



# CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

Happy Christmas

"Connecting Your Community"

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Book Launch invite - p 8



HVP Fire season prep - p 17



Disc Golf - p 23



Churchill Fire Brigade - p 25

## Thank you ...

December is here and how the year has disappeared!

This is the time we extend our thanks to those who have made the production of Churchill & District News possible. Without their help, we would not exist.

Our advertisers are amazing in their ongoing support of the paper. The income from advertising pays for the production and distribution. Many of our advertisers put in regular ads to support the paper. Their backing is most appreciated.

Next we thank our article suppliers, especially those who regularly supply their reports from their groups- including Hazekwood cemetery, Looking Back history, our local parks, schools, churches, service clubs, conservationists, sports, artists, book reviewers, safety tips, Churchill Fire Brigade, health needs and supports, with recipes from Noelene plus more. The community appreciates the range of articles we have each month.

This year we have run our writing competition for the primary schools which was reported in our paper. We have some amazing talent among our young writers. Another cook book has been produced and launched featuring Noelene's recipes tip and hints. Those books are available locally and would be a wonderful Christmas gift.

Please see the list of places you can obtain a copy. Page 18

In October we celebrated our 250th edition of Churchill & District News since going digital in November 2002.

A very grateful thanks is extended to our readers who give us a lot of positive feedback.

To the C&DN team, a massive thank you for the work done to keep the paper produced each month, and our community informed, as well as the other activities in which we participate.

To our community, we wish you all a peaceful, happy, safe Christmas and may 2026 be a wonderful year for you.



## Shop Local Market fun



Lots of fun was had at the Shop Local Market on Dec 6 including a visit from Santa, face painting, Fairy Merrin's bubbles and shopping voucher giveaways. Lots of stalls showcased their wares. Lions and CFA provided free sausages.

### Lions Australia Day Arrangements

Churchill Place, Phillip Parade, Churchill  
(Will move to the Churchill Community Hall if wet)

Start 8.00 am and finish 10.30 am

- Flag raising ceremony by Churchill Scout Group at 8.00 am
- Music by local musician
- Announcement of Churchill Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year at 8.30 am
- Free community breakfast
- The Gippsland Historical Automobile Clubs Inc. will have vehicles on show

Contact: Bill Hurenkamp, Churchill Lions Club 0418 327 287



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EDITORIAL

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PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842  
Or Email: [cdneditorial@cdnews.com.au](mailto:cdneditorial@cdnews.com.au)  
All articles must be submitted by the 25th of each month for publication in the next issue.



MEMBER 2025

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Winners announced for 2026 #lovegippsland calendar competition

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester has announced the winners of his 2026 #lovegippsland calendar competition, following another outstanding collection of photographs showcasing the beauty of the region.

This year's theme, 'Iconic Gippsland', challenged entrants to capture the essence of the region — from rugged coastlines and mountain peaks to vibrant country towns and tranquil waterways. The competition received hundreds of submissions from talented local photographers.

Mr Chester said the standard of entries was once again exceptional, making the judging process particularly difficult.

"Choosing the winning photographs is always a tough job because Gippsland offers such incredible scenery, and our local photographers consistently capture it so beautifully," Mr Chester said.

"The three winning images for the 2026

Calendar winners

#lovegippsland Calendar Competition, together with the 13 photographs selected to feature in the calendar, celebrate the diversity, vibrancy and natural beauty of our region."

The winners of the 2026 #lovegippsland calendar competition are:

- Sue Allison – One of the Locals
- Samantha Wells – Nature's Sculptures
- The Gordon Family – Sheep Waiting Their Turn

Each winner will receive a curated hamper of Gippsland-made products, while all selected photographers will have their work featured in the free calendar distributed across the region.

More than 30,000 copies of the 2026 #lovegippsland Calendar will be available at Mr Chester's offices in Traralgon and Sale, along with community hubs, visitor centres and local businesses throughout Gippsland.

Mr Chester thanked all entrants for their contributions.

"Thank you to everyone who submitted their photos — your images not only showcase your talent but



Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester has announced the 2026 #lovegippsland 'Iconic Gippsland' calendar competition winners.

also your affection for inspired by the pride and Gippsland and what it love for our region that means to call this region shines through in every home," Mr Chester said. entry."

"Each year, I am

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Rainfall



Churchill Rainfall

Throughout the month of November we have again received almost 1/5 of this year's rainfall. Churchill has received a total of 132.5mm of rain over approximately 14 days for the entire month. For the second month in a row this is abnormally higher than previous years. The annual rainfall to date stands at 672.5mm. Between the wet and the bursts of heat, how will the gardens adjust?

Hazelwood South

Good to know that the weather still knows how to

rain properly. November had 80% more rain than the monthly average, with 141mm. The Latrobe Valley weather station was 7% wetter with 151mm. The ground water level has improved, and the 2025 rain deficit has decreased from -18% to -5%. The soil has not saturated, with little water in drains and low areas. Weeding and keeping the grass short is a major task, and preparation for the bushfires season remains a priority.

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## Wooreen Energy Storage System -Taking Shape at Hazelwood North



Construction is well underway on the Wooreen Energy Storage System project. Located at Bonds Lane Hazelwood North near EnergyAustralia's Jeeralang Power Station, the Wooreen project is delivering a strong economic boost to the Gippsland region, supporting Victoria's energy reliability, and will enable more renewable energy to enter the electricity network.

When completed in 2027, Wooreen will be a utility-scale battery with a capacity of 350 MW and four hours duration.

Banpu Energy Australia is EnergyAustralia's Wooreen equity partner, with a 50% equity interest in the Wooreen Energy Storage System (WESS).

Since construction commenced in March, our construction partner ZENVIRON and their contractors have been busy with initial works including:

- Site preparation: Created a level, stable area for battery installation using heavy machinery.
- Water management: Built drains and a retention dam to capture and treat water on site.
- Electrical works: Installed underground conduits for the transformer bay and commenced work on conduit installation for Wooreen's battery units.
- Equipment testing: Project team experts have completed performance tests on key components before manufacturing begins.

Throughout the summer months, work will continue on the construction of Wooreen.

Heavier than normal traffic volumes will continue along Monash Way, Tramway Road and Bonds Lane.

Please take care, particularly when travelling along Bonds Lane near the Wooreen site.

We do not anticipate any impacts on local traffic over the summer months. If the situation changes, we will advise the community well in advance of any likely impact.



If you have any questions or concerns about Wooreen's construction, please call us on our 24/7 project number 1800 574947

or

email: [community.wooreen@energyaustralia.com.au](mailto:community.wooreen@energyaustralia.com.au)

To learn more about the Wooreen project drop into the EnergyAustralia Community Hub at 228 Commercial Road, Morwell.

**The Wooreen project wishes everyone a happy and safe festive season**







# Christmas MARKET

The morning began with mild weather, market stall holders setting up and early shoppers. Before long there were groups of people browsing the stalls, buying coffees and chatting to friends, while the smell of sausages cooking filled the air.

Thank-you to Churchill Fire Brigade and Churchill Lions for your generous support of our Shop Local markets and to all the folk who come to sell, browse and enjoy the day.

The sight of happy children playing with the big bubbles from Fairy Merrin's magic wand, along with others queued patiently for the free face-painting, was a pleasure, as was the appearance of Santa who strolled around the shopping centre spreading joy to plenty of children.

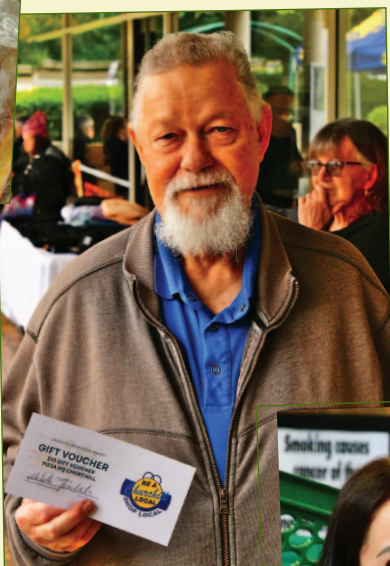
Likewise, happy faces of those who were given free shopping vouchers abounded, thanks to sponsorship by Energy Australia Wooreen Battery Storage System (currently being constructed just off Tramway Road).

Some of live music to added to the atmosphere! Sponsorship enables the organisers (Churchill & District Community Association, Churchill Neighbourhood Centre and Churchill & District News) to conduct our Shop Local markets as free events, providing shopping vouchers and other giveaways, entertainment and sausage sizzles.

A big thank-you to all our volunteers, who freely give of their time and energy to make such a lovely community event. Likewise, our various sponsors – Wooreen, Woolworths, Lions, the News and CDCA – we couldn't run a free event if it weren't for your financial support!

Unfortunately, the weather grew colder as the morning progressed and by lunchtime it was raining. Time to pack up and go home!

Look for news of the 2026 markets on our Facebook page early next year – search for Churchill Shop Local – or see the December 2025 issue of the Churchill & District News.





# CHURCH *news*

## Co-Op Snippets

October 31, Halloween night, was celebrated in a different way at the Boolarra Uniting Church. It was called Light and Peace. The object was to have the children, and their families, if with them, come to visit the church and have an opportunity to light a candle and say a prayer. About thirty children came to the church. Some lit candles, some said a prayer, some asked questions about the church.

Bec's sermon was based on Luke 19 the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector.

As a tax collector (and chief tax collector) Zacchaeus would have been hated by the people; seen as a pawn of Rome who habitually stole from the people to fund a lavish lifestyle. This one for sure should be condemned. Yet

he is named, he is honoured and he is restored as a child of God. But Zacchaeus went to see Jesus!

Zacchaeus shames himself in his eagerness to see Jesus. We do not talk so much about honour and shame in our culture but the Bible was written in such a context. Honour and shame are the drivers of behaviour and govern what is acceptable and what is not. Zacchaeus shames himself by running. Dignified Jewish men do not run. Then he shames himself further by climbing a tree, almost definitely exposing his lower legs. Everything he is doing is certain fodder for the taunts and ridicule of others. However, he was willing to do all of this because of his eagerness to see Jesus. He is not expecting to be seen.

He is not expecting to be spoken to. He is certainly not expecting to be justified. All he knows is that he wants to see Jesus. Who cares about the shame and the ridicule. He wants to see Jesus. So he climbs the tree.

Jesus calls him out. Jesus looks up, steps into the shoes of Zacchaeus for a moment. He is perched up a tree, no doubt trying to keep himself covered but it is hard to be dignified. Jesus, in looking up, directs the gaze of the entire village upwards. Dozens of hostile eyes are now staring at him as he tries to keep some semblance of dignity. Shame is a terrible thing, but Jesus deals with it, publicly restoring Zacchaeus honour. With the attention of the whole crowd focused on them, Jesus looks up. He calls Zacchaeus by name.

Firstly, being called by name honours him. Jesus takes away our shame and restores our honour.

Secondly, Jesus says he must stay at Zacchaeus' home. He must. It is a strong word in the Greek indicating necessity. It is because Jesus' mission is to take away people's shame and restore their honour. Asking Zacchaeus to host him was to bestow great honour on him.

For Zacchaeus the whole experience was

transformative. Zacchaeus pledges to give away half his possessions and pay back four times as much to anyone he had defrauded. He encounters Jesus and it transforms his life. His shame is taken away. His honour is restored. And tellingly, the power of wealth over his life is broken.

Finally, Jesus calls Zacchaeus a son of Abraham. In other words, Jesus includes him as a member of the most honoured family. This too of course bestows honour. Luke then concludes the section with this verse: 10 'For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

That is still the same today and like Zacchaeus, we should come without pretension but rather in humility come with just one desire to see Jesus.

Coffee Connections had the privilege of having Reverend Bec Hayman speak to us about her



amazingly inspiring trip to Rwanda. As she showed photos of her experiences and places, her enthusiasm and joy were very apparent. The differences between our culture and theirs was apparent and we were struck by the example that the giving of a cow to a widow and her family brought such celebration and a promising future of income. She can feed and provide for her five children; her shame is taken away; her honour is restored.

Thousands of people attend the churches, hundreds are baptised, confirmed and share their good news stories leading to services which last four to six hours. There is such joy expressed in singing and dancing.

Craft Connections has been operating at the Co-Operating Churches in Churchill for a few years now.

It has attracted people from all walks of life with varying creative skills. They are willing to pass on their knowledge to anyone who asks for assistance or to learn a new craft.

There is a very friendly talkative, funny atmosphere with a wide range of topics discussed. A lot of the craft supplies are provided free by St Matts Op Shop in Yinnar. The whole morning is free and sponsored by the op shop. Morning tea is available.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Times are 10 am -12.30 pm on Tuesdays. For further information contact Sue on 0411 714 564.

Craft Connections will go into recess over the holiday period. Craft Connections finishes on Tuesday December 16 and restarts Tuesday January 13.



## Churchill Christian Fellowship

**By Steve McNeilly (Pastor)**

By the time this comes out in Churchill News, our main Christmas events will already be finished and we will be simply enjoying the Christmas season. We welcomed the season at our Combined Churches Carols evening on Saturday December 6.

At least, we hope that our readers are enjoying their preparations for family gatherings and festivities.

I noticed that a certain well-known fast food restaurant has been running with a Grinch theme in the lead up to Christmas. The Grinch, of course, is a famous character created by

Dr Seuss who tried to "steal Christmas" from the village down the mountain from his home. Since 1957, when the original book was published, the Grinch has become a symbol for anyone who, for whatever reason, finds Christmas very annoying.

There are many reasons why people can find Christmas difficult. If there has been a death in the family, or people are unwell, or just not talking to each other, it is easy to see that the joy can go out the window, as it were.

Let us try to find time to just remember what happened all those years ago. God stepped down into our

world in the form of a baby. It was a birth unlike any other. The child who was laid in an animal's feeding trough grew up to be the Saviour who would overcome death and bring the hope of eternal life to all mankind. To quote singing group Mercy Me, "that's not good news, it's the Best News Ever!"

Our last Friday craft lunch meeting for the year will be Friday December 19. Visitors welcome. We will not have a Christmas Day service.

You will be most welcome at any of our meetings.

For more information, please call 0409 173747.



## 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)  
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## Remembrance Day, Churchill

In pouring rain, under umbrellas, a small group of people gathered at the Civic Space memorial to remember the fallen.

Peter Townsend led the small service in place of Don George who was unwell. A wreath was laid by Ian Place and Peter Townsend, to represent the veterans of Churchill and district. The Ode to the Fallen was read, the Last Post played, a minutes silence was kept. At the end of the minutes silence, the words "Lest We Forget" were spoken and echoed. During Reveille being played, the flags, which had been a half-mast were raised.

The singing of the New Zealand and Australian anthems concluded the small ceremony.



## Noelene Marchwicki's Cook Book Launch November 2025

The venue for the launch of Noelene's new cook book was Pizza HQ in Churchill.

Gippsland Radio 104.7 FM staged a live broadcast at the event for their 'Our World This Week' program.

It also encompassed interviews and comments about Churchill's 60th anniversary which coincides with the 60th anniversary of Churchill News/Churchill & District News.

Katrina from the Express was there also. Thank you to both FM Radio and Katrina for their attendance.

Noelene was present in her chef's jacket, her huge smile at the ready.

Members of Churchill & District News were there to run the launch. The volunteers had worked very hard to produce the new cook book and have it printed and ready for sales on the day.

Guest speakers included Martin Cameron MP, Leanne Potter South Ward Councillor, Abigail Brown, former manager of the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre and Heather Beaton who attended Noelene's classes at the Neighbourhood Centre.

**Noelene is Churchill's own Master Chef.**

Making it to Australia's Top 10 cooks changed her life. She was able to start up and run catering events using the Neighbourhood Centre kitchen, and cooking classes, and later submitted recipes to the Churchill & District News.

Noelene knows they are read as she has lots of feedback from those she sees while out shopping for ingredients.

This new cook book of Noelene's recipes and cooking hints and tips is outstanding with its' variety in each section - soups, mains in several sections, desserts, preserves and breads. The information titbits near the end are a great way to gain knowledge and appreciation of various ingredients. There are also some tips on having a garden with produce to use fresh from the plant. The name for the book 'Garden Path Kitchen Door' was chosen by Noelene and is appropriate for her new publication. Buyers will purchase a very valuable addition to their kitchen.

**Abigail's Speech**

I had heard of this celebrity that we had cooking up a storm in Latrobe Valley kitchens and on the TV long before I met Noelene Marchwicki.

However, it was when I started a community engagement project at Churchill Neighbourhood



Centre that I encountered this petite tour de force in chef's whites for the first time, as she zoomed into the kitchen, invisible under a pile of large pots and pans, to take her class.

Laughter and great aromas wafted through those kitchen swing doors. She was there, peering into pots on the stove, demonstrating techniques and encouraging her students, them hanging onto her every word. It was as the manager at the centre that I got to know Noelene better.

Tuesdays was cooking class day, her students would arrive with a buzz - they loved Tuesdays even more than me! She would rocket in and together they would cook up delicious meals.

We in the office would be required to do taste tests and we certainly did not complain. There was often something lovely left in the fridge for us to take home.

Places in her classes were like gold dust and students came a long way to be there. We could not shift them on.

Why was, and is, she so revered? She loves cooking, and uses her skill to demystify it for others so that they can enjoy it as much as she does. Noelene is just such a great teacher. She is also community spirited, an 'of course I can do that' person, a go to for anything food related, a query or catering request. Never a No, always a Yes with a big, cheeky smile and those funky glasses. I was so delighted to hear that there is a new cookbook - I have so many of her recipes at home, very soy and oil splashed, that a cook book will be so welcome - new recipes zooming into everyone's kitchen, so that we can take advantage of her expertise, reminding us that tasty can

be healthy, cooking is fun and all of us can do it, even me!

