"Connecting Your Community"

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Remembering Lilly

- a pioneering therapy dog which changed lives

Lilly, a Bernese Mountain Dog with a heart as big as her paws, has left an indelible mark on the lives of thousands of children and families throughout Gippsland.

Before his time as Manager of the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre, Nathan Brown spent over 20 years in early childhood education. During that time, he began researching therapy dog programs, looking for the most suitable breed to work closely with young children. His research led him to the Bernese Mountain Dog—affectionately known in Switzerland as "hugging dogs"—renowned for their gentle nature and emotional intuition.

That is how Lilly came into the lives of Nathan and Bethany.

Lilly went on to become the first full-time therapy dog to work in an early learning service in Australia. Recognised as a valued member of the team, she helped pioneer a movement that changed the face of early childhood care. At the time, no similar programs existed. Today, hundreds of therapy dog programs operate across the country—many inspired by Lilly's trailblazing work, particularly in schools and centres throughout Gippsland.

Over the years, Lilly worked at early learning centres across Traralgon and Morwell, where she supported hundreds of children and educators. Her presence quickly became indispensable. Eventually, she followed Nathan to the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre, where she continued her impact in a new community setting.

For more than five years, Lilly worked sideby-side with Nathan. She was not restricted to a single room—she roamed freely, forming deep and lasting bonds with the children. Every morning, she would make her rounds, greeting each child and remembering which room they were in. Once her loop was complete, she would instinctively return to the children or staff who needed her most that day. Her emotional awareness was nothing short of remarkable.

Lilly connected deeply with children of all ages—from newborns to kindergarteners. She would gently check on every sleeping child, line up with them for activities, and even join them on bus

runs. At one point, Nathan noticed she was putting on weight—only to discover the children had been secretly feeding her snacks throughout the day as a shared secret with their beloved friend.

She was not just a dog. In many ways, she believed she was one of them.

That is part of what made her work so special—and why she was later recognised with several national and industry awards, including the prestigious Shining Knight Award, which honours outstanding dogs who have made a significant contribution to the lives of others. Lilly also received multiple accolades within the Early Childhood sector for her pioneering role in therapy dog programs. For fun, she even entered the occasional dog show—bringing home more than a few ribbons along the way.

Even now, Nathan is regularly recognised in public as part of "the therapy dog team." Families often stop to share how much Lilly meant to their children—even years later. Many parents have said their kids begged for a dog of their own after spending time with Lilly, and several families ended up welcoming new pets into their homes because of her. For so many children, Lilly was the gentle friend who made them feel safe, seen, and loved—and for many, she will always be remembered as their first best friend.

With great sadness, we share that Lilly passed away on August 11, 2025 following a cancer

diagnosis. Her loss is deeply felt, but so too is the gratitude for the years she spent changing lives.

Lilly may be gone, but the comfort, connection, and joy she brought to so many lives will never be forgotten. We will continue her legacy through the Therapy Dog Program—because everyone deserves a friend like Lilly.

Each day, Lilly started with proud enthusiasm and ended completely worn out—after giving her all to everyone who needed her.



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The Team

Webpage:

IT:

Editor: Carol Scott Team Leader/Sec: **Ruth Place** Treasurer: Maureen Schenkel

Assistant Treasurer: Rachael Perrott

Advertising: Ruth Place, Shelley McDonald,

Layout: Allan Larkin Carol Scott. Production: Maureen Schenkel

Ruth Place, Allan Larkin

Aaron Xuereb

Proof Readers: Ruth Place, Gary Weston,

> Geraldine Larkin. Carol Scott Delma Hodges

Shelley McDonald,

Lorraine Peake

Distribution: Gary Weston, Roel Schenkel

Team Members: Barbara Cheetham, Lorraine Glowacki

John Sunderland,

Facebook Rebecca Barry.

Rachael Perrott

Oscar Ewen



Contributions

The DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of articles and advertisements for the September 2025 edition is Austust 25, 2025

EDITORIAL

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Or Email: cdneditorial@cdnews.com.au All articles must be submitted by the 25th of each month for publication in the next issue.



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We acknowledge the support of



By Linda Reid

Thank you to people who attended the Annual General Meeting of the Churchill District Association. We had the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Marg Guthrie for the work she has done for the Association and Churchill over a number of years, as she stepped down from the committee to take a well earned break. Marg is not going anywhere, and will continue her membership. She has also generously offered to help co-ordinate the next two Markets.

A new committee was elected: President - Linda Reid; Vice President - Peter Gray; Secretary - Mike Thompson; Treasurer (acting) - Ian Gibson; General committee - Rob De Souza Daw, Jeff Kemp. There is still room for a couple more and remember that everyone is welcome at all of our meetings.

Guests on the night were the Latrobe City team tasked with the Churchill Town Plan. They gave a full and informative talk and did a lot of listening to residents who have lived in Churchill for a number of years. Please take the opportunity to go onto the Council website where you



can leave your comments, ideas and suggestions. It is an opportunity for Churchill voices to be heard in a positive way. They will also be at our market with a table for people to comment on the Churchill plan. Our next market is on

Saturday December 6 from 9am to1pm. CDCA will have a table and will be asking you to help shape our priorities for the coming 12 months. Councillor Potter will also be there as our Ward Councillor listening and taking the opportunity to have a chat. If you want to book a table please contact the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre or online via their webpage. CDCA will again be offering a number of random Shop Local Vouchers to some lucky residents but make sure you stop for the sausage sizzle cooked by Churchill Lions and Churchill CFA. We would like to thank our sponsors for their contribution to this market - Marinus Link.

Without corporate support we could not run the market as we do. Our final Churchill market for the year will be on Saturday December 6, so pop it on your calendar.

Great news - Toilets should be able to come off our priority list soon. Yes, Latrobe City has allocated funds and the design work for them is happening. It will be constructed on Council owned land between the East and West shopping Centres. An easy walk for all. So keep your eyes out for surveyors pegs and other signs of work. Council will make the appropriate

announcements This was positive advocacy by CDCA and the current Councillors combined with a strong message from the community that has brought this project forward. Thank you.

The other area to keep an eye on is the subway under Monash Way with works being done there to upgrade it and improve lighting and safety. This will be when the weather improves and completion is expected by the end of the year.

All are welcome at our meetings which are held on the second Thursday of every second month in Studio 1 (bottom of the hall).

Meeting dates are: October 9, 7-9pm December 11, 7-9pm February 12, 2026, 7-9pm April 9, 7-9pm June 11, 7-9pm August 13, 7-9pm AGM

Thank you

The team at Churchill & District News would like to express their grateful thanks to Sarah at Churchill Discount Chemist arranging a box where the editions of Churchill News can be delivered for people who used to pick them up at Woolworths.

We also thank the Churchill Newsagency staff for their help in distributing our papers.



Rainfall



Churchill Rainfall

For the month of August, we have received a total of 49.5mm of rain over approximately six days for the entire month. The annual rainfall to date is 380.0mm. Both the August and annual rainfall data to date are well and truly below both averages.

Rain at Hazelwood South

A disappointing August, with only 56mm of rain at Hazelwood South, and 32% below the August average of 81mm. The rain deficit for the year is worse; now at -16%. The ground water

recharge is poor for August, which is a concern for the next fire season, as it takes several months of good rain to recharge.

Preparation for the fire season needs to start early. Hazelwood South was 62% wetter than the Latrobe Valley weather station, which only had half its normal monthly rain. An intense low pressure system failed to bring much rain; and no snow again.

Snow was common at Hazelwood South before global warming.



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OR put in our collection box at: the Co-Operating Churches. Advertising enquiries can be emailed to: cdnadvertising@cdnews.com.au

Book Review

"In Order to Live" by Yeonmi Park 2015

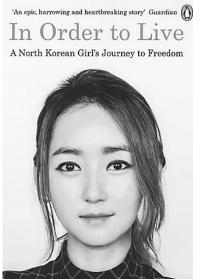
Yeonmi Park was born in North Korea on October 4, 1993. She is a defector from North Korea and became a naturalised American citizen in 2021. She is a conservative activist and author, having also written "While Time

ears."

Remains" in 2023. Yeonmi Park was born in Hyesan, North Korea, which is on the Chinese border, separated only by a river. Her early life, despite being born prematurely and consequently very small for her age, was quite good by North Korean standards, as her father had a lucrative business smuggling metals.

He spent most of the year in Pyongyang, a modern city compared to the town in which his family lived. Yeonmi describes conditions such as electricity shortages, constant hunger, brainwashing so they were afraid to express an opinion or question anything the government said, the belief that the Kim family could read her mind and fear caused by spies everywhere. Her mother told her "even the birds and mice have

Prior to when the famine struck families



YEONMI PARK

everything. Afterwards times were desperate for everyone and Yeonmi describes being able to smell food being cooked on the Chinese side of the river. Her mother, who was also involved in the "black market" left she and her sister for extended periods of time, and Yeonmi describes foraging for insects and leaves and being freezing cold at home while on their own. Compounding the affects of the famine, their father was arrested and sent to a "re-education" camp. This meant the family's

standing plummeted and life became even more difficult.

Yeonmi's sister was tired of always being cold and hungry so decided to cross over into China, as there were people in their community who could facilitate this. There was also demand in China for North Korean women due to the policy "one child" and the fact that male babies were preferred. Shortly after an appendix operation, Yeonmi, aged thirteen,

convinced her mother that they too should go.

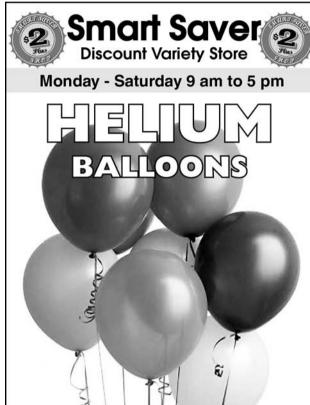
Unfortunately they were being sold as sex slaves and mother and daughter were separated. Yeonmi was quite fortunate to be kept by one of the gang Hongwei, leaders. and after a time she convinced him to rescue her mother and later her father. They lived in relative comfort with Yeonmi assisting her "husband" in getting women across the border. With the Beijing Olympics of 2008 the Chinese government was cracking down on illegal immigrants and Hongwei could no longer keep them since he now had no income. Her father had died and they still had not found her sister. At this point they investigated ways to leave China and were fortunate to find a group of Christian missionaries who could help them get to Mongolia, from where they could get to South Korea.

This was a fascinating and often harrowing story. The author gives a brief political history of North Korea and an explanation of the social system which helped to put the story in context. The writing is not always easy to follow and some of the facts have been questioned. However it needs to be remembered most of these memories were of the time in North Korea when she was under thirteen years old and the approximately three years when she was in China.

All agreed that the author had shown enormous courage, resilience and determination, but had also experienced a dose of good luck. It also showed the bond and deep love between family members.

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2026 Lions Club of **Churchill & District** Australia Day Awards

Do you know someone in our community who has made an outstanding contribution to our Churchill Community?

Most of us do know people who are always there to help out, someone who people look up to for a whole range of reasons, never looking for thanks or recognition, but who have demonstrated and given outstanding service to our community, produced exceptional achievements. They are people whose efforts make our communities a better place

Recipients for Australia Day awards can be anyone people who have made a difference to sports on or off the field, the Arts, social welfare, fire service, disaster management, health.

People who just go about their business but make a real difference to our communities are the people who would be worthy recipients of our 2026 Churchill Community Australia day Citizen of the year, Young Citizen of the year and School Student of the year.

If you know someone who you think has the attributes and who has made a difference to the community, local sporting club, Fire Brigade or other local organisation in which they are involved please think about nominating that person.

The final selection will be made by the Lions Club Australia Day selection committee at the end of the

Nomination Form Page 12 . . .

COMMUNITY SAFETY Words of Wisdom

It is the season.

In Victoria, spring can bring increased risks of bushfires, especially in the far west and southwest, due to drier conditions and a build-up of dry vegetation.

There is also the potential for an earlier start to the fire season, with emergency services remaining vigilant.

Additionally, spring marks the start of hay fever season, with grass pollen being a major trigger.

Here is a more detailed look at the spring-related issues:

1. Bushfire Risk:

- The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook indicates an increased fire risk in Victoria's far west and southwest, including the Wimmera, Grampians National Park,
- Drier-than-average autumn and winter have contributed to a build-up of dry plant material, making it easier for fires to start
- Emergency services are prepared for an earlier start to the fire season and are monitoring conditions closely.
- · Victorians are urged to remain vigilant, be prepared, and aware of the potential for bushfires.

2. Hay fever and thunder storm asthma:

- Spring is peak hay fever season, with grass pollen being a primary trigger for allergic reactions like hay fever and thunderstorm asthma.
- · Rye grass is specifically linked to epidemic thunderstorm asthma events in
- · People with hay fever are advised to start taking preventative medication early, as symptoms can be severe.

3. Other Springtime Considerations:

- Snakes: Snakes become more active in spring as they emerge from brumation (reptilian hibernation).
- Pests: Spring is a time when pests become more active, so it is a good time to take preventative measures like sealing
- · Wildlife: Wildlife traffic accidents can increase as animals become more active.

4. Climate change:

- · Victoria's climate is warming, and spring is arriving earlier due to the warmer temperatures.
- Climate change is also altering rainfall and wind patterns, which can have impacts on various aspects of spring in Victoria.

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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.



Phone

Victoria Cross Bistro **Morwell RSL**

Bistro Closed for renovations

The Victoria Cross Bistro is currently closed due to major renovations.

Renovation works are due to be completed by approximately the first week in September, with the hopes we will be back cooking sooner.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused and look forward to welcoming you back soon.



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CHURCH news

Co-Op Church Snippets

Coffee Connections

Board games was our theme for the last Coffee Connections.

Board games, like any piece of popular culture, need not be separate from our identity as a people of

We can approach games in a teachable spirit and ask God to show us something about Himself in the gaming experience. We might be surprised by what He teaches

For one thing, board

games can give us a glimpse of our roles in God's kingdom. They can also show us what it looks like when God's kingdom seems obscured or absent.

Board games also naturally facilitate fellowship and community. They are the very definition of in-person, communal activities. It is as much about being together as it is playing the game.

Adding a game to collection, therefore, becomes a spiritual act, one that ought to bear fruit for God's kingdom.

Debbie, who bought a large selection of her games, explained some of the games then invited us to have a go. It took a little to learn the rules but fun and laughter was heard. Thanks Debbie for sharing your passion for board games with us.

George had us thinking about our reaction to the story of the Good Samaritan Luke 10: 25-37.

It takes an author to write a story but it really only becomes something

meaningful when it is read. What are we to think? Do we immediately identify with the Samaritan because of our inner desire to help? Are we appalled at the priest and the Levite for their lack of action or care, or do they remind us of a time when we have done the same thing?

