

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

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SCAN TO VIEW:
CDNEWS.COM.AU



Bees - p 5



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Lions Ride For Sight - p 13



YYS Landcare - p 24

3-peat for Churchill & Monash Golf Club Pennant Division 1



On Sunday March 29, the Churchill & Monash Golf Club Pennant Division 1 Handicap team secured a remarkable third consecutive title. The Final, hosted at Morwell Golf Club, saw Churchill face off against a strong Drouin side in perfect conditions. Churchill delivered a commanding performance to claim victory 5-2 led by team captain Nathan Lugton. The win caps off another outstanding season for the club and reinforces their position as a dominant force in the competition.

Churchill ANZAC Day Commemoration 2026
 ANZAC Day, Saturday, April 25
 Venue: Memorial outside the lower level of Churchill Hall
 Time: **PLEASE NOTE** - 9.00 am
 Ceremony followed by gunfire breakfast, tea and coffee
 All welcome
 Any Group/individual wishing to lay a wreath please contact Sue Townsend 0418 357 673
 Arranged by Rotary, with RSL and Lions

BE A Churchill LOCAL SHOP LOCAL

Shop Local

MARKET 2026

Mother's Day Market SATURDAY, MAY 2

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

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The DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of articles and advertisements for the May 2026 edition is April 25, 2026

EDITORIAL

Articles for publication and Letters to the Editor can be sent to: Churchill & District News
 PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842
 Or Email: cdneditorial@cdnews.com.au
 All articles must be submitted by the 25th of each month for publication in the next issue.



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
 the voice of the community

MEMBER 2026

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cdnadvertising@cdnews.com.au
 Telephone: Ruth 0456 786 577
 Allan 0427 372 517

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We acknowledge the support of



Seventh Wonder performs

Fleetwood Mac

Saturday April 18, 8pm
 GPAC Main Theatre,
 Tickets from \$74

"On first hearing Seventh Wonder... it gave me goosebumps".

Mick Fleetwood
 Fresh from a sold-out performance at the iconic Sydney Opera House, this world-class performance, led by the incredible Bloom, brings together world-class musicians live on stage to create an unparalleled tribute to Fleetwood Mac's music.

The evening will showcase the entire Rumours album, performed note-for-note, alongside the band's greatest hits.

This masterful production promises to captivate fans of all ages and celebrate the legacy of one of the most beloved bands in music history.

Seventh Wonder Performs Fleetwood Mac rises above mere tribute—it is a celebration. Featuring meticulous, note-for-note recreations of Fleetwood Mac's greatest songs, the show has won acclaim for its authenticity, emotional resonance, and powerhouse performances, catapulting the band into being regarded as one of the World's Leading Fleetwood Mac shows.

Dennis, who managed Fleetwood Mac for over a decade, adds his stamp of approval to this exceptional production: "Fleetwood Mac's



music is timeless, and this show is the perfect celebration of their artistry. It is a must-see for any music fan."

Where is the Green Sheep?

Saturday May 16, 10.30pm and 1pm

A wild, fun and magical journey to find that elusive green sheep. An immersive visual theatre experience based on the beloved children's book by Mem Fox and Judy Horacek.

Moss Piglet

Thursday June 18, 10.30am and 1pm

Microscopic. Indestructible. Moss Piglet is an explosive portrait of the world's most resilient and curious critters. Taking young audiences from jelly-filled petri dishes to the depths of a volcano to Arctic glaciers to the moon.

Australia's biggest comedy festival is hitting the road and bringing the laughs to you at GPAC!

Friday July 10, at 7.30pm, GPAC Main Theatre

Tickets from \$25
 Join the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow as it journeys around Australia, delivering hot and tasty comic treats to audiences near and far.

With a curated line-up of comedy legends and fresh

faces from Australia and beyond, the Roadshow has all your comedy bases covered (no joke) – all in one side-splitting show!

Experience the fun of Australia's largest comedy festival in your own backyard. Grab your mates and get on board the Roadshow.

Opera Australia: Don Giovanni

Tuesday July 21, 7.30pm

For opera's own Casanova, it is just another day of pleasure seeking. Seducing a bride on her wedding day. Breaking into a woman's bedroom in the dead of night. Killing her furious father

Michael Jackson King of Pop starring Christian Robinson

Saturday October 3, 7.30pm

GPAC Main Theatre
 Tickets \$84.90

This is it! Direct from the USA, Michael Jackson – King of Pop starring Christian Robinson is a world class tribute to the world's greatest entertainer of all time!

Christian Robinson becomes Michael Jackson when he hits the stage. The entertaining show features live singing, choreographed dance moves, a full live band and a multi-faceted light show.

Michael Jackson – King of Pop Starring Christian Robinson keeps the MJ legacy alive in a loving tribute featuring all of MJ's Greatest Hits including Beat It, Billy Jean, Black Or White, Don't Stop Till You Get Enough, Human Nature, Man In the Mirror, P.Y.T., Rock With You, Smooth Criminal, The Way You Make Me Feel, Thriller + more

Rainfall



Churchill Rainfall

For the month of March Churchill received a total of 32.25mm of rainfall.

Highest 24hr rainfall total for March was 11.5mm.

The rainfall year to date total for Churchill is now 98.25mm.

Hazelwood South Rainfall

What beautiful warm weather this autumn. The crimson rosellas have even raised chicks, and the tomatoes are ripening fast. Following on from good rain in February, March is a little

above average with 50mm and 13% above the monthly average, enough to almost fill the tanks.

Hazelwood south had 26% more rain than the Latrobe Valley weather station. Due to a dry January, the 2026 year had a 6% deficit of rainfall by the end of March. All the grass is green, still short and the mowing waits till the local native grass has dropped more seed. The warm days makes it difficult to believe that the firewood season is arriving.

St Matt's Op Shop

YINNAR

St. Matt's Op Shop
 26 Main Street, Yinnar

Open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 4pm.

EFTPOS is now available.

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

ADVERTISING RATES

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			B/W	COLOUR		
	Height x Width		\$	\$	\$	\$
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5.	138 mm x 128 mm	3 x 13.8 cm	109.00	174.00	98.00	156.00
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7.	188 mm x 260 mm	6 x 18.8 cm	324.00	517.00	291.00	466.00
8.	375 mm x 260 mm	6 x 37.5 cm	475.00	761.00	428.00	685.00

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Strzelecki Koala

The Impact of feral animals on the Strzelecki koala

In recent years I have seen deer in the area where I live. The appearance of this feral animal is quite concerning as I live in Strzelecki koala habitat, close to the Morwell National Park. Deer, like other feral animals negatively impact the native fauna and flora. The deer is one of many feral animals that live in the Jeeralangs. There are also rabbits, hares, feral cats and foxes.

All levels of government are aware of the threats that feral animals have on our native animals and plants. Since the first arrival of Europeans, feral animals are responsible for 80% of animal extinctions and the viability of many species. (www.invasive.org.au 24.3.26)

koala in many ways. These feral animals eat the seeds, seedlings and saplings which prevent the establishment of future food and shelter trees. Because of their diet, the deer, rabbit and hare compete with other grazers like the kangaroos, wallabies and wombats. These native animals' presence in the Strzelecki koala's habitat are crucial for the healthy balance of the ecosystem and they need their food source protected.

Secondly, feral animals destroy habitat and make rehabilitation of the damaged habitat difficult. Rabbits and deer ringbark young saplings and male deer, when marking their territory, will ringbark larger trees. These feral animals make regeneration of vegetation of damaged habitat very difficult especially after natural disasters like drought and bushfire. (www.dcceew.gov.au 28.12.26)

Feral animals also spread weeds which take over native plant areas. Native pollinators especially birds are vulnerable to predation by feral animals.

Thirdly, feral animals damage and foul "soil and waterways". (www.dcceew.gov.au 28.12.26) Though the Strzelecki koala rarely drinks water, its food and shelter trees rely on healthy water ways. Food trees are more nutritious along water courses and this is where female Strzelecki koalas are most likely to reside when raising their joey. Also adequate vegetation along water ways is important for creating micro climates that Strzelecki koalas rely upon during extreme weather.