Noelene Marchwicki, legend in our lunchtime (and dinnertime). Congratulations on your new book - and can I have one.

**Heather Beaton**

Heather complimented Churchill & District News for its 60th anniversary and honoured Noelene for being part of the fundraising for the paper through her new cook book which is being launched.

Heather said she attended Noelene's cooking classes and always had two or three meals to take home which was so convenient. Noelene presented many a challenge to the participants, especially finding out about ingredients. There were some disasters but there was fun and learning.

It was special when other classes looked in and ask 'what are you cooking, it smells so good'. International food was also included in menus.

I learnt I could attempt anything. The Community garden was a place of learning also. Noelene would take us out to see the herbs in season. She would explain their properties and then they would be used in the recipes. It was a great time.

**Ruth Place**

Noelene as you have heard is a wonderful example of working for the community. Noelene herself says it is all about community. Noelene has graciously allowed the paper to use her recipes as a fundraiser with no proceeds going to her.

This is another way she has agreed to support our community through supporting Churchill & District News.

Thank you Noelene.



**For your 2026 diary . . .**

**Mother's Day Market May 2**

**Father's Day Market August 29**

**Christmas Market December 5**



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

**St Vinnies**

**SOUP VAN**

**Soup van starts again Friday January 16**

**6.00 pm at White Parade reserve**

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**Nolathane**





Are you a carer? Gift yourself a break  
this holiday season



As carer of her husband Andrew, who is living with dementia, 65-year-old Venetia knows the importance of taking a break.

Some of Venetia's self-care rituals include going for a daily walk before Andrew is up, or leaving him to rifle through old photos while she does other tasks. The other thing she does is attend carer events at LCHS.

Our Carer Catch-Up Groups aim to provide a positive and understanding environment where carers can build social connections and nurture their wellbeing. For many carer events, the person you care for is also welcome to participate with you.

Venetia manages everything when it comes to Andrew—from medications to meals, appointments and transport. So, with Andrew now having access to respite care at home, Venetia welcomes the opportunity to attend events on her own.

"We do go on the walks together, but sometimes, it is nice to just go on your own," she said.

Venetia finds the groups educational, as well as social.

"Even if you are not socially inclined, the carer meetings provide lots of information. Some people know things you know; you might know things they do not know. It is really good" she said.

"You can ask anything you want and even have a whinge. It is a really friendly, open environment," Venetia said.

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Sun - Sat 5.00 pm - 9.30 pm

Shop 16,  
Hazelwood Shopping Village  
Please call to book  
Phone: 5122 3294

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## Seasons Greetings from Churchill & District Community Association

CDCA wishes all residents, their families  
and friends a safe and happy festive  
season, a wonderful New Year and good  
health for 2026

Contact CDCA via our website: [www.cdca.org.au/contact](http://www.cdca.org.au/contact) us or  
message us on our Facebook page - search for Churchill District  
Community Association or write to us at PO Box 191, Churchill 3842

**Next CDCA meeting:** Thursday, February 12, 2026, 7.00 pm,  
Churchill Town Hall (downstairs), Philip Parade, Churchill



## LIONS CLUB OF CHURCHILL & DISTRICT AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

### 2026 NOMINATION FORM

**Nomination for:** ☐ Citizen of the Year ☐ Young Citizen of the Year  
☐ Young School Citizen of the Year

#### DETAILS OF PERSON/PERSONS/GROUP BEING NOMINATED

Full name of citizen/persons/organisation/event: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name (if nominating organisation/event): \_\_\_\_\_

Residential address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (M) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth of nominee (if nominating Young Citizen & 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*

#### Reason for Nomination:

**Contribution/s to the community for which the person is nominated:**

Summarise (In 100-150 words) the reasons why your nominee should be considered.

#### Other significant contributions and achievements:

If you require additional space, please write on a separate sheet and attach to the form.

#### Community / Professional bodies / Sporting or Service Groups your nominee has been involved with:

#### Background information about your nominee:

#### Referee in support of this application (this person may be contacted for further information)

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss): \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W): \_\_\_\_\_ (M): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Nominator (To be completed by person submitting)

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss): \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W): \_\_\_\_\_ (M): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations can be lodged at any time; however, nominations for the Lions Club of Churchill & District Australia Day 2026 awards close on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.



# Carols by Candlelight shines in Churchill



**CDCA**  
Churchill & District Community Association Inc.

supports Churchill & District News  
*We love our community newspaper!*

CDCA meets on the 2nd Thursday of every 2nd month  
**Next Meeting - 7.00 pm Thursday, February 12, 2026**  
Downstairs in Churchill Town Hall

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

*hohoho*  
Wishing everyone a  
Merry Christmas and a  
Safe and Happy New Year

Thank You to our loyal  
customers for your support.

**Churchill Newsagency NEWSPAPER**  
Shop 2, Hazelwood Village. Phone 5122 1241

Even though wet, there was a good turnout for Carols by Candlelight at the Co-Operating Churches in Churchill on December 6, held inside the church. The Latrobe Community Concert Band set up and was playing Christmas songs. The Lions Club of Churchill cooked the BBQ for a gold coin donation. The Coal Valley Men's and Ladies' Choral were in place to lead the singing. Members of the Co-Operating church had small activities for the children to do while they waited to start their own special program. Parents and grandparents had brought their youngsters.

The program included a blessing of the children by Reverend Bec Hayman, singing by Pastor Steve

and his wife Sandie, Ruth and some of the Co-Op congregation, a YouTube video of the Christmas story, a quiz and a story about two grumpy brothers who resolved their differences when they met Baby Jesus, the bringer of peace and love.

Santa came right on time and the children were able to go and meet him and receive some goodies.

After a short interlude, the All Age program got under way with many more adults joining the crowd. Reverend Bec Hayman opened the program with a prayer. After voices were warmed up with some carol singing, Bible readings of the Christmas Story followed.

Members of the Churchill Christian Fellowship presented a play which showed that Christmas is a season, one in which the Christ Child is the main character because he brought God's love, peace, joy and hope into the world-

a Saviour for all those who believe.

The Christmas season is about more than food, parties, holidays, shopping and decorations and all that seems to take priority with many.

The play was interspersed with carol singing led by the band and the choral. Little explanations of the words and highlighting of the deep meaning of the words added another aspect to the message.

During the evening a collection was taken. This coupled with the Lions donations of gold coin donations was made for Food Relief for the FedUni students.

The choir sang 'Feliz Navidad' and a wonderful rendition of 'Jerusalem'.

Father James of the Catholic Church closed the night with a lovely prayer of blessing.

Thank you to all who helped, participated and enjoyed the evening.

**THE CHURCHILL FISH & CHIP SHOP**

FOR TAKE-AWAY ORDERS PHONE  
**5122 1101**

*The staff would like to wish all our valued customers a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year*

Co-Operating Churches

**Craft Connections**

Every Tuesday 10am to 12 Noon

*Closing for four weeks over Christmas holidays.  
Back on Tuesday, January 13*

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

**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**



## Bushfire season begins – check your alternate water supply



Bushfire season begins - check your alternate water supply now

Gippsland Water is reminding customers to include an alternate water source in their bushfire plans, with the Fire Danger Period in effect across the region.

Reticulated water systems are not designed for firefighting purposes. During bushfire events, they may experience reduced or no pressure and could be damaged by fire.

Alternate water sources could include water tanks, dams, swimming pools, wheelie bins or 200-litre drums.

Customers are also



encouraged to store at least three litres of fresh drinking water per person, enough to last up to three days in case of emergency.

In a bushfire emergency, follow advice from the CFA, and monitor alerts via the VicEmergency app.

If water or wastewater services are interrupted during a bushfire, Gippsland Water will aim to notify customers as soon as

possible via the website, SMS and social media channels.

The Fire Danger Period began on October 27, and will remain in place until May 1, 2026 for towns within the Gippsland Water service area.

For more information on your water supply during a bushfire, visit: [www.gippswater.com.au/bushfires](http://www.gippswater.com.au/bushfires).

## Congratulations Gippsland FM

Churchill & District News (C&DN) heartily congratulates Gippsland FM on being the winner of the Most Popular Media category in the Latrobe City Business Chamber's People's Choice Awards.

Gippsland FM is run entirely by volunteers. As a community newspaper C&DN, also run by volunteers, knows the amount of work and preparation and fund-raising required. It is with even more pleasure that we extend our congratulations on this fine win.

The win is testament to the station's passionate volunteers, whose tireless

dedication drives everything from on-air content to raising funds to keep the station on air.

With seventy-two presenters and others waiting to start, a wide range of musical tastes and programming is available. All members of the community are welcome to join the station. There are training requirements.

In Churchill's 60th year it is good to acknowledge that the radio station began its life here in Churchill.

Those beginnings were small but now an independent survey estimated the station has an audience of 25,000 listeners.

For more information look up their web site [www.gippslandfm.org.au](http://www.gippslandfm.org.au) or on social media.



## L.V. Field Naturalists Club photographic Exhibition

### 'The Nature of Gippsland' Photographic Exhibition

The Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club ran a very successful 'Nature of Gippsland' Photographic exhibition at the Greek Orthodox Church Hall in Morwell from November 7 to 13. All the displayed photographs of flora, fauna and landscapes on display were taken in the Gippsland region by Club members.

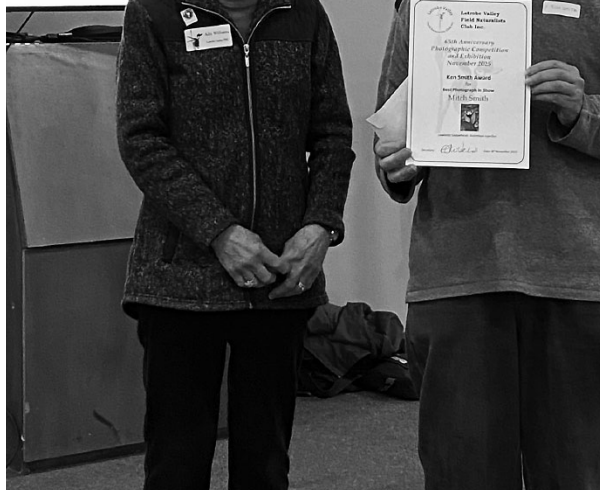
The independent expert judges, who assessed the photographs, praised the high standard of the 178 entries. The photograph that they judged as the 'Best in Show' was awarded the Ken Smith Award in memory of a long time member and outstanding contributor to the LV Field Nats. The winner was Mitch Smith (no relation to Ken).

Mitch explained that "We often get snakes visiting our property at Woolennook searching for food and generally find that they do not pose a risk. One warm day whilst I was out photographing insects, one of our resident snakes, that we suspect was about 4-5 years old at the time, was making her way across the driveway when I approached a bit too closely. She got startled and reacted with this defensive posturing. She was alert but calm and, after a few quick photos, she was back on her way."

A large number of members of the public attended to view, read and learn about the depicted subjects.

Their comments were very positive. Several volunteer groups who help maintain our local parks and reserves also had displays about their work.

The Club is very pleased to have been able to share our enthusiasm and enjoyment, and to promote further public interest in our



Mitch Smith presented with the Ken Smith Award by Alix Williams, LVFNC Vice-President with the winning picture of a Lowlands Copperhead Austrelaps superbus in the background.

local natural environment. We would like to thank the Latrobe City Council for a community grant and many

groups in the community for their assistance and support. Photo credit: Marja Bouman



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and wrap.

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CHURCHILL

## Christmas Services

### Co-Operating Churches in Churchill Boolarra Yinnar

Blue Christmas December 18 Boolarra -for those who find Christmas difficult.

Christmas Eve Crib Service for the children 6.30pm Churchill, Boolarra 8pm.

Anglican Holy Communion

Christmas Day Service 10am Churchill and Boolarra.

### Churchill Christian Fellowship

Christmas Auction and Concert December 12 at 7pm.

Christmas Service Sunday December 21 at 3pm.

### Lumen Christi Churchill and Our Lady of Good Council

Christmas Eve 6pm Mass at Our Lady of Good Council 76 Main Street Yinnar.

Christmas day 9am Lumen Christi 43 Williams Ave Churchill.



## CHRISTMAS FARE

- ✱ Mince Pies
- ✱ Salad Rolls
- ✱ Cake
- ✱ Coffee
- ✱ Focaccias
- ✱ Catering

**Churchill Hot Bread**  
**Merry Christmas and a**  
**Happy New Year to all**  
**our customers**

OVER 36 YEARS EXPERIENCE

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**Hazelwood Village Shopping Centre**



# Churchill Community Family Fishing & Fun Day



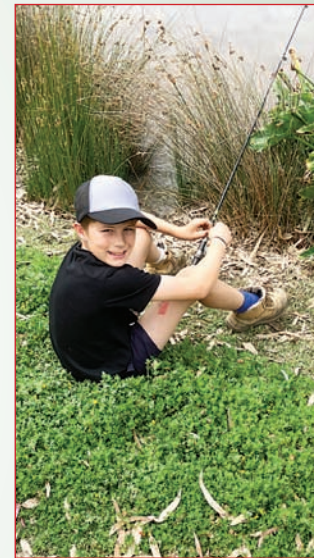
With no rain forecast until later in the day, a slight breeze and warm conditions, the Lions Club of Churchill & District Family Fishing and Fun Day began their day. The weather and all the advertising brought 110 young anglers to try their luck in Lake Hyland at Mathison Park. This year there were fish caught which was a lovely change. Family groups arranged themselves along the lake shore and settled in for a good day of activity. The atmosphere was pleasant and the crowd was orderly and friendly. One young lady caught nine fish. Everyone wanted to know her secret. Some large carp were caught, one weighing seven kilograms. If the young fishers became a little bored with fishing, there were other activities to engage their attention. The small entry fee gave them a sausage in bread and a drink. The 1st Churchill Scouts had badge making and a climbing wall which was very popular. They were hoping to gather some more young people to join the Scouting movement. Another activity eagerly awaited in a queue, was face painting. The results were amazing and the kids loved it. To help those not so skilled in wetting a line, Fishcare and a Fisheries officer Steph Chisolm were there to help. Other experienced anglers helped out too.

To ensure that any accidents were able to be treated, Community Event First Aid volunteers were on hand. Well known Peter Gray of Ampworks was also there volunteering his skills with the public address system and being MC. No day like this can be run effectively without much prior planning and support so the Lions Club would like to sincerely thank the following; Latrobe City Council for the grant which helped to finance the event, Peter Gray, the volunteers from Community Events First Aid, 1st Churchill Scouts, Always Angling fishing equipment shop in Traralgon which supplied all the prizes, Fishcare and Steph from Fisheries, plus all those who advertised the day including Churchill & District News. A hearty thank you goes also to all those adults who brought their children to fish, many of whom stayed the distance with them to have a happy family day together. Last of all, on behalf of all those who attended, Churchill & District News would like to extend to the Lions Club of Churchill & District a sincere thank you for planning and putting in such a huge effort to run this fishing and fun day which was such a hit this year. Looks like you had better start planning for 2026.





# Churchill Community Family Fishing & Fun Day





# Chemist *Care* Now

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without a visit to the GP**

**Save time with  
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To find participating chemists  
and available treatments go to  
**[chemistcarenow.vic.gov.au](https://chemistcarenow.vic.gov.au)**





# BOOK REVIEW

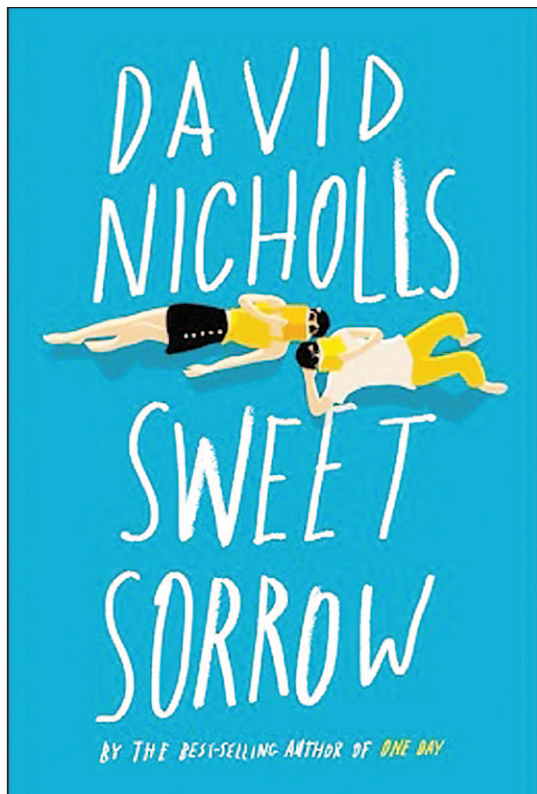
## A "Sweet Sorrow" by David Nicholls

David Nicholls, born 30/11/66, is a British novelist, screen writer and former actor. He is a graduate of the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Bristol University. He created the television series "Rescue Me" and has done adaptations of novels, plays and memoirs. His books include "One Day", "You are Here", "Starter for Ten", "Us" and "The Understudy". The story is set in England and sees adult Charlie Lewis telling his wife-to-be about his "coming of age" before going to a reunion of the group where it all happened. How much is memory and how much is nostalgia we will never know.

Charlie starts his story with the end of school dance where some students are dancing, which contrasts with Charlie and his friends who are being loud and immature. Charlie knows he has failed his exams and has few prospects for the future. His mates, Harper, Fox and Lloyd make dares with each other and take part in stupid, risk-taking behaviours and one such episode leads to Charlie being dumped by his friends.

We then hear Charlie's back story. His father is a jazz musician and his mother is a nurse but when his grandparents decide to retire they leave their three stores for Charlie's father to manage.