The need you walk past is the need you accept- so passing someone in need is the same as saying that you are totally OK with that. Do we have some guilt? Do we associate with the poor attacked man? Does it remind us of a time when we felt hurt or injured? What did we make of the person who walked past us and did not see or feel our need? How do we remember the person who did not; the one who stopped and spent time with us, and went out of their way to support us when we needed it? Does it matter who they were and how we felt about them previously.

That is the whole point of Jesus choosing the story characters very carefully. Jesus wants to completely challenge and flip the notion on its head as to who is our neighbour.

We find out neighbour is the next person we find in need of our help. It has nothing to do with geography- hence the setting on a road that everyone can use rather than a neighbourhood. It puts helping that person in front of our own agenda.

Then we need to ask ourselves a second question - not who is my neighbour, but what sort of neighbour am I to mine? Something for us all to consider.

Then there will be a time when we fall over and we are hurting and we cry out for assistance. There is no need

to fear. The Good Samaritan if we cannot love whoever will come and lift us up, tend

We cannot pretend to love Jesus with all our heart

to our wounds and support

us for whatever amount of

time we need it. His name is

our neighbour needs to be.

Jesus said 'Go and do likewise.' Your neighbour is not who you want to help. Your neighbour is who needs your help.





Church Times

Co-Operating Churches of Churchill

Sunday Services: 10.00am Williams Avenue, Churchill. Tel: 5166 1819

King of Glory Ministries

Yinnar/Boolarra Meeting at the RSL Hall,

Yinnar 3.00 pm each Sunday.

Prayer and Bible Study:

10.00 am Mondays at Yinnar Bakery and Coffee Shop. 10.00 am Wednesdays at Boolarra Co-op Church Hall.

For more info: Pastor Lynn Fowler 0493 193 141

Churchill/Morwell **Catholic Parishes**

Tel: 5134 2849 Fr James Fernandez Saturday 5.00pm St Vincent's, Morwell.

Sunday 9.00am Lumen Christi, Churchill.

10.30am Sacred Heart, Morwell. Every 4th Sunday alternates Yinnar/Boolarra.

See Church bulletin or call 5134 2849

Boolarra/Yinnar Co-Operating Parish Boolarra/Yinnar

1st and 3rd Sunday: 10am Christ Church Tarwin St., Boolarra

Churchill Christian Fellowship

3.00pm Sundays at Haz S. Hall 762 Tramway Road Churchill (next to the soccer ground) Everyone Welcome 0409 173 747



Churchill Christian Fellowship

By Steve McNeilly (Pastor)

I am writing this from a hotel room in Christchurch, New Zealand. Sandie and I will be flying back to Melbourne nice and early tomorrow morning.

Of course we will have been home for three or four weeks before this edition of Churchill News comes out.

We attended different churches in New Zealand, one in Dunedin and one in Christchurch. We met some lovely Christian people at both and had lunch invitations in both places. The universal family of God is a wonderful thing!

Also wonderful that we could go away for two weeks in full confidence that our local team has everything under control, with some help from our Moe congregation.

King of Glory Ministries International will be running their annual conference at our hall on Tramway Rd from October 6 to 10.

One of the guest speakers is Adams Sabila, an apostolic leader in Kenya.

He will also be speaking at a Mens' Breakfast on Saturday September 20, and our 3pm service on September 21.

He has been here before and I can promise that he is a dynamic, faith speaker. Visitors will be most

welcome. Churchill Christian Fellowship will be doing our Christmas Auction and Concert again this year. More details soon.

If you know anyone who attended last year, ask them about it, we would love to hear from you.

Please feel free to join us any Sunday at 3pm at 762 Tramway Road, or come along on Fridays from 11am for our craft/ garden/ lunch social time.

Home Fellowship/Bible study meetings are held on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning. You will be most welcome at any of these meetings.

For more information, or to register your interest for the Men's Breakfast, please call 0409 173 747.



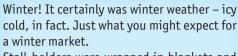
MARKET DAY Saturday, August 30, 2025











Stall-holders were wrapped in blankets and rugs, volunteers were seen in ski parkas, coats and other thick garments, while many market-goers wore winter woolies, beanies and hats - all to keep the cold out.

However it did not pour. There were even patches of sunlight, so plenty of people ventured out to enjoy the morning. Thanks to these brave souls, the market was still a success, even if numbers were down somewhat.

Thanks to Churchill Fire Brigade and Churchill Lions for cooking plenty of sausages for us all! These sausage sizzles were sponsored by Churchill & District News and Churchill Woolworths.

Our major sponsor, Marinus Link, paid for our free entertainers (balloon animals from Fairy Merrin and face painting by Luna Sunbloom).

Sponsorship also enabled us to hand out lots of free vouchers to randomly selected shoppers to spend in Churchill retail stores. We hope our winners enjoy a bit more shopping in Churchill!

Community market events at Churchill

shopping centre (Churchill Shop Local) is a joint program conducted by Churchill District Community Association, Churchill Neighbourhood Centre and Churchill & District News.

Next market is our Christmas Market on Saturday December 6. See you there!



















Connecting Your Community

Short Story & Poetry Competition Winners Stories 2025

11-12 Years Story Winner: Lucy-Lui Saville

A Sunlit Destiny - Sun & Moon

By Lucy-Lui Saville (11 years old)

A small, young tabby cat wishes to live in the busy streets of the city - always longing for freedom and fun. But when he meets a stray cat who only wants to live in a cozy, warm home like him, things take a turn for the worse.

Chapter 1: Blaze - Blaze's Perspective

The sun beams into the window, my eyes slowly opening. I let out a soft 'purr' as I roll onto my back, opening my maw once the warmth of the sun hits my cold fur. My ears perk as the sound of a rustling bag fills my ears. I quickly jump up onto my paws, my hind legs pushing off the top of my cat tower and down onto the floor. I slowly trot to the kitchen, hearing a familiar voice. "Blaze!" My housefolk called out to me. At the mention of my name, I approached towards where the footsteps were coming from.

The bell on my collar rings as I enter the kitchen. 'Tink, tink!' My head tilts and my ears pin as I look down at my food bowl. "Ew.. seriously? Kibble.. again." I sigh, crouching down to take a big 'Crunch!' of my food. I chew slowly. The texture is almost sand-like. I'm used to the flavour already, it's very bland. I've had this food for about 2 years straight now. My owner doesn't give me anything else.

I swallow the food in one big 'Gulp!' unwillingly, not wanting to chew any longer. "Bleh!" I wipe my maw, the disgusting flavour of the cat food lingering on my tongue. "Gross.." I spat the remaining morsels of my meal out of my mouth and onto the ground, refusing to eat any more of it. I'd rather go hungry.

I trot towards the door of my household, going through the cat-door. I wonder what it's like to live outdoors. The birds that soar past my house fly so freely. It's like life is so boring as a domestic cat. I yawn, stretching and sitting down on the doorstep as my mind clouds with an imagination of living in the city.

Chapter 2: Luna - Luna's Perspective

I stretch as I wake up. I don't know what the time is, but I'm sure I woke up late again. I slowly climb out of my cardboard box, looking around the area. The cats that were in this alley last night are gone. I suppose they've already left after the dogs attacked. I look down at my paws. A few of my claws are chipped, I still have a few bruises on my legs and my fur is scruffy. I hear the cars in the city zooming past. I take a peek onto the road, my gaze fixated through the hole in the fence. The city is quite busy today, and I've been a bit injured since last night. I also don't know where the other cats retreated to. I guess I'll have to relocate to another alley.

I jump onto the top of the fence skillfully as I push off the ground with my hind legs. My paws are slippery and I nearly lose grasp of it, but I quickly jump down and walk towards the sidewalk. I can see the outskirts of town from here. "I think I can get there in time by dusk!" I say cheerfully, starting my journey as I trot on the sidewalk.

Night eventually came after a while, but Luna hadn't made it there yet.

It's been a few hours since I began walking to the outskirts of town. The city is so guiet silent as a mouse - it's as if nobody lives here. It's quite a long way from where I am right now and I don't think I'll make it there even if I tried. I look to my right. Every home has their lights turned off except for one - a large house standing tall. I decide to stop and rest here for the night. Perhaps they'd let me stay?

Chapter 3: The Stray - Blaze's Perspective

I'm resting on the couch, sitting on my owner's lap peacefully while watching TV. I let out a soft purr. I'm very comfortable and don't want to get up. Suddenly, I heard scratching at the cat-door. My cat-door is normally locked at night. I wonder who's there?

My curiosity gets the best of me. I hop down from my owner's lap and walk towards the front door. "Blaze?" My owner calls out, following after me. I notice a cat at the door. My eyes widen. "Hello?" The cat mews. "Who are you?" I reply. "Does your owner know you're out here late at night?" The cat pauses, tilting her head. She doesn't respond and instead looks like she's thinking of something to say in return. "Hello?"

Are you still there?" She shakes her head. "Yeah, my owner knows I'm out here." I can tell she's lying, but I nod anyway.

"Have you made a new friend, Blaze?" My owner asks me. I look up at her and then down at the strange cat again. I meow softly in

She leans down and unlocks the cat-door, letting the cat inside. She gives her a small pat on the head and then went to the kitchen to fill up my food-bowl. "What are you doing here?" I ask the cat. She shrugs. "I suppose I was looking for a place to stay tonight." I'm confused now. She said her owner knew where she was, and now she says she needs a place to stay? "Anyway." She continued to speak. It was clear she didn't want to keep talking about it.

"My name's Luna, what's yours?" She asks. "I'm Blaze," I reply. She nods her head. I began to walk to the kitchen as Luna followed after me. She stared down at the food-bowl. "Don't eat it, it's not very nice," I warned her before she could take a bite. Luna looked up at me. "I'm sure it's better than whatever I get." She replied. I shake my head. "No way! If you live in the city, I'm sure you get mice, free food from stores, you can even run around and explore the city everyday!" Luna chuckled. "It's more than that! I have to fight for food, fight for a place to stay - nearly every alleyway is taken up by some other cats or dogs. You have a soft life, you lay in the house all day and get fed. Surely, that must be the life."

I'm stunned. "I bet your life isn't even that bad," I say. "You're just exaggerating." Luna looks shocked. "Fine! Come with me tomorrow and I'll show you what it's really like living in the city." I nod, knowing that she would be proven wrong. She rolled her eyes, exchanging a soft smile as she began to eat the cat-food. Her eyes widened, continuing to chew it and then swallow it. She didn't even pull a face? She didn't even spit it out! "What are you talking about? The food is fine." Luna says cheerfully. "Pft, you just have bad taste buds." I responded.

She finished eating and I just ate some tuna instead. We walked upstairs and I went to my owner's room. "How long have you been staying in the alley for?" I asked as I jumped up onto my cat tower. Luna did the same, copying after me. "Well, I was left on the streets by my mother when I was a kitten." She layed down, getting comfortable. "Ever since then I've just learnt to live by myself in the city. I had a few friends in my alleyway, but they left last night." I nodded. I was glad I got to know Luna more. She seemed friendly, but she did have quite the attitude. I yawned softly and rested my head on the blanket, looking at Luna next to me. She was already fast asleep. I guess she'll finally get a good nights' rest.

The next morning, Luna woke up early.

Chapter 4:

Getting to Know You - Luna's Perspective

I yawn, stretching my paws. I had a wonderful sleep and I didn't wake up during the night - not even once. Blaze and his owner were really kind to let me stay at their house. His life seems so simple. I'm quite jealous, to be honest. He sleeps for however long he wants to, he wakes up, eats, and then sleeps again. Isn't that easy?

I look outside of the window, looking down at the busy city. I can see the entire city from up here! I sit up to get a better view, but make sure I'm quiet so I don't wake Blaze up from his sleep. "Wow," I mumble to myself. Blaze heard me. "Hm?" He yawns, getting up and sitting next to me. "Nice view, huh?" He asks. I nodded. "I can even see my alley from here!" I point down at my alley from the window. He smiles back at me. "I've never seen the city from this high up before. Isn't it amazing, Blaze?" I continue to look out of the window. He isn't responding.

"Come on, let's go get some breakfast already. I'm starving!" He calls out to me from behind, he had already jumped down from the cat tower and onto the floor. "All this guy cares about is food and sleep.." I groan. "Hurry up!" Blaze yells. "All right, all right, calm down!" I jump down and follow him. While we're walking out of his owner's room, I notice the bed is empty. His owner must be awake already.

We finally got downstairs. I can't wait to eat breakfast, since this was really the only time I got something good to eat. In the city, I normally just get some scraps from the other cats or just go hungry. One time, I caught a mouse. This other cat called Frost just stole it off me. I'm used to going hungry, but it's nice to have a meal for once.

Blaze looked down at my food-bowl, and then up at me. "Are you sure you want to eat that?" He asks. "Of course I do! Why wouldn't I want to eat it? I had the same thing yesterday." Blaze rolls his eyes. "Are you sure?" I give him a glare. "Okay.."

Why was he acting so weird? Doesn't he normally get the same food everyday? I slowly approached my food bowl to discover that there was practically as much food as there was in an all-you-can-eat buffet! There was salmon! Not just the bland old tuna, but actual salmon! There were also some turkey and chicken slices on the side. I guess Blaze's owner just wanted to find out what type of foods we like. I ate it all, since I'm not that picky with food. I looked over at Blaze to find he was eating everything in his bowl as well. I thought he was a picky eater. I guess he just doesn't like certain foods

We had both licked our bowls clean and were quite bored. "Remember when I said I would show you what it's like to live as a stray cat in

Blaze nodded. He started to walk towards the front door of the household. "I bet it's not even half as bad as you say it is." I rolled my eyes as I walked out into the city. "C'mon, it's this way." I say, looking right.

Chapter 4: The Journey - Blaze's Perspective

As we walked along the footpath, I noticed a bush. It had flowers on it - roses - it was a rose bush! I stopped to smell them. They were beautiful! I went to get a closer look but Luna stopped me. "Hey! Roses have thorns on their bushes, don't touch them!" I nodded. "OW!"

I yowled. "What's going on?" She asked. "My collar's stuck on one of the thorns!" Luna bit on my collar and pulled me out of there, but my collar was ripped off. I didn't think it was a big deal. At least I was out of the bush.

"Thanks." I said. She smiled back at me. "No problem! C'mon, let's keep going."

It was around 1:00pm in the afternoon when we got there, and we left at roughly 10:00am. We were finally there. My eyes widened. I didn't expect it to look like this.

It was a junkyard - with old couches, cardboard boxes, cars - anything else of the sort. There were a couple of other cats lounging around, one of them with brown scruffy fur and hazel eyes was playing with a yarn ball. Her name was Acorn. There was another shorthair with pitch black fur and yellow eyes - he's called Obsidian. He was sharpening his claws on one of the couches nearby.