Fourthly, our native animals lack defence mechanisms and behaviours to cope with new predators in their habitats. The feral cat and the fox are night feeders and very capable

hunters. Strzelecki koalas roam at night and are likely to encounter a feral cat or fox. Foxes are known to kill young koalas when they



are on the ground with their mother. (www.savethekoala.com 24-3-26) Because of the size that feral cats can grow to, it is also quite possible that feral cats can kill or injure a koala especially a juvenile koala. Scratches or bites from feral cats or foxes can cause infections, disease and "iceberg effect" injury. This is when there is a tiny external wound but there is a lot of internal trauma. (www.koalaconservationaustralia.org.au 24.3.26) The abdomen of the koala is quite thin and easily hurt. Some dog encounters can cause this harm and foxes are quite similar to a dog. The fox and the feral cat prey on and kill many different native animals. They have caused the demise of some species. The disappearance of any native animal from an ecosystem creates an imbalance and affects the health and viability of a habitat.

"When we lose one of our precious native species from a functioning ecosystem, we run the risk of losing even more in something akin to a domino effect." (www.bushheritage.org.au 27.1.26)

Fifthly, feral animals increase in their numbers

quite quickly. They have high fertility rates, have no natural predators and few diseases to lessen their numbers. Feral animals

survive in a variety of Australian landscapes and establish themselves quite easily when entering new habitats. Deer will have up to 30 animals in a herd. (www.dcceew.gov.au 28.12.25) According to www.invasives.org.au (17.1.26), feral cats "increase ... faster than their native prey."

Lastly, feral pests spread disease that are foreign to native animals and also affect domestic animals, livestock and humans. Examples

listed by the DCCEEW are tuberculosis, rabies, foot and mouth and parasites like "Screw Worn Fly". Foxes are carriers of mange which infects Strzelecki koalas and wombats. Feral cats can transmit toxoplasmosis, sarcocystosis, toxocarosis (cat roundworm) and scratch disease, Bartonella henselae. (www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au 28.11.26)

Feral animals negatively impact the agricultural industry, the economy, traditional cultural areas and human safety. At present, extra care needs to be taken

These pests are difficult to eradicate and will continue to thrive without

effective and consistent control measures. Australia's biodiversity is threatened. With the existence of feral animals near and in the Morwell National Park, so is the biodiversity of this important and essential habitat of the Strzelecki koala.

More needs to be done to control these feral animals. Control measures being implemented and the ways we can help will be covered in the next article.

Interesting (and very concerning) fact:

"Every day cats kill 2.92 million mammals, 1.67 million reptiles, 1.09 million birds, 0.26 million frogs and 2.97 million invertebrates (eg grasshoppers, butterflies, beetles)" (www.invasives.org.au 17.1.26)



The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) lists the many threats that feral animals pose to our native animals and their environments. (www.dcceew.gov.au 28.12.25)

Firstly, feral animals compete for habitat, food and shelter.

Deer, rabbits and hare are grazing animals and eat grasses, bushes, young saplings, seeds, herbs and fruits. While the Strzelecki koala has a different food source mainly certain eucalyptus leaves, these feral animals directly affect the potential and future food source of the Strzelecki



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**On this ANZAC Day,
Lest we forget.**

Harriet Shing MP
State Member for Eastern Victoria

216 Commercial Road, Morwell Vic 3840
harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au
(03) 5134 8000 harrietshing.com.au

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



CHURCH *news*

Co-Operating Church Snippets

Lent has begun as printed in March issue.

It began with Shrove Tuesday when Cathie invited the congregation to learn about Shrove Tuesday and enjoy some pancakes.

day of repentance, Shrove Tuesday has become the last day for celebration and feasting before the period of fasting required during the Lenten season. People used to fast from eating meat,

Father.

Ash Wednesday begins the holy season of Lent, which prepares people to walk with the Lord through his death and celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

An Ash Wednesday service will have the imposition of ashes in the form of a cross, to a person's forehead as a symbol that they are in need of repentance, mortality, forgiveness and penance. It is a public sign of humility, a reminder of sin, and a commitment to spiritual renewal leading to

What do we have to share? What do we already have, and trust God with it. It could be a little bit of kindness, patience, courage or help to name a few. Cathie challenged us to think about that, pay attention and action it. Be like Jesus, have compassion. God works not from abundance but from offering. Bishop Richard of the Anglican Church attended and joined in the service.

Lent 2: The theme was the story of Jesus inviting Matthew the tax collector to 'follow me' and going to Matthew's house to a meal



Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday which is the beginning of Lent. The name 'shrove' comes from the old Middle English word 'shriven', meaning to confess and to say sorry for the wrong things we have done.

The other name for this day is Pancake Day. This comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients (milk, eggs and butter) in the house before Lent. A simple recipe to use up these ingredients was to combine them with some flour and make pancakes! Traditionally seen as a

fats, butter, eggs, milk and fish during Lent, but this has changed over the generations to fasting from coffee, chocolate, sweets, alcohol or anything considered a bad habit.

When people give up something during Lent, they should also take up something godly – prayer, devotions, meditation. To give up is good, but then we also need to take up something better. The Lenten season is a time of reflection as to what God has done through his Son Jesus in suffering, dying and rising again for us, so that we might enter heaven to be with our



Easter, using ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday palms

Cathie took all our Lenten services.

Lent 1: The first week was based on Mark 6:30-44, where Jesus fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fish. The boy who had the food was willing to share.

with lots of people who are usually left out. Jesus response to criticism was "I came for people who know they need help."

At Jesus' table people are not defined by their worst choices, labels or reputations. They are seen and invited. Jesus does not ignore sin or harm, but shows us the example of grace, relationship and welcome. Jesus welcomes Matthew before he changes.

The challenge this week was who might need an extra chair at your table- at school,



at church or in your life? Where might Jesus be saying to you "follow me." The young people made welcome signs.

Cathie had prepared the church with tables set out with purple tablecloths, a small sample of bread and 'wine' and invited the congregation to come to the table from their chairs to have communion. It was a different experience, but a special one.

Lent 3: Luke 7: 36-50 A meal Jesus attended was interrupted by a woman who comes in uninvited. She kneels down at Jesus feet

and begins to cry, her tears falling onto Jesus feet, and wipes them with her hair, then pours perfume on them. This is not normal in the eyes of those present, except for Jesus. He sees love. He stands up for the woman by telling the host of his negligence as host to Jesus. Jesus grace was boundless to the one who needs a place at the table.

Jesus does not push us away when we come as we are. He does not ask for an explanation before offering peace. He says your faith has saved you. Go in peace.



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 Paul Zaher

**Saturday 5.00pm St Vincent's,
Morwell.**

**Sunday 9.00am Lumen Christi,
Churchill.**

10.30am Sacred Heart, Morwell.

Every 4th Sunday alternates

Yinnar/Boolarra.

**See Church bulletin
or call 5134 2849**

Boolarra/Yinnar Co-Operating Parish Boolarra/Yinnar

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

Churchill Christian Fellowship

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

Churchill Christian Fellowship

By Steve McNeilly (Pastor)

From time to time, at both Churchill Christian Fellowship and our "mother" church, Moe New Life Christian Centre, we go through a process of assessing our church vision. What are we hoping to achieve in the new year? Do we need to make any adjustments to our Vision and Mission statements?

Since I am now Lead Pastor at both congregations, it fell to me to lead these discussions for both churches. We gave out a questionnaire that the various leaders filled in and their answers were discussed at a subsequent meeting. One thing that came out strongly was that they wanted their church to be a "safe" place for believers in Jesus to come together.

So, at our Vision Sunday, on March 8, in both Churchill and Moe, I talked about what this

might mean. No-one wants to be embarrassed, judged or gossiped about. It should be easy for people who love God to feel welcome in all our meetings.

Since then, we have updated our Vision Statement slightly. It now reads: "To be a SAFE place where followers of Jesus can grow in Christ, participate in community outreach and develop ministry and leadership skills."

Our Mission Statement, printed each week on our newsletter, has also been slightly updated. It now reads:

"God has called us to serve the people of Churchill and district:

To help people experience the full blessings of God's love and forgiveness through Bible-based preaching, Christ-centred worship and Holy Spirit ministry.

