council debate re current town planning scheme.)

Postscript - eventually, by the early 1950's shops on the railway reserve were constructed using bricks and concrete, being more in "keeping with their situation in the town."

The wooden structures had disappeared. A subway was built as well as a new comfort station.



## Morwell & District Red Cross Branch

Members meet on the second Wednesday of each month (February through until December) at 1.30 pm. at the Meeting Room of Yinnar and District Memorial Hall, unless otherwise notified.  
New members and visitors are welcome to attend  
For further information contact the Secretary  
Phone 0427 273 910

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# Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare Group

## By J Duncan Bats workshop

People young and old enjoyed a twilight workshop and survey for micro-bats on February 28. We shared some pizzas and listened to a short presentation before setting out with an acoustic monitor to look for bat calls. We found that three or four species of microbats were flying around at dusk quite close to the hall in Yinnar.

One of these bats, the Little Forest Bat is said to consume more than 1,000 mosquitoes a night. What's not to like about bats? They are truly fascinating little creatures and can catch insects with their wings or a specialised membrane on their tails.

They also pollinate many plants. We were able to have a close-up look at some that had been preserved.

We also briefly discussed the macro-bats or flying foxes. We looked at the map of current bat camps and the threat posed to them by hotter temperatures. The vast distances that they can fly means that they have a critical role in regenerating native vegetation.

We are expecting results in April from the fixed bat monitors that we had in place after the workshops that will detect the bat species present with more certainty.

### Birds, bats and fruit trees

We were reminded at

the bats workshop to use the regulation small mesh bird nets on our fruit trees and to try and keep it as taut as possible to avoid damage to microbats.

Many people seem to have developed a dislike for some of our native birds because they see them eating the fruit from their trees. There is a lack of love from some residents.

On the other hand, international visitors to Australia spent \$2.6 billion on travel that involved birdwatching in the 2023-24 financial year. (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-02-15/tourism-industry-twitchers-birdwatching/104919868>) Australia has many beautiful and unique birds that are still spectacular, interesting and valuable to the environment, however badly some people may think they behave.

### What is to be done?

It has been said that the birds only want moisture from the fruit they damage. This need may be able to be met by planting something like an ornamental crab apple or a sloe plum in or near the fruit orchard.

Locally the native fruits that are no longer present in much of the landscape to provide birds with their natural food sources include:

Apple-berries: Common Apple-berry, (Billardiera mutabilis) and the Purple

Apple-berry (Billardiera macrantha), that grow higher up in the hills, are small climbing plants with edible berries in autumn that will scramble among other plants in the garden.

Banyalla (Pittosporum bicolor) found in the higher wet forests and shady gullies.

Muttonwood (Myrsine howittiana) a glossy-leaved small tree found in wetter forested areas. Its' purple berries do not appear every year.

Tree Violet (Melicytus dentatus) is a very useful dark green shade and habitat plant and seems to be a favourite food of Silvereyes.

Kangaroo Apple (Solanum aviculare) is a fast growing, often short lived, native shrub that can provide valuable shade while new gardens and plants get established. It has yellow to red fruits from summer to autumn.

Humans can also eat and enjoy the berries on Prickly Currant-bush (Coprosma quadrifida). It is an erect small to medium shrub that seems to grow best under other plants.

If birds are looking for seed rather than the fruit itself, Bushy Needlewood (Hakea decurrens) and Sheoak (Allocasuarina sp.) seed pods are a favourite of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos and an important food for Gang Gangs.

Many of these plants can easily be incorporated into a garden or orchard. Even if they do not entirely take the pressure off the fruit trees in the fruit season, they will provide many opportunities to enjoy watching birds.

### April Activities

On Sunday April 27, we have a community workshop for gardeners with a focus on Perfecting pollinator plantings. This workshop will be about growing some of these interesting local plants in pots to increase the food and habitat for native pollinator insects in your garden.