He focuses on the music he likes but tastes change as does the music industry so, one by one he has lost his businesses despite the family trying everything to save them. His father has gone into deep depression and with massive debt they sell the family home and move into council accommodation. Pressures build on the parents'



relationship until the tension becomes unbearable. The mother has found work at the Golf Club and after meeting someone else, she moves out, taking Charlie's sister but leaving Charlie to care for his dad.

Charlie's father is taking heavy medication and drinking heavily and Charlie is always worried he will come home and find his father dead. They have no money and are eating poorly. The house is a pig sty. Charlie has a part time job at the petrol station and discovers a way to make easy money by taking scratchie stickers.

As he is going to be alone during the holidays Charlie decides to take up reading, so he rides his bike away from the township and is lying in some long grass reading when he is disturbed by a girl rolling down the hill and bumping into him.

Both are shocked but they start a conversation. Fran is part of a theatre sports group called "Full Fathom Five" which puts on Shakespearian plays, and she invites Charlie to join.

Charlie has no intention of joining but he is fascinated by Fran and wants to see her again so he eventually joins the group and we see his confidence grow and his ideas broaden. Fran is Charlie's first love and she encourages him and helps him to understand himself. Disaster strikes when his scam is discovered and he is held to account.

Most members of our group did not enjoy this book. Whilst the characters were well drawn the book became tedious when describing the theatre group practicing their play and the story could have been told in far fewer words. It did highlight the immaturity of boys compared to their female peers and their propensity for dangerous, risk-taking behaviour.

It also gave an insight into the effects of changes in family dynamics on a student's ability to cope with school, the effects of poor nutrition, poor sleep and stress. On a positive note it also showed that with encouragement and support a life can be turned around.

## Plants in my Garden

By Mike Beamish

**Species:** Callistemon 'Reeve's Pink'

**Family:** Myrtaceae

**Derivation:**

Callistemon: From the Greek kalos, meaning beauty, and stemon, meaning thread, referring to the showy stamens of the flowers.

**Common Name:** Reeve's Pink Bottlebrush.

**Distribution:**

This is a hybrid that was found flowering in Reeve's Nursery, Cheltenham Victoria, by Glen Wilson in 1957-58. It is presumed one of the parents is C. citrinus, as this is the species that it seems to have the most affinities with. Other well-known hybrids, such as C. 'Mauve Mist' and C. 'Burgundy', are seedlings grown from seed collected from the original C. 'Reeve's Pink'.

**Description:** A rounded dense shrub to 3m tall and broad. Leaves are narrow-elliptical to 5cm long and 1cm wide, covered with prominent oil glands and silky hairs when young. Flowers appear twice a year in spring and autumn, and are dark pink, fading with age in bottlebrushes up to 10cm long and 4cm in diameter, followed by capsules about 8mm in diameter.

**Opinion:**

My plant is on the northern nature strip, is about 3m tall and provides a bit too much shade to my vege garden on the other side of the fence. It does, however, do a good job screening my back yard from the street, in conjunction with a Myoporum insulare, a Banksia 'Giant Candles'

and a Callistemon 'Mauve Mist'. Otherwise, it does what it's supposed to and flowers twice a year, though springtime is the best with only a few sparse flower brushes in autumn. The honeyeaters and bees love them and can tend to damage the flowers in their efforts to extract a feed. Interestingly, C. 'Mauve Mist' is smaller and does not seem to flower in autumn very often, even though it went into the ground at about the same time.

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

phone 0447 452 755.

**Sources:**

Wrigley and Fagg – Bottlebrushes, Paperbarks and Tea Trees.

Elliot and Jones – Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 2.



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## Darren Chester

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

#lovegippsland



**THE NATIONALS** for Gippsland

www.darrenchester.com.au

**YINNAR HARDWARE**  
5163 1413

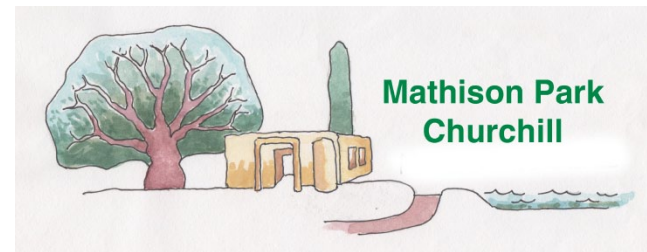
Seasons Greetings to all our customers. Thank you for your support

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The Gippsland Interchange Crew worked at picking up fallen branches etc during the month. The usual working bee was cancelled due to the poor weather conditions and many volunteers not being

available. During the month the contractors have been installing the disc golf course which runs up through the Tramway Road side of the park and across to the eastern side of the lake. Some people have already been trying out the course. The bright yellow signage, baskets and concrete pads are easily seen. The discs can be hired from the Hub Service Centre Churchill if you do not have your own set. This will be a great way to spend some holiday time, be active and have fun.

**Danny O'BRIEN MP**  
State Member for Gippsland South

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas*

📍 54B Cunninghame St, Sale 📞 03 5144 1987  
✉ danny.obrien@parliament.vic.gov.au  
🌐 www.dannyobrienmp.com.au  
📺 /dannyobrienmp

**THE NATIONALS** for Regional Victoria



Latrobe City Councillors and staff extend

# SEASONS GREETINGS

Latrobe City Council will be running limited services during the festive season

## Latrobe City Council Corporate Headquarters

Closed: Wednesday 24 December 2025 at 5pm  
Re-opens: Friday 2 January 2026 at 9am  
[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au)

## Latrobe City Council Libraries

Closed: Wednesday 24 December 2025 at 5pm  
Re-opens: Friday 2 January 2026 at 8.30am  
[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/library](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/library)

## Visitor Information Centre

Closed: Christmas Day  
Open: Seven days a week, 10am to 4pm  
Phone 1800 621 409  
[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au)

## Creative Venues

**Latrobe Regional Gallery**  
10am to 4pm throughout the closure period, excluding public holidays.  
[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au)

**Gippsland Performing Arts Centre**  
Gippsland Performing Arts Centre and Kernot Hall will open for booked events only.  
[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/gpac/home](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/gpac/home)

## Latrobe Leisure

### Indoor Leisure Centres

Closed: Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

For opening hours over the festive season contact your local Leisure Centre or visit  
[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/leisure](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/leisure)

### Outdoor pools

Closed: Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/outdoorpools](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/outdoorpools)

## Gippsland Regional Indoor Sports Stadium

Closed: Monday 15 December 2025

Re-opens: Monday 19 January 2026, with school holiday hours. Resuming regular hours from Tuesday 27 January

[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/leisure](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/leisure)

## Early Learning Centres

Traralgon, Moe and Carinya centres

Closed: Wednesday 24 December 2025 at 2pm

Re-opens: Monday 12 January 2026 at 7.30am  
[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au)

## Pound

The Pound will be open to the public for viewing and animal collection as follows:

Monday 29 December 2025

10am to noon

Wednesday 31 December 2025

10am to noon

Emergency after hours number

on **1300 367 700**.

For injured wildlife, please contact

Wildlife Victoria on **03 8400 7300**.

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







# Fire Season Preparations

HVP Plantations (HVP) is prepared and ready for the upcoming fire season across our 127,000 hectare Gippsland plantation estate. Our fire prevention activities will continue throughout the summer, including plantation firebreak maintenance and ensuring our network of fire dams is accessible, signed and mapped.

More than half the fires we attend start outside plantation boundaries. We continue to work closely with the community, CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria during the fire season.

HVP deploys significant firefighting resources in Gippsland:

- 120 firefighters through our Gippsland CFA Forest Industry Brigade
- Nine fire tankers
- 25 slip-on units
- A dedicated firefighting helicopter based in the Latrobe Valley during high risk periods

[www.hvp.com.au](http://www.hvp.com.au)

On high risk days, HVP's two fire towers are staffed and fire vehicles patrol plantation areas for fast detection and response. Sadly, many fires result from arson which is a serious and

preventable crime. The local community has a vital role to play in reporting arson related crimes.

Crime Stoppers say, "If you have seen something, hear something or know something - tell us!". This applies to arson or any suspicious activity you may see.

Reports can be made to:  
HVP Plantations  
Gippsland  
5122 0600  
Crime Stoppers  
1800 333 000  
Or Contact your local  
Police station  
HVP plantations

# Health Hints

**By Andy Gergis**  
Churchill Discount Pharmacy  
Understanding Indigestion and its treatment

Indigestion, also called dyspepsia, is a common condition that causes discomfort in the upper abdomen. Many people describe it as a feeling of fullness, bloating, burning, or pain after eating. It can also come with nausea, burping, or a sour taste in the mouth. While indigestion is usually mild, it can be very uncomfortable

and may disrupt daily activities.

Indigestion often happens when the stomach struggles to break down food. This can be triggered by eating too quickly, overeating, consuming spicy or fatty foods, drinking caffeine or alcohol, or stress. Some medications—such as anti-inflammatory drugs—can also irritate the stomach. In some cases, indigestion may be linked to conditions like acid reflux, gastritis, or ulcers.

Treatment usually starts with simple lifestyle changes. Eating smaller meals, avoiding trigger foods, reducing alcohol

and caffeine, and not lying down straight after eating, can help. Managing stress through exercise or relaxation techniques is also beneficial.

For relief, over-the-counter medications such as antacids, H2 blockers, or proton pump inhibitors can reduce stomach acid and ease symptoms. However, persistent or severe indigestion—especially if accompanied by weight loss, vomiting, difficulty swallowing, or black stools—requires medical attention. If you are concerned or have any of those symptoms contact your doctor or pharmacist.

## Berry Street: Saver Plus Program

This is why I love what I do.

I was so pleased to support Sally\* to reach her savings goal and develop better money habits.

Sally undertook the Saver Plus program with the aim of saving for a laptop for her university studies but ended up gaining much more than she thought!

Saver Plus is a free 10-month financial education and matched savings

program. It helps people develop savings and money management skills, while saving for their children's or their own education.

When I met Sally, her relationship with money was difficult. She shared that she did not even like to think about money.

As her MoneyMinded Coach, I worked closely with Sally to make sure she felt comfortable with tasks like budgeting, long-term saving

and paying bills.

Sally moved through the course with great enthusiasm.

Sally said the program gave her confidence to tackle her money and debt challenges and that "small changes could have a huge impact over time".

Sally believes the skills she gained will stay with her for life.

Sometimes I forget how life-changing the Saver Plus program can be for many of

our participants.

It's great to know that I can be a small part of changing someone's relationship with money for the better.

- MoneyMinded Saver Plus Coach, Rick

\*Name changed to protect privacy

Learn more about Saver Plus: <https://www.berrystreet.org.au/.../financial.../saver-plus>

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**CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS**  
*"Connecting Your Community"*

## 2025/26 Churchill Businesses Christmas Trading Hours

**Churchill**  
.....  
**Churchill Chemist Discount Centre**  
Xmas Eve: 9 - 5  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: 10 - 2  
New Year's Eve: 9 -5  
New Year's Day: closed  
  
**Churchill Chinese Restaurant**  
Christmas Day: closed  
  
**Churchill Fish and Chip Shop**  
Christmas Eve: closes 7.30  
Re-opens Tuesday 06.01.26  
  
**Churchill Discount Pharmacy**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: closed  
New Year's Day: closed  
  
**Churchill Hot Bread**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: closed  
New Year's Day: closed  
  
**Churchill Family Practice**  
Closed Wednesday 24.12.25 at 3pm  
Reopens: Monday 05.01.26

**Churchill News Agency**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: closed  
New Year's Day: closed  
  
**Churchill Noodle Bar**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: closed  
New Year's Day: closed  
  
**Churchill Private Dental Clinic**  
Tues 23.12.25 : open  
Tues 30.01.25: open  
Tues 6.01.26: open  
Tues 13.01.26: open  
Otherwise closed.  
Normal hours resume 19.01.26  
  
**Churchill Post Office**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: closed  
New Year's Day: closed  
  
**Hazelwood Health Centre**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: closed  
New Year's Day: closed  
Fri 02.01.26: closed

**Lifeline**  
Closed from Wed 17.12.25 at 3.30pm  
Reopens Mon 05.01.26 at 9.30am  
  
**New Churchill Motors**  
Closed from 25.12.25  
Reopens: 12.01.26  
  
**Pizza HQ & Café**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: closed  
New Year's Eve: closed  
New Year's Day: closed  
  
**Reject Shop**  
Christmas Eve: 8.30 - 6  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: open 9 - 6  
New Year's Eve: open 9 - 6  
New Year's Day: open 10 - 4  
  
**SmartSaver**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: closed  
New Year's Day: closed  
  
**Woolworths**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: 8am - 9pm  
New Year's Day: 8am - 9pm

**Yinnar**  
.....  
**ARC**  
Closed from 14.12.25, reopens 29.01.26  
  
**Webster Butcher**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: closed  
New Year's Day: closed  
  
**Yinnar Coffee shop & Bakery**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: closed  
New Year's Day: closed  
  
**Yinnar Hardware**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: closed  
New Year's Day: closed  
  
**Yinnar Pharmacy and Post Office**  
Christmas Day: closed  
Boxing Day: closed  
New Year's Day: closed

Connecting Your Community





Native wasp found at Morwell National Park

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also available

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All recipes are simply presented so you can easily see what you need and how to prepare it.

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CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

132 pages of delicious recipes together with cooking hints

# Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare

By J. Duncan

Our group has finished planting for this year, with a few surplus plants having now been bought by members and friends of the group. These can still go in to gardens and wet areas or be held over for autumn planting. With our pots washed up in October and species lists for our sites almost done, we will now sow seeds and order plants for next winter’s planting season.

This year our group continued work on our public land projects. We were also happy to work with some private land owners to supply them with locally indigenous plants and/or assist them with planting them. In this way, Landcare groups are able to help add to the patchwork of “stepping stones” for wildlife, especially native birds, to move between larger areas of habitat.

If people work together to establish more continuous links, and the design of these incorporates wildlife-friendly fencing, other native fauna will also be able to make use of the corridors.

Fauna can include the tiniest insects that play such a useful role in pollination. It seems that within ten

years of the arrival in New Zealand of the Varroa destructor mite, feral honeybees are likely to be no longer present in that country, so this is important.

European Honeybees are currently the most abundant and effective pollinators of our food crops. The Varroa mite kills them if untreated. Without honeybees, we might be able to eat sweet corn and other wind-pollinated foods, but most fruit, nuts and vegetables as well as the clover and vetch that are part of improved pastures would be in trouble. Most people do not have beekeepers bringing bees to their gardens and farms. On the other hand, the big agribusiness ventures growing almonds in the Riverland pay beekeepers from all over to bring hives to pollinate their crop. When hives are concentrated in one area the mites can move easily between them.

Restrictions on the movement of Victorian beehives have recently been lifted, and beekeepers are being encouraged by the Department of Agriculture to stay vigilant and learn how to manage the Varroa mite in their hives. It will be more expensive, use chemicals and require more work. Most will do it, but some may not. So some hives will die.

It is estimated that 70% of our food crops are currently pollinated not by managed honeybees in hives, but by the feral honeybees that live in tree hollows, buildings and other structures. These will ultimately die out. This will actually be great for the native animals and birds whose tree hollows were being colonised since

Varroa mite on honeybee

the first Europeans arrived here. It is expected to also be good for our flowering native Eucalypts. Other pollinators such as the birds and bats that co-evolved with the trees are far more likely to fly over long distances to cross-pollinate them and thus increase the genetic diversity present. With so much rapid change in the environment from global heating, genetic diversity may increase the likelihood of species survival. However that is not a sure thing for humans or trees.

To increase the variety of native insect pollinators for our food crops it is recommended to just plant locally indigenous plants and wait. Introducing insects from elsewhere is a bad idea. The better one is to increase the available resources and so increase the rate at which our native insects can breed, feed and flourish.

‘Plant it and they will come’ is the approach we are encouraged to adopt. Not using insecticides is another important step.

Both native ladybirds and hoverflies pollinate plants and also have voracious carnivorous larvae that eat aphids, mealy bugs and other garden pests. It was interesting that in the recent pollinator survey we did with Friends of Morwell National Park the group we were with

recorded one honeybee and lots of hoverflies. At home in my own garden which has been pesticide free for many years, it is still about two to one in favour of honeybees over hoverflies, and a survey we did last year at sites along our group’s pollinator link recorded honeybees as the most abundant insect.


We have now developed a list of local plants that grow locally and can be established easily to provide year-round pollen (for protein) and/or nectar (for energy) for native pollinator insects.

Some of these plants are buzz pollinated, which means that European honeybees cannot use them. This is because the flowers will not release pollen without the insect landing on them and setting up vibrations. Many buzz pollinated plants can be grown in pots or small plots in the garden. Tomatoes are buzz pollinated, and a good place to look for native Blue-banded bees.

Over summer we want to collect some seed, start plants in our greenhouses and activate a new project for monitoring microbats around our district. The natural world never stops, or at least we hope it does not, and looking after it is a bit the same.

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

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# The Strzelecki koalas' message

As I look deeply into the faces of the mother and the baby Strzelecki koalas, I wonder what they are thinking.

Apart from wanting me to leave them alone so that they can peacefully browse on the eucalyptus leaves and sleep, what would their message be?

These Strzelecki koalas are certainly not aware of their importance to the survival of the koala species. They would not realise that they are part of a unique, generically diverse and only endemic Victorian koala population. These koalas still live in their original habitat of many generations

of Strzelecki koalas. Nor do they know that they are two of the remaining 2000 Strzelecki koalas found throughout the Strzelecki Ranges and its surrounding areas. They would be oblivious to the many threats to their present and future survival. If they were aware, maybe their message would be: "We are doing everything that our instincts tell us to do for our everyday survival but there are lots of threats that are beyond our control." The Strzelecki koalas like this doe and joey (photo) are voiceless and powerless to rectify their precarious situation and they need our help to ensure their present

and future survival.