To show God's love by providing practical help to

families and individuals in our community,

Where practicable, to assist other organizations and churches that are actively helping people in our area."

To help fulfill this mission, we have a home fellowship on Tuesday evenings, a ladies' meeting on Wednesday mornings, craft social lunches on Fridays and men's breakfasts on the first Saturday of each month.

Visitors are always welcome at any of the meetings mentioned here.

For more information, please call 0409 173 747.

Oh and we are having our popular annual Op-Shop/ Garage Sale day at the hall on Tramway Rd on Saturday April 18. We have a huge selection of clothes, aprons, linen, etc that can be purchased for just \$1 a bag. There will also be a free sausage sizzle and a garage sale at the same time.

Bees in the Neighbourhood

By Stan Glowacki
President

Gippsland Apiarists
Association Inc

When most people think of bees, the first thought is of the European honey bee or an Australian commercial honey bee.

Being stung as a child can carry into adult life and may have fostered a dislike of Australian commercial honey bees.

Australian native bees come in all shapes and sizes and most go unnoticed in our parks and gardens.

The majority are solitary bees and do not form social hives like some of their cousins in NSW and places north.

Over the last couple of years, I have been catching native bees in Jeeralang Junction and sending them up to NSW for identification at the Native Bee Research Centre.

With this location being on the fringe of Churchill, it may be reasonably concluded that these bees may also be living in your neighborhood or Mathison Park.

Native bees and Australian commercial honeybees have been observed sharing the same

flowers at the same time.

How to identify a native bee: Generally speaking, native bees have four wings, although when edges are interlocked and folded they may appear as two, hairy legs and or body hair for carrying pollen. Males generally have longer antennae than the females.

As always, there are exceptions to the rule. Some of the common native bees are listed below.

Blue Banded Bees:

Found in every state except Tasmania.

Females build solitary nests but may share a common entrance in soft sand stone or mud bricks.

Series of oval shaped cells lined with waterproof secretions.

Sealed with an earthen cap and the burrow entrance filled in.

Seven weeks to hatch, life span forty days.

Bees not hatched by late autumn remain as prepupa until spring.

Males roost together on a grass stalk by clamping jaws onto stem and folding legs up.



Reed Bees:

Small Bee with black head and thorax, red/brown colouring on abdomen approximately 5-6mm long.

Nests in pithy stems, and dry leaf stems of tree ferns. Unlike other native bees that die in winter, reed bees will remain dormant in the nest.

Common Wasp mimic bee:

Family Colletidae, Hyleoides concinna

Approx. 10-12mm long orange abdomen with one thick black stripe, violet black wings.

Easily confused as a wasp.

Nests in old longicorn beetle tunnels, in stumps, logs and fallen branches. Nest lined and sealed with a cellophane secretion.

More on building nesting sites for native bees in the next issue.

Plants in my Garden

By Mike Beamish
Species:

Isopogon anethifolius

Family: Proteaceae

Derivation:

Isopogon: From the Greek, isos, equal, and pogon, a beard, referring to the hairs which surround the nut (seed?) on all sides and are of roughly equal length.

anethifolius: From the genus Anethum and the Latin, folium, a leaf, referring to the similarity of the leaves to the herb, Dill.

Common Name: Narrow-leaf Drumsticks.

Distribution:

Found in New South Wales in sandstone heaths and dry sclerophyll forests along the coast and Great Dividing Range from Mt Coricudgy (inland from Newcastle) in the north to Braidwood/Bateman's Bay in the south.

Description:

An erect bushy shrub up to 3 metres tall by 1.5 metres across, sometimes with reddish stems and new growth. The light green, smooth, terete leaves are pinnately divided into linear segments that may in turn be divided a second time, and are up to 16cm long. Yellow flowers are borne in

terminal globular heads in spring and early summer and are up to 20mm in diameter. The flowers are about 12mm long when open, giving an overall size of about 40mm.

Opinion:

I have written about a similar species, I. anemonifolius before, way back in December 2008. Back then, my specimen was a compact form called 'Little Drumsticks', which I kept in a tub close to where my current plant is, in the garage bed on the western side of the house. That plant did what most of the non-indigenous Proteaceae do around here, they grow nicely for a year or three, then succumb to 'Sudden Summer Death Syndrome' without any warning.

My current plant came from Colin's propagation table back in 2020 and was planted into a bottomless tub (basically a normal tub with the broken bottom cut out) hard up against the garage driveway fence on the western side of the block.



The idea is to give the plant excellent drainage initially, but to give it clear access to grow down into the ground, without root restrictions, as it increases in size. Hopefully this will help guard against the SSDS problems that seem to occur mainly when the plant receives too much moisture in warm summer conditions, that promotes the growth of soil organisms that are detrimental to the plant.

Summer thunderstorms seem to be a contributing factor. So far, the theory seems to be working; the plant is thriving, is now about a metre tall with plenty of flowering branches and has flowered well for the past couple of years. Finger's crossed!

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 & Fagg- Banksias, Waratahs & Grevilleas, etc.

PlantNet – NSW Flora Online.



Latrobe Regional Gallery

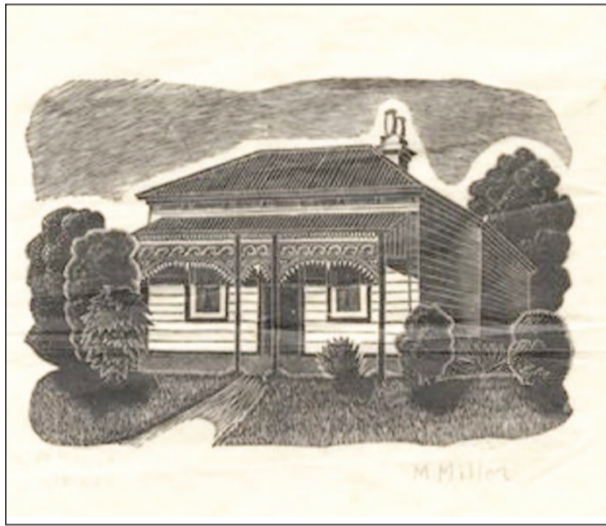
Every Thursday from April 9 to May 28, 2026
5.30pm to 7.30pm

Join our popular Life Drawing program for one or more sessions this autumn. Various themes and techniques will be explored throughout the season. Sessions are loosely guided by a facilitator who can support you as much or as little as you require.

The Lane: Our Communal Home

February 7 to June 8, 2026

Welcome to Our Communal Home in The Lane – a playful, welcoming space inspired by the themes of home, migration, and community explored in our



current gallery exhibitions. People can explore these ideas through making and

creating, encouraging people to think about what home means to them.



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THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

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Gippsland Muslim Community celebrates Ramadan 2026



Members of the Gippsland Muslim community came together throughout Ramadan 2026 for prayer, reflection, and shared meals, marking one of the most significant periods in the Islamic calendar. Ramadan in 2026 was observed during February and March.

Muslim families, individuals, and community members from towns across Gippsland gathered regularly during the holy month, reflecting the strong presence and longstanding connections of the Muslim community throughout the region. These gatherings provided an opportunity for people from different local townships including a large number from Churchill to reconnect, strengthen social ties, and support one another during Ramadan.

During the month, Muslims fasted daily from dawn to sunset, abstaining from food, drink, and other physical comforts. Fasting, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, was observed as an

act of spiritual discipline that fostered selfreflection, compassion for those less fortunate, and gratitude. In addition to fasting, Ramadan was marked by increased prayer, charitable giving, and spiritual mindfulness among community members.

A central feature of Ramadan was the emphasis on community and togetherness. Each evening at sunset, Muslims broke their fast with a meal known as iftar, traditionally shared with others. Throughout Ramadan 2026, community iftars were held in Trafalgar on weekends, bringing together Muslims from across Gippsland, including Churchill and the Latrobe Valley, Sale, and West Gippsland. These gatherings attracted strong attendance and highlighted the importance of inclusion, hospitality, and mutual support during the holy month.