I noticed that out of them, Luna has a different pelt colour. Not like any other cats I've seen - she has long, silky fur, a Russian Blue colour. Her eyes are a mesmerising blueish green. They shine brighter than diamonds, brighter than the stars in the sky. I suppose that's why her name is Luna. She reminds me of the moon.

I'm a ginger tabby - I have green eyes and a symbol of the sun on my head. I was born with it. I guess it's like a birth marking! My name is Blaze, as well. Me and Luna kind of remind me of the sun and the moon. It's weird how I met her, but I'm glad I did.

I haven't talked to any of the other cats and I don't know where Luna went. She's probably talking to the other cats, she said something earlier about them being her old friends. Acorn and Obsidian seem like they're friendly, but I don't know. They look kind of scary.

I lay down on the ground, yawning and stretching my paws. I roll onto my back and I start to close my eyes and get comfortable. Suddenly, I notice something out of the corner of my eye. A tall, white figure. Is it a cat?.. It has

I stand up, before sneezing from the dirt that I kicked up into the air. My vision is blurry and I start to wipe my eyes before something started to approach me. "Are you new around here?"

A strange, fluffy white cat began to speak. "Uh, yeah, I am." I barely manage to say. I cough, standing up. "Who are you?" I ask.

"Name's Frost." The feline replies in a stern tone. He doesn't look that friendly. Hang on, is this the same Frost that Luna mentioned? If he is, then I don't want to be around him. I nod to him before going to tell Luna he's here.

It's evening now and it's getting darker and darker. I finally found Luna amongst the cats since a few others turned up. This life seems fun. Talking to other cats, hunting for your own food, living freely - what's not to like?

"Luna!" I yell out to her. She's talking to another cat who arrived called Spots. Luna hears me and trots towards me. "What's wrong, Blaze?" I began to speak. "Frost is here-"Frost?" She interrupted me. "I banned him from my alley ages ago!" Out of nowhere, I heard a voice I recognised from earlier. "That's right. You banned me from your alley, not this junkyard." Frost was standing right next to Luna, tall and proud. Luna's ears were pinned. I was getting annoyed by Frost already. I can tell he's not a

"Frost, what are you doing here-" Luna began to speak, but got cut off once again. Suddenly,

loud growling and barking could

"Connecting Your Community"

Short Story & Poetry Competition Winner's Stories 2025

be heard from nearby. 'What's that sound?' I thought to myself. Everyone went dead silent - quieter than a mouse. I realised what the noise was. The sound only got louder. More barking could be heard and cats started to panic. "The dogs are attacking again!" One voice said. "Run for your lives!" Another yelled.

What?! The dogs were attacking?! "Luna, what do we do?!" My voice filled with panic and worry. I started to tear up. "Just stick by me, Blaze." She responded.

Suddenly, dogs ran out of the shadows, throwing their muzzles off and starting to fight the group of cats. I was frozen. I couldn't lift a paw. I couldn't even make a single sound.

Cats versus dogs?! There's no way we'd stand a chance! The sound of hissing and barking filled the area; I went into a panic and started to run. Run for my life. I didn't know where I was going, or what I was doing, but I just ran like I had never gotten before. I needed to get out of there.

Chapter 5: Lost - Luna's Perspective

I managed to fight off the rest of the dogs. I'm badly injured, but I'm sure I'll rest up and feel better soon. The dogs finally left. I think they were a mixed group of German Shepherds, great danes, and pitbulls. I checked up on the other cats and they're resting up well.

Obsidian, Frost, Acorn and the others are fine.. But where's Blaze? I can't seem to find him anywhere. Did he run off? Maybe he got scared? It's around 12:00 pm now and I'm getting worried.. Where is he?

I think he's just hiding somewhere. Maybe he went back to his owner's home? That's quite a long way from here now, though. Yeah. He's just hiding somewhere. He has to be.

The next day.

I wake up, realising where I am. I'm still in that same junkyard where the fight between the cats and the dogs broke out. I'm already missing Blaze. I don't know where he is or why he left. I thought he was just hiding and would come out from a box or something later that night. I guess not.

I yawn, stretching my paws and shaking the dirt off of me. I decide to get up and go and look for him. I'm worried. I think he's on his way back to his owner's house, so he shouldn't be that far away. At least I think so..

Luna searched every alley, every doorstep, every house - yet Blaze was nowhere to be found. She was starting to lose hope.

Time: 7:00pm

"Blaze! Blaze? Where are you?" I call out his name, hoping he would hear me. No answer. "Maybe the life of a stray wasn't for him. I wish I never took him to the junkyard.. If it weren't for me, he'd still be in his warm & cozy home, all safe and sound. I wish I lived that life."

As I walk past the houses of the city, I stop to notice one with the lights on. I gaze through the window to see a family and their children playing with their cats. A pang of jealousy hits my heart. Was that Blaze's life? Does he miss it? Who am I kidding, he's probably out there in the streets somewhere - cold and lost.

I sigh to myself, continuing to walk on the footpath before hearing hissing and painful yowling in the distance. My ears perk. 'What's going on?' I think to myself, before sprinting forward. A cat's getting taken to the pound!

Hold on.. is that – BLAZE?

Blaze hissed. He spat and tried to fight back, but it was no use. I hid behind a bush as I watched him get taken away. One of the humans picked him up. "Another useless stray. Throw it in a cage." "Stray? I'm no stray! Take me home to my owner! Please!" Blaze yowled.

Oh no! I forgot - Blaze's collar had gotten ripped earlier on one of the thorns of a rose bush. What was he gonna do?!

My ears pinned back. I was full of fear. What were they gonna do to me?! I didn't know where I was and I just wanted to get back to Luna. I braced myself as they picked me up. I looked at the cage and then up at the strange human. I let out a small wince as he was about to lock me up in it, before I heard a familiar voice.

"HEY!" Luna stepped out of the bushes and yelled. "Put him down!"

"Luna?" I was shocked to see her again. How did she get here?!

"Don^Tt take him away, take me!" She yowled. The human suddenly dropped me, caught off guard by Luna's sudden yowl. "Another stray?! You're kidding me." He said. I wanted to ask Luna how she was here, WHY she was here but then Luna got picked up by the human.

"LUNA!" I yowled.

"Blaze, you took me in when I knew nobody else would. You let me see what your life was like. It was perfect. But, I was jealous of you, I wanted you to know what life was like living in the streets. Everyone is so cruel & mean to you, and you have to fight to survive."

"Luna?.."

"But, you made me realise that some cats are good. I was ready to never trust anybody again after what happened to me when I was a kitten. You helped me earlier, Blaze.. Now it's my turn to help you."

"LUNA!"

It was too late. The van began to take off with Luna inside of it. "HEY!" I yelled. "LUNA, NO!" My voice filled with worry. I began to chase after the speeding van. "STOP!"

I caught up to the van and jumped onto the top of it. I clawed and scratched at the door on the back, trying to open it. I didn't wanna to lose Luna. Not her.

I bit the handle of the door and pulled on it as hard as I could. It opened! I jumped inside to try and find Luna. "LUNA! LUNA? CAN YOU HEAR ME?"

"BLAZE?!" I heard her call out. "Luna! I'm here!" I found her cage and tugged on the lock. "Blaze, you came back for me?" She asked. "Of course I did! I can't lose you, Luna - you're special to me. More than anyone ever has been."

"Other than food, of course." I added. She chuckled, shedding a tear. "It's amazing how you can turn situations like these into funny ones. You always know how to make me laugh." I nodded, smiling. I shed a tear as well. I never realised how much I cared about Luna.

"Alright, pull on this as hard as you can, okay?" Luna said. She knew how to unlock these cages from the outside, just not the inside. She guided me through it. I nodded.

"THREE, TWO, ONE, GO!" I pulled the cage's lock as hard as I could while Luna tried to break the cage door. We used all of our force and.

'Snap!' The cage door broke open, letting her out. "Yes!" I exclaim in joy, before jumping out of the van and onto the road. I smiled at Luna. "We did it!"

"Yes! We did it! We make a great team, Blaze," she said. "I think so too." I nodded. "C'mon, let's get home.. We've had enough adventures for one day."

We got back to my home and my owner greeted me with open arms. She gave me a big, tight hug and then gave Luna one. She then gave me a brand-new collar. It was orange with a sun symbol on it and had a little bell that goes 'Tink, tink!' "Yay!" I shouted with excitement.

Then, Luna was given a collar by my owner too! It was a dark blue with a moon symbol on it with a bell as well. I was filled with excitement! "Wait.. does that mean-" Luna was trying to talk, but I interrupted her. "Of course it does, silly!" I started to tear up. I was so happy. Luna leaned on my shoulder.

"Thank you, Blaze. For everything you've given me." She said to me. "Thank you too, Luna." I exchanged a smile with her.

"Welcome home."

The End

Blaze's owner adopted Luna and had a family of her own. Luna & Blaze grew up to raise a family together and had three kittens - a boy called Ember, and two girls called Celeste and Twilight - the names meaning the spark of the sun, the stars, and the night sky. Now, their owner's children play with Luna and Blaze's kittens and they are all one happy family

together

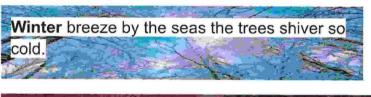
What adventures will Ember, Celeste and Twilight get up to? Who will they meet? Will they join any packs? Will they follow in their mother's path and enjoy the comfortable life at home - or will they be like their father and get up to mischief? Who knows?

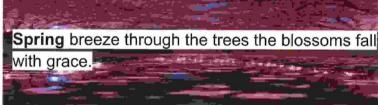
Part 2 coming soon . .

8-10 Years PoemWinner: Pippa Harder Seasons poems By Pippa Harder









Writing Competition Awards

A big thank you to our local schools which entered our writing competition this year. We had 247 entries across the grades from Prep to Grade 6.

We would like to thank our sponsors Ampworks, Rotary Club of Hazelwood and District and Churchill & District Lions Club. Their help each year is most appreciated and allows us to be generous with our awards to further encourage the students to write stories and poems.

A special thank you is expressed to our judges who read all the entries and spent time coming to a final consensus. The entries show many promising writer's abilities as they continue to improve their skills in poetry and story writing.

First prize winners are published in this issue.

Category 1 - 7 and Under

Winnie Van Heer 1st Prize Nate Lawrie Equal 2nd. Equal 2nd Know Burge Scarlett Young Equal 3rd Harvey Malcolmson Equal 3rd Encouragement Levi Fraser Isobel Cluning Encouragement Adalvnn King Encouragement Logan Johnson-Little Encouragement Class Award Prep S Encouragement Class Award PrepB Encouragement Class Award P-2 Encouragement.

Category 2 - 8-10 years

Poetr

Pippa Harder 1st Prize
Ava Walters Encouragement
Ash Sheary Encouragement

Story

Jacob Draper
Annabelle Taylor
Lexi Tirlana
Bodhi Webb
Jesse Henry
Amelia McKinnell
Spencer Atherton
Chase Mickman
Amalia Elphick
Harry Rohde
Ulyanna McLindon
Nate Wookey
Kash Wright

Category 3 - 11-12 years Poetry

Dylan Henry
Adriana Draper
Rory Fraser-Matthews
Shaylah Elphick
Anne Ng
Florence Turnbull
Alice Lever

Story

Lucy-Lui Saville
Axel Seddon
Harvey McCartney
Harry Visser
Harper Sanders
Polina Mclindon
Jovan Duric
Caroline Hicks
Jack Dawe
Levi Heffer

1st Prize 2nd Prize 3rd Prize Encouragement Encouragement Encouragement Encouragement

1st Prize

2nd Prize

3rd Prize

Encouragement

1st Prize
2nd Prize
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Encouragement

Chapter 6: A Noble Sacrifice - Blaze's Perspective

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Short Story & Poetry Competition Winner's Stories 2025

8-10 Years Story Winner: Jacob Draper

KEMMY



The sky was navy blue, and the moon was as bright as ever. Mike and his wife were driving in their car with their kid in the back seat.

Mikes kid's name was Kenny, and his favourite animal was a Panther. Then they crashed. The ambulance came and took them to the hospital. Kenny had a cut on his forehead and a bruise on his leg while his mother had a broken leg.

Mike passed away.

"Are you ok,"asked the nurse while

Kenny got up still in pain.

"No."said Kenny.

"Is my mum and dad ok,"asked Kenny.

"Your mum has a broken leg", said the nurse.

The nurse didn't want to tell the young boy about his father, but she had to. Before the nurse could tell him, the doctor was hearing their conversation. The doctor said that his father has passed away. Kenny began to cry. His tears dropped like rain drops. A few years later Kenny has finished

high school and started working as a news paper writer. His work was so boring just sitting there typing on the computer al[the time. He walked up to his boss's office shaking with fear. He slowly opened the door and then he saw that his boss wasn't there. He wondered where his boss was. He knew how he could figure out. Kenny closed the door and locked it. He went through his boss's files. He found something he wasn't expecting to find.

There was a whole file about his father and mother. He read the file and found out how they crashed that awful night. The father fainted! Kenny wanted to know more. He kept on reading the file. His boss gave him a drink with a pill in it that night before the crash. The pill made him faint while driving. Kenny grabbed the file and put it in his bag. He drove home and found his mum on the couch. His mum could see that he was in shock. Then he and his mum heard a nefarious laugh coming from the kitchen. It was Kenny's boss with two glasses of poisoned juice."I see that you have found out what I did to your father,'said the boss with an evil grin on his wicked face

"What does he mean', asked the mum

"Gave a drink to father that made him faint while driving the car the night he passed away", said Kenny. The mother cried nonstop.

"Why "asked the mum in pain. Kenny's boss laughed again. Kenny quickly called triple zero. You could hear the loud sirens coming from the police station. "It looks like you are going to spend your time in a stinky old cell," said Kenny with an attitude. "Not if I'm the one that called the police said Kenny's boss.

"Norman don't think that you're going to get away with this, "said Kenny's mum.

"Mum what is he about to do", asked Kenny.

"He's about to tell them that he called the police. said Kenny's mum.

"Not if I get to the police first", said Kenny with a mad and frustrated tone to his voice. Kenny sprinted over to the police and got to them before Norman could. Kenny handed them the file which told them all they needed to know. The next day it was alt over the news. Kenny got a new job as a detective for the NYPD.

The New York Police Department loved him as part of the team. His mum stayed at home and watched her boy grow and grow. Norman got one year for murder and one month for trying to lie to the police.

Detective Kenny will return.