We need to:

1. Protect, preserve, plant and connect suitable Strzelecki koala habitat.
2. Drive attentively and carefully in bush areas particularly between dusk and dawn.
3. Be responsible pet owners and ensure our pets do not come in contact with wildlife.
4. Seek assistance for injured wildlife by contacting Wildlife Victoria (03 84007300), a local wildlife carer or a veterinarian.
5. Support wildlife organisations like the 'SKAT' group, Strzelecki Koala Action Team, Friends

of the Earth Melbourne. Please send sightings of Strzelecki koalas or their scats to Anthony.amis@foe.org.au

6. Tell others about the significance of the Strzelecki koala and their survival threats.

7. Contact local Members of Parliament to seek extra protections for the Strzelecki koala population.

8. Lastly over the summer provide fresh water for the wildlife to drink and ensure any pools or dams have a means of escape for koalas and other native animals. Remember fire restrictions and help keep native animals and their habitat safe.

Upcoming events concerning raising awareness of the Strzelecki koala:

WISP "Everything Koala Event", on Saturday January 10, 2026, in Sandy Point.

Melbourne Kaolathon

on Sunday March 29, 2026. Visit [www.koalathon.raiselysite.com](http://www.koalathon.raiselysite.com) for details of this year's event as it is similar to the 2026 one.

Strzelecki Koala Festival on Saturday April 4, 2026, in Yarram.

**Good News.**

Wally the Wombat has recovered from his mange

infection thanks to the wildlife care's expertise and the observant people in Wally's habitat. See how full his fur is now although his ears are still damaged. Remember the WomSAT ([www.womsat.org.au](http://www.womsat.org.au)) organisation is interested in mapping wombat sightings.



## WISP EVENT

# everything KOALAS

### Saturday 18 January 2025

11AM onwards Sandy Point Community Centre



INTRODUCING  
FOE/SKAT  
WONDERLAND  
EXHIBIT AND  
ACTIVITIES

WISP is excited to announce our collaboration with FOE/SKAT.

There will be indoor and outdoor displays during the event with Australia wildlife themed creations from all over the world. There will be showbags, other merchandise and activities.

SKAT is asking for a gold coin donation for entry with proceeds going towards helping save our unique regional koalas.

#### PROGRAM

##### 11:00-11:30 Kid's Activities

Colouring, puzzles, dream catcher and mask making for children, wildlife and habitat displays. Opportunity to look at merchandise and have discussions with WISP and others.

##### 11:30-12:00 Kid's Interactive Session

Field camera captures and recent koala survey photos.

##### 1:00-1:30 Updates

Anda Banikos will give an update on Prom Coast Ecolink. Presentation on vulnerable endangered plants by WISP Habitat Group.

##### 1:30-3:00 Koala Presentation

Overview of CSIRO National Koala Monitoring Program and the Koala Survey results. WISP is pleased to have Sue Moore, as our highly knowledgeable guest, to discuss koalas and her Bass Coast/South Gippsland Wildlife Rescue and Shelter.



Prom Coast  
ECOLINK



Wildlife in Sandy Point  
WISP

DESIGN / HELE CRIBBELL / [www.offshore.net.au](http://www.offshore.net.au)

## MATHISON PARK - UPCOMING CLOSURES

# Mathison Park in Churchill is getting a makeover!

Before the work begins, parts of the park will be closed for pre-construction works from November 2025. Work includes removing current equipment, removal of aging signage and park furniture and removing required vegetation.

The playground area will be closed from January 2026 - mid 2026 for the construction of an Adventure Playground.

Thanks for your patience while we update the Park!

Scan the QR code for more information, or visit: [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Mathison\\_Park](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Mathison_Park)

This project has been supported by the Victorian Government through the Better Parks and Playground Program.

# Melina BATH MP

## NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

May you celebrate Christmas with love in the way of your choice and may Peace, Good Health and Happiness be your foundation to begin 2026.

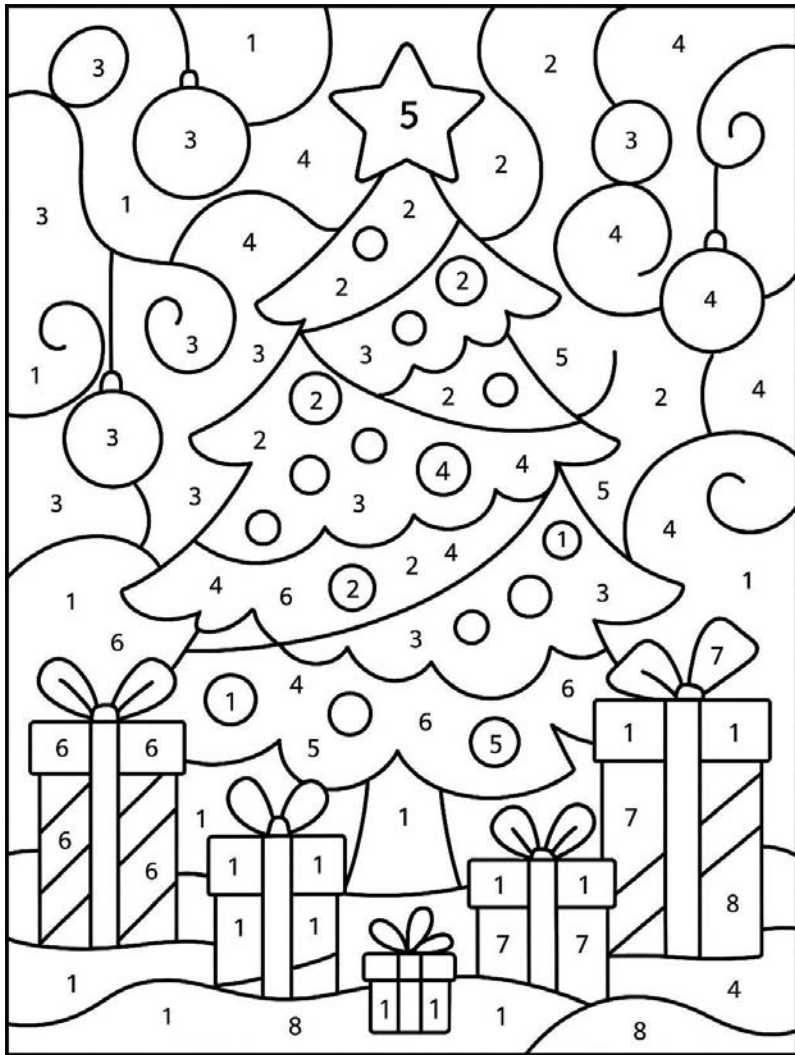


2/181 Franklin St, Traralgon  
[melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au)  
5174 7066





# Christmas Fun Page



"Here is a game for two to play. Color and cut out the sled and the airplane. Paste them on cardboard. These are your movers.

"Now color and cut out the elves, reindeer, and Santas. Paste them on cardboard and put them in a box. These are your playing pieces.

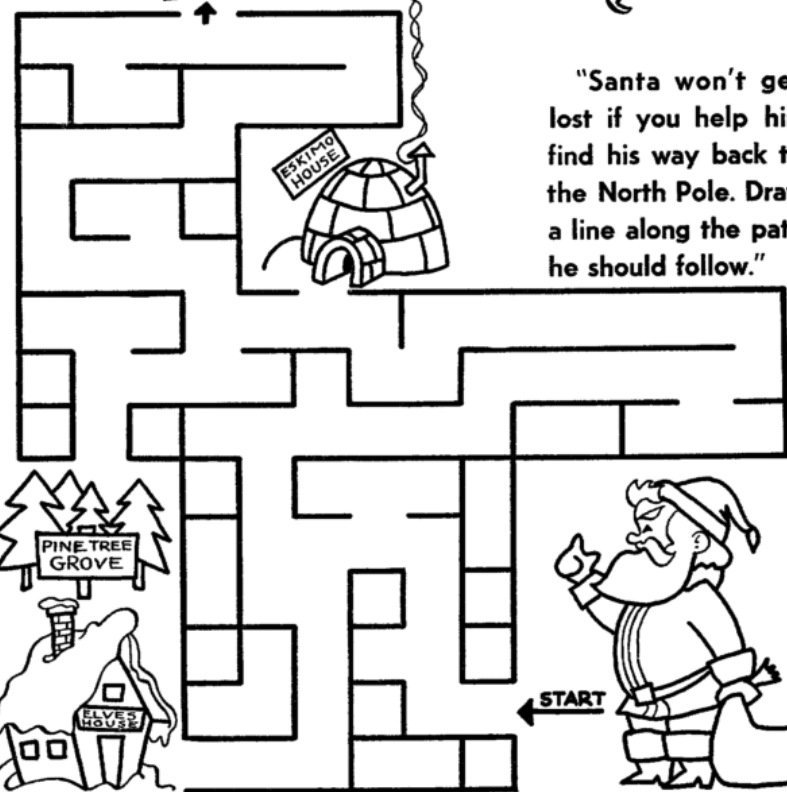
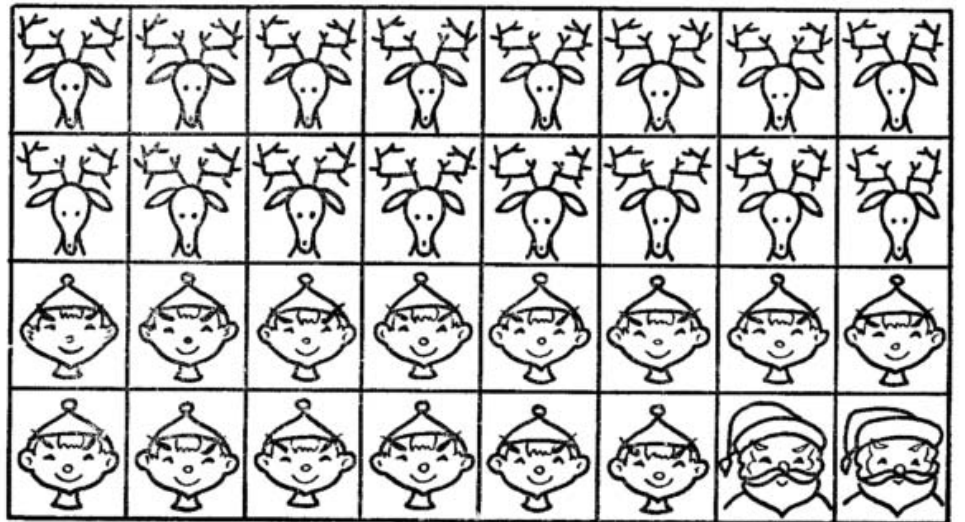
"Players take turns drawing the playing pieces from the box.

Reindeer—Move one square.

Elf—Move two squares.

Santa—Move three squares.

After each turn, the player replaces the playing piece in the box."



"Santa won't get lost if you help him find his way back to the North Pole. Draw a line along the path he should follow."



"Fill in the missing letters of the words below and you will have Santa's wish for you!"

RS. SANTA  
VERGREEN  
EINDEER  
ED RIBBON  
ULE LOG

ANDY CANES  
OLLY  
INGING BELLS  
CE SKATES  
NOW  
OYS  
ISTLETOE  
NGEL  
ANTA





# Local Author launches time-twisting tale at Kurnai College

Churchill writer John de Souza is set to launch his new junior novel, 'Ted and the Time-Travelling Taxi'. A fast-paced adventure inspired by his own days at Kurnai College in 1997.

The story follows Ted, a new high-schooler facing bullies and an enigmatic discovery: a taxi that hurls him and his brothers into defining moments of their family's past. Guided by

an Elder and an English teacher, Ted's journey becomes a lively mix of history, humour and heart.

De Souza describes himself as a laconic writer with a mission: to create short, punchy fiction that speaks to boys who are hesitant readers.

He extends sincere thanks to Kaylene Mustoe for her guidance and to Hollie Johnson for the striking cover art.

## Book Launch:

'Ted and the time-travelling taxi'

5:30pm, Friday

January 30, 2026

(First Friday of Term One)

Language Centre, Kurnai College – Churchill Campus

Cnr Northways Road and McDonald Way, Churchill

Books available for purchase and signing.

## You are invited to the BOOK LAUNCH

Of

Signing.  
Purchases and



High school is tough for Ted, until a time-traveling taxi thrusts him and his brothers into their family's past. A fast-paced journey of history and identity.

Date: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

Time: 5:30pm onwards

Where:

Cnr Northways Rd and McDonald Way Churchill, 3842

Language Centre Kurnai College Churchill Campus



## Martin CAMERON

THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR MORWELL

Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year

✉ martin.cameron@parliament.vic.gov.au  
☎ 03 5133 9088 📍 12-14 George St, Morwell  
📧 Martin4Morwell 🌐 martincameron.com.au

**THE NATIONALS** for Regional Victoria



STAMP  
MATTERS-  
A NEW  
EXPERIENCE



## St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla

These three islands are part of the Leeward Islands in the Lesser Antilles chain on the eastern edge of the Caribbean Sea. St Kitts was discovered and named by Christopher Columbus in 1492. They were controlled by the United Kingdom from the 1600s and have a chequered history of civil administration since, which makes them an interesting subject for the stamp collector.

The first stamps issued were from Nevis in 1861, a set of four values with a design showing three ladies and represents a medicinal spring on the island. A second set of ten followed in 1879 featuring Queen Victoria. The 1d mauve was used as a bisected stamp, each half surcharged NEVIS 1/2d.

The second island to issue was Saint Christopher (commonly referred to as St Kitts). In 1870, featuring Queen Victoria, there were 10 stamps to 1/- in the set. In 1888, five were surcharged in words as a new set and a further surcharge on the 6d green followed in figures the same year.

From 1890 to 1903, both islands used stamps issued for the Leeward Islands. Stamps for the Leeward Islands could be legally used until 1956. However, in 1903 the first sets for St Kitts-Nevis were issued for general use. There were four definitive issues and eight other issues including two War Tax issues until the administration changed again.

In 1952 the name of the colony was changed to St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla. Five definitive sets and several commemorative sets were issued for the group of islands. In 1969 Anguilla declared itself



independent and began issuing stamps under its own name. Stamps for St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla were still issued but Anguilla reverted to British control in 1971, still issuing its own stamps because of a contract signed with a stamp-producing company in the U.S. This lasted until 1980 when a further administrative change occurred.

In preparation for the granting of independence to both St Kitts and Nevis, current stamps were overprinted for St Kitts and for Nevis, Anguilla continued to print its own issues. Independence was granted to both St Kitts and Nevis in 1983, and each island still issues their own stamps today.

Indeed, a convoluted history, but the putting

together of a collection would be interesting. The collection would be quite colourful and voluminous as well since each has issued many sets. Notable amongst the various sets is the high number of omnibus sets issued over the years starting with the King George V Silver Jubilee set.

There is also a great chance here for the thematic collector with a wide variety of topics covered by the various issues from these islands. Indeed my favourite map stamp is the 1948 £1 stamp featuring the island of Anguilla. It is a beautifully engraved stamp, and the composition is exquisite. A gem in the world of philately.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## 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

## Chemist DI\$COUNT Centre



The Management and Staff of Chemist Discount Centre Churchill would like to wish all their valued customers a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2026

Shop 7, West Place Shopping Centre, Churchill VIC 3842 T: (03) 5122 1390





# cooking with Noelene

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



## What do you know?

Here are the answers to last month's challenge:

- |                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Lemons and melons. | 4. Proof. |
| 2. Spice.             | 5. Cure.  |
| 3. edge Dr            | 5. ure. C |

## Here is my challenge for you this month:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. To cook meat, fish, poultry or vegetables over or under a high heat?    | 4. Edible pumpkin seeds with husks removed?  |
| 2. To mix two or more liquids until they form a smooth and stable mixture? | 5. A long thin metal rod onto which a large piece of meat or animal is held and rotated over an open fire? |
| 3. Sugar that has been melted and browned by heating?                      | 6. A creamy coloured wrinkly nut, which is formed into two distinct halves?                                |



## Braised red cabbage with apples



### Ingredients

60gm butter/ marg, 1/2 red cabbage, finely shredded, 1 tbs red wine vinegar, 2 apples, peeled and cut into thick slices, 1 tbs sugar, cracked black pepper to taste.

Melt the butter/ marg in a medium saucepan with a lid over a gentle heat. Add the shredded cabbage and vinegar, apples and sugar. Season with the cracked black pepper. Cover and cook till tender. A simple dish to accompany your pork roast. Serve hot.

## A crunchy cranberry and rice salad

*This is a great salad for the Christmas dinner table and also delicious with barbequed meats.*



### Ingredients:

1 and 1/2 cups cooked basmati rice, 1 and 1/2 cups cooked wild rice, (cook rices separately), 1 cup dried cranberries, 1/4 cup slivered almonds, 2 spring onions finely sliced, 1/2 cup chopped coriander, 1 dsp minced ginger, 1/2 cup orange juice, 1 tbs extra virgin olive oil, cracked black pepper to taste/ season.

Wild rice is not readily available in my part of Gippsland, though I'm lucky that my son Shaun and his wife Dee always gift me a basket of grains purchased from Oasis stores in Melbourne for Christmas, appreciated, practical and never wasted!

Mix together the cooked rice, cranberries, almonds, spring onions and coriander in a serving dish.

Combine the minced ginger with orange juice and oil. Drizzle the ginger mixture over the combined rice mix and toss to coat. Sprinkle with cracked black pepper/ season to taste.

Serve at room temperature. Delicious!

## Roast loin of pork with rosemary and garlic



### Ingredients

2 kg loin of pork, with the bones intact and scraped clean as for a rack of lamb, ask your butcher to do this. 1 sprig rosemary, 3 cloves garlic, 1 tbs fresh chopped herbs.