The iftar gatherings were organised and hosted by the Gippsland Australian Muslim Community Inc

(GAMCI), and the United Muslim Sisters of the Latrobe Valley (UMSLV), with support from volunteers and community members across the region. Invitations were sent to the wider Gippsland Community to attend these iftars and observe and participate in the breaking of the fast.

Ramadan concluded with the celebration of Eid alFitr, marked by early morning communal prayers in both Morwell and Trafalgar followed by visits with family and friends. To celebrate the end of the fasting month, members of the Gippsland Australian Muslim Community gathered in congregation reinforcing shared bonds of faith, family, and community connection.

The traditional GAMCI Eid Dinner was held on Saturday March 29 in Trafalgar.

Pictured: Members of the Gippsland Muslim community coming together for shared iftar meals during Ramadan 2026.

Darren Chester

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THE NATIONALS for Gippsland www.darrenchester.com.au

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

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Friends of Morwell National Park

March Activity Report

The group met on a Saturday evening to undertake a spotlight walk and complete a moth survey. The new tables in the picnic area were appreciated as we all ate our dinners as twilight approached.

Caitilin called a quick meeting, first welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming out in the evening. Now that the Billys Creek part of the park is fully open (the whole park is now open) we may need to schedule an extra activity there to clean up this part of the park. With this part of the park closed for three months there could be areas needing work. At the next activity we will run a split activity so that some of the group can go to work in this area.

Latrobe City Libraries want to encourage and support citizen science. As part of this they are happy to partner with us on next month's Bird Walk. They will promote our upcoming Bird Walk and loan out kits of bird identification

books, pamphlets and equipment. Our Birds of Morwell National Park will be included in the kits and be available to each child who attends the bird walk.

With the 40th Anniversary of the Friends of Morwell National Park coming up in May, we are looking for photos from the park over the past 40 years. If you want to send in past digital photos of the park, you can send them to admin@friendsofmorwellnp.com.au. They will be part of the photo display during the evening.

After the meeting, Gordon, Matt and Mike each set up a mothing sheet. On the cool evening it was hoped that many moths and insects would come into one of the three locations near and within the picnic area. Some red-light torches were handed out since these have a smaller impact upon the nighttime animals.

When the evening had become dark, Tamara led the spotlight walk around Fosters Gully. Eight other

walkers joined in two groups to look and listen to what could be seen and heard in the dark. One group completed the whole Foster Gully circuit while the other group travelled to Landon's Landing and returned back from there. On the walks the groups saw multiple wallabies, a koala, two greater gliders, two possums and a boobook. Also heard were sugar gliders, koalas, wallabies, an Australian owl nightjar, and southern brown tree frogs.

On returning from the spotlight walk there was much activity around the three mothing sheets. A large

number of moths and insects had come in, and they varied between each of the moth sheets.

April Activity

Sunday April 19, 10.00am

The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to either conduct a bird walk or undertake some track maintenance along Billys Creek Track. The Bird Walk is an excellent opportunity to see what species of birds can be found in the park. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.



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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
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By Leo Billington

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

In its edition of Friday December 10, 1915, the Morwell Advertiser published a number of articles related to Morwell volunteers at the front. To a new generation perhaps, this was where warring enemies are facing each other during warfare in a specific area, and where fighting takes place.

Back during World War One, the front was a common

term; and it now regularly appears when media reports focus on current European wars.

The local paper was always on the ready to print stories from the front - generally letters sent from Europe back home. This letter, sent by Corporal Geoff Manning to his sister, Mrs L Vary, in part explaining how "the boys" kept up morale in terrifying circumstances:

"I see all the Morwell boys now and again and Harry Pettit, Frank Keegan and Bill Rintoull every time they are out of the trenches.

I am at Divisional Head Quarters just behind the firing line, and Bill Rintoull's camp is just over the gully. Harry and Frank camp in the reserve trenches about two hundred yards further up. They always come down to see me.

The Light Horse fellows are around on the right. I don't see them often. Things are very quiet here now, or at least they are quieter than they used to be, and I can tell you they used to hum songs.

Old Johnnie (that is our name for the Turk) put over the usual hate (shrapnel) every day but we are all dug in and soon got out of the way".

There were sad farewells - with young men venturing into the unknown. On Monday evening April 23, 1917, the Morwell Advertiser reported "a large farewell social and presentation was tendered Privates Reg. Davey, Frank Derham, Herbert Victor Nadenbousch and Murray Thompson in the Morwell Mechanics' Institute decorated with a big Union Jack." (In the next edition of the



The third pattern - May 1904

World War I and World War II

Churchill News, Murray Thompson and Herbert Victor Nadenbousch will be featured.

Both men are remembered in the

Roy never married. Once discharged in November 1919, he returned home to manage the family dairy farm while earning a reputation for breeding

joined as a sapper in the 2nd tunnelling corps.

Tunnelling involved sinking shafts under the enemy's front line, then using explosives to destroy

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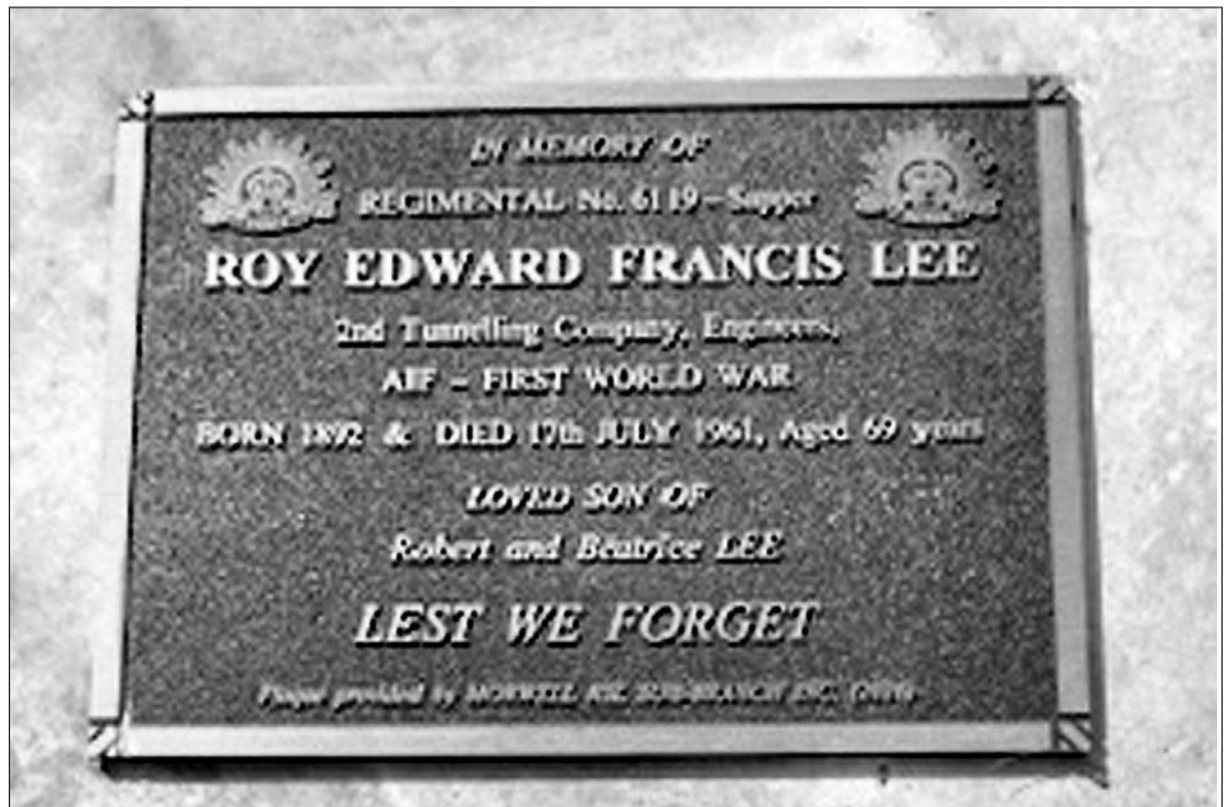
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THE NATIONALS
for Regional Victoria

Hazelwood Cemetery.)

Following is a resume of three men who ventured forth, and who are interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery.

Roy Edward Francis Lee died on Monday July 17, 1961.