7 and Under Winner: Winnie Van Heer

The Stuck Princess

Once upon a time a knight was at the castle with the princess. The Dragon came to get the princess and was blowing fire at the castle. The knight got a fire truck and put the fire out. The castle was a bit burnt



11-12 Years Poem Winner: Dylan Henry

Stuck

Stuck-can't move.

Can't fly away.

Stuck. Silky string keeping me here.

Over and over, I pull, but stuck, web keeping me still.

Can't move, no clue what to do.

My doom awaits.

Big black legs coming.

Fangs glisten in the sunlight.

Closer and Closer it comes.

SNAP! I break free

Energy rushing through me.

Black thing gone

Safe. Nothing to worry about

Gippsland Interclub Photography Exhibition

June 21 to September 21,

Galleries 5 & 6

LRG is delighted to be the 2025 host venue for the annual Gippsland Interclub Photography Exhibition. Comprising the finest recent works by members of Gippsland's six community photography clubs, exhibition showcases diverse depictions of the urban, rural and coastal landscapes and communities of Gippsland and southeast Victoria. highlighting the technical skills and creative talent of our local photographers.

The participating clubs are:

Gippsland East Photographic Society Latrobe Valley Camera

Club Phillip Island Camera

Club Sale Camera Club South Gippsland Camera

Warragul Camera Club

About the Collective:

2011 Formed in through the initiative of the Warragul Camera Club, The Interclub Photography Exhibition was established foster connection Gippsland's between camera clubs and to create a shared platform to exhibit celebrate photography.

The exhibition rotates annually between clubs, with each host organising and curating the program in collaboration with fellow delegates.

The show has become valued tradition, strengthening creative exchange and showcasing the photographic talents communities across of Gippsland and south east

June 21 to September 21, 2025

Gallery 4

Featuring works from Latrobe Regional Collection, ?STRAIGHTCUT?shines a spotlight on the artistry local photographers alongside some of Australia's most renowned names in the discipline.

Spanning decades of photographic practice, from as early as 1933,

? STRAIGHTCUT?

invites viewers to explore the diversity and depth of photographic expression, showcasing the talent and technical skill that define the medium.

Anchoredby Redgate's Jacky ? STRAIGHTCUT? exhibition photography's engagement with abstraction, representation and landscape. These works illustrate the medium's capacity to both interrogate and transcend the literal.

The dialogue continues

in the adjoining galleries with the Gippsland Interclub Photography Exhibition, celebrates which diversity, skill and collective energy of the region's contemporary photographic community.

Together, both exhibitions affirm photography's enduring relevance as a tool of inquiry, a record of time, and a space for exploration.

Artists featured ?STRAIGHTCUT?:

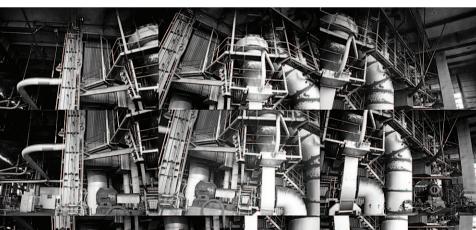
Peter Bennetts Pat Brassington Barry Brown **David Burrows** Max Dupain Janina Green Trent Parke Irene Proebsting Jacky Redgate **Cameron Robbins** Rebecca Selleck Wolfgang Sievers Darren Siwes Neale Stratford Christian Thompson

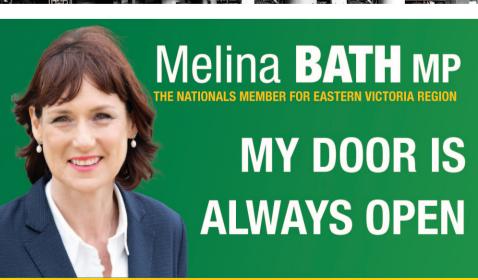
Left - Image credit: Iryna MacMillan, digital photograph. Sale Below:Irene Proebsting, Yallourn Power Series, image #5, 1992, digital print on paper. Latrobe Regional Gallery Collection, gift of the artist.





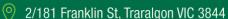








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Strzelecki Koala and Common Wombat

The Strzelecki Koala needs the Common Wombat

The Strzelecki Koala survival relies greatly on the presence of the Common because Common Wombat ensures a healthy and balanced ecosystem for all the plants and animals in its habitat. (www.oneearth.org 22-8-25)

While the Strzelecki Koala is like a gardener in the forest as it trims the canopy of the trees and fertilises the soil with its





scats (poo), the Common Wombat is the forest engineer.

The Common Wombat is one of the largest burrowing and ground digging animals the world. (www. australianwildlifejourneys. com 18-6-2025)

The digging action of the Common Wombat benefits its habitat in many ways.

Firstly, the Common Wombat turns over huge amounts of poor hard soil in the Australian bush. This activity enables water to penetrate deep into the thus providing ground, water and nutrients for the roots of plants especially the eucalyptus trees.

Secondly, various types of fungi, bacteria and seeds are dispersed and able to germinate in the softer soils when rain comes. Thirdly, the disturbance of the leaf matter enriches the soils and lessens the amount of fuel on the forest floor.

(www.wombatprotection. org.au 20-6-25)

The Common Wombat's physical attributes allow the animal to build extensive burrows with many spacious chambers and a number of entrances.

By building burrows which are the largest in the world, the Common Wombat provides a temperature controlled shelter for itself



other animal species from small insects to larger vertebrae.

It has been observed that during fires other animals like "echnidas, wallabies, bush rats, lizards and birds" will seek shelter in abandoned burrows.

(www.wwwf.org.au 20-6-25) Even koalas will use these burrows too. Pools of water that occur in the burrows are a much needed water resource, particularly during the drier months, for wombats and other animals. (ABC iview, Wild Australian Series, Wombat 17-8-25)

A rewilding project that reintroduced wombats into the environment in Western Sydney showed that the diversity of species present in the habitat increased because of the presence of the wombat. (www. wombatprotection.org.au 20-8-25).

Wombats will eat the tough grasses so that other grazers like kangaroos and wallabies can eat the softer grasses. Plentiful soft grasses are often found near burrow entrances.

The Strzelecki Koala benefits from the presence of the Common Wombat in their shared habitat. Eucalyptus seed dispersal, seed germination and then tree growth and nutrition relies on the digging actions of the Common Wombat.

The Strzelecki Koalas' eucalyptus food and shelter trees survival and abundance are greatly influenced by the engineering actions of the Common Wombat.

The Common Wombat, along with the Strzelecki Koala, are unique and important Australian animals which need more protections for them and their habitat

The Common Wombat's healthy ecosystem and eucalyptus trees = Strzelecki Koala survival.

How can we help these iconic Australian marsupials?

Now that spring is here, Strzelecki Koalas are again moving about more. Breeding season has begun

the koalas are looking for new home ranges.

Remember to drive carefully in bush areas and towns. The Strzelecki Koala is often seen in Churchill.

owner by keeping dogs away from wildlife. Seek assistance from

Be a responsible pet

Wildlife Victoria if you see an injured koala or wombat.

Record sightings of wombats WomSat via (www.womsat.org.au) and Strzelecki Koala sightings or koala scats to Anthony Amis at anthony.amis@foe.org.au

Preserve, protect and plant native trees and habitat for wildlife.

Join or support an organisation that helps wildlife like the Strzelecki Koala Action Team, a collective of Friends of the Earth, Melbourne or the Wombat Protection Society of Australia.

An Interesting Fact

"Wombat Warrens can be seen from space." (www. wwwf.org.au 20-6-25)



PRESENTED BY

Lions Club of Churchill & District

Health Hints

Pneumonia: What you need to know

By Andy Gergis Churchill Discount Pharmacy

Pneumonia is infection that affects the lungs, making it harder for your body to get enough oxygen. Normally, tiny air sacs in the lungs fill with air when you breathe.

With pneumonia, these sacs fill with pus or fluid, leading to coughing, chest pain, fever, and difficulty breathing.

Anyone can pneumonia, but it is more serious in babies, older adults, people with weakened immune systems or chronic illnesses. The infection can be caused by bacteria, viruses, or, less commonly, fungi. For example, bacterial pneumonia often develops suddenly with high fever and chills, while viral pneumonia need hospital care, oxygen, may come on more slowly, or intravenous medication. resembling the flu at first.

(sometimes with phlegm), fever, shortness of breath, fatigue, and chest discomfort. In severe cases, people may become confused, breathe rapidly, or have bluish lips or fingertips due to low oxygen.

Diagnosis involves a physical exam, chest X-ray, and sometimes blood or sputum tests. Treatment depends on the cause: bacterial pneumonia requires antibiotics, while viral pneumonia is usually

managed with rest, fluids, and over-the-counter medicines. Severe cases may

Prevention is very Symptoms vary but important. Vaccines, like the usually include cough flu shot and pneumococcal vaccine, reduce the risk. Washing hands, not smoking, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle also help protect your lungs.

> Most people recover from pneumonia with proper treatment, but it should never be ignored. If you or a loved one has symptoms, especially trouble breathing or high fever, speak to your doctor or pharmacist urgently.

Federation University

Fed Uni - 2025 Open Day

Campus tours, live music, interactive information sessions, free food and family entertainment highlighted Federation University Australia's 2025 Open Day.

Visitors to the Gippsland discovered Campus wide range of study options including nursing, midwifery, science, teaching, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech pathology, arts, social work, community and human services, psychology, engineering, IT, business, criminology and sports science.

Open Day is an opportunity for prospective students and their families to meet Federation's worldclass academics, student club and support representatives, along with current students and a broad range of business and industry partners. Through connection to local industry, the University continues to roll out its cooperative education model, getting students work and

world-ready with paid Churchill. placement opportunities in a range of courses.

2025 The Good Universities Guide rated Federation as the number one university in Australia for first-in-family enrolments for the seventh consecutive year and the top university in Victoria for social equity and student to teacher ratio. Open Day was held on Sunday August 10 from 9.30am to 2pm at the Gippsland Campus, Northways Road,

Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Duncan Bentley said "Open Day is the perfect opportunity to explore our world-class facilities in the heart of Gippsland and discover how we prepare students for meaningful careers. Staff, academics and existing students were on hand to provide valuable insights into university life, along with a broad range of course options and opportunities

to gain hands-on industry experience through our co-op model."

780 visitors attended the Churchill campus, and prospective students and their families met with Federation's world-class academics, student club and support representatives, along with current students and a broad range of business and industry partners.







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Everyone welcome, bring a friend, no booking required just turn up on the day and enjoy a friendly morning with like minded craft enthusiasts.

Please feel free to contact Sue on 0411 714 564 for more information

Disability Access





LIONS CLUB OF CHURCHILL & DISTRICT **AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS**

2026 NOMINATION FORM

Nomination for:	☐ Citizen of the Year☐ Young School Citizen of	☐ Young Citizen of the Year						
DETAILS OF PERS	ON/PERSONS/GROUP BEIN							
Full name of citizen/persons/organisation/event:								
	_							
		Post Code:(M)						
Date of birth of nomi	nee (if nominating Young Citi:	zen & Young School Citizen of the Year)://						
Please note that the information provided below will only be used by the Lions Club of Churchill in the selection process, if the nomination is successful in winning an Australia day award all or part of this information may be released to the media								
	ition: ne community for which the O words) the reasons why your n							
	ontributions and achieveme nal space, please write on a s	nts: separate sheet and attach to the form.						
Community / Profeswith:	ssional bodies / Sporting or	Service Groups your nominee has been involved						
Background information about your nominee:								
		son may be contacted for further information						
First Name:		Surname:						
Position/Organisation	n:							
Address:								
Suburb:		Postcode:						
Telephone (H):	(W):_	(M):						
	completed by person submi							
		9)						
	,	Surname:						
	n:							
		Postcode:						
		(M):						
Email:								
Signature:	Date:							
Nominations can b	e lodged at any time; howe	ver, nominations for the Lions Club of Churchill &						

District Australia Day 2026 awards close on Tuesday 15th December 2025 at 5.00 pm.

Nominations should be addressed to:

Lions Club Secretary Australia Day Awards PO Box 110 Churchill Vic 3842. or email Churchill.lionsclub@gmail.com.

For further details

The Secretary: Peter Tait Mobile: 0421 167 918

Privacy Statement:

The 'personal' details provided for the nominee will only be used to enable the Lions Club of Churchill & District to determine Award winners and to contact the Award winners. The winners of Awards and details of their contribution to the community will be disclosed to the media.





Wrap-around diabetes support for Gippslanders like Greg

When it comes to managing diabetes, every person's journey is unique. However, 67 year-old Greg Allen-Pretty will tell you that no matter what your experience looks like, every step forward counts.

Greg not that surprised when he was diagnosed with type 2 The diabetes in 2006. condition runs in his family, and Greg had a sit-down job for most of his life. When Greg turned sixty-five, he decided to prioritise his health.

"I started to walk more regularly. That was the first and easiest step. I started out with short but regular walks and slowly increased the distance.

Importantly, I stuck with it each day," Greg said.

When Greg started seeing a GP at LCHS to better manage his diabetes, he was surprised by how many other services were available to help him.

"An advantage of becoming a client of LCHS is having a range of services and health professionals available," Greg said.

As well as his GP, Greg has also engaged with dieticians, diabetes educators, podiatrists and counsellors at LCHS. He also attends three gym sessions a

"The support has made a huge difference in helping me feel fitter, healthier and happier in my day-to-day

I no longer fear some of the negative health impacts that come from being diabetic. It is fully managed and under control."

Greg wants everyone to know that diabetes is manageable — with the right support.

"Get good advice from professionals and take the advice seriously. It will give you a better quality of life for many years to come," Greg

"The key is to dedicate yourself to doing it. And do not be discouraged by any stumbles along the way, just get back into it."

If you want to learn more about managing your diabetes, give our team a call on 1800 242 696, we can help!

Jubilee celebration of migrants the Jubilee be followed by a festival to

As part of the Jubilee year announced by the late Pope Francis, the Lumen Morwell Christi and Catholic parishes are combining to celebrate an event that recognises the many migrant groups within our community, and acknowledges the significant contribution that migrants have made to our society.

The event which will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at Sacred Heart Church in Morwell, commencing at 2.30 pm, will include a multicultural mass in which Bishop Greg Bennet, Bishop of the Sale Diocese, will be the chief celebrant. This will be held in the church grounds which will showcase the various foods, dancing and singing of various cultures. Many different groups will be part of the church service, which will include prayers in various languages and members of the congregation dressed in cultural costumes taking part in the ceremony.

At the conclusion of the mass, the congregation will process to the nearby car park led by different migrant groups bearing their various national flags and accompanied by their own music. The afternoon will include entertainment from various ethnic cultures, as well as an opportunity to sample different foods from the migrant nations.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to gain an insight into the many migrant cultures that make up our Latrobe Valley community and to acknowledge their contribution and integration into our Australian society.