Please ask your butcher to also score the skin of the pork in narrow strips. Preheat your oven to 220 deg C. Lightly spray a roasting pan. So let us begin. Finely chop the rosemary sprig and garlic cloves, season with cracked black pepper and chopped mixed herbs. Make a few slits on the underside of the pork and push the herb and garlic mixture into the slits to season the pork well.

Finally rub the skin of the pork liberally with salt and place the pork in the roasting pan. Roast the pork in the preheated oven for 25 minutes or till the skin is crisp and crackles. Then reduce the temperature to 180 deg C and continue to roast the pork, about 90 minutes. Carve the pork into thick chops to serve, this goes really well with braised red cabbage with apples or vegetables of your choice and a serve of salad greens.

## Mini Christmas puddings



*You can use your favourite jam, lemon curd or orange marmalade in this recipe. I used orange marmalade which had been made by Maureen and gifted to me from the fruit on their orange tree.*

### Ingredients:

1 dsp castor sugar, 70 gm breadcrumbs, 1 tsp vanilla extract, 1 dsp finely grated orange rind, 310 ml milk, 30 gm butter/ marg, 2 eggs, separated, 115 gm jam/ curd or in my case orange marmalade, 1 10 gm castor sugar (extra).

Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Grease 8 x 80 ml ovenproof ramekins. Combine the 1 dsp of sugar, breadcrumbs, vanilla extract and rind in a heatproof bowl. Heat the milk and butter/ marg in a small saucepan until simmering, pour this over the breadcrumb mixture and let stand for 10 minutes. Stir through the lightly beaten egg yolks into the breadcrumb mixture. Divide tablespoons of the breadcrumb mixture into the greased ramekins, level the tops and bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven. Warm the marmalade/ jam or curd and carefully spread over the tops of the hot puddings. Place the puddings back in the oven. Beat the egg whites and extra sugar in a small bowl with an electric mixer until sugar is dissolved. Spoon the meringue in peaks onto the tops of the puddings. Return the puddings to the oven and continue to bake for 5 minutes until meringue is lightly browned.

## Roast lamb dinner



### Ingredients

2 kg leg of lamb, 3 sprigs rosemary, coarsely chopped, 1/2 tsp sweet paprika, 1kg potatoes, coarsely chopped, 500 gm pumpkin, coarsely chopped, 3 onions, quartered, 2 tbs canola oil/ rice bran oil, 2 tbs plain flour, 250 ml chicken stock, 60ml dry red wine.

Preheat your oven to 200deg C.

Place the lamb in an ovenproof baking dish. Use a sharp knife to score the skin at 2cm/ 3/4" intervals.

Sprinkle over the paprika and rosemary. Roast for 15 minutes, then reduce heat to 180 deg C. and continue to roast for 45 minutes or until cooked as you desire.

Place the potatoes, pumpkin and onions in a single layer alongside the roast lamb, drizzle with oil.

Roast for 45 minutes along with the lamb roast.

Remove the roast lamb and vegetables, cover and keep warm.

Stir the flour into the baking dish with the juices over heat until the mixture bubbles and browns.

Gradually add the stock and wine. Continue to heat and stir until the gravy thickens. Strain into a heatproof jug. Serve the lamb with the vegetables and gravy.

## Glazed baked ham

*The most asked question? Can cooked ham be baked?*

*Yes you use cooked ham. So why do you bake it?*

*Because although the ham is already cooked before being baked, further cooking with an added glaze helps to flavour the ham.*

### Ingredients:

Your chosen leg of ham, 1 cup brown sugar, 1 dsp dry mustard, 1 dsp ground cardamon, 1 dsp ground ginger, whole cloves (for studding), 6 tbs Guinness stout.

Preheat your oven to 200 deg C. You will need a roasting pan, no need to grease. First you need to ease off the skin, cut the skin around the thick end

of the knuckle without cutting the fat and flesh. Ease the skin from the fat by slipping a thumb under the skin and firmly sliding it back and forth. Turn the ham over and ease the rest of the skin away. Using a sharp knife, score the fat in diagonal cuts, to form a diamond pattern. In a small bowl, whisk together the glaze ingredients. Spread the glaze mixture over the ham and stud a clove in each corner of the diamond shape. Bake in the preheated oven for 60 minutes or until golden brown and aromatic. You can serve the baked ham hot or cold. I have given you the answer and instructions to the most asked Christmas ham dilemma. Enjoy.





# Disc Golf comes whizzing into Mathison Park



A brand new Disc Golf course was launched in Churchill's Mathison Park through Latrobe City Council on Friday November 28.

The 18-hole course is situated at Mathison Park and is one of only a few full courses of its kind in Victoria and the only one in Gippsland. Designed for all ages and skill levels, it is a free, family-friendly activity that combines the precision of golf with the fun of a flying disc.

Players aim to land their disc in a series of metal baskets in as few throws as possible. Disc golf is a great way to enjoy the outdoors, get

active, and connect with others.

The course was developed in direct response to community feedback gathered during a 2022 co-design session with Kurnai College, where increasing recreational opportunities in Churchill was identified as a key priority. The course is also thanks to VicHealth through Council's VicHealth Local Government partnership.

The launch began with students from Churchill North Primary School and Kurnai Junior Campus coming along to have a go.

Work teams of Latrobe City also came to try it out.

The launch event was from 4pm to 7pm at Mathison Park. The event featured a free community barbecue, try-it sessions with Melbourne Disc Golf representatives and showbags for the first 50 attendees. These bags soon disappeared. There was face painting, a quiet area for disability people, Community Event First Aid for any mishaps, and table tennis equipment available to use on the big orange table tennis table. Lots of Council officers were there to answer any questions.

People of all ages and ability, including whole families, arrived to see what was happening and

to have a go themselves. They were having fun, but sometimes feeling frustrated that the disc did not always go where they thought it should. Melbourne Disc Golf and Mathison Park committee people were around the course to help improve skills and point participants in the right direction.

Score cards were available in hard copy but a sign indicated that there is the ability to download one at UDisc.

Following the launch, the course will be freely accessible to the public every day. Discs will also be available for free hire through Latrobe Leisure Churchill, making it easy for anyone to give the sport a go.

We are extremely grateful that Mathison Park has been chosen for the disc golf venue in Latrobe City and hope it will be well used. There are visions that in the future competitions will be staged there.

People are reminded that works are also underway at Mathison Park, with the installation of a new adventure playground expected to be completed by mid-2026. Some temporary closures will be in place while upgrades occur. You can learn more about this project at [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Mathison\\_Park](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Mathison_Park)



## New app helps farmers view rainfall distribution like never before

Federation University researchers have developed a tool that reveals spatial variations in rainfall over short distances, providing farmers with an unprecedented level of detail about rainfall on their properties.

Rainfall Mapper enables users to select tiles that are 500 by 500 metres for specific locations and time periods – allowing the tool to be used by farmers to gain greater insight into rainfall information specific to their property. With increased access to information about past rainfall, the tool enables farmers to make more informed decisions, including crop planning and irrigation strategies.

Available to the public on a trial basis, Rainfall Mapper is a standalone, online application developed by the technical team from the Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation

(CeRDI) based on the initial work done by Dr Peter Weir during his Soil CRC PhD project. The trial results will help improve the design of the tool to enhance the user experience, enabling the research team to gain a deeper understanding of the varied, practical applications of the tool. This will guide the research direction of optimising the practical value of Rainfall Mapper for different users.

The project was developed from Dr Weir's PhD research, which involved determining soil moisture content at the paddock level and investigating the spatial variation in rainfall within an area.

"It is an area measurement – not a point measurement from a single location and that means the app has the capability of picking up rainfall details of localised thunderstorms

that often occur unmeasured between official Bureau of Meteorology gauges," Dr Weir said. Regional rain gauges are sparsely located with an average distance of around 30-50 kilometres between these single-point measurements.

"We're very careful with our disclaimer because the rainfall amounts are dependent on the modelling of the weather radar signal to estimate the amount of rain that has fallen in that specific area, but the results are extremely interesting." Rainfall Mapper uses data sourced from the official Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) rain gauge network from across Australia, merged with the BoM's weather radars to generate the Rainfields3 dataset, which is available online from the National Computing Infrastructure – Australia's premier provider of high-performance computing

resources that supports research and collaboration across science, government, and industry.

It is currently available as a component within the Visualising Australasia's Soils (VAS) portal – a long-running Soil CRC initiative that brings together soils research, information and activities from across Australia and New Zealand. CeRDI Principal Research Fellow Associate Professor Peter Dahlhaus, who supervised the project, says there are many potential applications for the Rainfall Mapper, including for anyone who wants information specific to their property. "If you're a farmer and you want to seed your paddock, you would like to know how much rain you've had since the last harvest, and when and where the rain has fallen", Assoc Prof Dahlhaus said.

"It's farmers and farming

groups that are currently showing interest in the app. Apart from the agricultural sector, I anticipate strong interest from people involved in catchment management and those living in high-rainfall areas. Biodiversity groups are also likely to find this tool valuable."

"The resolution is so much finer than any other tool that is available and rainfall patterns have shifted due to climate change. Instead of getting normal reliable winter rain, we're now getting more scattered intense rain events and scattered showers.

"The tool relies on modelled data that converts reflectivity picked up by weather radar – often detected up to a kilometre off the ground – and converting that to rainfall. Assoc Prof Dahlhaus says the research is "shining a light in a dark corner" to show already available information in a

user-friendly way.

Rainfall Mapper includes two years of data and allows users to select specific date parameters. The researchers demonstrated the concept at the Soil CRC conference in 2024 and say the interest that was generated was far beyond their expectations. "Now we are going on to the next step, which is to convert this rainfall data into soil moisture at a finer resolution than we have been able to do so far," Assoc Prof Dahlhaus said.

"The important point is not just the rain that has fallen on a specified area – this is valuable information – but a lot more interest will come when people are able to say how much water is in the bucket."

Dr Weir's PhD research was supported by the Soil CRC with funding from the Australian Government.



# YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE, BUT YOU CAN PREPARE FOR IT.

The best way to keep you and your loved ones safe this fire season, is to make sure you have a fire plan.



Go to [fireplanner.vic.gov.au](https://fireplanner.vic.gov.au) to create your personalised fire plan now.

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne







Declared Fire Danger Period

The Fire Danger Period for Latrobe City commenced on Monday October 27, 2025. This means that there are no fires permitted in the open air without a written permit, along with most activities with the potential to generate sparks.

As we have had good rain falls over the last few weeks, the ground surface is now holding much more moisture, and has been very good for additional spring growth. Consequently, we are seeing substantial grass that will soon start to dry off and will ultimately become a fire risk.

Given this delay to the

start of our usual fire season, property owners can still apply for a permit to burn with each permit assessed on its merits and the local conditions. Permits can be applied for at [firepermits.vic.gov.au](http://firepermits.vic.gov.au)

Churchill Fire Brigade Captain Matt Fisher said that residents could find information about what is and is not permitted during the Fire Danger Period by visiting [cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can) or by calling 1800 226 226.

A written permit is required to burn off grass, undergrowth, weeds or other vegetation

during the Fire Danger Period. This permit may be issued by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer or the CFA District 27 Office. Please check with your municipality in the first instance.

Property owners must ensure that they comply with all permit conditions prior to and when burning off.

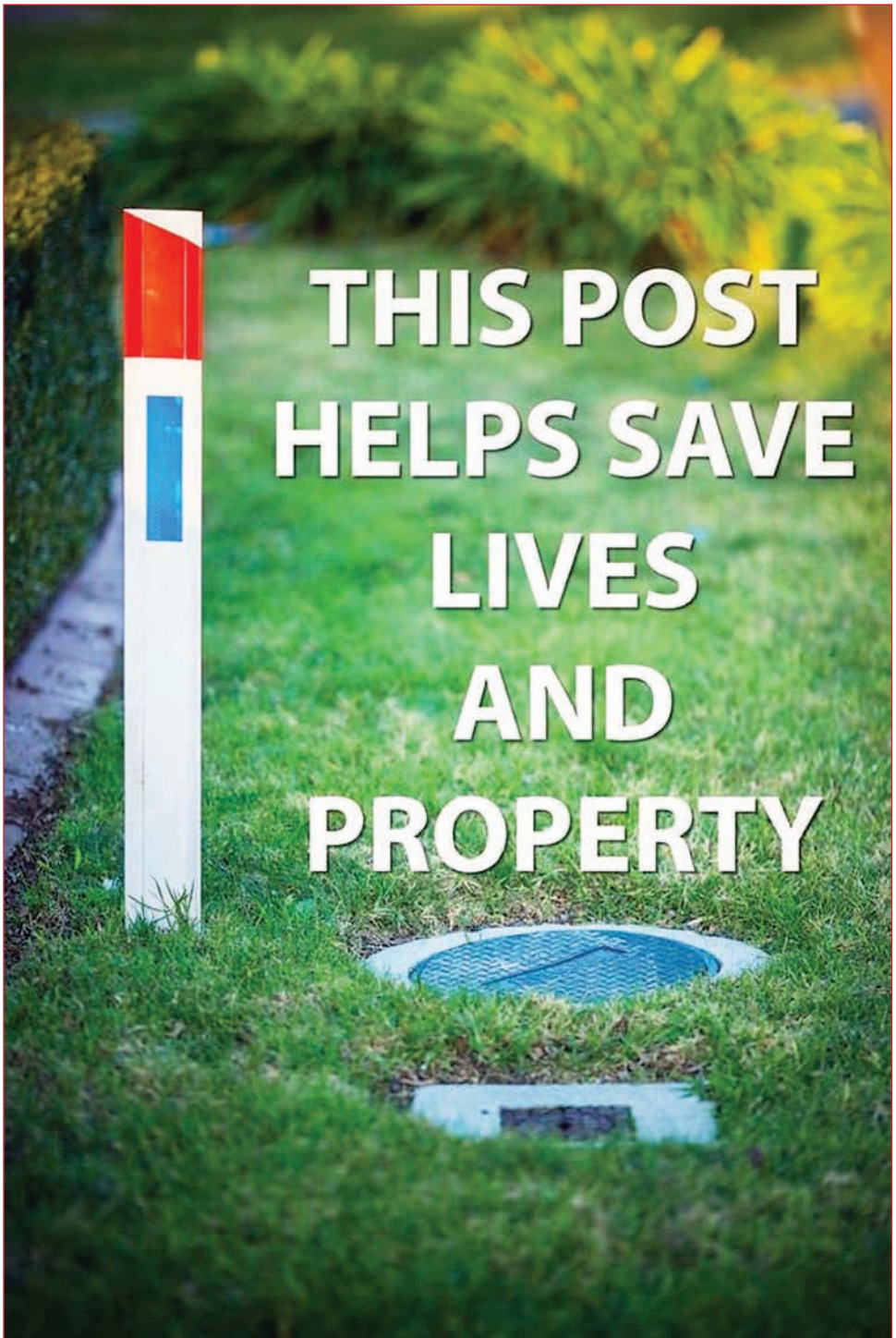
Lighting a fire in the open without a permit or breaching the permit conditions is an offence and can bring a penalty of over \$17,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment. Barbeques and fires for cooking and warmth do not require a permit, but must be lit in properly constructed fireplaces (to view complete conditions visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/can](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/can) )

Use of chainsaw/lawn mowers, welding/grinding equipment and vehicles that come in contact with vegetation and machinery with an internal combustion/heat engine is permitted provided conditions are followed.

Farmers can find legal guidelines and practical advice at [cfa.vic.gov.au/farming](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/farming) – important especially for new farmers, bush block owners or hobby farmers.

A Total Fire Ban declaration means no fires can be lit in the declared district for that day unless there is a specific exemption or special permit issued. This applies irrespective of the Fire Restriction status for a given municipality. Further details at [cfa.vic.gov.au/can](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/can)

Fire plugs save lives



Firefighter's Christmas List

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas, all I want for my community is:  
Have fun, but safely and sensibly.  
Not to speed, or drink and drive.  
Follow fire permit requirements and be careful with camp fires.  
Look after each other, especially those who are alone.  
To reach out if you are struggling or worried.  
Be mindful of dry conditions and summer heat.  
Be careful when placing a BBQ  
Play safely, and know your limits.

**Remember, firefighters do not stop for holidays! However when you take care and act safely, we can rest.**



# Notice

## DECLARATION OF THE FIRE DANGER PERIOD

The Fire Danger Period will commence at 1am on Monday 27th October 2025 for the Latrobe City Council Municipality

CFA's Chief Officer has advised that the Fire Danger Period for the Latrobe City Council area will commence at 1am on Monday 27 October 2025.

CFA declares the Fire Danger Period at the onset of warmer weather when fires in the open air are legally restricted.

This is to help prevent fires from starting as dry vegetation and hot weather increase the incidence of fires accidentally starting and spreading.

Certain restrictions on the lighting of fires are in force during the Fire Danger Period.

### USEFUL INFORMATION

Vic Emergency Hotline  
1800 226 226

Vic Emergency App  
Download free from your app store

CFA Website  
[cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

CFA Can I or Can't I?  
[cfa.vic.gov.au/can](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/can)

Your local council website

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

The CFA website provides information on what people can and can't do during the declared Fire Danger Period and days of Total Fire Ban.

Residents who suspect illegal burning off during the declared fire danger period should report it to the Police on Triple Zero (000).

The penalties for lighting fires illegally during the Fire Danger Period and on Total Fire Ban Days include large fines and possible imprisonment.

Protecting your home and family in the event of a fire emergency is crucial.

That is why it is important to have accessible and working fire hydrants in your community.

You have the power to help us ensure that these hydrants are in top condition by taking the following steps.