After enlistment on July 4, 1916 aged 23 years 11 months, Roy saw action in London, the British base at Rouen, France, and Longbridge Deverill, being the headquarters of the AIF Overseas Training Brigade.

Before his training at Seymour, Roy was employed by his father as a road contractor/bridge builder throughout Ryton, Gonyah and Wonyip. (This was, and still is, tough country.)

top class pigs for the pork market.

Europe was a long way from the Strzelecki Heartbreak Hills.

A quiet man, Roy knew he had to help through the war, and he subsequently

from underneath.

In later life, Roy battled breathing problems. It was a cold freezing night, when he collapsed in thick bush searching for his dog, that finally ended Roy's life.

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Cemetery



Christopher James Marka died on Saturday morning October 8, 1943. At 61 years of age, he had not enjoyed the best of health for some time and during the week prior, Christopher was admitted to the Yallourn hospital where he passed away. He was a returned soldier from the last war and suffered a good deal from injuries received during his service. His remains are

interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery.

He was in Military unit, 58th Australian Infantry Battalion, and saw service in England and France where wounded in action in September 1918 a second time; the first time was February 1917; but second time was a gunshot wound to his right hip and he was invalided out. He returned home during December

1919.

Christopher was 35 years and 11 months of age when he enlisted. He gave Aberfeldy as his place of birth; occupation being a gold miner. After being discharged, he and his wife, Edith Ann lived in Elgin Street, Morwell.

Edith was widely respected as an extremely active worker for Morwell's charitable organisations. Her support for Morwell RSL was admirable, as was her commitment to annual ANZAC Day marches.

On Sunday April 25, 1954, aged 73, Edith laid a wreath on Morwell's war memorial in memory of her late husband, who served in the 1914-18 war. It was reported she walked approximately 20 yards to watch the ANZAC Day service, and collapsed on the footpath, where she died. (The Age, Monday April 26, 1954.)

Edith is interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery alongside Christopher. Morwell RSL Sub-Branch has been magnificent in honouring Edith and Christopher together on a plaque. Their connection and commitment in remembrance of Australia's national day was not to be lost forever.

On Saturday April 9, (or Monday April 11, - as

written in some reports) 1949, a married couple, Leslie John Reid and his wife, Lilian Reid were both found dead in bed. This grim discovery was apparently made by three Balts looking for board and lodgings in the Morwell West area.

(Balts = The Balts or Baltic peoples (Lithuanian: baltai, Latvian: balti) are a group of peoples inhabiting the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea who speak Baltic language. Sourced from Google.)

Lilian and Leslie lived at Morwell West on the Old Melbourne Road; they lived a quiet life albeit alongside friendly neighbours who were deeply shocked by this incident. Leslie was a returned soldier of World War I and a leading hand, employed by the State Electricity Commission at Yallourn North.

A subsequent Coroner's inquest recorded a verdict of death from natural causes. Both appeared to have died peacefully in their sleep as the bodies were covered by bed clothes in the normal way. (Morwell Advertiser, Thursday April 21, 1949).

Following a thorough medical examination, it was concluded that the

hearts of Lilian and Leslie "were in a deteriorated condition." Actually one startling conclusion was the couple had been dead for about 10 days before being discovered.

From all accounts, Leslie, who enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania at age 21 years and 9 months was quite troubled upon returning home, particularly when living in Morwell West. His army record shows several occasions when punishment resulted.

Lilian and Leslie are interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery, and soon will be memorialised with a plaque generously provided by Morwell RSL Sub-Branch.

Since 2003, Bruce Jeffrey and Graham Burgess, with the Morwell RSL Committee's approval,

have been involved in researching, designing and arranging manufacturing and installation of 31 military-associated, Commemorative projects, including 15 plaques on Unmarked Graves in Australia. Thirteen of these unmarked graves were of ex-servicemen who served in the South African Boer War or the First World War.

We have also replaced a deteriorating First World War, Yinnar Honour Roll and had some involvement in a gravestone erected in South Africa.

Eight of the graveside plaques are in the Hazelwood Cemetery. The others are in the Gormandale - (3), Callignee, Neerim, Macquarie Park, NSW and Rookwood, NSW Cemeteries.



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COMMUNITY SAFETY

Words of Wisdom

Car theft and the Faraday Bag

If you are worried about the increasingly sophisticated ways in which thieves are stealing cars, a Faraday bag for your car keys could be the peace-of-mind solution you have been looking for.

Incidences of car theft, and theft from cars, have been rising in recent years as criminals find sophisticated ways to bypass previously effective security systems and gain entry into vehicles.

We have seen an uptick in vehicle theft over recent years after a long-term decline, although it is still nowhere near back to the levels it was in the '90s.

Basically what happened was that, in 2001, electronic immobilisers were made mandatory in all new vehicles in Australia, and that had a massive impact on reducing the theft of vehicles because it made it hard to steal the car without the key.

However, with the increase in keyless cars, what we have seen is that doing away with the physical key has led to forms of car theft that were not previously possible.

These methods include a relay or booster attack, where a thief uses a device to extend the signal from the key fob and gain access to the car. In more sophisticated

instances, thieves can even duplicate this signal and copy it onto a new key, allowing them to drive away with the car.

The method we have also seen is using the onboard diagnostic (OBD) port inside the car - there are all manner of devices you can purchase that plug into the OBD port and override the immobiliser.

"According to the latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, over half of motor vehicle thefts in Australia in 2022-23 took place at the owners' homes, suggesting thieves were likely gaining access to the keys by either stealing them or replicating them.

An estimated 55,000 households had a motor vehicle stolen in the last 12 months, with 59 per cent saying that the incident happened at their own or another person's home," William Milne, ABS head of crime and justice statistics, said in a statement.

So, how can you protect yourself against technologically advanced car theft like relay or booster attacks? It turns out the solution might be a simple, affordable item available to any Australian car owner.

Check your local car accessory dealers and purchase a "Faraday Bag"

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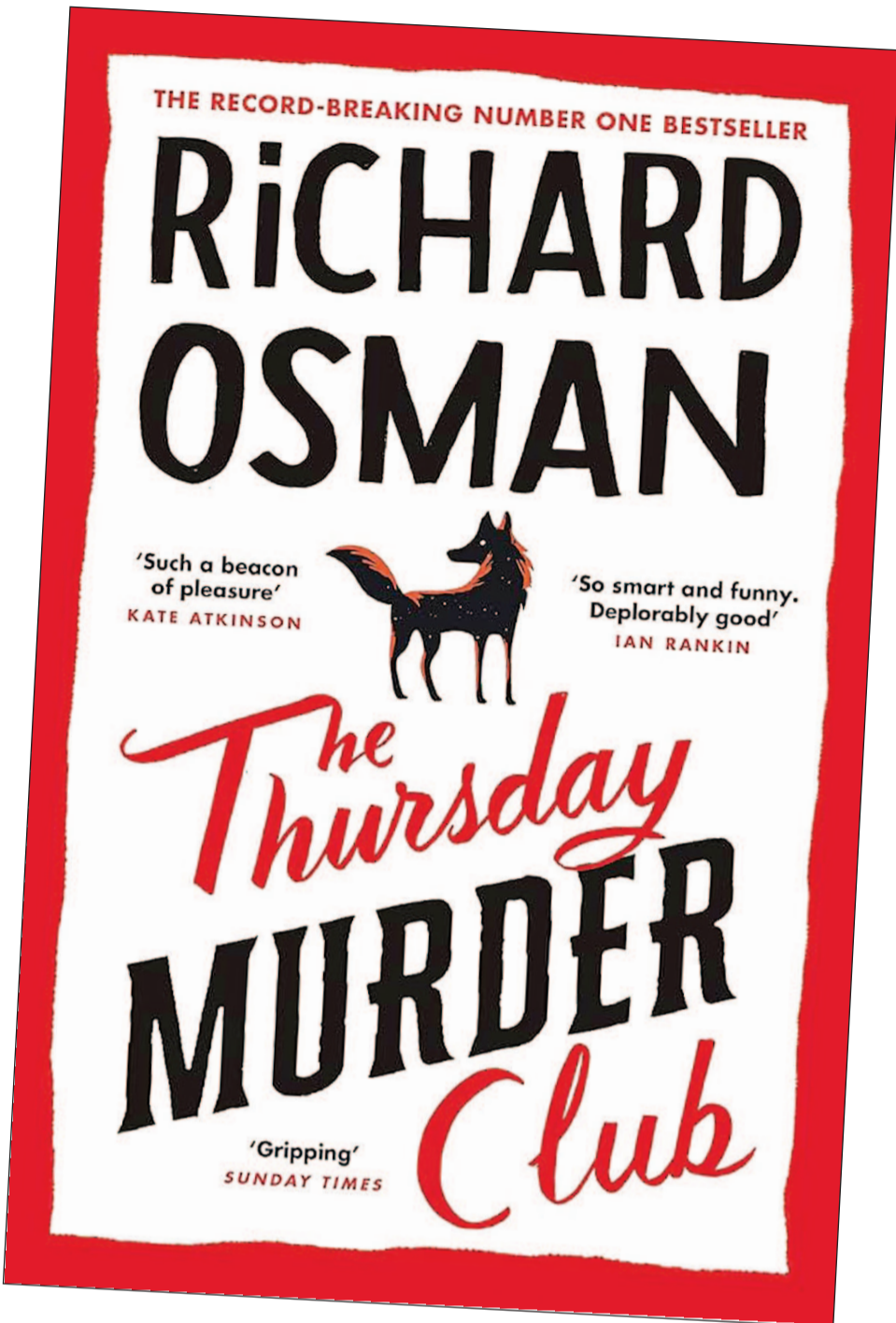
What to expect