Some of the migrant groups participating include Italian, Maltese, Filipino, Indian, Fijian, Polish as well as many others.

Further information please contact Mr Michael Answerth, 0438 048 150.





Mon - Wed 6.00am - 6.00pm Thurs - Sun

6.00am - 8.00pm

44 Main Street, Yinnar Ph: 03 5115 8696

Plants in my Garden

By Mike Beamish Species: Hakea ulicina Family: Proteaceae. **Derivation:**

Hakea: Named after Baron Christian Ludwig von Hake (pronounced 'hark', 1745-1818), a German patron of botany.

ulicina: Named after the genus Ulex -icis, Gorse, with the Latin suffix -inus, meaning –like, thus this Hakea is like Gorse.

Common Name:

Furze or Gorse Hakea. Distribution:

From south-eastern NSW to the Otway Ranges in western Victoria and some of the Bass Strait islands in heaths and forests.

Description:

Depending on where it is growing, it can be a dwarf to small shrub (heathlands) or a tall shrub (forests) up to 5m tall and 3m wide. Leaves are up to 18cm long and 4mm wide, glabrous (smooth, no hairs), twisted at the base, longitudinally veined and pungently pointed. Racemes of white or cream flowers

about 1cm long occur in the leaf axils in springtime. When pollinated, ovoid to oblong woody fruits develop, up to 25mm long and 15mm wide with a short, straight

Opinion:

This species seems to be short-lived in the garden, I have had several plants over the years, but they only seem to last a year or three, flowering once or twice before turning up their toes. This seems to be in contrast to local plants in the bush (there are good populations in the Edward Hunter Reserve in Moe and in the Traralgon South Flora and Fauna Reserve), which have been there for many years. The specimen in the photo is the form which grows in the Anglesea Heathlands and it has since died unexpectedly. I have seeds from a number of places (my garden, Moe, Traralgon South, Won Wron, Wonthaggi, Mallacoota), so there will soon be replacements ready to plant out. This species



might not be the most showy of the Hakeas, but I am still determined to get at least one established in the garden for more than a season.

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

Sources: Elliot & Jones -Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 5.

Holliday - Hakeas: A Field and Garden Guide.

Sharr - WA Plant Names and their Meanings.

LV Field Naturalists **Blue-winged**

Parrot Project Neil and Sue Woolley

will give a presentation, by Zoom, on the "Bluewinged Parrot project" at the next meeting of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club on Friday September 26, starting at 7:30 pm in the Moe Library. This presentation will be followed by our Club's monthly meeting and supper.

Neil and Sue of Birdlife Bass Coast are citizenscience volunteers on the Blue-winged Parrot group, working since 2022, to better understand the species in an effort to help conserve them.

Listed as Vulnerable, this attractive small south eastern Australian parrot is olivegreen, with yellow belly and mostly dark blue wings.

It feeds on the ground in open areas, including sporting grounds farmland. The call is a very high, thin, chiming "zit zit."

The presentation covers recent volunteer activities and will provide an update about the 2024-25 breeding season, sites in Gippsland, and efforts to trial nest box

Orange-bellied Parrots and Turquoise Parrots will also be discussed.

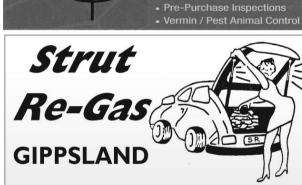
Join us on Saturday September 27 for excursion to search for Victorian-breeding Bluewinged Parrots.

Meeting at 10.00 am Koonwarra Conservation Reserve just off the South Gippsland Highway on Swan Road, first left, opposite the public toilets at the Rail Trail.

Everyone is welcome, both to the meeting and the excursion. For more information contact our secretary, Rose, on 0410 237

Please visit our website www.lvfieldnats.org register if you wish to use Zoom to join the meeting from home and/or if you would like to come on the excursion.





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Yinnar Community Garden



We had lovely mild weather for our Healing Country Planting Day, held on August 24 at the Yinnar Community Garden. Native plants kindly grown for us by the Yinnar/Yinnar Landcare Group were planted in the "Yanun Wanduin" Indigenous

Garden. The working crew then enjoyed lunch including veggie burgers, sausages, and salads sourced from the Garden.

We have also recently a generous received grant from the Latrobe City Council to purchase equipment which will make

maintenance of the Yinnar Community Garden easier. We are all delighted, and have already been busy putting it to good use!

For more photos and to find out our latest news, head to www.facebook.com/ yinnarcommunitygarden



The workers enjoying lunch at the Yinnar Community Gard

Rotary



NOW MEET EVERY 2ND WEEK

Contact Secretary Paula for dates

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

humanity in motion

Contact: Paula, Secretary 0455 584 072

Hazelwood **Rotary Club**











A new BBQ has been installed in the large picnic shelter and has already been

An excellent working bee was held on the second Saturday of August with ten

The Council had given us some plane trees and correas. Bruce was co-opted to again bring his excavator to dig the holes needed to accommodate the large trees. Even though the holes were

dug for us, it was still hard work to take the trees from their large tubs and refill the holes with soil.

Shortly after, a trailer load of mulch arrived to be heaped around the new plantings.

From heaps of mulch at the top of the park two trailer loads were loaded into Steve's tipping trailer and delivered to the garden bed alongside the long boardwalk, ready for further

weeding and mulching of the bed in the future.

Sunday August we had a visit from 68 geocaching people who were doing a short tour through Gippsland.

They came prepared with gloves and enthusiasm to make their hour visit as positive as possible. Blackberries were weeded out, old plantings were inspected and the tree guards and stakes of dead plants

removed and bagged.

A new garden bed was created as a load of soil was raked into place, plants planted and mulch spread. Several bags of rubbish were collected.

The adage "Many hands make light work" was in full swing that sunny afternoon.

Many thanks to the folks who turned up to help our beautiful park.

A special thank you to Jenny, their local member,

who requested their visit to Mathison Park through our committee.

The Geocachers were also able to locate the points hidden in our park much to their excitement.

The following Thursday the Gippsland Interchange crew came and helped to spread three trailer loads of mulch around another newly planted bed.

Thank you to Council for the mulch.

Our fishing platforms are reaching a stage where they need a lot of repairs. Late in August Council workers came to repair the platforms to last until the Council will have them replaaced.

The cost of thousands for each one is substantial and will be an item on coming Council budgets.

It has been an excellent month for work being done with the weather being so helpful.



9.00 am to 1.00 pm at Churchill Shopping Centre on these dates:

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Christmas Market - Saturday, December 6th



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It is only fitting that I

centenaries,

devote this one hundredth

the celebration of the

one hundredth year of a

particular happening in

history, or the celebration

of the 100th anniversary of

the founding of a particular

centenary of a particular

day in the history of a

country is widespread. Here

in Australia, we celebrate

ANZAC Day in April and

Australia Day in January,

and together with a number

of other countries, Armistice

The celebration of the

noteworthy institution.

to

Centenaries

200+80 5

STAMP MATTERS-A NEW **EXPERIENCE**







Day in November. The first Australian stamp issue celebrate the 100th anniversary of a particular event was in 1929 when the first settlement in Western Australia was remembered with a 1 1/2d stamp featuring

We first honoured the centenary of an organisation with a 5d stamp in 1963 for the International Red Cross.

Another centenary for which we have issued stamps marks the birth or death of a notable individual in Australian history. The first was Charles Sturt and the second was Major Thomas

Mitchell, both British-born explorers. The first cultural centenary honoured the birth of Dame Nellie Melba in 1961, the first soldier Sir John Monash in 1965. Across the world, most countries have done the same for their famous people.

Occasionally the centenary of an international institution is honoured world-wide with stamp issues. In 1974 every country in the world issued a set of stamps to celebrate the occasion of the centenary of the United Postal Union.

The International Red Cross was also honoured



but not as widely, and the Boy Scout movement centenary also saw a number of countries issue stamps usually displaying scouting activities and scout uniforms. In 1996 the hundredth anniversary of the modern Olympic Games saw a number of issues, usually featuring an Olympic sport and were often part of a set issued for the Atlanta Olympics.

The founders of each of these institutions were also widely featured on the

Recently we have seen the centenaries of incidents involving World War 1. Australia issued sets each year from 2014 to 2018 featuring incidents where Australian troops played an important part. This stems from our reverence of ANZAC Day which is seen as the time in history where our country was seen as an emerging power in the world.

The only sporting event for which a stamp was issued was the Melbourne Cup. A stamp showing the bay stallion Archer and his jockey, John Cutts the winner of the first Melbourne Cup. They enjoyed the experience so much they did it again in



1974 a stamp was issued by Australia commemorate the completion of the Overland Telegraph Line which linked Australia with a cable ending in Darwin. It allowed the transmission of messages to the eastern states of Australia from the rest of the world in a day, rather than weeks.

Collecting stamps featuring centenaries is an interesting exercise. They are few in number, and generally cheap to buy. History buffs will find the research a pleasant and informative pastime.



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A Churchill & District History Series

Looking ...through the eyes of local residents



A short walk down memory lane



By Leo Billington

A short walk down memory lane - do you remember 1969?

Let us take a quick look at what 1969 was telling us.

It was February 5 when Kelly Bros (Brothers) Morwell car dealers told us "We've got the car of the year." Incidentally, any keen buyer could "get the deal of the year on any car we've

Kelly Bros also sold used cars - and unfortunately old newspapers do not copy too well - such as a 1967 Toyota Corolla Sedan could be obtained for only \$375 deposit, or for a deposit of \$448, you were able to drive away in a 1966 Rambler American.

One estimate (www. streetmachine.com.au) is that almost 15,500 HK Monaros were sold in Australia.

Then, if a new Monaro

did not win hearts, it probably was a modern hairstyle Professionals." In their advertisement of April 16, Maison Wink established four salons, perhaps to ensure greater coverage of their market - Traralgon, Morwell, Moe and Trafalgar.

A technical consultant from L'Oreal of Paris was at one stage, ready and waiting in the Morwell Radio Arcade Salon. Fancy paying \$2.00 these days just to look smart and ready for that red

Business development is on everyone's lips nowadays. Private investment, public investment, tariffs, employment, regional development, visiting politicians, research and development. Oh yes, the list goes on and on - and 1969

was no different to now. It was common rhetoric

- "boost industry," Morwell and its valley were being told about coal to char experiments. "A new and exciting era" was a selling point, back then in April.

A modern 13 unit development announced in The Express on Wednesday April 9. Mr and Mrs Mick Connell were named as the owners.

They had previously conducted a successful motor garage and BMC car dealership in George Street for many years.

Seemingly mooted as an opportunity to benefit from expected surges in tourism visitation numbers - those heading east - a midpoint between Morwell and Traralgon was considered the

About one month later, it was publicly announced that a 40 unit motel was proposed for Morwell - at the corner of Church and Buckley Marg Leighton, being one of the owners said that "there was an urgent need for high-standard motel accommodation in the area."

Amongst these announcements, well-Morwell known High School principal, Mr I. T. Maddern was explaining "Baby-sitting" at the Unis! This was on April 23, and highlighted his advanced thinking about education.

The last paragraph is worthy of special note -"Every women, therefore and man also, who wanted to learn, and who could learn should be able to do the theory at home and the practice at work. bring the final would emancipation of women."

Fifty six years ago, Mr Maddern was giving his view of a better, more effective form of education, and, we are still debating this today.

On May 28, Michael (Morwell advertised a 3-day sell-out of top quality suits. Ranging in price from \$20 to \$30 to \$40, men's suits were sold alongside Dickies pineapple

towels and Prestige nylons. Just reflect - a new hairstyle from Maison Wink, a modern two-door Monaro, a new suit and two burgeoning community was being fully equipped for a new future.

Sharpes Emporium was also holding its own, as it did for many years prior to their advertisement published on June 4, 1969. Slacks, nighties, pyjamas, pleated skirts and vests, all ready to be warm during winter.

Then there was sad news - Mr Norman Sharpe's brother Mr Woolfe Sharpe passed away early in June

1969. However there was earlier news which "went through Morwell like a dose

of salts". Popular Sharpe's employee and department manager, John Tomkins was killed on April 25 in a road accident in Buckley Street, after returning by train from attending the ANZAC Day march in Melbourne. John was an employee of Sharpes for 30 years, being well-known for his amiable assistance to all customers.

To conclude - in May, Cut Lingerie wanted to establish a factory to employ "up to 300 females".

However, there was a battle to seek financial assistance from the then Morwell Shire Council. Council said, "it cannot make loan funds available."

What were you doing in 1969?

Friends of Morwell National Park

August Activity Report

The group met in the picnic area. There was not much to discuss since we had caught up on most of the news at a meeting the previous week. Caitilin will have a meeting with Renee and Parks to discuss what is required to be allowed to work at heights safely. If we are to make any repairs to nesting boxes or want to erect any new boxes, we will need to work at heights to work upon these boxes.

Ken has written and published a book about the Lacewings of Victoria, and it will be launched in the coming week. If you would like a copy of the book, it will be available from Ken for \$20.

The day's project was to complete some track maintenance around Fosters Gully. Track maintenance around Stringybark Track was not needed since Matt had told us that recently a Parks contractor had gone around Stringybark Track.

As we moved around the track, we met several other walkers enjoying the cool but dry morning. After Lyndon's Landing, Ken left the group and headed up the hill. It took the rest of the group a good while to catch him. It was good to see that there were few obstructions so only a little work was required, and we were able to enjoy the walk around. Caitilin captured these great



Australian King Parrot (Alisterus scapularis)

As the group returned to the picnic area, it was a great time for lunch. Ken had completed the full circuit of Fosters Gully, so his lunch was very well earned. We sat around one of the new tables and enjoyed our lunches while the little finches danced around us. In the distance a few koalas could be heard calling and responding to the calls of the other koalas.

After lunch the need to

start another walk was not strong, so we got to finish for the day.

September Activity

Sunday September 21, 10.00am

The group will meet at the Kerry Road picnic area to undertake a plant ID walk. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.





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

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS "Connecting Your Community" cdnews.com.au Churchill and **District News**

ions Club of Churchill



The newly elected Lions Club of Churchill Board, led by new President David Lyne, has hit the road running. The Club thanks Past President Robin King for his leadership over the past two years.

Lion President David's priority is focused on continuing the important work that the Club does with its local community projects and its Lions International projects, as well working on increasing Club membership.

The winter months are always a quiet time for the Lions Club, and come the colder weather a number of our Lions members depart to the warmer weather up north. The Club has still been busy at Bunnings doing a BBQ and it also catered a large function at the Engie Hazelwood Mine Project, Rehabilitation catering for 110 people. They served up 110 hamburgers with the lot to 110 people in around 20 minutes, which is not a bad feat. It was a fun project and the meal served was much appreciated. Importantly money earned from projects such as this goes back to the community through our Lions Projects. We thank Engie for their support.