**You can help us by:**

- Clearing the area around the hydrant from soil, grass, and shrubs.
- Keeping vehicles away from the hydrant. Remember, parking, stopping, or leaving your vehicle within 1 metre of a fire hydrant, fire hydrant indicator, or fire plug indicator is not allowed unless there is a sign indicating otherwise. When parallel parking, make sure to leave a minimum of 1 metre between your vehicle and the one in front and behind.
- Report any visible faults, damage, or missing posts or markers using the Snap Send Solve app.

Your efforts to help us maintain fire hydrant points can make all the difference in an emergency.

By ensuring that these hydrants are accessible, you are not only protecting your own home and family, but also the entire community.

## Melina BATH MP

THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

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

2/181 Franklin St, Traralgon VIC 3844

03 5174 7066

MelinaBathMLC



# Friends of Morwell National Park

## November Activity Report

The group met in the picnic area and caught up on what had happened over the previous month. On November 6, there was a weeding activity with rangers Yani and Mark removing weeds along the Weir Track. Beryl, Graeme and Peter worked with the rangers to remove a huge number of thistles and other weeds. There are lots more weeds to remove and a second weeding day occurred on Thursday November 27.

Congratulations to all FoMNP members whose photographs were displayed and commended at the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club exhibition. Friends of Morwell National Park had an information stand at the exhibition to showcase our activities and publications. The exhibition continued until Thursday November 13 at the Greek Orthodox Church Hall in Morwell.

Planning for our 40th anniversary is going well. We are seeking to get in touch with past members of FoMNP so they can join us in celebrating in May next year.

## Calling all past members of FoMNP

In May 2026, Friends of Morwell National Park will be celebrating our 40th anniversary. If you have ever been a member of our group or you are in contact with someone who was, please send us a message at [contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au](mailto:contact@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au) so we can add you to the guest list.

The 'Birds of Morwell National Park' celebrates one year since its publication. It has been incredible to see our wonderful community—and so many others—enjoying the book over the past year.

## Closure of Billys Creek section of Morwell National Park

Over the coming months, Parks Victoria will be replacing and repairing four bridges damaged by storms along Billys Creek. The area of Morwell National Park accessible from entrances at Braniffs Road, Junction Road, Tebb Terrace, Jumbuk Road and Morans Road will be closed to the public from Monday December 1 to late February 2026. This includes Weir Track, Billys Creek Track, But But Track, Zig Zag Track, Clematis Track, Lodge Track and Blue Gum Hill Track.

The Fosters Gully area of the Park, accessible from Kerry Road and Brewsters Road entrances, remains open.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation in avoiding the construction area as these important

works are completed.

For more information, contact [renee.simpson@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:renee.simpson@parks.vic.gov.au).

For the day's activities there were three different tasks to complete.

Firstly, there was the Butterfly Orchid survey. Matt, Tamara and Graeme completed the survey of the five survey plots. They found that the numbers of orchids within each of the survey plots remains similar to the number of previous years.

It was good that in a plot where all orchids had gone when a large landslip occurred, a few butterfly orchids have now returned. Along Fosters Gully Track there were many large healthy plants.

The second group of Peter, Caitilin and Darren completed track maintenance around Fosters Gully Track. Over the previous week several trees had fallen across the track. These were removed along with some foliage that was encroaching upon the track. This group was happy to overlap with two groups of walkers out enjoying the day.

The last group undertook the first pollinators survey in the park. Cathy, Mike, Jay, Joelle and Ken did the pollinator survey around the beginning of Fosters Gully Track. Plants with flowers were located and observed for two minutes. Any pollinators observed were recorded. With it being cool and overcast there were few pollinators about. Among the few pollinators hover flies were the most common seen during the morning.

Mike and Cathy collected many wonderful photos of the plants, pollinators and animals seen during



the morning. Thanks go to them and Caitilyn for their wonderful photos.

When each of the three groups had finished their tasks, they returned to the picnic area for lunch.

The best outcome from the day was that all groups finished before the afternoon rain came.

## December Activity

Sunday December 21, 10.00am. The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to complete track maintenance. You will need to bring clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.







A Churchill &amp; District History Series

# Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



## By Leo Billington Christmas in Morwell

As Christmas is here again, and its significance tends to be pushed aside, it is now an opportunity to look back. To a period where new cars, overseas holidays, flash jewels, food, drink, computer games and whatever, did not determine a mind-set. To a more settled, friendly life where life's escalators were non-existent.

In editorial of Friday December 22, 1899, the Morwell Advertiser reminded its readers that

"much yet remains to be done in the way of affording relief, and in a Christian country like this, and with a season approaching, commemorative of the birth of the greatest Preacher and the truest Exponent of Charity that the world has ever known, it must be the duty of all of us, both individually and collectively, to go not only metaphorically, but literally, into the lanes and bye ways of life."

Miss Ellen Haiz and her sister, Mary, conducted a

fancy goods emporium in Commercial Road, Morwell. Their advertisement on Friday November 25, 1898, announced different prices of Christmas cards alongside popular items reminiscent of the era - cigar cases, books, crockery, stationery.

In its editorial on Friday December 21, 1906, the Morwell Advertiser put in its plug for a joyous Christmas:

"Our local shopkeepers have got a large supply of goods in, and have gone to considerable trouble in tastefully decorating their

windows and showing a fine display of Xmas novelties, and once again old "Santa Claus" should have no difficulty in getting something nice for all the children who hang up their stockings, and we hope each little child's heart will be made glad with a Christmas box.

In short, we trust all our readers will spend a Merry Christmas and

**A Happy New Year.**

This Christmas message also told readers that "the Romans festooned their houses with holly in honour of the god, Saturn. Romans sent their friends, sprigs of holly, thus indicating their good wishes for prosperity and long life."

A lovely touch instead of solar multicolour fairy lights!

On December 12, 1915, the Victorian Railways placed an advertisement for Christmas and New Year Excursions.

An explanation regarding availability of excursion tickets as from December 10. Apparently, so it's recorded, this gesture was most welcome.

As was the custom in those days, another Christmas message was printed for everyone to read and ponder. Readers were asked to reflect about the poem, 'Bingen on the Rhine.'

"Near Bingen (Germany) there is the Mouse Tower, and the story goes that a very selfish man, a bishop, stored up all the grain he could get, far more than he could use; but he was so selfish he wouldn't give any away, and he was dreadfully cruel to some very poor people who took some.

Then a plague of mice came along and cleaned up all the wheat, and as the story goes cleaned up the bishop too.

Some think they are sure to be happy if they have lots of money; but no matter how much money you have, you are not really happy if you don't use it well. I want you to be generous hearted boys and girls; be willing to sacrifice yourselves for the sake of others. and your souls will grow and expand".

Morwell Advertiser editorial - Thursday December 3, 1936.

Later on in December 1954, well known Australian food writer, Maria Kozslik

1st Warragul Brownies, taken on the occasion of the Queen's visit to Warragul, 1954. Photographer: Ern Sipp.



Donovan provided editorial for the Morwell Advertiser (Monday December 20, 1954). Her focus was Christmas pudding pointing out there are two varieties. One which comes tinned and requires only a can-opener, the other which is made at home by the housewife. The tinned version was described as tasting like melted liquorice fortified with glycerine, which is used in explosives. The other reminded her of threepences.

Not long after Christmas 1960, the Morwell Advertiser (January 19, 1961) revealed in an article announcing Senior Detective Peter Kelly's farewell; his achievement of a crime detection rate of 73 per cent. Apparently, it was the "highest in the world."

In the weeks immediately after Christmas 1960, Ern Sipp had a "tidy - up sale" at his camera shops; advertised on Thursday January 19, 1961.

To provide post-Christmas entertainment - or 'things to do' - the Morwell Go-Kart Club arranged "an action packed program" to

celebrate its new Drive-In track, immediately adjacent to the then Panoramic Drive-In theatre. (Morwell Advertiser, Thursday January 19, 1961.)

The Morwell Advertiser - Friday December 23, 1904 - sent its final message for that year.

"Australia, however, is not far behind the mother land in her Christmas celebrations.

Most people look forward to having a holiday and spending a merry time in a manner they best enjoy.

Sports of various kinds, picnics, fishing, boating, shooting, hunting dancing, etc., are amongst the many pastimes in which Australians find greatest pleasure.

Another important feature here about Christmas is that many families whose members have been dispersed and scattered far and wide in the restless struggles of life, are then re-united and meet once again in that happy state of companionship and mutual good will, which is a source of such pure and unalloyed delight".

Finally, a Christmas pudding recipe provided by the Morwell Advertiser on Friday December 20, 1901.

Take two pounds of fine bread crumbs, one pound of sultana raisins, one pound of currants, one pound of prunes (best quality), one pound of figs, one pound of dessert raisins, one and a half pounds of suet, one pound of mixed candied peel, one and a half pounds of sugar, half a pound of flour, one tablespoonful each of salt, ginger, and allspice, twelve pounded cloves and half a grated nutmeg, two wine glassfuls of brandy, fourteen eggs, - well beaten, mix with a small bottle of stout, and boil for fourteen hours.

Have a great Christmas.

**Our local shopkeepers have got a large supply of goods in, and have gone to considerable trouble in tastefully decorating their windows and showing a fine display of Xmas novelties, and once again old "Santa Claus" should have no difficulty in getting something nice for all the children who hang up their stockings, and we hope each little child's heart will be made glad with a Christmas box. In short we trust all our readers will spend—**

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

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## CRIME DETECTION RATE HERE "PHENOMENAL"

**THE crime detection rate of 73 per cent. over the past 12 months by the Morwell C.I.B. was phenomenal, and the highest in the world, Inspector G. McCullough said last night.**

He was speaking at a public farewell to Senior Detective P. Kelly, who has been in charge of the Morwell C.I.B. for the past 21 years.

He said that there was no doubt that the C.I.B. staff at Morwell had worked well, but much of the credit must be given to Senior Detective Kelly.

He said that Senior Kelly had uttered the excellent record of 68-69 per cent. of detection attained by the man he succeeded, Senior Detective Kevin Carton.

**PACKED**  
The fact that there are so many at this farewell

shows that the people of Morwell and the Valley appreciate your efforts, he told Senior Kelly.

Policemen from all over the C.I.B. district, and private citizens packed the supper room for the function, which was chaired by newly-appointed Superintendent F. Craven.

Mr. R. Davis, S.M. said that the way Senior Kelly had conducted his cases had been impressed by his fairness, and that sense of fairness had not impaired his efficiency.

Speaking on behalf of the bar, Mr. W. J. White of Moe, commented on Senior Kelly's efficiency and fairness, and said that members of the Bar had always found him to be "a real man"

Mr. Frank Dean, on behalf of the business community, said that he had always been amazed at the job done by the police in the Latrobe Valley.

The public, he said, did not realise the hours worked and the varied tasks carried out.



Senior Detective Peter Kelly, Detective T. (Paddy) Craven, and Detective Bruce Hirst at

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CARDS**  
FROM  
**3d, 6d, 1s, 1s 6d to 7s 6d.**

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Cigar Cases, Stationery (plain  
and fancy), Crockery and  
Glassware, Photo Frames.**

**BOOKS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.  
AT  
Misses Haizs',  
COMMERCIAL ROAD,  
Morwell.**



By Leo Billington

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

local history, there is excitement when one story suddenly provides a link to another story. Each story is, at an initial glance, unrelated. Or so it

seems.

Patrick Whelan was 75 years old when he passed away, presumably in his sleep in his room at O'Rourke's Coffee Palace. Early on Sunday morning, July 31, 1910, Patrick, widely known as Paddy, was found in his room "very quiet and peaceful."

Born in Ireland, Paddy arrived here in about 1880, selecting land at Hazelwood South. (His selection encompasses

today's Hazelwood South Hall; at the soccer ground.) He remained here until about 1907 when he then moved to lodgings at Mary O'Rourke's Coffee Palace.

His health was deteriorating - heart disease mainly - but he soldiered onwards. His passing, after seeming in good spirits, was a shock throughout Morwell. His body is interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery.

Here we find a first link between one story and another.

Mary O'Rourke, together with her family conducted the Coffee Palace - husband Thomas and four daughters, Jean, Olive, Kathleen, Elizabeth (Bessie) all of whom were born in Morwell.

(O'Rourke's Coffee Palace was first occupied by Mrs Henry in 1888 as a Coffee Palace. Other occupiers were Mrs

Keegan and later the O'Rourke family who were the last occupant as the building burned down on April 29, 1927. The site was then vacant until the Morwell Town Hall was built in 1936.)

At age 50, Thomas died in November 1910 and is interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery, in an unmarked grave. Mary passed away, aged 65, late in November 1928 and is interred in the Melbourne General Cemetery.

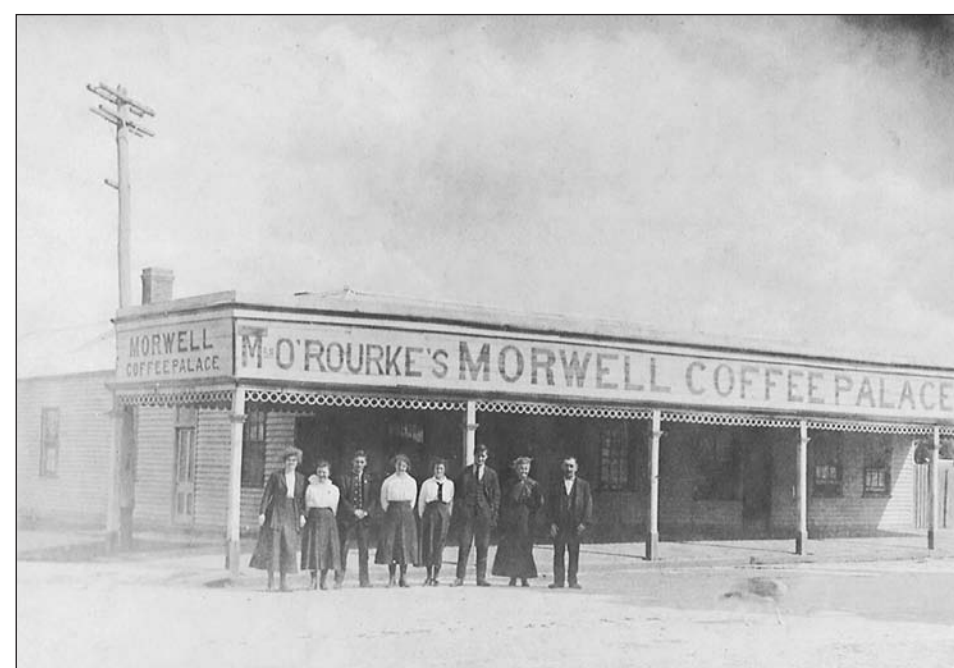
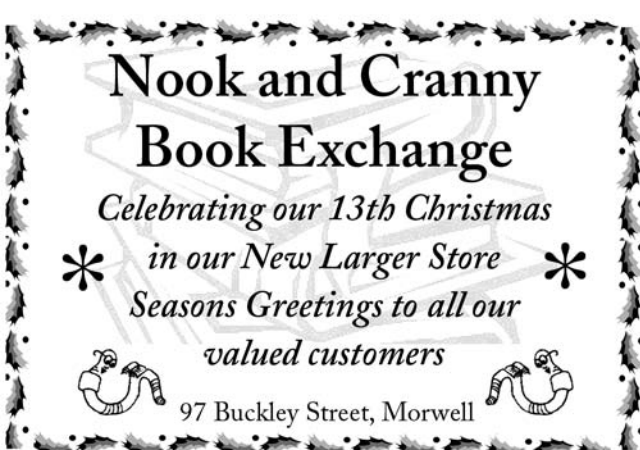
It was Mary and Kathleen, with others, who battled to save some items from the fire. However, the Coffee Palace was gone, not worthy of any rebuild.

The Morwell Advertiser (Friday April 29, 1927) reported there were nearly 20 boarders on the premises, all of whom were sound asleep when the fire started. Several had a narrow escape and most of them lost some of their belongings. Mrs O'Rourke was in Melbourne, but her daughter Mrs Olive McGrath and her husband were on holidays, staying in the house and lost some of their things.

Kathleen O'Rourke (1906 - 1975), was interred in the New Cheltenham Cemetery. She married James Vivian Maxfield in 1924, being the same year he sold his Commercial Road hairdressing saloon to Tom Twomey.

Over the early period of their marriage - and slightly earlier, James was an outstanding athlete and footballer. He was known as James, or Jim but his nickname 'Snowy' was a trademark across Gippsland and at the Richmond Football Club.

# Hazelwood



From left 2nd Olive, 4th Kathleen, 7th Mrs Mary O'Rourke. c1920

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# Cemetery

James (1893 - 1953) was born in Bendigo and educated at the Marist Brothers' College. He enlisted in the 1st AIF in February 1916, served overseas until about May 1919. His employment upon enlistment was given as "motor driver."

His football record is admirable, albeit his injuries began to take a toll towards his end as Captain-Coach of the Traralgon Football Club in late 1930. He played with this club over four seasons, one season as Captain - Coach.

Long before playing with the Traralgon club, Snowy played for the Bendigo City Football Club in 1915, after which with a London based team late in 1916, then to Morwell Football Club for four seasons - 1920 to 1923. For one year, he played two games with the VFA Club, Northcote. In May 1924, Snowy was granted a clearance from Morwell to Richmond.

Space herein does not allow for a full, detailed story about his clearance, but suffice, as it was reported in newspapers, Richmond had serious

concerns about the status of his clearance to Richmond. His clearance was cancelled but reinstated in July 1925. As a result of bureaucratic discussions, Snowy had effectively been disqualified for 21 games.

He resumed his playing days with Richmond, and, in 1926, transferred to Maffra where he was Captain-Coach. Maffra won the premiership that same year. Then he transferred to Traralgon in 1927.