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a free book-gifting program delivered locally by the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre to inspire a lifelong love of reading.

Once enrolled, your child will receive a high-quality, age-appropriate book delivered to your home every month from birth until they turn five—at no cost to you.

The AGL Loy Yang Community Fund provides the vital funding for these books, while our small team of staff and volunteers manages all the administration, marketing, and enrolments across Latrobe to make this opportunity possible for our local families.

churchill.org.au/dolly



“The Thursday Murder Club” 2020 by Richard Osman

Richard Osman (28/11/70) is an English television host and creator of the popular quiz show “Pointless”, a former co-presenter of BBC1 and a novelist. “The Thursday Murder Club” is his first novel and sold over a million copies. It has been followed by several others in the series including “The Man Who Died Twice”, “The Bullet That Missed”, “The Last Devil to Die”, “We Solve Murders” and “The Impossible Fortune”.

The story is set in a retirement home called “Coopers Chase”, located on a property that was formerly the home of a religious order of nuns. The owner of the village, Ian Ventham plans to extend the facility and to do so he decides he will have the cemetery, called “The Garden of Eternal Rest” relocated. This means digging up the coffins and causes a furore among the residents and a local priest. For this project he has decided that he will not include his business partner, Tony Curran and the two are seen arguing. Shortly after, Tony Curran is found dead.

When the bulldozers come to start the new development the residents decide to blockade the gates. However Ian Ventham sends his jack-of-all-trades, Bognan, to start digging up the graves by hand. To his horror he uncovers a human skeleton on top of the first coffin and all work stops. Then Ian Ventham is murdered.

We are introduced to the members of “The Thursday Murder Club”, a group of friends who meet each Thursday to try to solve murders and they are more than excited to be attempting to solve actual murders and the mystery of the bones. The leader of the group is Elizabeth, a former MI5 operative who is clever, resourceful and manipulative yet shows deep compassion and tenderness to her husband and her friend Penny who are suffering from dementia. Joyce is her close friend, a former nurse who accompanies her on her expeditions to gather facts. Joyce keeps a diary which outlines the smallest and often irrelevant details of life at Coopers Chase. She is the one who cooks for their meetings. Ibrahim is a psychiatrist and very tech

savvy, he also loves Zumba, and his best mate is Ron, a full-of-bluster chap but a loyal friend. The group has also been able to “rope in” the local police officers by fair means and foul and together they set out to solve the murders.

The story leads us through all kinds of theories, we meet many characters and there are lots of red herrings as the group gets up to all kinds of mischief to catch the murderers. Some are solved, others are not although Elizabeth knows who killed Tony Curran and the reader will possibly guess.

Everyone enjoyed this sometimes “laugh out loud” funny book which gave something of an insight into life in a retirement facility. Richard Osman is an astute observer of human behaviour and his characters are beautifully drawn.

He gives us a positive look at life in our older years but this is balanced by some of the entries in Joyce’s diary where life can sometimes seem small and regular contact with family is often missing.

However the overall message of the book is that we should not underestimate the elderly.



The Lions Club of Churchill has had the great pleasure of hosting the overnight stay for the riders and their support crew who are raising funds for the Lions Ride For Sight charity, in Churchill on Thursday March 19, 2026. The Lions Ride for Sight is our District’s fundraising project, raising funds for sight research to prevent and cure blindness. Funds raised from this Ride will go towards the Centre for Eye Research Australia (<https://www.cera.org.au/>) for important genetic engineering research.

Twenty nine riders with a support crew of ten arrived in Churchill an hour earlier than expected after a having started in Longwarry and ridden through the beautiful Strzelecki countryside to be welcomed by the Churchill Lions. As to be expected the riders were very pleased to get out of the saddle and enjoy a cold drink and the dim sim appetiser supplied by the Lions. After a hot shower the riders set up their various sleeping arrangements and then enjoyed a hearty meal of fish and chips with lots of different salads, followed by lashings of fruit, ice cream and yoghurt which was greatly appreciated by the riders.

Early the next morning the riders welcomed a hearty breakfast supplied by the

Yinnar Lions Club who charged the riders up with egg and bacon sangas and a myriad of cereals, fruit and toast. Whilst the crew were enjoying breakfast, Lion Reg Grisotto presented the ride with a donation of \$750.00 dollars which was once again greatly appreciated.

The next stage of the ride also known as the Strzelecki Spin takes them to Inverloch then to Nyora and back to

Nyora. The riders and support crew volunteer and donate their time and finances toward this event and as such our club would like to acknowledge our appreciation for the donation of the facilities by the Latrobe City Council and the sharing of the Gaskin Park Stadium with the Churchill Junior Football and Netball Club.

Danny O'BRIEN MP
State Member for Gippsland South

Working for Gippsland South

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LV Field Naturalists



On Friday April 24, invertebrate ecologist Emily Crick from INVERT-ECO will speak about burrowing crayfish at the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists' Club general meeting. Emily works under specialist Dr Beverley Van Praagh to conduct site assessments and surveys for various subterranean invertebrates, with a particular focus on the Warragul burrowing crayfish and the giant Gippsland earthworm.

Emily will speak about crayfish habitat, species

characteristics, survey methods, how to distinguish between species and key threatening processes, with a focus on the Warragul burrowing crayfish.

Warragul burrowing crayfish are a critically endangered species of terrestrial or land-dwelling cray. They are found only in around 30 square kilometres of West Gippsland, from Labertouche in the north, around to Drouin, down in south Warragul. Yarragon is the most easterly location they have been found

– overall, a very small footprint compared to other animals in the area.

While many locals are familiar with the 'mud chimneys' that burrowing crayfish make, Warragul burrowing cray chimneys tend to be very small, short and made of pea-sized balls of mud and are often found in clusters.

Although there are multiple 'common' species of burrowing crayfish, Warragul burrowing cray are significantly smaller, are mainly tan in colour, sport a small tail and uniquely 'beady' eyes.

Surveys and site assessments are generally conducted during the cooler seasons with most of the work taking place between March and October.

The presentation will be held at Moe Library meeting rooms, 7.30pm Friday April 24, all welcome. Please email the club on info@lvfieldnats.org for a link if you would like to watch via Zoom.

On Saturday April 25, Emily will lead a walk around Strachan Park in Warragul, pointing out the characteristics of Warragul burrowing cray chimneys and burrows.

The excursion will start 10am at Stachan Park, 50 Tarwin Street, Warragul. Bring your lunch, and wear clothing suitable for the day.

Contact club secretary, Rose, on 0410 237 292

Mathison Park



The working bee had a surprisingly good turn up despite some usual volunteers being unavailable.