The presenter will be David Sparks who is currently Head of Horticulture at the Melbourne Polytechnic and who has previously led community workshops for our group. This workshop, like our recent Grass Identification and Bats workshops are made possible by a Victorian Landcare Grant. Adult workshop fee is \$10 and bookings are on-line (only) at TryBooking and the event opened for booking on March 30 at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CZETF>

More about our group and events can be found on our website

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

# Churchill & Monash Golf Club

## Stableford Saturday March 1, 2025.

A Grade Winner: D. Burridge 38 pts B Grade Winner: M. Allen 40 pts

C Grade Winner: S. Caldwell 39 pts D Grade Winner: M. Lugton 42 pts

D.T.L: 1. G. Corponi 40, 2. D. Taylor 38, 3. A. Wright 38, 4. S. Allison 37, 5. S. Sanders 37, 6. V. Reid 36, 7. A. Sharrock 36, 8. W. Sutton 36, 9. R. Sands 35 c/b, 10. C. Waring 35 c/b N.T.P: 3rd S. Sanders, 5th D. Ellwood, 12th C. Wilson (Propin), 14th D. Ellwood Birdies: 3rd S. Sanders Target Hole: D. Burridge

## Monthly Medal Stroke Tuesday March 4, 2025.

Monthly Medal Winner: C. Barnes 72 Nett Scratch: R. Dent 79

Putts: S. Turner 28 D.T.L: 1. R. Dent 73 Nett, 2. S. Turner 74 Nett

N.T.P: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th S. Caldwell, 12th M. Hutchinson, 14th S. Gosling Birdies: 12th J. Clegg

## Par Saturday March 8, 2025.

A Grade Winner: R. King +3 c/b B Grade Winner: S. Caldwell +5

C Grade Winner: Rene Zomer +3 D.T.L: 1. D. Burridge +3, 2. R. Madigan +2, 3. V. Reid +1,

4. T. Collins +1, 5. D. Byers



+1, 6. B. Rowley 0, 7. B. Kilday -1, 8. J. Cahill -1, 9. G. Barnes -1 N.T.P: 3rd G. Barnes, 5th M. Allen, 12th P. McGann, 14th P. Bolding Birdies: 5th M. Allen, 12th P. Bolding, J. Langstaff, 14th D. Burridge Target Hole: C. Wilson

## Stableford Mary Mitchell Day Tuesday March 11, 2025.

Winner Mary Mitchell Trophy: C. Carder 37pts

Day Winner: C. Wilson 39pts D.T.L: 1. S. Caldwell 33 c/b, 2. C. Barnes 33 c/b

N.T.P: 3rd B. Skinner, 5th V. Reid, 12th S. Caldwell, 14th C. Carder

## 2 Person Multiplication Stableford Saturday March 15, 2025.

Winners: P. Bolding/G. Harvey 73 pts Runners Up: V. Reid/M. Lugton 72 pts

D.T.L: 1. M. Brereton/R. King 66, 2. S. Turner/Adam

West 65 pts/ 3. G. Blizzard/V. Monument 64 pts, 4. R. Madigan/P. Smart 64, 5. G. Spowart/C. Gardiner 61 pts. N.T.P: 3rd J. Banfield, 5th G. Sanders, 12th P. Smart, 14th J. Thomas Birdies: 3rd J. Banfield, C. Gilfillan Target Hole: G. Beyer

## Stableford Tuesday March 18, 2025.

Winner: J. Clegg 36 pts D.T.L: 1. J. Cahill 36, 2. C. Carder 34

N.T.P: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th S. Caldwell, 12th C. Carder, 14th V. Reid

## 4BBB Saturday March 22, 2025.

Winners: R. Dent/ P. Bolding 45 pts Runners Up: R. Madigan/ M. Smith 43 pts

D.T.L: 1. P. Flanagan/C. Sterrick 43 c/b, 2. M. Lugton/D. Byers 43 c/b, 3. W. Sutton/ B. Rowley 43 c/b, 4. R. King/ J. Soppe 42 c/b N.T.P: 3rd C. Wilson (propin), 5th C. Gilfillan, 14th A. Jenkins Birdies: 12th R. Madigan

Eagles: 8th V. Reid Target Hole: R. King

## 4BBB drawn partners Tuesday March 25, 2025.

Winners: J. Clegg/ M. McQuillan 48 pts DTL: 1. C. Carder/J. Blizzard 46, 2. C. Barnes/L. Van Rooy 42 N.T.P: 3rd C. Carder, 5th M. McQuillan, 12th C. Carder, 14th L. Brent

## Community Pizza & Bush Dance

**SAT 3 May 2025**  
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# Gippsland Business Awards



By Leo Billington

Nominations are now open for the ever popular, prestigious Gippsland Business Awards.