Snowy was also a talented sprinter who did not begin running competitively until he was nearly 30. On February 26, 1927, in front of a huge crowd, he won the 130-yard 1927 Sale Gift, running off 12 yards, narrowly beating the favourite, champion sprinter Tim Banner.

(Tim, known as 'The Human Greyhound', won the 1925 Stawell Gift. He was an Australian and world professional sprint champion.)

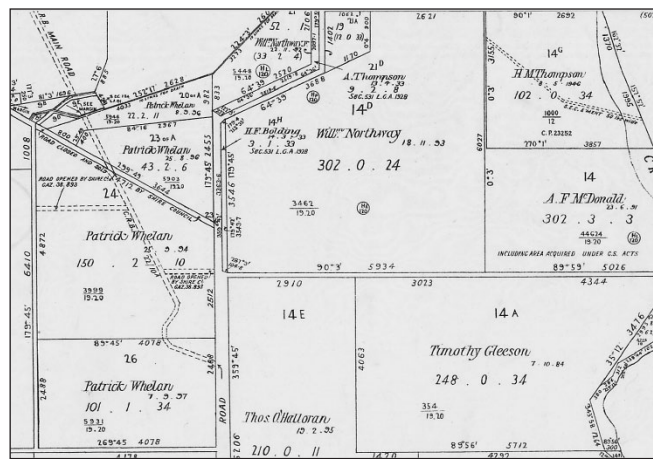
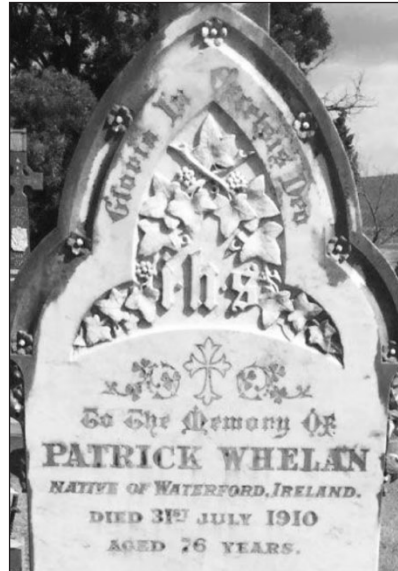
Snowy was widely known, very popular and enthusiastic about his sporting endeavours. Perhaps sporting

pursuits were always the substance of male talk in his hairdressing saloon. His 35 games played for Morwell would be analysed in fine detail. Hairdressing saloons were the place for pronouncement of theories and conspiracies.

Following a lengthy period in the Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital, James 'Snowy' Maxfield was interred in the New Cheltenham Cemetery. Kathleen is interred here with her sister, Olive and so is Kathleen Margaret Maxfield, daughter of James

and Kathleen.

This article shows convergence in historical research; when two or more facts come together to form a new whole, more complete story.



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## COMMUNITY SAFETY Words of Wisdom

### Holiday season SCAMS! ...

Holiday season is here! And SCAM season is here. It is very important to be aware of things going on in the world that might take your money.

#### COMMON TYPES OF SCAMS

- Impersonation scams: Scammers pretend to be from a trusted organization like a bank or government agency to gain your trust and steal information or money.
- Phishing: Using fake emails or texts to trick you into revealing personal information by claiming there is an issue with your account.
- Investment scams: Promising high returns with little risk, often with fake testimonials or through pressure to act quickly.
- Job and employment scams: Offering high-paying jobs in exchange for an upfront fee or personal information.
- Unexpected money scams: Contacting you about a lottery, sweepstakes, or inheritance you did not enter to win, then asking for a fee to "release" the prize.
- Online shopping and classified scams: Setting up fake websites or profiles to sell

non-existent products or services.

#### HOW TO STAY SAFE

- Stop, Check, and Reject: Do not rush to act. Pause, check the information you have been given through an official source, and reject the request if you are suspicious.
- Go direct to the source: If you receive a suspicious email or text, do not use the links or phone numbers provided. Instead, go directly to the official website or call the organization using contact details you know are legitimate.
- Do not click on links or attachments: Be cautious of links and attachments in unsolicited messages, as they can lead to scam websites or install malware.
- Protect your personal information: Never give out personal or financial details to someone who has contacted you unexpectedly.
- Report scams: Report scam activity to relevant authorities to help protect others.

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

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



# Churchill & Monash Golf Club competition success



From Left - Craig Waring, Russell Dent, Jamie Thornby and Collin Thompson



Traralgon Bowl Winners  
Left - Christine Stevens.  
Middle - Chrissy Sterrick.  
Right - Sandra Caldwell



From Left - Christine Stevens (DTL), Chrissy Sterrick winner A Grade and score of the day and Kerryn Piccolo winner of B Grade

The Churchill & Monash Golf Club continues to have great success in competitions at other local club events.

On Sunday November 16, the Churchill Men's Team, Craig Waring, Russell Dent, Jamie Thornby and Collin Thompson did the club proud playing in the Trafalgar Plate and brought the Plate home with a total score of 139 points. Russell Dent also had the score of

the day with 40 points.

Not to be outdone, the ladies had two teams competing in the EJ Fryatt Challenge Bowl at Traralgon on Friday November 28. Christine Stevens, Chrissy Sterrick and Sandra Caldwell brought the Bowl home with a very nice combined score of 115 points. Merryn Dear, Kerryn Del Piccolo and Joan Clegg came third with a combined score of 111

points. Additionally, Chrissy Sterrick won A Grade with 42 points which was the score of the day. Kerryn Piccolo won B Grade with 39 points. Merryn Dear and Christine Stevens won balls down the line with their respective high scores of 40 points and 38 points.

Congratulations to all winners for representing the Churchill & Monash Golf Club so favourably.

# Churchill & Monash Golf Club Championships

The Churchill & Monash Golf Club Championships were played over three rounds beginning November 15 through to December 2. During this time, the ground staff and the players faced gruelling conditions with the weather being wet and windy throughout the duration of the championships. The keen golfers were undeterred and toughed it out with the men having 29 members completing the three rounds, and the women having 10.

The men's overall champion (scratch) was

Tyson Webb with a score of 259 off the stick. The overall handicap champion was Greg Sanders with a nett score of 229. Greg also won the A Grade men's handicap championship. The B Grade men's handicap championship was won by Barry Mathieson with 230 nett and the C Grade winner was Brody Cluderay with 231.

The ladies overall champion (scratch) was Sandra Caldwell with 312 off the stick. Sandra had a great tournament,

also winning the overall handicap championship and the A Grade handicap championship with 237 nett. Winner of the B Grade women's handicap championship was Kerryn Del Piccolo with 258 nett.

Congratulations goes to all members who played under duress and a special acknowledgement goes to the ground staff who were able to maintain the course at an excellent standard given the heavy rain and winds. Congratulations to all winners.



Right-Sandra Caldwell Club Champion, Handicap Champion and A Grade Handicap Champion.  
Left - Kerryn Del Piccolo, B Grade Handicap Champion



Right - Greg Sanders Overall Handicap Champion and A Grade Handicap Champion. Left Greg Byers President Adeco



Barry Mathieson (Left) B Grade Handicap Champion.  
Right - Dave Byers President



Left - Tyson Webb Club Champion. Right - Dave Byers President



Brody Cluderay C Grade Handicap Champion

# Churchill & Monash Golf Club results

## Stableford November 1, 2025

A Grade Winner: J. Sanders (Snr) 39 pts B Grade Winner: B. Kilday 37 pts C Grade Winner: G. Leahy 43 pts D.T.L: 1. C. Waring 36, 2. C. Sterrick 35, 3. G. Spowart 35, 4. I. Fortune 34, 5. W. McGrath 34, 6. P. Chapple 34, 7. C. Stevens 33, 8. S. Sanders 33 c/b N.T.P: 3rd C. Gilfillan, 5th D. Burridge, 12th Adam West, 14th R. Vesty Birdies: 3rd M. Brereton, C. Gilfillan, B. Mathieson, 12th J. Banfield

## 4 Person Ambrose Melbourne Cup Day

**November 4, 2025**  
Winners: N. Sparks/G. Sanders/A. Sanders/S. Sanders 58.25 Nett  
D.T.L: 1.R. Sands/R. Dent/D. Radness/L. Bevis 59.375 Nett, 2. M. Answerth/P. Kearns/B. Downie/M. Brereton 60.25 Nett N.T.P: 3rd G. Beyer, 5th B. Downie, 14th C. Gardiner

**4 Person Ambrose November 8, 2025**  
Winners: Ash West/C. Gilfillan/M. Hutchinson/Adam West 60.25 Nett  
D.T.L: 1. M. Soppe/J. Soppe/M. Brereton/R.King 62.375 Nett, 2. B. Jenkins/A. Jenkins/G. Leahy 63.333

Nett N.T.P: 3rd G. Barnes, 12th M. Soppe (Propin)

**Monthly Medal (Stroke) Championships (Week 1) November 11, 2025**  
Rescheduled due to greens being under water  
**Men's Championships Rd 1 (Stroke) November 15, 2025.**

A Grade Winner: A. Jenkins 73 Nett B Grade Winner: G. Sanders 74 Nett C Grade Winner: C. Gilfillan 75 Nett D Grade Winner: B. Mathieson 69 Nett  
Scratch Winner: T. Webb 80 D.T.L: 1. S. Varv 72, 2. B.

Downie 73, 3. B. Cluderay 73, 4. T. Webb 74, 5. C. Thompson 75, 6. J. Cahill 75, 7. M. Brereton 75, 8. P. Flanagan 75, 9. G. Barnes 76, 10. S. Caldwell 76 N.T.P: 3rd P. Smart (Propin), 12th P. Smart Target Hole: R. Dent  
**Women's Championships Rd 1 Monthly Medal (Stroke) November 18, 2025.**

Monthly Medal Winner: S. Caldwell 81 Nett Scratch Winner: M. Dear  
Putts: M. Dear 27 A Grade Winner: S. Caldwell 81 Nett B Grade Winner: S. Gosling 85 Nett D.T.L: 1. M. Dear 82, 2. C. Sterrick 83

N.T.P: 3rd S. Gosling, 5th S. Turner, 12th M. Dear, 14th L. Brent.

## Men's Championships Rd 2 (Stroke) November 22, 2025.

A Grade Winner: I. Fortune 78 Nett B Grade Winner: A. Auld 73 Nett C Grade Winner: S. Caldwell 70 Nett D Grade Winner: T. Bennett 80 Nett  
Scratch Winner: T. Webb 86 D.T.L: 1. P. Kearns 77, 2. J. Banfield 77, 3. D. Burridge 79, 4. G. Sanders 79, 5. Adam West 79, 6. G. Tatterson 79, 7. J. Soppe 80, 8. C. Waring 80, 9. S. Allison

80, 10. J. Cahill 80.  
N.T.P: 3rd S. Allison, 12th M. Soppe (Propin), 14th D. Burridge Target Hole: D. Burridge

**Women's Championships Rd 2 Star Medal (Stroke) November 25, 2025**  
Star Medal Winner: S. Caldwell 76 Nett Scratch Winner: R. Dent 96  
A Grade winner: S. Caldwell 76 Nett B Grade Winner: K. Del Piccolo 86 Nett

D.T.L: 1. C. Sterrick 80, 2. R. Sands 84, 3. M. Dear 85 N.T.P: 3rd S. Gosling, 5th M. Dear, 12th M. Dear, 14th J. Tatterson



# SCHOOL news

# Boolarra Primary

**Wadaiko Rindo Japanese Drumming Workshop**  
On November 19, Grades 3 to 6 attended a Japanese Drumming incursion. We all went out to the front of the school and saw MASSIVE Japanese drums. We did not expect how good our sensei was.  
He showed us heaps of photos and the biggest Japanese drum in the world. We got to drum along with him, but most of us could not keep up with him as he was super-fast and talented. As the session moved on we became better drummers than we were before.  
By Daisy and Sophia

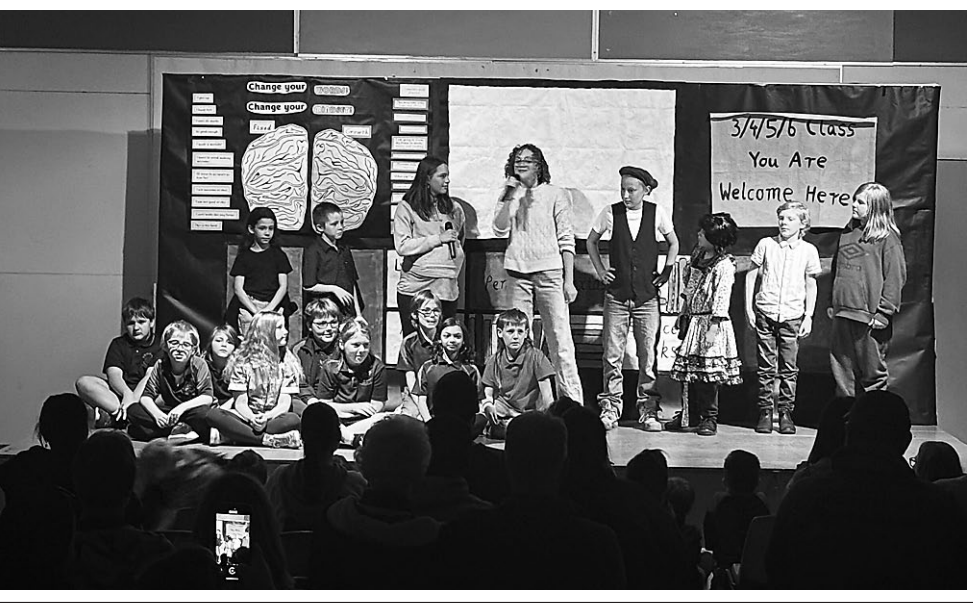
**Future Fit Program**  
On Wednesday November 26, Grade 6 had a tennis excursion to Traralgon Tennis Courts. There were so many schools there, compared to the other schools we were tiny.  
Our first activity was a talk about Gallipoli and the war. It was very interesting and we learnt all about what happened in WW1.  
Our next activity was really fun, it was all about racket control. It was really hard to keep the ball steady on our racket because of the wind. But in the end, our school won the game. Our third activity was very

devastating because that is when Traralgon was hit with a humungous storm. We had to quickly get on the bus and get out of Traralgon.  
Overall all it was a really good experience.  
By Daisy and Sophia  
*Boolarra Primary School shines in a spectacular school play*  
Boolarra Primary School delivered a wonderful night of entertainment with its original school play, 'Boolarra Rocks'.  
The performance showcased the humour, talent and community spirit of our students — and had the audience laughing, cheering

and even getting a little emotional.  
Our cast brought the story of a school turned upside down to life with brilliant energy. Mrs Boka became a crowd favourite, thanks to a hilarious portrayal highlighting her heroic phone-answering skills. Staff members were also surprised (and secretly delighted) to see themselves reimagined as characters on stage by Sophia, Dylan, Jake, Jakayla, Richie, Azaleah, Gewalin and Angus, who ran the "school" with confidence and charm.  
A special congratulations goes to the Lavender family

— Daisy, Connor, Jackson and Emma — whose performances tied the whole storyline together.  
The show also featured a comedic synchronised swimming act performed by Daisy, Angus, Leon and Gewalin, leaving the audience joking that the 2028 Olympic team may have found its next recruits.  
Musical numbers added even more sparkle: the F/1/2 class opened the night with an energetic, toe-tapping version of 'Rock Around the Clock', while the 3-6 class delivered a heartfelt performance of 'I Am Australian'

that stirred Aussie pride throughout the hall.  
Our exceptional support staff — Emily, Jade and Mary — also made a surprise appearance as "baby performers," adding an extra layer of fun to the evening.  
A heartfelt thank-you to Ms Larrad, whose creativity, direction and dedication brought 'Boolarra Rocks' to life.  
It was a fantastic celebration of student talent, school spirit and community — a night Boolarra won't soon forget.





# SCHOOL news

## Churchill North Primary

This term in maths we have been learning about fractions. They have been really tricky, but some are easy like  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{6}$  and  $\frac{1}{8}$  are really easy for some people like me. - Louise

I'm writing a story about J- Mart it's been really good during that time it has been really fun. I really like to write about news stories every day. - Abe

This term we have been writing a story called Locked in J-Mart. It took us about 5 weeks to finish. We wrote it on a piece of paper and then we got to type. Now I like Writing. - Bella

In maths I have been doing numbers, adding, subtraction, times and dividing. This is really, easy and calm to do. I feel cool

and smart, but I do need help sometimes. - Laura

This term we've been learning about Captain Cook and the First Fleet. Fun fact you can get hung if you steal \$20 or more. Not much of a fun fact, but things were very bad back then with picking ropes and not much food at sea. - Eldana

I've been doing Maths and I like it. Here's why I like maths, because the fractions are hard and I like hard things. Division is hard. Long addition and subtraction is hard.

Every part of maths is hard, but it gets easier when you practice, that's the point. - Nicholas

Last week and this week 3/4M have learned how to swim. I learnt how to swim

to the deep end it was hard but fun. I love it. - Alyssa

This term in reading we have been learning about Captain Cook and the First Fleet. It is really fun to read, and sometimes we get to do a worksheet about it. And we get to learn new things every day. - Mckenzie

This term I've been swimming and playing. Now I can do a pin drop and a dive at the deep end. It was amazing - Will

This year I have been writing stories about lots of things. Like the categories of magic box, or up, up and away, or magic pets, maybe even Locked in J-Mart. Our Locked in J-Mart is a story about a kid wanting a toy out of J-Mart and staying in J-Mart to play with it and

getting stuck in there. I love writing - Kelani

This term we have had swimming. I have not had to swim to the deep end before. It was hard, but I had lots of fun. -Josh

This term I've been doing swimming lessons. I've learned how to do backstroke, torpedo and dive. It was fun, but a little hard. The fun part was free play, you can get sinkies, throw balls or do water handstands. - Daniella

This term I've been working on fractions. Some were hard, some easier, all the fractions were different. I liked the challenges of fractions. The improper fractions were very hard but after a while you got used to them. - Asher

This term, most students have completed Art projects based on topics they have been studying in class. In Grade 5 / 6, students have been studying Ancient Rome. In Art, they learned about Roman mosaics, then they designed their own with a modern theme, but in the style of Ancient Rome. They used AI to generate their images. The next step of this ongoing project will be to use them as a base to create their own paper mosaics.