Over the past month the Club has supported a variety of charities and worthy causes. The Club provided much needed financial support to the Peace of Mind Brain Cancer Foundation, the Club also supported Member Morwell, Martin Cameron's project, the Kokoda Track adventure scholarship, which gives a Year 11 student a life-changing experience of Trekking the Kokoda Trail. The Club assisted the 1st Churchill Scout Group to help the group with the replacement of equipment which was stolen. The Club donated to the Need

for Feed, a Lions project that supports farmers and communities affected by drought and natural disasters all over the state.

We also supported Camp Quality which assists kids and their families impacted by cancer, which is one of the Clubs main projects. The Club again has a member, Lion Ross Norman, going on the Camp Quality Escarpade which is a seven-day outback adventure car rally starting in Tamworth, travelling via Broken Hill to Griffith in October. The Escarpade is a fundraiser to help to put positivity, fun and laughter back to those kids and their families who are suffering with cancer.

The Club also again supported the Kids Fix Rally supporting the Gippy Mummas Donna Lawless and Sue Embrey from Yinnar, fundraising for sick and disadvantaged kids at the Latrobe Regional Hospital (LRH). They are rallying from Lithgow to Mallacoota via Lorne, travelling through back roads and small communities with their 1991 Subaru wagon.

Upcoming the Club will be assisting at the junior football finals, the Churchill community market with a sausage sizzle and in Morwell for FNC Grand Final. We also have the District Governor visiting the Club in September.

The Club will once again be holding the Churchill Community Fishing & Fun day on Saturday November 22, this year, with planning well on the way and lots of exciting activities already locked in.

Fishcare will be there, we also have face painting, the Churchill 1st Scout Group will also be involved with activities in which the younger ones can participate, and good food provided by the Lions Club.

The Fishing & Fun day is a low cost day, it costs \$2.00 per child or \$5.00 per family to enter and be eligible to win some great prizes for catching a fish.

The Churchill Community Fishing Fun day is for the whole community to come out as a family, mum, dad and the kids to one of the Latrobe Valley's most beautiful places. Lake Hyland, Mathison Park, Churchill. Come along to fish, have fun together and hopefully catch dinner, and for the kids to possibly win some great prizes. If you do not know how to fish or rig up a fishing rod do not worry, people from Fishcare will be there to assist and teach you how to fish and what the rules and regulations are. The day is about being outdoors together as families, having fun together with others in the community.

There will again be some really great prizes to be won, but to be eligible for prizes children must be registered and must be present at close of fishing to collect prizes. All children who register will also receive a free sausage and drink and a ticket in the Lucky Door prize



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St Vinnies **SOUP VAN**

Soup van started Friday January 17

6.00 pm at White Parade reserve

6.30 pm at Illawonga Court

Soup, sandwiches, frozen meals, fruit, pantry items. Please bring a bag and yourselves. SPREAD THE WORD

Hazelwood Cemetery



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

Over the past several months, interest has centred on unmarked graves, particularly in the Hazelwood Cemetery.

This interest stems from a variety of sources - persons compiling family trees, perhaps others who think vacant spots are available for future interments, or from visitors seeing markers designating unmarked graves.

Unmarked graves may generate emotions or feelings that no-one cares. Memories have been tossed aside with little regard. Any thoughts about unmarked graves may be a precursor to sadness. Families have been known to be divided over such matters - such as accusations of negligence in perpetuating memories of loved ones.

All of this may lead to considerations of a suitable grave marker. A bronze plaque perhaps; or a headstone; or a rock; or a garden. Then it may be a case of what is the appropriate wording, and this can transition to who cares for a grave (or grave marker) after time.

These aspects become part and parcel for any administration and care of cemeteries. Hazelwood Cemetery is no different.

By way of a recent example - which was not laced with sadness. In fact, pleasant memories of a family life from long ago surfaced. A Perth resident just happened to read a copy of the Churchill & District News printed in mid 2022. There was a story about the Wuttrich family, an early pioneering family at Hazelwood North, who after many years, moved to Moe.

being compiled, and plenty of material has been so far located. Nonetheless, at Hazelwood, there are four family members interred - and two are in unmarked graves. Others are in the Moe Cemetery. Now research is underway to locate two persons, in a

A Wuttrich family tree is

location in the Presbyterian section. The Perth based researcher was thrilled to find this information - extra pieces of the jigsaw will now find a home.

Another example requires further research. Pictured with this article is a reasonably sized, somewhat blank rectangular sized grave. Someone must have cared for it; the low-profile concrete edging is evidence of care, although a date is unknown. So far, intensive research of Hazelwood Cemetery records plus other sources shows there are perhaps five persons interred here; and that four are in some way, connected via two families. (More will be written about this for next month's edition.)

Ironically, and with some coincidence, this unmarked grave is remotely connected to a grand occasion in Morwell on Sunday May 17, 1903. This was when Morwell's new Roman Catholic Church was opened. As reported in the Morwell Advertiser, "there was a very large crowd who witnessed



the occasion.

Not quite one year previously, the local paper reported

"On the 26th of October, 1902, a very large crowd witnessed the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new Roman Catholic church, and since that auspicious occasion the residents of the district and the public generally have watched the structure, as it were "grown" day by day until at last it has burst into "full bloom" and magnificence".

In the new church, as reported, there were "pictures upon the wall are also very striking, and nearly the whole have been erected to the memory of relatives of members of the congregation. These names included Fitzpatrick, Cummins, Craven, English, Haiz, Brazel, Walsh, Quigley, Daly and McGauran".

These families, and others, are interred either in the unmarked grave as mentioned above, or close by resembling a close family; no doubt maintaining close ties as was normal in a new fledgling community.

Barbara Clare Murray was one-day old when interred at Hazelwood. Her grave is sited by itself with a relatively new plaque. Accurate identification was achieved not that many years ago, and followed placement of newspaper stories seeking any assistance that was out there. Eventually there was success.

I have mentioned above selecting a suitable grave headstone - especially a colour. The example of a brown speckled coloured headstone for Mr William Saunders Marshall and his wife has nurtured comments about how difficult it is to read.

Such a pity because Mr Marshall with Henry Godridge, was instrumental in exploiting brown coal deposits on the Latrobe River. When this partnership closed down, he joined with Bert Savige in bridge building in the Morwell and Narracan Shires.

There has been an effort to locate some members of

the Keegan family using a form of designation - which has proved to be just suitable albeit varying climatic conditions destroy any clarity of wording on wooden backing. There is ongoing research - trial and error basically - to achieve a better way.

Having outlined aspects of locating unmarked graves, and our task will continue always, there are methods available. The Hazelwood Cemetery Trust, with its records showing approximately 140 unmarked graves, is assessing options.

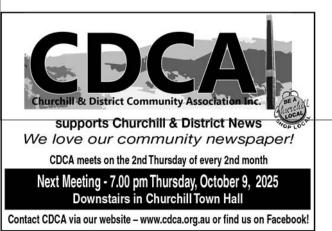
One involves some technology, and cost. It is known as Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), a common method for locating subsurface anomalies, like graves. Ultimately the cost will depend on the size of an area to be surveyed.

These surveys measure subsurface electrical resistance, which can help identify changes in soil composition caused by

More cemetery news next month.









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The Great Victorian Cache Crawl







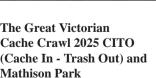












The Great Victorian Cache Crawl for 2025 came Bairnsdale by Saturday night. through Gippsland over the weekend of August 15, 16 and 17.

A Cache Crawl is a weekend full of different geocaching activities that are designed to explore one particular area in Victoria. Gippsland was the chosen area for 2025.

This year, approximately 80 teams from around Victoria and South Australia joined in the fun. The weekend started in Tooradin

on Friday night.

Saturday started in Tooradin for breakfast and then travelled to Meeniyan,

The Crawl participants began Sunday in Paynesville and then travelled to Rosedale, Churchill and finished the weekend in Warragul.

For those who have not heard of geocaching, it is simply an outdoor treasure-hunting activity that uses a GPS-enabled device. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates, that they have sourced from the geocaching

website, and then attempt to find the 'geocache' usually a container or marker at that location. Geocaching Moe, Maffra and through to is played all over the world and there are around twelve different types of caches to

> One type of cache is an Event. Events bring fellow geocachers together for various reasons. One particular Event type is a CITO (Cache In, Trash Out). At CITO events, geocachers and community groups work together to help improve parks and other outdoor environments.

> Cachers assist with cleaning up rubbish, planting

trees, removing invasive species, building trails, and more. CITO's usually run for an hour's duration.

team rolled into Mathison Park from their lunch stop in Rosedale, for The Great Victorian Cache Crawl -Churchill CITO.

This CITO Event assisted the Mathison Park Advisory Committee with an actionpacked hour of weeding, mulching, tree planting, cleaning up old tree guards and rubbish removal.

The weather was just perfect for an hour of intense work at four different spots

around the Park. One group worked with Ruth to pick up old tree guards and stakes, another group On Sunday August 17, worked with Reg to assist to Ruth, Reg and the approximately 68 geocaching with blackberry and weed Advisory Committee team removal from a garden bed, a third group, Richard, Chris, Jim and Steve, assisted with planting out a garden bed and unloading and spreading mulch, and the final group wandered through the Park picking up rubbish.

The final results at each area were fabulous and, what is more, all geocachers attending this Event, enjoyed the time they spent helping the Advisory Committee and roaming around the Park

searching for the geocaches that are currently hidden

there. A big thank you for swapping their usual working bee day to the Sunday to accommodate this CITO Event, and for all the work behind the scenes in organising the trailers of mulch, tools etc ready for the CITO Event attendees to roll in, work hard and roll out

The geocachers then headed to Warragul for the closing Event for this year's Great Victorian Cache Crawl.





What do you know? Here are the answers to last month's challenge:

- 1. Rice papers.
- 2. Rice wine.
- 3. Risoni.
- 4. Roast. 5. Roe.
- 6. Rump steak.



Here is my challenge for you this month:

- 1. A mixture of highly seasoned meats baked in an oblong container, lined with bacon and enclosed with a tight fitting lid?
- 2. Classic lobster dish. The lobster tail is split lengthways, the lobster flesh is removed, chopped and mixed with mustard cream sauce and browned in a hot oven, in the lobster tail?
- 3. To add flour, egg yolks to make a roux and give body to a sauce or soup?
- 4. Deep fried pieces of vegetables, fish, prawns which are coated in a thin batter of egg and ice cold water and
- 5. A universal beverage made from the dried leaves of Camellia Sinensis?
- 6. A traditional glazed terracotta cooking pot with a tall conical lid?

No bowl choc bit slice



Ingredients

90 gm of butter/marg, melted, 100gm of plain sweet biscuit crumbs, 285gm of dark choc bits, 70 gm of shredded coconut, 140gm of granulated nuts, 395gm can of sweetened condensed

Preheat your oven to 160 deg C.

Grease a 23cm square pan, lightly, and line the base and sides with baking paper.

Pour the melted butter/marg over the base of the prepared pan and sprinkle evenly with the biscuit crumbs, choc bits, coconut and nuts.

Drizzle with condensed milk. Bake in the preheated oven for 35 minutes.

Cool in the pan on a wire rack before slicing into pieces.

Barramundi a l'orange



Ingredients

4 barramundi fillets, 2 tbs of rice bran oil, 1 small jar/can of anchovy fillets, drained (optional), 2 tbs of butter/marg, 2 tbs of grated orange rind, 2 tbs of orange juice, cracked black pepper, 4 thin orange slices.

Brush the barramundi fillets on both sides with the oil and place in a medium pan.

Cook for 4 minutes in the pan under your griller. Now turn the fillets over and arrange anchovy fillets (if using) over the top and spoon the butter/marg over the barrumundi fillets.

Sprinkle with the grated orange rind and juice, season with the cracked pepper. Now place your pan under the pre-heated grill for 5 minutes until the fillets are cooked through. Serve topped with orange slices and a little fresh parsley chopped.

Florentines



Ingredients

120 gm of sultanas, 80gm of corn flakes, 100gm granulated nuts, 100gm of coarsely chopped glace cherries,160 ml of sweetened condensed milk, 150gm of dark chocolate.

Preheat your oven to 160 deg C.

Line 2 oven trays with baking paper.

Combine sultanas, corn flakes, peanuts, cherries and condensed milk in a large

Drop rounded ths of mixture, about 5cm apart on the lined oven trays.

Bake for 5 minutes in the preheated oven. Leave the Florentines to cool on the trays. Melt the chocolate in 20 second increments in a medium bowl in the microwave.

Spread the cooled Florentine bases with the melted chocolate. Allow to set at room temperature. Store in an airtight container.

Recipe for friendship



Ingredients

1/4 cup of kindness, 2/3 cup of compassion, 1 tsp of speaking your mind, 2 tbs of listening, 3 cups of laughter, a large amount of trust.

Now all you have to do is:

Blend in a good measure of honesty. Crack a joke or two to taste. Sift the truth from a mixed bag of gossip and rumour. Mix well but do not stir. Sweeten with compliments. Thoroughly warm with good will. Give out generous portions. Serve with smiles. (Author unknown)

Apple and pork sausage rolls



Ingredients:

1 unpeeled apple (180gm), grated, 500 gm of pork and beef mince, 80gm of finely grated dried Parmesan, 70 gms of breadcrumbs, 1 tbs of wholegrain mustard, 2 tbs of dried thyme, cracked black pepper to taste, 2 eggs, 3 sheets of puff pastry, just thawed, 1 tbs of dried thyme for sprinkling over top, sriracha chilli sauce, (optional) to

Preheat your oven to 200 deg C. Grease and line a large oven tray with baking paper. Grate the unpeeled apple and squeeze the excess moisture from the flesh. Combine the mince, parmesan, breadcrumbs, grated apple, mustard, thyme and 1 lightly beaten egg in a large bowl. Season with cracked black pepper to taste. Lightly beat the remaining egg in a small bowl. Place 1 sheet of pastry on your work bench. Place 1/3rd of the filling lengthways down one side of the pastry, 3/4" (1.5cm) from the edge. Brush pastry edge with a little egg and roll to form a sausage roll. Trim and discard excess pastry. Repeat these steps with the remaining pastry sheets and filling mixture. Cut each roll in half. Place each roll seam side down on the prepared tray, brush tops with the egg and sprinkle with extra thyme. Bake rolls for 25 minutes or until the pastry is golden and cooked through. Serve with sriracha (optional).