Now in its 27th consecutive year, these professional awards have stood the test of time.

Throughout this time, a varied range of different businesses have been successful in being recognised for their excellence in business.

Latrobe Health Services is now the naming rights sponsor for these awards. Being an Australian-owned not-for-profit registered private health insurer first established in 1951, their selfless support is generous,

reflecting an appreciation of GBA's stature across Gippsland.

The awards require answers to four questions, thereby ensuring an official entry for subsequent judging. Business owners and/or managers to are required to "look into" their respective businesses and consider what's happening or what's not happening.

Answering the questions could possibly be a well-deserved, timely form of self-assessment for your business.

Some business awards are considered as popularity contests.

The Gippsland Business Awards are more than

that, being professional, methodical, analytical and relevant.

There are various categories suitable for all entries including Business and Professional Services, Retail, New Business, Accommodation and Tourism, Hospitality and Food Service, Food and Agribusiness, Trade and Technical Services, Manufacturing and Construction, Transport and Automotive Services, Beauty and Personal Care Services, Healthcare and Wellness and Micro Businesses.

Nominations close on Friday May 9, 2025. For all necessary details, please go to [www.gba.org.au](http://www.gba.org.au)

What would you like to see in your community newspaper ...

We are very pleased to have our regular contributors and the articles supplied are always appreciated.

It is a long time since we asked our readership what sorts of articles/reports they would like to read about in our community paper.

At our recent meeting we thought of


- \* Pet care and responsibility,
- \* Girl Guides,
- \* Gardening,
- \* Sports clubs,
- \* What's on at the Leisure Centre and Library,
- \* Little Athletics

There may be other topics which you would like to see published.

We would like to hear from you.


Please send your ideas, and if possible, the name of someone who could contribute such an article to [cdneditorial@cdnews.com.au](mailto:cdneditorial@cdnews.com.au) We will do our best to supply your request with provisos that comply with our editorial policy.

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# SCHOOL news

## Churchill North Primary

### Halogen Young Leaders Conference

On March 3, our school leaders and Year 5/6 teachers attended the Young Leaders Conference at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. We departed from Morwell Station bright and early at 6:40 am, embarking on a long journey before arriving in Melbourne at 9:00 am.

The first speaker was Thomas Duncan-Watt, a multi-award-winning screenwriter and author. Thomas has worked on various TV shows, from Emmy Award-winning animated series to 'Home and Away'. He was the head

writer of the sci-fi animated series 'Space Nova', which won multiple awards, including the prestigious John Hinde Award for Excellence in Science Fiction. Recently, he released an adventure novel titled 'Tomb of the Zombie King', the first in a new series published by Scholastic Australia.

His work appears on platforms like Netflix, ABC, and BBC. Thomas spoke about following your dreams and working hard to achieve them.

Next, we heard from Emma McKeon, Australia's most decorated Olympian, with 11 Olympic medals

and 20 Commonwealth Games medals. At the Tokyo Olympics, she made history by becoming the most successful Australian athlete at a single Games and the only female athlete worldwide to win seven medals in one Olympics. Emma shared her journey of dedication to swimming and how she is now challenging herself in public speaking.

The third speaker was Catherine Laga'aia, who is set to become one of the most recognised faces in the world as the lead in Disney's live-action 'Moana', alongside Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson as Maui. Catherine's past

credits include performing in Schools Spectacular and starring in the 2023 Prime Video series 'The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart'. She spoke about the importance of taking chances, following your dreams, and staying focused on your goals.