In Grades 3 / 4 students have been learning about the voyages of Captain Cook, and the First Fleet. They have made pencil drawings of sailing ships and practised the skill of working in coloured pencil - shading, layering, hatching and cross-

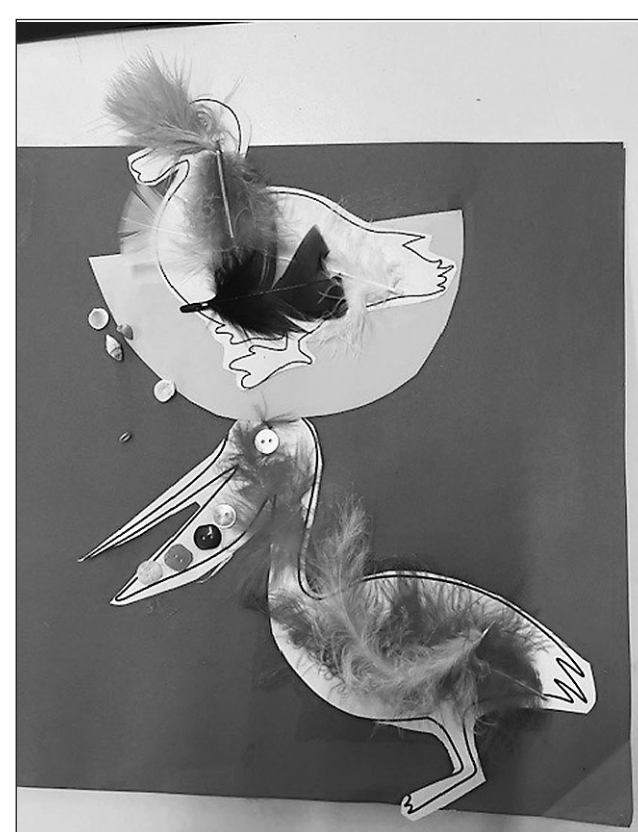
hatching.

In Grades 1 and 2, students have been studying Ancient Egypt.

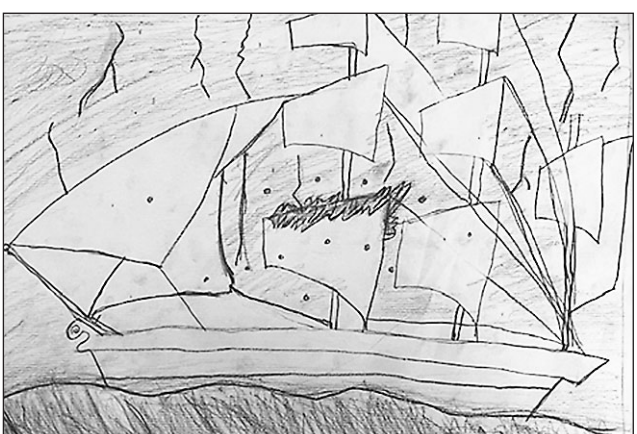
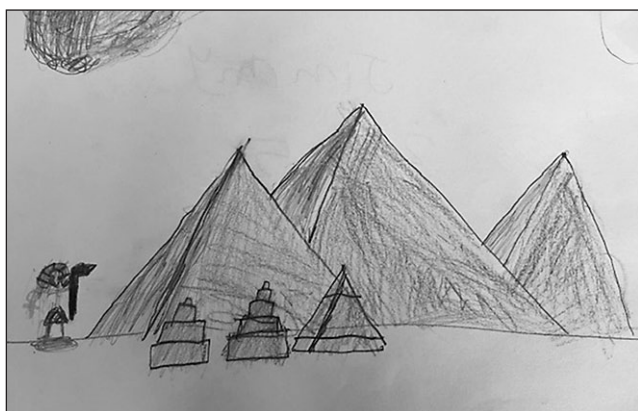
Students in Foundation/1 have been creating Art around the story of Borun and Tuk.

Across the school, it has been a creative term in the Art room.

From the youngest students experimenting with colour and collage through the story of Borun and Tuk, to our middle years practising detailed drawing techniques, and our senior students combining historical learning with modern digital tools. Every class has shown imagination, and artistic skill.



Learning in Art  
Drawing techniques, use of coloured pencils and use of AI





# SCHOOL news

## Churchill Primary

### Gardening Club

Recently, Churchill Primary School welcomed Barb from Morwell Bunnings, who joined the Gardening Club to help students replant seeds in the school's planter boxes. Barb shared her knowledge about the importance of using mulch to keep soil moist and reduce weed growth.

Students also learned the best techniques for planting spring onions, beans, snow peas, carrots, cucumbers, strawberries and corn.

The Gardening Club meets regularly to monitor plant growth, water the garden and compost bins, and clear away any debris. All plants were generously donated by Morwell

Bunnings, and the school extends its heartfelt thanks to Barb and the team for supporting this community garden project. Students are excited to see the garden flourish and can often be found checking on the plants during recess and lunch.

### Werribee Open Range Zoo

#### whole school excursion

What an incredible

day our Churchill Primary School community had at the Werribee Open Range Zoo! Perfect weather and plenty of active animals made for a memorable experience for all. Students and staff set off bright and early at 7:30am on Thursday November 13, travelling on five buses for the three-hour journey.

Upon arrival, students

were organised into 20 multi-age groups to explore the zoo. A highlight for many was the safari bus tour, offering an up-close look at animals roaming the open plains. Groups also enjoyed walking the various trails, where they spotted lions, meerkats, elephants, hippos, and visited the Australian wildlife and reptile exhibits.

Returning to school just after 6pm, everyone agreed it was a fantastic day. I am sure a big meal and an early night was had by many, especially the teachers.

A huge thank you goes to the dedicated staff who went above and beyond to make the excursion such a special experience for all students.



The Gardening Club hard at work

Memories of the visit to Werribee Open Range Zoo



# SCHOOL news

## Hazelwood North Primary

5/6M have been busy creating a 'mini society' for the Inquiry unit of work. Students were required to apply for a range of government jobs or private businesses to ensure that

our society could function properly. Recently, we have held Market Days where students have planned, budgeted, prepared, and sold items to other students in the school. We had a big range

of stalls selling rum balls, frogs in ponds, pancakes and toasties, smoothies, ice creams, lolly bags, and popcorn! Our final market day was in Week 11 and we invited families to attend for

a fun-filled afternoon!

Roman, Mason and Ebony said their rumballs were a huge success!

Ava and Phoebe served up traditional Frog in a Pond jelly and chocolate frogs.

Macy and Florence laid the wreath for Remembrance Day celebrations despite the inclement weather.

Jett, Jaxx and Lachlan raised the flags.

Junior

students

participated in this years International Rose Garden Festival in Morwell. They worked together and showed off their creative flair making vibrant bugs and flowers.



Remembrance Day celebrations  
Jett, Jaxx and Lachlan raised the flags.

Macy (left) and Florence (right) laid the wreath

Junior students participated in this years International Rose Garden Festival in Morwell.



Market Day stalls

Dylan (left) and Jett (right) ready for customers in the HNPS mini-society Market Day.

Ava (left) and Phoebe (right) served up traditional Frog in a Pond jelly and chocolate frogs



# SCHOOL news

## Kurnai University Campus

### Kurnai College Celebrates Year 12 Graduates

On Wednesday evening November 19, Kurnai College proudly celebrated its Year 12 graduates at the Gippsland Performing Arts Centre.

The event was filled with pride and joy as students, families and staff gathered to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Class of 2025. The evening included a musical

performance by talented Year 12 student Darnell Murray, and staff from the University Campus delighted attendees with a music video they had spent many hours preparing—an entertaining and memorable highlight for the graduates.

A particular honour was recognising students from the Kurnai Young Parents Program, who graduated alongside their peers from the University Campus.

These students, who have balanced the responsibilities of parenthood while completing their studies, were applauded for their perseverance and commitment to their education. It was particularly lovely to have the students' babies and toddlers join us.

Families also shared in the excitement of the occasion, with some parents travelling from overseas to witness their loved ones

graduate. It was also special to see our indigenous students graduate wearing the traditional possum skin cloaks.

Kurnai College extends its sincere thanks to all staff, volunteers and community members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organise and deliver such a successful and memorable celebration. Their dedication ensured the evening was a fitting tribute

to the achievements of the graduating class.

The evening concluded with graduates and their families leaving the venue filled with pride, accomplishment and a sense of anticipation for the future. The celebration of Kurnai College's 2025 Year 12 graduates was a special and memorable milestone for students, families and the entire school community.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our students all the best for their future and we hope that they look back at their years at Kurnai with a well-deserved sense of accomplishment. They have now joined the growing number of Kurnai graduates of whom our school community can be very proud.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2025!



# SCHOOL news

## Lumen Christi Primary

### Lumen Christi students discover the wild at Gumbuya World

Students from Grades Prep, 1 and 2 at Lumen Christi Catholic Primary School enjoyed an exciting day of hands-on learning during their excursion to Gumbuya World on Friday November 21.

The visit formed an important part of the students' integrated learning in Literacy and Science to deepen understanding of animals, their habitats and the ways they survive and thrive in the natural world. As part of the Wildlife Education Program, students were able to get up close to a range of Australian animals, including kangaroos, koalas, a tawny frogmouth, snakes and colourful native birds.

Teachers said the experience brought classroom learning to life, reinforcing vocabulary and concepts explored in recent lessons. Through guided talks, interactive sessions and observation tasks, younger learners had the chance to build descriptive language skills, ask scientific questions and make real-world connections to their

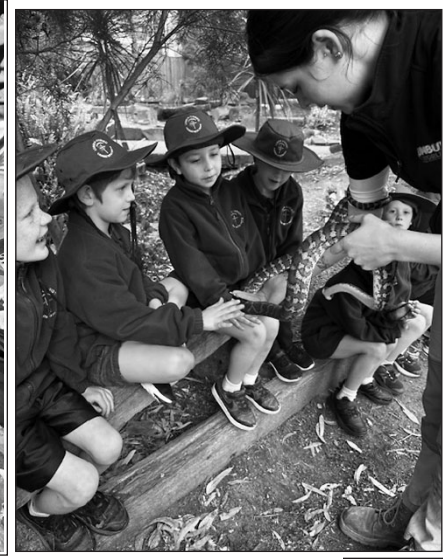
classroom learning.

For many students, highlights included feeding the kangaroos, discovering interesting facts from wildlife rangers, and having the rare opportunity to observe animals in environments that reflect their natural habitats.

The day was not all hard work though—there was plenty of fun as children enjoyed exploring the park together, strengthening friendships and experiencing the joy of learning outside the classroom.

Staff accompanying the group remarked on the students' curiosity, excellent behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the day. The excursion will continue to inspire follow-up activities back at school, with students set to write reports, share reflections and extend their scientific investigations.

The visit to Gumbuya World proved to be both educational and memorable, offering Lumen Christi's youngest learners a rich and engaging experience that supports their growing understanding of the natural world.





# SCHOOL news

## Yinnar Primary



### 1/2 Adventure Evening

It was a delight to see our Grade 1/2 students fully immersed in their Night of Adventure! They had a wonderful evening filled with exciting activities, a delicious dinner at school, and plenty of fun at the disco.

Our Grade 2 students also experienced their first overnight stay as part of our introduction to the camping program. T

this year, we chose to have the sleepover at the Yinnar Hall rather than at school, which provided a much more comfortable space for the students

### Prep Picnic Dinner

The Prep students thoroughly enjoyed their Prep Picnic. The Amphitheatre was the perfect setting for laying out picnic rugs, enjoying dinner and playing some games.

The Prep Picnic is the initial phase of introducing students to our school camping program.

### Sporting Events

Our school's involvement and success in sporting events has continued this term, with some outstanding achievements to celebrate. Our Grade 6 boys' cricket team and Grade 5/6 boys'

softball team both competed at the regional level, demonstrating impressive skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

The Regional Cricket team was successful and was off to the State Championships in Melbourne on November 27.

A special congratulations to Eli M and Harry T who qualified at the regional athletics competition to compete at the state level in high jump and long jump respectively - a fantastic achievement!

An extra big congratulations to Hudson D, who has been selected



Eli at Regional Athletics



Harry Taylor Aths

to represent Yinnar Primary School and School Sport Victoria at the 12 Years and Under Boys' Softball National Championships in Sydney later in November.

Hudson's family has created an Australian Sports Foundation fundraising page to support his participation, where donations are tax-deductible. Families who would like to contribute to Hudson's exciting opportunity can do so via the link below:

Help Hudson Wear the Big V | Australian Sports Foundation

### Student Leadership

The process for selecting

leadership positions for 2026 is underway, with students actively involved in writing applications to showcase their interest.

At the end of each year, we ask our students to complete a self-evaluation survey on their leadership role. This is what some of our House Captains had to say.

What did you find most satisfying while working as a leader this year?

I liked running events and seeing people enjoy themselves.

My opportunity to run great things for our great school. Getting to run things to make other people happy.

Working with people I do not normally work with.

Did being a leader help you to improve or develop in some way?

Being a House leader helped me improve my leadership in general. I felt I could help people without sounding bossy.

It helped me develop my social skills. As well as learning how to stay respectful.

It helped me with talking in front of big crowds.

It helped me strengthen my collaboration skills and working in a team.

# SCHOOL news

## Yinnar South Primary

Yinnar South Primary School has been buzzing with energy this month, with students diving into hands-on learning experiences that celebrate creativity, community, and the environment.

One of the highlights has been the flourishing veggie garden, which continues to spark curiosity and excitement across all year levels. Students have been busy planting, watering, harvesting, and exploring new ways to cook straight

from the garden. From leafy greens to colourful root vegetables, the garden has inspired classroom cooking sessions where students learned how fresh produce can be transformed into delicious meals. Teachers say the garden has not only supported healthy eating habits but has also strengthened students' understanding of sustainability and the life cycle of plants.

In addition to their green-thumb adventures,

students have been pouring their artistic talents into creations for the upcoming Rose Garden Festival. With the town preparing for this much-loved community event, Yinnar South Primary has been contributing vibrant artworks inspired by roses, nature, and local surroundings. Classrooms have been filled with paint, colour, and creativity as students prepared pieces to showcase their artistic skills and celebrate the spirit of the festival.

Principal and staff have praised students for their enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the month, saying they've shown great pride in their school and community. Whether cooking, gardening, or creating stunning artwork, the "little school on the hill" has truly made the most of a busy and rewarding month.

As spring continues, Yinnar South Primary School looks forward to even more opportunities for learning, growth, and community connection.





# Sport Grants

## Local sporting champions grants open to young Gippsland athletes

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester is urging eligible young athletes across the region to apply for round three of the 2025–26 Local Sporting Champions grant program, which provides financial support to help junior sportspeople compete at elite levels. Mr Chester said the program plays an important role in helping Gippsland’s emerging athletes pursue their goals by easing the financial pressure

associated with travel and competition.

“Competing at a state, national or international level requires enormous dedication from young athletes — and tremendous support from their families,” Mr Chester said. “One of the major barriers to achieving their sporting dreams is the cost of travelling to high-level events, and this program helps reduce that burden. The Local Sporting Champions program offers grants of \$500 to \$750 to athletes aged 12 to 18 who have been selected to participate

in official state, national or international championship events. This is a fantastic initiative that helps young Gippslanders realise their potential and continue striving for excellence in their chosen sport,” Mr Chester said. “I encourage all eligible athletes to apply and take advantage of this support.” Applications for round three of the 2025–26 program close January 31, 2026. For more information, or to apply, visit: [https://www.ausport.gov.au/grants\\_and\\_funding/local\\_sporting\\_champions](https://www.ausport.gov.au/grants_and_funding/local_sporting_champions)

# Morwell and District Red Cross

What a month it has been, with Christmas fast approaching we have been busy planning for our Annual Christmas Hamper raffle.

First prize was a \$100 Christmas hamper and a \$50 Bunnings voucher. Second prize was a \$50 Christmas hamper and a \$50 Bunnings voucher, and Third

prize was a \$50 Bunnings voucher in a handmade Christmas stocking. The raffle was drawn at 1:30pm on Wednesday December 10, 2025 at the Italian Australian Club. Our second Fundraiser was a Bunnings BBQ which was held on Saturday November 8, which raised \$836.25 at Bunnings



Morwell.

Special Thanks to Bunnings for the donation of a \$500 Gift Voucher. Zio’s Pizza for very generously slicing 10 kg of onions and to Woolworths for their generous donation of both sausages and bread which helped make the day a success. Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month in the Yinnar and District Memorial Hall at 1:30pm. New members are always welcome, so pop in and say hello.



## Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

**Harriet Shing MP**  
State Member for Eastern Victoria

216 Commercial Road, Morwell Vic 3840  
[harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au)  
(03) 5134 8000 [harrietshing.com.au](http://harrietshing.com.au)

Authorised by Harriet Shing MP, 216 Commercial Road, Morwell 3840. Advertisement.



Latrobe Community Health Service wishes you a

# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**Our Churchill centre will be closed on:**

- Wednesday, 24 December (from 3pm) ■ Thursday, 25 December
- Friday, 26 December ■ Thursday, 1 January
- Friday, 2 January