Quinoa, cheese damper

Ingredients:

50gm of quinoa (mixed colour), 450gm of wholemeal self raising flour, 1 dsp of salt, 40gm of butter/marg, 50gm buckwheat, 2 tbs of linseeds/ flaxseeds, 2 tbs of pepitas (pumpkin seed kernels), 90gm grated tasty cheese, 125ml of milk.

Preheat oven to 180 deg C. Line an oven tray with a sheet of baking paper and sprinkle with wholemeal flour. Place quinoa in 1/2 cup of boiling water in a heatproof bowl and let stand for 20 minutes. Drain well. Place the flour and salt in a large bowl. Rub in the butter/marg with your fingertips. Stir in the soaked quinoa. Follow with the buckwheat, linseeds, pepitas and grated cheese. Stir in the milk and 180ml of water, just enough to mix to a soft dough. Knead the dough on a floured surface until just smooth. Place the dough on the prepared tray and press into a 16cm (6 and 1/2") round. Brush with a little extra milk. Cut a 1cm (1/2") deep cross in top of the dough. Bake in the preheated oven for 50 minutes, turning the tray halfway through the cooking time and continue to bake until golden and sounds hollow when tapped on the base. If damper is made ahead, reheat the damper before serving, wrapping it in foil and warming through in a preheated oven (150 deg C) for 15 minutes.



Strzelecki Showtime





57th Strzelecki Showtime Presents "The Siren's Torment".

Strzelecki Showtime is an annual original musical theatre production, written, directed, produced and performed by the Scouts of the Latrobe Valley and

This year's production, "The Siren's Torment" will see over 75 local young people on stage, as well as around 60 backstage, entertaining audiences at the

new Gippsland Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon in October.

"The Siren's Torment" is described as "Ahoy, adventure awaits! When mutiny rocks the high seas, it starts a chain reaction of events until the newly appointed Navy Commodore launches a war on piracy, the pirates have to live up to the pirate code and defend their

Anchors aweigh for an unforgettable adventure,



set during the golden age of piracy, this familyfriendly show is written and performed by the Scouts of Gippsland. Join Strzelecki Showtime for their 57th annual performance, "The Torment", Siren's discover whether the love of piracy can truly conquer all challenges on the open sea." Performance dates are

Thursday October 23,

7.30pm Friday October

7.30pm

Saturday October 25, 1.30pm and 7.30pm

Tickets are \$28 (full) and \$25 (concession) and are available via the Gippsland Performing Arts Centre box office www.latrobe.vic.gov. au/gpac/home

For more information please visit strzeleckishowtime. com.au or email the Producer **Tammy** Napier via producer@ strzeleckishowtime.com.au

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My First Speech competition

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Milton Dick MP and Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester have launched the "My First Speech" competition for Gippsland schools.

This national competition challenges students in years 10, 11, and 12 to envision themselves as newly elected Members of the House of Representatives and record a 90-second speech on video, focusing on a topic of their choosing.

The winning entrant from each year group, accompanied by a parent or guardian, will be flown to Canberra to deliver their speeches live at Parliament House and participate in an engaging program tailored to deepen

their understanding of the legislative process.

Mr Chester said the "My First Speech" competition is an exciting opportunity for Gippsland students to shine a national spotlight on the issues that matter most to them.

"The students participating in this competition will be our local leaders of tomorrow, and I am excited to give them a head start on their futures with this program," he said.

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Milton Dick, said promoting parliamentary education to students across the country has been a key priority as Speaker.

"One of my key priorities as Speaker has been to promote parliamentary education to students across the country,

and this is yet another exciting way that young people can take an active role in our democratic system," Mr Dick

"This competition will provide high school students with the chance to learn more about the way our nation's democracy works, and how actively engaging with the parliamentary process can draw attention to the issues that are most important to them."

The submission deadline for the competition is set for 11.59pm AEST on Monday, September 15, 2025.

To learn more about the competition and submit their entries, students can visit the dedicated competition website:www.aph.gov.au/ myfirstspeech.



Boolarra Primary



Book Week - Book An Adventure!

We all had a fantastic time celebrating Book Week with our dress-up parade, engaging activities, Special Assembly. The students looked amazing in their costumes, and everyone enjoyed the fun-filled events. It was a wonderful way to

share our love of reading together.

Camp

Recently, our Year 3-6 students headed off to Waratah Bay for three days of fun, adventure, and learning together. From the moment we arrived, students embraced every activity with enthusiasm and a positive

One of the highlights was a 6km beach walk to the rock pools, where students explored the shoreline and discovered a range of sea creatures. The giant swing was another favourite every student gave it a go, showing enormous courage determination. Staff

were so proud to see students encouraging one another and celebrating each attempt.

Evenings filled with special camp traditions, including roasting marshmallows around the campfire, and taking a night walk along the beach in search of crabs. During the day, teamwork and communication were put to the test in the initiatives course, where students supported each other to solve challenges. The sand sculpture competition and beach games added plenty of creativity, laughter, and friendly rivalry.

All students fantastic time

represented wonderfully. Staff especially impressed with their excellent behaviour, encouragement of one another, and willingness to try new experiences. It was a camp full of fun, resilience, and shared memories that we know students will remember for years to come.









SCHOOL news

Yinnar Primary School the students were involved in the re-launch of Grace introducing two clearly defined Learner Traits to accompany each

Throughout term, teachers have been gradually introducing these traits to students, helping them understand and apply them in their learning.

Growth Mindset Practising and Recovering Collaborating

Aim High - Accepting and Evaluating

Curiosity - Questioning and Experimenting

Enthusiasm Immersing and Connecting GRACE

Grade 1 / 2

We have been talking a lot about the learning trait evaluating. It requires students to aim high! Learners who display this

Respect - Leading and trait think about the quality of their learning and make improvements to ensure it is the best it can be. Once it is the best it can be they look for the next step to take their learning to new heights.

Grade 3 /4

After our relaunch day at the end of last term, our students are delving deeper into the learning traits to understand how they assist us to be more resilient,

resourceful and reflective learners. These traits are being included during lessons as well as having a focus trait each week.

Grade 5/6

We recently celebrated the relaunch of our core values with a fun and engaging day of hands-on learning rotations.

Each activity focused on one of our five values-Growth Mindset, Respect, Aim High, Curiosity, and

Enthusiasm and introduced students to the new learning traits that now support them. The day was fantastic.

Foundation News

Our Foundation students celebrated their 100 days of school. Their achievements in their 100 days of school have been so exciting to

> Grade 1/2 News Insects Incursion! At the start of Term 3,

we started learning about insects in our English unit. We had Sam from Labcoat Learning come and visit our school with insects. Students got to hold and feed butterflies, use magnifying glasses to inspect live and dead insects, explore "warning colours" that insects have, make insects out of clay, and learn about the different parts of an insect. We all had a wonderful time!









SCHOOL NEWS

Churchill North Primary



STEM

The Grade 3/4s were investigating gravity as part of their study of forces alongside magnetism and the effects of friction. They had already experimented by dropping different-sized balloons and had learned about the effect of atmospheric pressure on falling objects. They learned that a feather and a hammer dropped on the moon fell at the same

rate since there was no atmosphere. The experiment in the photographs was to investigate why an object falls faster, the further it falls. Why is it safe to jump off the second or third step of a staircase but not off the school roof?

Students dropped marbles from various heights into flour, predicting and recording the size of the crater it produced. They discovered from their results

that the higher the drop, the bigger the crater. They were able to conclude that the higher the drop, the faster the speed at which it fell. This is because the higher the drop, the longer there was for gravity to act upon the falling object and so the faster it went.

Xavier said, "When the small marbles fell from a higher height they made a bigger crater than the bigger marbles falling from a lower height. Stem is really fun because I really like doing hands on activities".

Ben said, "I didn't know that a piece of cardboard could hold the weight of a cup of water when turned upside down. I really like Stem, we do really fun things".

Alex said, "The heavier the item gets the less the gravity is, the higher you drop something the bigger the crater is. Stem and science experiments are very exciting, I really enjoy doing them".

100 Days Of School "100 days of Growing" theme.

The students did lots of activities throughout the day to highlight the amazing growth they had made. We counted different collections of objects using tens frames, tally marks and number lines. We wrote about our favourite things at school, all the new

learning we did. Charlotte stated her favourite thing she has learnt was counting by 10s. Hunter stated his favourite thing he has learnt was whole body listening and counting to 100. At the end of the day, each student planted a special plant to take home so they could watch it continue to grow over the next two terms. The students loved their special day and were super proud of how much they had learnt.











SCHOOL news

Yinnar South Primary

Yinnar South Primary gets bubbly for Science Week

Recently, Yinnar South Primary School was buzzing with excitement as students celebrated Science Week with a range of hands-on experiments and activities.

One of the highlights

was the chance for students to make their very own lava lamps. Using oil, water, food colouring, and fizzing tablets, the young scientists were able to watch colourful bubbles float and dance, sparking conversations about density and chemical

reactions. The classroom quickly filled with "wows" and "look at mine!" as the lamps lit up in bright shades of red, green, and blue.

Adding to the fun, the school also created the popular experiment known as elephant toothpaste. With

foam erupting dramatically from bottles, students learned about how yeast speeds up a chemical reaction and creates gas, leading to the frothy explosion. Teachers said the activity encouraged curiosity and teamwork, while giving students a chance to see science in action.

Senior Camp

Meanwhile, the senior cohort enjoyed a different kind of learning experience on their camp to Waratah. The camp offered outdoor adventures, team-building activities, and opportunities

for students to challenge themselves in a new environment. From beach walks to group challenges, the trip was a chance for students to build resilience, independence, and lasting friendships.





CPS Sports Wrap-Up

CPS girls compete at

Gippsland Soccer Finals

soccer team represented

the school at the Gippsland

Region Soccer Finals after

progressing through two

earlier rounds. The team

At Hazelwood North

Primary School, we have

been having a great Term

3. We began the term by

celebrating 100 days of

school for our Foundation

students. Our whole school

was full of 'old people' as

well as some other very

creative ideas like celebrating

100 years of Disney and

In our junior grades,

Literacy and Numeracy

lessons were all about the

number 100. In the afternoon

everyone joined in with some

whole school activities led by

the senior grades, including

making a whole school

poster '100 reasons why we

enjoyed celebrating and

surprising our wonderful

principal Mrs. Connolly on

Principal's Day. She received

and gifts of appreciation

from students and staff in

and around her office, to

handmade cards

Students and teachers

Western Bulldogs.

love school!'

many

proudly showcased

Primary

In July, the Churchill

School girls'

their

Churchill Primary Book Week brings stories to Yinnar and District football

Churchill

life at CPS

School recently celebrated

Book Week with a colourful

parade, where students and

staff dressed up as their

favourite book characters.

The day included mixed

year-level activities based on

the Children's Book Council

Primary

of Australia (CBCA) Book of the Year short-listed titles, with older students supporting their younger peers. Throughout the week, students also enjoyed a range of fun challenges, including scavenger hunts at recess and lunch such as Where's

Wally? and searching for

characters

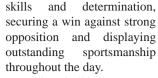
hidden book

around the playground to solve riddles.

Captions:

Far Left: CPS girls' soccer team Below: CPS staff dressed up for the

Below left: Book Week prize winners Below: CPS mixed netball team with



Mixed Netball Team victors in recent Yinnar and District Competition

Recently, Churchill Primary School's Grade 5/6 students took part in the

teamwork and determination. The highlight came in the mixed netball finals, where Churchill secured a welldeserved victory over Yinnar Primary School.

and netball competition.

All teams gave their best

on the day, showing great









SCHOOL news

whole school. Jett, Mason, Carter, Ashton, Noah, Lachlan, Oliver and Dylan represented our school to compete at District Basketball Competition. The team worked extremely hard prior to the game, training through many lunch times in preparation.

and love that she has for our

They won two out of three games, working so well together showing teamwork and sportsmanship. We thank Daniel Becket for helping to coach the team on the day. Congratulations to the team in their efforts and great

As part of our learning, students are encouraged to read at home. It has been great to see so many students becoming reading champions receiving their Responsibility postcards for achieving their reading nights.

As part of our learning

for Bullying No Way, we dressed in bold colours and patterns. All students attended an online session by Kids Helpline on bullying and what they can do to recognise and stop it.

Recently, the whole school was excited to dress up for their favourite time of the year 'Book Week'. The variety of costumes and the effort put in was truly amazing. Mrs. Morgan and her team worked tirelessly with some of our senior students in the weeks leading up to plan, prepare and lead learning activities connected to books written by Claire Saxby, that were enjoyed by our whole school during multi age rotations.

It was a fabulous day that the whole school community enjoyed.

The students were also very excited to have a visit from our school mascot. Stay tuned for the results of our competition to name our Koala.

Hazelwood North Primary







CHOOL NEW Kurnai University Campus

Senior District Basketball

On Monday July 28, Senior Basketball our headed to the teams GRISS to compete in the SSV District Round - and what an impressive day of competition it was.

Senior Girls

The senior girls faced an unconventional competition structure, playing Maffra twice in a four-quarter match-up. Despite going down in the first half and having to make up an eightpoint deficit, the girls came out determined in the second term.

They fought hard and gave it everything, narrowly missing progression to the next round by just two points. It was a gutsy performance full of heart, and the team should be extremely proud of their

A special shout out to Precious for her leadership as captain, and to Leandra, who stepped onto the court for her first-ever game of basketball and wowed everyone with her natural ability and determination.

Senior Boys

The boys' team had a jam-packed day with four scheduled matches. They kicked off strongly with a 35-27 win against Maffra, followed by another

solid performance against Traralgon College, winning by nine points. In their third game, they took on Sale and claimed another victory with a 27–19 result.

With three wins under their belt, it all came down to the final game against the always-strong SEDA. Trailing by 12 points at half-time, the boys had a mountain to climb.

For many, this was possibly their last 12 minutes of school sport - the final chapter of 13 years of school competition. They rose to the challenge.

In a second half performance full of grit, heart and determination, they clawed their way back to a thrilling one-point victory, earning themselves a place at the district finals in the coming weeks.

Special thanks to Darcy for captaining the side with calm confidence, and to every player for their incredible teamwork and camaraderie throughout the

Finally, a massive thank you to Rachelle, our "scorer of all scorers," who clocked an impressive six games on the scoresheet. She, too, is well and truly ready for

Well done to all involved!



Senior Formal

On Friday August 1, our 2025 Senior Students lit up the Australian Italian Club in Morwell for our muchanticipated Senior Formal. With over 170 students in attendance, the room was bursting with energy, style, and excitement.

The theme, Rio de Janeiro Carnival, brought a spectacular burst of colour, with vibrant decorations, rave sticks, and dazzling lights setting the perfect backdrop. A top-tier DJ kept the dance floor alive all night long, delivering nonstop music that had everyone moving.