Finally, we heard from Majak Daw, who made history as the first Sudanese-Australian to play in the AFL. He played over 50 games for North Melbourne, winning the AFL Mark of the Year in 2016. Later, he joined the Melbourne Demons, bringing experience and depth to their team. Majak has published an autobiography sharing his

journey of triumph and adversity, emphasising the importance of family and mental health.

He spoke about the power of opening up to others during difficult times.

The students had an incredible day, feeling inspired by these remarkable speakers.

After a long but rewarding experience, we arrived back at Morwell Station at 6:15 pm.

Jeremy's favourite speaker was Catherine Laga'aia. He was incredibly impressed by her and how well she spoke.

JT's highlight of the day was getting the chance

to ask Catherine Laga'aia a question in front of 4,000 people, as well as taking a photo with her.

Amin's favourite speaker was Majak Daw. He was especially excited that Majak was a former AFL player.

All three boys agreed that the least favourite part of the day was how long it was!

All students who attended would like to thank Mrs Campbell and Mr Taylor for organising this amazing opportunity to meet the above famous speakers, have time to ask them questions and have the experience of travelling to Melbourne and back by train.



# SCHOOL news

## Churchill Primary



Churchill Primary School recently hosted its annual School Sports Day, creating an exciting atmosphere as students proudly wore their team colours while families cheered them on. Students from Prep to Grade 6 participated in various events, including long jump, sprints, high jump, discus, shot put and distance running.

One of the most thrilling moments of the

day was the house colour relays, particularly the highly anticipated teachers-versus-Grade-6 race.

It was a closely contested event, but in the end, the

yellow house emerged victorious.

Best of luck to all our students competing in the upcoming Champions Day!





# SCHOOL news

## Kurnai Junior Campus

As we close the first term of the school year, we want to congratulate all our students for their hard work and dedication. It has been a great start to the year, with students engaging in exciting lessons, extracurricular activities, and personal growth.

A big thank you to our teachers, staff, and families for their continued support. We look forward to more achievements in Term 2 and wish everyone a restful and enjoyable break!

*Music news – Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition*  
By Chris Gretton  
Kurnai College Music Co Ordinator

On Saturday March 22, students from all three campuses of Kurnai College came together to perform at the Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition in Yinnar. This event celebrates artistic

creativity and promotes inclusivity within the Gippsland region. It was a wonderful opportunity to be part of such a meaningful community event.

Our students presented a broad range of music, highlighting their talents across different styles and genres. The performance included Yothu Yindi's 'Treaty,' 'The Cranberries' 'Zombie,' iconic tunes from the Blues Brothers, and the popular 'Dance Monkey' by Tones & I.

One of the event's highlights was the students' performance of the theme song from the TV show 'Bluey,' where they created their own unique arrangement specifically for the occasion. This special touch was a favourite among the younger audience members.

As always, our students

proudly represented Kurnai College and its values. Many attendees, including parents and community members, praised the exceptional musical talent on display and noted the remarkable musical growth of the band.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all the students, parents, staff and community members for their support on the day. We cannot wait to see you at our next performance!

*School Sport Victoria Events*  
Term 1 has seen try outs and training for school volleyball, cricket and baseball.

Volleyball - Kurnai was well represented with a team from Year 7 Girls, Year 7 Boys, Year 8 Girls, Year 8 Boys, Year 9/10 Girls and Year 9/10 Boys. Teams comprised of students from both Churchill and Morwell Junior Campuses with

staff from both campuses attending.

It was a successful day with all teams experiencing a win in sets and games. The Year 7 Girls will be moving onto the Gippsland Championships in May.

*Kurnai Aspiring Athlete Program - Summit Camp Update!*

Our Kurnai Aspiring Athletes took part in an exciting day at the Summit camp in Trafalgar, where they had the opportunity to engage in a variety of fun, team-building challenges. The camp was designed to push students to work together, build strong relationships, and enhance their skills through dynamic activities.

It was a great experience for everyone involved, and the students showed teamwork, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship.

A big congratulations to all participants for their outstanding efforts and positive contributions to the day! It was a wonderful event, and we look forward to more opportunities like this to support and inspire our aspiring athletes.