Fallen trees and branches were cleared up. Garden beds were weeded. It was noted that many of them need mulching.

There is always so much to do and so few to do it. We certainly need some new volunteers as the ones we have are aging into their 80s.

People love the park but do not see the need that their one or two hours a month could make in helping to

keep it the wonderful place it is.

Working bees happen on the second Saturday of each month.

The Gippsland Interchange crew are back and helping with cleaning up. They are a great asset.

SCAMWATCH

Personal loan scams

What is happening?

Scammers are setting up fraudulent websites offering personal loans. They are also posting online advertisements for their services on social media platforms. Once your application for a loan is approved, you will receive an email requesting personal information and documents. You will also be directed to pay an upfront insurance fee before any funds are released. Who is at risk? Anyone searching for a loan provider may encounter these scams. People experiencing financial hardship may be particularly vulnerable. What this might look like: Scammers pose as financial service providers and loan brokers online. They create fake websites, post ads on social media platforms and contact people directly offering personal loans. Once you apply for a loan online, the scammer will contact you by email or social media. They will send you a loan contract and ask you for personal identification documents such as photo ID, payslips, bank statements, and login details for banks and myGov.

They will also ask that you pay an upfront fee for 'payment protection' insurance or 'loan establishment' fees to secure the loan. They will not allow the amount to be deducted from the loan. Instead, they

will require payment in full before any loan funds are released. They say this payment will be refunded after three months.

These scammers may impersonate existing Australian credit licence and financial service licence holders. They may even fraudulently quote ABN registration and credit licence information from ASIC to appear genuine. Warning signs to look out for: Communications that ask for your personal details and identification documents.

Requests for upfront insurance payments that must be paid before loan funds are released. Requests to pay funds to a personal bank account. The loan provider is not licensed and does not appear on ASIC's professional registers. The loan provider appears on ASIC's investor alert list. Pressure to make payments and to pay in a particular way. Claims that insurance premium payments will be refunded after three months. If you have been affected: Do not be embarrassed about being scammed. If you have had money or personal information stolen, contact your bank or card provider immediately. If you think your accounts have been compromised, change your passwords immediately. Monitor your bank statements and accounts for unusual

activity. If you have been scammed or have provided personal information, call IDCARE on 1800 595 160.

Help others by reporting to Scamwatch. Stay protected STOP. Scammers create a sense of urgency. Do not rush to make decisions about money or about sharing personal details. Do not let anyone pressure you into immediate action. Trust your instincts if something feels wrong.

CHECK. Always verify who you are really dealing with before taking any action. Check the organisation is licensed by searching ASIC's professional registers. Even if the organisation is licensed with ASIC and you have been given ASIC company registration and licence details, check the contact by calling the organisation using a number you source yourself. Visit the Moneysmart website to check ASIC's investor alert list. Before sending any money, check that the account name matches who you intend to send it to.

PROTECT. If you have given money or personal information to someone you suspect is a scammer, act quickly. Visit the Scamwatch website for more information on what to do if you have been scammed.

To report scams and find more info go to Scamwatch.gov.au

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COOKING with Noelene

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What do you know?

Here are the answers to March's challenge:

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. Samosa. | 2. Rollup. |
| 3. Pinch | 4. Hoisin. |
| 5. Germ. | 6. Persimmon. |



Here is my April challenge for you:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Melted fat and residue left in the pan after meat or poultry have been cooked and can be used for basting during cooking. | 4. A thick dark brown syrup which is refined for molasses. |
| 2. To soak dried fruit in liquid until soft and swollen. | 5. A bowl of ingredients placed inside a baking dish containing boiling water and placed in a heated oven to cook with a gentle heat. |
| 3. To cook fish, poultry, vegetables and some puddings in a perforated pan over boiling water. | 6. A soft caramel confection with various flavourings, usually cut into small squares when soft. |

Eggs



The sizes of eggs in baking are important. Store eggs in the lower part of your refrigerator away from strong aromatic food. Remove eggs from the refrigerator and return to room temperature. It is important that the eggs used in baking must be at room temperature before baking. Cold eggs straight from the refrigerator do not combine as well with other ingredients or trap as much air. Eggs at room temperature will give you light and airy cakes.

Flour



Wheat flour is the most commonly used flour in baking. The amount of protein/gluten in wheat flour varies between different types. Plain white flour has the bran and wheat germ removed. Soft white flour is made from wheat with a low gluten content, it is ideal for making cakes, biscuits and pastry. Strong plain flour is made from wheat with a high gluten content and is used for breads and yeast cookery. Self raising flour is plain white flour with baking powder added. To make your own self raising flour add 1 dsp of baking powder to each 225 gm of plain flour. Wholemeal flour is flour that has been made from the whole of the wheat grain and is heavier and coarser than white flour. It is also available as a strong, high gluten flour for bread making and a soft, lower gluten flour for cakes and pastry. There are many other flours, such as brown flour.

Is it cooked?

Follow the timings in the recipe that you are using, but also rely on your own judgement as ovens vary in temperature. Small cakes should be well risen, firm and spongy to touch. Sponge cakes should be springy to the touch, test by gently pressing the cake with your finger. If you can see your fingerprint, return the cake to the oven for a few more minutes. Fruit cakes and deep sponge cakes should be tested with a metal skewer inserted into the centre. The skewer will come out clean when the cake is cooked. Leave the cooked cakes to cool for a few minutes in the cake pan before turning out to a wire rack to cool completely. Fruit cakes are best allowed to cool completely in the pan. Read the recipe well before cooking as each recipe will specify the correct procedure.

Chocolate Bread



This bread is easily made and has a great chocolate flavour. Chocolate bread can be sliced and spread with butter/ marg, it is also great toasted, (and finished off with peanut butter but that's my weakness).

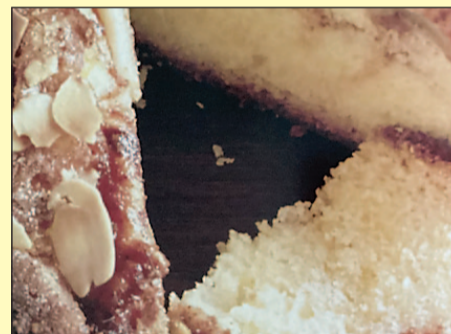
Ingredients:

450 gm strong white bread flour, 1 tsp salt,

25 gm cocoa powder, 1 and 1/2 tsp instant dried yeast, 2 tbs soft light brown sugar, 200 ml lukewarm water, 1 tbs oil.

Lightly grease a 900gm/ 2lb loaf pan. Mix together the flour, salt and cocoa in a large bowl. Stir in the yeast and sugar. Make a well in the centre of the dry mix and add the oil and water. Mix to form a dough. Turn out the dough on a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic. Place the dough in a lightly oiled bowl. Cover with cling wrap and leave in a draught free place for 1 hour or until the dough has doubled in size. Turn out the risen dough, place and shape into the loaf pan. Cover and leave to prove for 30 minutes in a draught free place. Preheat your oven to 200 deg C. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes or until it sounds hollow when tapped on the base. Transfer the loaf to a wire rack to cool completely. Enjoy.

Teacakes



Teacakes are the basis of a traditional English tea.

Afternoon tea is reputed to have been started by the Duchess of Bedford. Teacakes are usually halved, toasted and then served with butter and jam.

Ingredients:

55 gm butter/ marg/ melted, 300 ml milk, 1 tbs instant dried yeast, 55gm castor sugar, 450 gm bread flour/ strong white flour, 1 tsp of salt, 1 tsp ground mixed spice, 115gm currants, 25 gm mixed peel, 1 egg, lightly beaten.

Sugar glaze

Made from 2 tbs castor sugar blended with 2 tbs warm milk.