The night was more than just incredible outfits and epic tunes - it was about celebrating each other, making memories, and sharing in the joy of our school years. One of highlights was the



presentation of the Formal 2025 Awards.

From the laughter and cherished for years, Senior our group's spirit.

dancing to the friendships Formal and photos that will be

unforgettable celebration of





Giving and Growing at Lumen Christi Churchill

The students at Lumen Christi Primary School have been very busy learning and growing in so many ways as they have begun Term 3. At the end of Term 2 they finished the term with a wonderful show of compassion for others in our

community by collecting 320 cans of food for the local St Vincent De Paul Society, as they focused on social justice and things they can do to help those less fortunate than themselves. The cans were presented to local Vinnies volunteer Catherine Campbell at the end of term Mass and she was blown

away by the effort families had gone to for the cause.

Some of the happenings in Term 3 have included students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 participating in District Basketball. They trained hard leading up to the event, really enjoyed the challenge of the day and were praised for their efforts as they displayed the school-wide expectations throughout the day and had remarkable sportsmanship.

Lumen Christi Prep students had a wonderful celebration for their 100 days of school as they celebrated and reflected on 100 days of learning, laughing and growing together. From counting and making numerous collections of 100, dressing up like 100-year-olds and parading for the school to completing a scavenger hunt for 100





hidden lemons, Prep students showed just how much they have achieved since the first day of school and really enjoyed their special day.

Lumen Christi was also a lucky recipient of two Buddy seats which were kindly made, donated and delivered by the Traralgon Men's shed. Frank and Sam loved bringing these

to the school and seeing the smiling faces of the students upon receiving these great additions to the playground. They are already being used and will be a welcome place for students to sit until a buddy arrives and asks them to join their game or activity.

One final addition to Term 3 at Lumen Christi

has been Yoga! Mental It is a wonderful way to Health and Wellbeing Leader Mrs Adams has started running Yoga sessions for groups of students each week. All children will get to experience some Yoga sessions, either in Term 3 or Term 4 and they are absolutely loving them!

enhance flexibility, strength and coordination, while also promoting focus, selfregulation, and emotional control - all very important things for students in a learning environment. What a great positive difference for children at Lumen Christi



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CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

SPORT

Churchill Baseball Club - Braves U16s



Churchill & Monash Golf Club

Men's Monthly Medal (Stroke) July 26, 2025.

Monthly Medal Winner: N. Erasmus 69 Nett Scratch Winner: J. Cahill 85

Putts: G. Harvey 27 A
Grade: N. Erasmus 69 Nett
B Grade: G. Harvey 76 Nett
C Grade: T. Collins 76 Nett
D.T.L: 1. B. Cluderay 73,
2. G. Leahy 74, 3. J. Cahill
74, 4. R. King 74, 5. T.
O'Sullivan 75, 6. P. Kearns
75, 7. G. Maddocks 75, 8. J.
McCafferty 76, 9. G. Barnes
77 c/b N.T.P: 3rd B. Kilday
(Propin), 12th A. Auld, 14th
G. Maddocks Target Hole: P.
Flanigan

Stableford Tuesday July 29, 2025.

Winner: S. Caldwell 30pts

3 Person Ambrose August 2, 2025.

Winners: D. Byers/M.
Lugton/P. Kearns 63.833
NettA A Grade: N. Erasmus
69 Nett B Grade: G.
Harvey 76 Nett C Grade: T.
Collins 76 Nett D.T.L: 1. T.

Collins/A. Auld/B. Kilday 66.833, 2. D. Shields/P. Flanigan/C. Sterrick 67.333 Nett, 3. J. Sands/C. Waring/G. Barnes 68.833 Nett c/b N.T.P: 3rd D. Byers, 5th C. Waring, 12th A. Auld (Propin), 14th M. Brereton

Women's Monthly Medal (Stroke) Tuesday August 5, 2025.

Medal Winner: S. Caldwell 74 Nett Scratch Winner: S. Caldwell 98

Putts: V. Reid 27 D.T.L: M. Dear 81 Nett N.T.P: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th V. Reid, 12th M. Dear, 14th C. Carder

Stroke August 9, 2025.

Scratch Winner: J.
Langstaff 86 A Grade
Winner: A. Jenkins 75 Nett

B Grade: P. Bolding 70 Nett C Grade: M. Hutchinson 71 Nett

D.T.L: 1. R. Sands 73, 2. R. Davidson 73, 3. G. Corponi 74, 4. M. Soppe 74, 5. G. Leahy 75 N.T.P: 3rd R. Harvey (Propin), 12th J. Langstaff, 14th R. King

Stableford Tuesday August 12, 2025.

Winner: K. Del Piccolo 36 pts c/b D.T.L: 1. S. Caldwell 36 pts

N.T.P: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th M.Dear, 12th K. Piccolo, 14th S. Caldwell

Stableford pairs Multiplication August 16, 2025.

Winners: A. Jenkins/G. Byer 71 pts Runners Up: C. Waring/M. Hutchinson 51 pts D.T.L: 1. D. Taylor/D. Burridge 49, 2. M. Smith/R. Madigan 49, 3. P. Bolding/P. Kearns 47, 4. I. Heppleston/R. Davidson 44 c/b N.T.P: 3rd G. Sanders, 5th D. Cluderay, 12th A. Jenkins Target Hole – R. Madigan

Stableford Tuesday August 19, 2025.

Winner: R. Dent 31 pts D.T.L: M. Hutchinson 30 pts N.T.P: 3rd C. Barnes, 5th S. Caldwell, 12th M. Dear, 14th M. Dear

Braves U16s set for Grand Final after perfect season

The Churchill Braves U16s have delivered a season to remember, going through the home-and-away rounds undefeated and now marching into the Grand Final which, at the time of print, will have just been played.

They have shown that baseball is about so much more than wins. For this group of kids-turned-young-adults, the year has been defined by friendships, resilience, and memories that will last a lifetime.

A team that stuck together. Coach Gregg Duncan said it has been a privilege to guide such a special group.

"The team has come together really well, and the commitment from everyone to make it to games has been awesome," he said. "Coadhey and Ca'Del even travel down from Pakenham each week to play with mates they met through the Melbourne Summer League. With such

a talented group showing leadership on and off the diamond, they have honestly taught me more than I can teach them."

The Braves have been fortunate to field an U16 side stacked with talent — with seven to nine players boasting representative experience. That mix of skill, dedication, and character has been the backbone of their success.

Voices from the players

For many of the team, the best part of wearing the Braves uniform is the sense of belonging. "It feels like one big family," said Blake McKinnon, while Ca'Del Schwalger highlighted that "everyone is friendly and inclusive."

The players also created plenty of highlights along the way. Blake recalled the thrill of hitting his first-ever home run against Sale, Beau spoke about his clutch outfield catch in the U15 SWC semi-final, while Hunter Duncan pointed to his time representing Latrobe Valley.

Coadhey, in just his first season, proudly remembered pulling on the LVBA colours at the U17 carnival, and Ca'Del cherished his selection for the Melbourne Rangers baseball charter.

Learning lessons through baseball

The U16 Braves know the game is not always easy, but each challenge has become a lesson.

"It is okay to fail — it is how you respond," Hunter explained.

Coadhey said he has learned to "slow the game down, especially after a strikeout," while Ca'Del focuses on resetting and listening to advice. Beau credited the game with teaching him patience, and Blake said baseball has helped him learn to "just breathe and try again."

These lessons extend well beyond the diamond — teaching teamwork, resilience, and perseverance.

Looking ahead

The team is ambitious about the future.

SPORT

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

set for Grand Final after perfect season



Coadhey hopes to keep climbing to higher levels, Hunter wants to test himself at the top of the game, and Blake dreams of one day playing alongside his uncle and dad in the seniors.

They also had words of encouragement for the next generation of Braves. "Commit to what you are doing," said Beau. "Find the position that suits you — or become the player who can play them all," added Blake. Hunter's advice was simple: "It is fun to play and challenges you to be mentally strong." Ca'Del summed it up best: "Baseball is a great way to make friends. You also learn patience and resilience."

Wrapping up

No matter the result of the Grand Final, the Braves U16s have already made their mark with an unbeaten season. More importantly, they have proven that baseball is about far more than the scoreboard — it is about mateship, growth, and building a strong future for the sport in the Latrobe Valley.

Braves juniors shine at State Winter Championships

The Churchill Braves had plenty to celebrate this winter, with a strong group of juniors and seniors proudly representing the Latrobe Valley Baseball Association (LVBA) at the Baseball Victoria State Winter Championships. From Wangaratta to Bendigo, Churchill members showcased their talent, teamwork, and pride in the LVBA uniform - returning with lessons. home highlights, and memories to last a lifetime.

Club pride across all levels Club President Gregg Duncan said he could not be prouder of the players and families who committed their time to representative baseball.

"Our members not only represented the Latrobe Valley but did our club proud," he said. "The numbers we had across the teams were fantastic, and the way they carried themselves on and off the diamond showed what Churchill is all about."

The Braves were represented by two senior players, Brad Jones and Daniel Harris, in Geelong, though heavy rain unfortunately washed out much of that carnival.

At the U17 level, Churchill had an incredible seven players — Jarrod and Jack Thomas, Liam and Blake Duncan, Riley Duncan, Connor McKenzie, and Coadhey Rebbechi. The side travelled to Bendigo and went through the undefeated, tournament playing outstanding baseball all weekend. Riley summed it up best: "Coming together as a team and winning the whole thing was the best part." Connor added that the carnival reminded him, "I play better when I am not down on myself."

U15s crowned Champions

The U15s, hosted locally in the Latrobe Valley, bounced back strongly after dropping their opening game, going on to claim the State Division 2 Championship. Churchill was again well represented, with Coadhey Rebbechi, Hunter Duncan, Beau Saddington, Conner Gray, Blake Duncan, EO Brooke Duncan, head coach Gregg Duncan, and assistant coach Brad Jones all playing

vital roles in the title run. There were unforgettable highlights along the way - including Hunter's walkoff hit in the semi-final and Coadhey's chance to pitch the Grand Final. "I learnt that I can pitch pretty well," Coadhey said, while Hunter reflected: "I am better than I think I am."

U13s gain valuable experience

For the U13s, the journey to Wangaratta provided a fantastic learning opportunity against strong opposition. Braves juniors Roy Williams, Hudson Duncan, and Beau Saddington all gained valuable experience, with highlights including first hits, double plays, and pitching opportunities. Hudson also enjoyed being bat boy for the U15s and celebrating his brother's walk-off moment: "Keep working hard and the hits will come," he said.

Roy spoke about the chance to make new friends and learn from different coaches, admitting: "I need to swing the bat more instead of letting strikes go by." Meanwhile, Beau capped off a big carnival by making the U13 All Star Team, proving himself across both U13 and U15 levels.

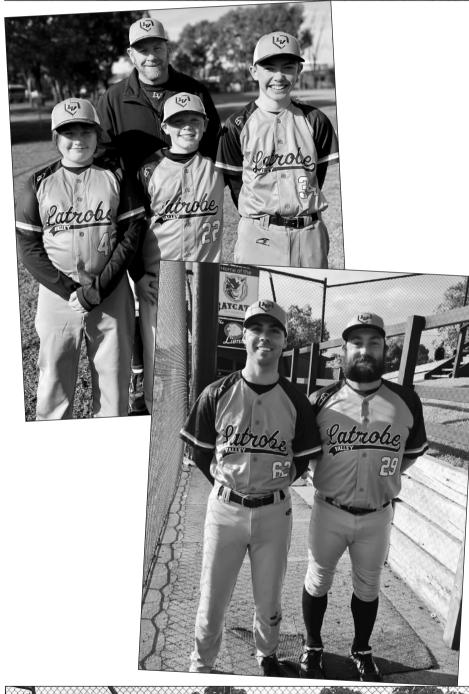
Building Futures

Whether it was walk-off hits, All Star selections, or the simple joy of pulling on the LVBA jersey, each player returned home with new confidence and motivation. More importantly, they built friendships and gained lessons that will serve them both on and off the diamond. As President

Gregg Duncan summed up:

"With so many Churchill players involved across every age group, it shows the strength of our club and the bright future we have ahead."









Churchill Fire Brigade

CFA and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) are urging all Victorians to check hotspots in the kitchen to avoid becoming victims of fire.

Churchill CFA Captain Matt Fisher has reminded householders to be particularly careful if cooking with oil or fat, as it may reach a temperature where it ignites.

"It crucial constantly check oil when cooking, as it has the potential to start fires very Cooking auickly. still remains one of the top causes of house fires, and this can be easily avoided,"

Captain Matt has also said that most scalds and burns that occur as a result of kitchen fires are easily preventable.

Home Fire Safety "In the event of a fire, it is important to remember to smother the flames rather

than pour water on them, as this can cause the flames to spread quickly and violently and burn you or those around you", he said.

The CFA and FRV recommend the following to avoid cooking becoming a recipe for disaster this winter:

unattended

*turn pot handles away from the stove edge

*keep stoves free of grease and fat build-up

*hang tea-towels away from the stove

tight-fitting *wear sleeves when cooking

*ensure the exhaust fan above the stove is clean and free of grease and fat build-

*have a fire blanket and extinguisher in the kitchen

*ensure your smoke alarm is working

*have a fire escape plan

in place

More information on home fire safety can be found at cfa.vic.gov.au/planprepare/fires-in-the-home

Summer Preparations

We have heard a lot about the rainfall deficit that we have had compared to a normal year, so this means that despite us still being in winter and having had some recent rain, the ground is still very dry under the top layer.

In some locations in South Gippsland, the current measure of ground dryness is at a level that we would normally see at the start of

summer. This means that we will tend to see our grasslands curing (drying off) a lot faster than usual, so we may see grass and other fine fuel available to burn earlier than is usually expected.

It is also a reason that we are seeing a number of recent grass fires spreading, and some burn-offs escaping despite the current weather.

With this in mind, we need to start preparing for this summer and taking actions to prepare our property to minimise the risk of fire.

Prepare your property



furniture. Move woodpiles and mulch away from windows, decks and

Prune tree branches so they are not overhanging the roof or touching walls

Clean your gutters to get rid of any leaf/branch Keep grass shorter than

10cm. Regularly remove leaves and twigs Do not have plants

higher than 10cm in front of windows or glass doors Check that your home

and contents insurance is

of cover in line with current building standards regulations

Find out more about property preparation on CFA's website cfa.vic.gov. au/plan-prepare/how-toprepare-your-property

Keep burn-offs safe and legal

Check and monitor conditions weather particularly wind - on the day of your burn and the days afterwards as fires can flare up in windy conditions

Notify your neighbours

Never leave a burn-off unattended - stay for its entire duration

Find out more CFA's website cfa.vic.gov. au/plan-prepare/how-toprepare-your-property