*Athletics Day 2025: A Day of Triumph and Team Spirit!*

On March 4, we had our Athletics Day, and what a great day it was! The sun was out as students, teachers, and parents gathered to enjoy the activities and the BBQ on offer. The participation was excellent, and behaviour of all students was impressive and helped to support a really positive atmosphere.

Our students demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship, giving their best in every event. Whether competing in sprints, long jumps, or relay races, every student involved represented

the college well. It was inspiring to see the younger students cheering on their peers, fostering a sense of unity and community.

Congratulations to all the winners, but also to everyone who participated! Special thanks Rachel Dodd for her coordination and all our teachers and support staff who helped make the event run smoothly.

Athletics Day was not just about competition; it was about coming together, supporting one another, and celebrating our school spirit. We look forward to next year's event.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made the day a huge success.

Well done to Yellow House who were our champion team on the day... Go Siddle House!



# SCHOOL news

## Hazelwood North Primary

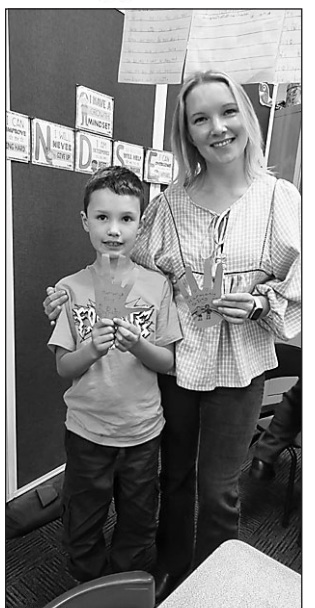
This month's highlight at Hazelwood North Primary School was Harmony Day! It was an amazing day with a fantastic turn out by parents, grandparents and carers who came in to our school to join in Harmony Day celebrations, activities in the classroom and joining in a Harmony Day picnic. There was such an amazing community atmosphere and one that we look forward to having again in 2026!

We have also celebrated St Patrick's Day at HNPS. It was great to see Jack and Tom celebrating the day as well as Savannah and Adalynn sporting sparkly green hair!

This term we have had our very first Buddy Seats installed. A huge thank you to the Traralgon Men's Shed & Woodworking for donating these beautiful seats. Our students have loved using them! If you have not heard of Buddy Seats before, they are for anyone looking for people to play with at recess and lunch times. They have been a huge success and are a wonderful addition to our school community.



Picnic Time



Darcy and Shelley



Krista and Lexi



Rainbow Parachute



SCHOOL *news*

Kurnai University Campus

*Meet Your 2025 Kurnai College Captains*

As we step into an exciting new school year, Kurnai College is proud to introduce our 2025 School Captains—four dedicated and inspiring students who are ready to make a lasting impact on our school community. Each of them brings unique strengths and a shared passion for leadership, inclusivity, and positive change. Let us get to know them!

Hannah Reynolds

Joining Kurnai College in 2022 as a Year 9 student, Hannah has embraced the many opportunities the

school has offered. Now, as a College Captain, she is eager to give back to the community that has shaped her. Hannah is passionate about fostering a supportive and positive school environment where all students feel comfortable and encouraged to thrive. Her leadership is driven by a desire to help others and create meaningful change within our school.

Declan Lazaris

With a strong vision for inclusivity, Declan is committed to making Kurnai College a place where every student feels valued and supported.

He is excited to bring fresh energy and enthusiasm to the role, ensuring 2025 is a year filled with friendship, fun, and unity. A particular highlight for Declan will be curating the playlist for the 2025 formal—making sure the music reflects the diverse tastes of the student body.

Sidney Townsend

Known for his strong and approachable leadership, Sidney is dedicated to representing his peers with humility and efficiency. Prioritising meaningful connections over digital distractions, Sidney values genuine conversations and social interactions. His goal

as Senior Campus Captain is to leave a positive and lasting impact, ensuring that his leadership fosters a culture of inclusivity, integrity, and progress. Sidney is committed to making every student's voice heard and to working towards the best outcomes for all.

Mackenzie Bartholomew

Despite being at Kurnai College for only two years, Mackenzie has embraced every opportunity for growth and learning. She wears her Captain's badge with pride, holding herself to a high standard to demonstrate her gratitude for this role. Mackenzie is eager to inspire others,

showing that dedication and perseverance can lead to great achievements.

She looks forward to making a meaningful contribution to our school community in 2025 and beyond.

Together, these four leaders are ready to guide Kurnai College University Campus through an incredible year of unity, success, and school spirit. With their passion and dedication, 2025 is set to be a year of positive change and unforgettable memories!

*YR 12 Environmental Science Excursion*

On March 17, Year 12 Environmental Science

students visited Mt. Rothwell Conservation Centre. They learned about the Alpine Dingo and their role in ecosystems, and attended a presentation on the centre's work to conserve endangered Australian small mammals.

Students explored a forest, identifying species through bones, scats, and burrows and applying classroom concepts to the environment. The day concluded with a walk to observe rock wallabies and their behaviour. The students were engaged, curious, and enjoyed the hands-on learning experience in nature.



Left: School Captains McKenzie, Hannah, Sidney, and Declan

Above: Alice and Katrina closely examining the intricate structure of a possum's teeth

SCHOOL *news*

Yinnar Primary

We cannot believe how quickly Term 1 is flying by! Our students and teachers have worked incredibly hard, and the school has had such a positive and settled atmosphere. The fabulous weather has been an added bonus.

We have had a number of events and activities that complement our students' learning experiences. This year, we have introduced Spelling Mastery, a structured program designed to build essential spelling skills, and Auslan, providing

students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge of Australian Sign Language. These additions, along with our ongoing programs and initiatives, ensure that there is always something engaging happening in our school.

We very much value student voice and leadership, providing students with opportunities to take the lead in various events and activities throughout the year. This term our leaders have organised the House Fun Night, promoted

inclusivity on Harmony Day, coordinated lunchtime sporting activities and will play a major role in the upcoming Easter Fair. By empowering students to lead, we help improve their confidence, responsibility, and collaboration skills.

A big thank you goes out to all the families who have generously contributed prizes for the Easter Fair. Your support and generosity are truly valued! The Easter Fair is organised by our student leaders from the Junior School Council. This

event serves as a significant learning opportunity for them, with minimal guidance from teachers. We entrust most of the control to the students, and they have excelled in organising, planning, and executing a day filled with fun activities.

The events at the Easter Fair are designed and managed by students, for students. This serves as a valuable experience for older children to mentor and assist younger students with activities, money, and ultimately fosters a sense of

teamwork within our school community. All money raised will be donated to the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. We look forward to sharing some photos of the day with you in the next edition of Churchill & District News.

On Monday March 24, our students dressed with a splash of orange to celebrate Harmony Day. Our GRACE team arranged some fun activities for students to enjoy and learn about the many cultures that make Australia a diverse and

wonderful place to live.

We recently held our House sports day and despite a rainy day before and the possibility of rain on the day, the rain held off and it was a perfect day for athletics. Green House were very excited when they were announced as the overall winners of the day in a very close competition. Some students will now go on to participate in the District Athletics Day at the Yinnar Recreation Reserve at the end of term.



left to right: Charlie, Eli and Beau  
Daisy sack race  
Layla  
Jaidah  
Jeff and Ayla





# SCHOOL news

## Yinnar South Primary

The Yinnar South Primary School was provided with the opportunity to create a unique sculpture for the up-and-coming Yinnar Sculpture Exhibition.

Together, as a small

but wonderful school, we brainstormed a range of ideas and came up with the Southie Superhero. We believe that anyone at Yinnar South Primary School can be a Southie Hero. Over the

start of this term, we worked together and in our individual grades to create this artwork.

Our senior students worked in teams to design and paint the shoes; the junior students used their

hands to make the handprints on our Southie Hero's uniform. Our magnificent cape has every staff and student's handprint on it, and we believe it is essential to come together

and support each other constantly.

Ask any true Southie Hero what our school motto is - We Start, We Try, and We Don't Give Up!

We are proud of our

work and look forward to the local community enjoying it. Because, remember, anyone can be a Southie Hero!



# SCHOOL news

## Lumen Christi Primary

### Grade 5/6 Camp

Students in Grade 5 and 6 at Lumen Christi Primary School attended a jam packed City Camp in Melbourne recently.

They travelled by train to the city where they were met by a staff member from the DOXA camp provider.

It was a very busy three days, teacher Smart watches recorded that the group averaged around 14-16kms a day walking as well as catching trains, trams and crossing busy Melbourne roads.

The group took part in some amazing activities including the Indigenous

Heritage Centre in Federation Square, the Old Melbourne Gaol and State Library to see Ned Kelly's armour.

They spent their money at the Queen Vic Market and made their own music tracks on computers at the Victorian Art Centre.

They took part in night - time activities also which included bowling and visiting the Eureka Sky Deck.

They visited Parliament House where we were met by Martin Cameron our local State MP, and the Melbourne Museum too. They also challenged themselves by

having a go at indoor rock climbing.

The staff who attended the camp were extremely proud of the way the children represented the school, the DOXA staff commenting that they were the best group they have had so far! Great feedback for our students.

All in all, we had a wonderful time. Lots of great memories made and smiling faces returning home to their parents at the end of the camp.

### Lumen Christi welcomes Gippsland MPs

Students at Lumen Christi Primary School in

Churchill welcomed Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester to their school assembly to present this year's Captains with their achievement awards.

Mr Chester gave the students a brief introduction to the different levels of government, explaining the similarities and differences in the responsibilities of state MPs and federal parliamentarians, along with the everyday contributions of local politicians to support their communities.

"It is always a pleasure to engage with our future leaders and share insights into government, life in

Federal Parliament, and my role in Gippsland," Mr Chester said.

Before presenting 2025 school leaders with their achievement certificates, Mr Chester encouraged the cohort to always try their best and never give up.

He also praised the entire Lumen Christi student body for their outstanding behaviour and excellent presentation of their school.

"I was very impressed not only with the respect and attention shown by the students at Lumen Christi but also with their pride and care for their school," Mr Chester said.

"Together, the students exemplified Lumen Christi Primary School's core values of Respect, Resilience, and Responsibility."

Mr Chester presented achievement certificates to the following students:

Billy Breheny - School Captain

Charlotte Fairbrother - School Captain

Harper Sanders - Vice Captain

Hunter Yacoub - House Captain

Anne Ng - House Captain

Tyler Phelines - House Captain

Absent: Audrey Cardillo - Vice Captain







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Meet the young leaders bringing youth mental health front and centre in the Latrobe Valley.

In its first year in the Latrobe Valley, the Live4Life Partnership delivered teen Mental Health First Aid training to over 1000 young people, and youth Mental Health First Aid training to over 100 local adults – the next step is being driven by a Crew of inspiring young leaders.

The Crew is a group of Year 9 and 10 students from participating secondary schools across the Latrobe Valley who volunteered to lead the promotion of positive mental health messaging throughout their schools and broader community.

Recently coming together for the first time, abuzz with enthusiasm and excitement, the young mental health ambassadors worked together to identify their focus for the year ahead – putting plans in place to share the message with their community.

The theme they have developed will be announced at the Live4Life launch event in May, which brings together all Year 8 students from participating secondary schools to take part in enjoyable activities and learn more about the program.

“We know that the leading cause of death in 15-24-year-olds in Australia is suicide, and that the rate is 40% higher in rural communities like our own,” says Latrobe Health

Assembly Chair, Tanya Rong.

“The Live4Life model thrives on communities working together – which is something that the Latrobe Valley does incredibly well.

The dedication from the Crew confirms that the future of our community is in great hands.”

A round of free Youth Mental Health First Aid training took place in March and is available to adults in the Latrobe Valley who would like to learn more about youth mental health and how to talk to young people about it.

Those interested can register here: <https://www.healthassembly.org.au/registration/>



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