Line 2 baking trays with baking paper. Gently warm the milk until just warm, add the yeast and 1 tsp of the sugar. Mix well and leave in a draught free place until frothy. Mix together the flour, salt and mixed spice in a large bowl. Stir in the currants, mixed peel and the remaining sugar. Make a well in the centre and add the yeast mixture, melted butter/ marg and the lightly beaten egg. Mix using a wooden spoon till combined, then use your hand to form a dough. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead until smooth and elastic. Return the dough to the bowl, cover with cling wrap and leave to rise in a draught free place until doubled in size. Now turn out the dough again and knead lightly. Cut the dough into 12 equal pieces and shape each one into a bun. Place the buns on the lined oven trays and cover each with a sheet of cling wrap and let the buns prove for 30 minutes in a draught free place. Preheat your oven to 200 deg C. Bake the buns in the preheated oven for 20 minutes or until golden brown.

Prepare the glaze, mixing 2 tbs castor sugar with 2 tbs milk. Transfer the buns/ teacakes to a wire rack. Brush the buns/ teacakes with the glaze while still hot.

Scones



What is a scone? An eggless plain cake made with self raising flour, butter/ marg, sugar and baking powder using the rubbing in method, then made into a paste with the addition of milk. Cut into small rounds and baked in a hot oven. Scones should be eaten fresh, split and buttered or spread with jam and whipped cream. Scones are also called English scone, hot biscuit. Scones are named after the original oatmeal and sour milk cake made in Scone, Scotland.

Scone cake mixture (1)

Ingredients:

225 gm self raising flour, 6 tbs butter/ marg, cut into small pieces, 15gm castor sugar, pinch of salt, 1 egg, lightly beaten, 50 ml milk.

Preheat your oven to 200 deg C. Line a baking tray / sheet with baking paper. Sift the flour into a bowl and rub the butter/ marg with your fingertips, lifting your hands high to incorporate air into the mix. The

mixture should resemble breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar and salt. Stir in the combined egg and milk mixture. Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knead lightly. Shape the dough into a circle to a thickness of 2 cm/ 3/4". Do not be heavy handed, scones need a light touch. Cut into 6 cm/2 and 1/2 " rounds with a floured biscuit cutter. Repeat the process until all the dough has been used. Place the scones on the lined oven sheet/ tray and brush the tops with a little extra milk. Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes or until risen and golden brown. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Serve with thickened cream and jam.

Scone cake mixture (2)

Ingredients:

55 gm butter, diced and chilled, 450 gm plain flour, 1/2 tsp salt, 1 dsp baking powder, 2 tbs castor sugar, 250 ml milk.

Preheat your oven to 200 deg C. Line a baking tray/ oven sheet with baking paper. Sift the flour, salt and baking powder together in a bowl. Rub the butter/ marg into the flour mix with your fingertips, it should look like breadcrumbs.

Stir in the sugar. Make a well in the centre and pour in the milk. Quickly mix with a round bladed knife to form a smooth dough. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work bench and knead lightly.

Follow the above directions for shaping the dough and scone cutting. There are many variations for scone recipes, the two recipes above are the oldest I can find for plain scone cakes.



Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



Accurate history nurtures memories

Recently it was stated rather unequivocally that Morwell's McLean Street was named after Allan McLean. These words shot out without a second thought being given.

Popular band, Split Enz released "History Never Repeats" in March 1981. Written by Neil Finn, in its first verse it says, in part, "Don't say the words you might regret."

And, with that line in mind, this month's local history column talks about Doctor John Samuel McLean, a registered medical practitioner with his formal qualifications conferred on March 3, 1905.

Allan and John Samuel were not related. One was Morwell's doctor for about seven years until 1913 and one was a politician until ousted in a Federal election in 1906. Allan McLean (1840-1911), stock and station agent and politician; more about Allan later.

John Samuel (J S to colleagues who knew him well) McLean was born in October 1879, died in early February 1946 and is interred in the Phillip Island Cemetery.

Being Morwell's second

doctor, he succeeded Dr. Julian Smith. J S was succeeded by Dr. Sutcliffe late in 1913.

J S was born in Parkville and attended Melbourne University where he was a reservist in the university's Australian Army Medical Corp (Officer's Corp) for about four years. His yearning to graduate as a fully qualified doctor took him to Edinburgh eventually earning the honour of using letters after his name.

His LRCP qualification - Licentiate of Physicians of the Royal College of Physicians - was a standout, and RCS - Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh - underscored his world class medical education. His registration date was conferred as March 3, 1905.

It was while living in Morwell that Dr John Samuel McLean left an indelible mark in Morwell's young community. That is, he is not able to be erased or forgotten.

On his return from studying in Edinburgh, J S settled in Rosedale, where he and Ethel Jean Bowman were married on April 26, 1906. During their married life, there were five children born - unfortunately only two survived, that being two

daughters.

For this time, 1900's in Morwell, the Commercial Road east-end business section was rather sparse. The Post office was located on the Tarwin Street-Commercial Road corner, then some small shops where a draper, grocer, butcher and dressmaker plied their trades to a fledgling community. Beyond the Morwell Advertiser office was a large corner block with spacious grounds; here was the surgery of the township's only doctor, Dr. Moir. Later doctors who lived there were Dr. Smith, Dr McLean, and Dr. Sutcliffe. In later years, Dr. Mitchell built a new brick home there.

On October 1, 1913, there was a public farewell to Dr McLean. Guests came from Boolarra, Traralgon, Yinnar and anywhere in-between to pay their respects.

Councillor John Hall, (who was Morwell Shire President for two years before Dr McLean took on the role for the next two years,) had the honour of chairing this farewell. In proposing a toast to King and country, Dr McLean was hailed accordingly:

"In public, professional

and private matters he had always done

his duty faithfully and well and he was most highly esteemed

by all with whom he had dealings. From a professional point of

view, the people of the district had been fortunate in having had

in their midst for so long, a man of such qualifications and attainments as Dr. McLean, and needless to say that as a doctor he had given entire satisfaction to the whole community".

His community service included being Morwell Shire President for two terms - 1910 to 1912; Morwell Shire Medical Officer between 1906 and 1909; local sports - tennis, golf, billiards, cricket (as team captain) and football mainly, alongside horse racing; member of Mechanics Institute Committee; and regular attendance at the M.U.L.O.O.F lodge meetings (where he became a close friend of John Barton Hoyle).

Apparently Dr McLean was a keen collector of stuffed birds (via taxidermy that is) as when he had a great sale, the following were advertised for sale - silver, golden and English pheasants, Japanese partridges, painted teals, doves and pigeons.

During a Yinnar versus Morwell cricket game late in 1911, Dr McLean, playing for Morwell, recorded bowling figures of 9/21 in a winning game.

His farewell speech was concluded with the words; (text slightly altered) "I am very sorry to leave the district, and everyone knows the reason why we are going." The pain of losing three children was just too much. It was time to move on. The deceased children are interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery.



From Morwell, and after nearly settling purchase of a house block in McLean Street as we know it today, Dr McLean moved on. Tolmie's subdivision south of Morwell's main business section was an interest in the Doctor's mind.

The McLean family moved back to Melbourne - with a medical practice in Caulfield although there are records showing him working in Malvern.

With his earlier Army Medical Corp experience, it was a deliberate decision to enlist for service in the First World War. Upon enlistment in June 1918, John was a medical practitioner in the East Melbourne area. Prior to embarking on the troopship 'Borda', other towns mentioned in his army records include Minyip and Warracknabeal, albeit reflecting a strong desire to serve overseas. His was a brief period of service, returning home late in September 1919. (World War I officially concluded on November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m.)

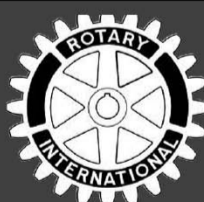
Returning to Australia, Dr McLean with his family, moved to the outskirts of Wonthaggi. Seemingly, his

health was being impacted by a polluted environment. Moving to San Remo was more conducive, followed by another, and final move to Cowes. He is interred in the Phillip Island Cemetery - without a plaque. Ethel Jean is interred in the Springvale Botanical Cemetery. Gwendoline McLean is interred in the Drouin Cemetery as is her sister, Margaret "Peg" McLean.

Back to Allan McLean (1840-1911), stock and station agent and politician. His life journey was successful - establishing A. McLean & Co with offices throughout mid-Gippsland, then off into politics, first as a local councillor (Avon and then, Maffra Shires), Victorian Commissioner of Crown Lands for three years, then a state government minister for four years before becoming Premier of Victoria for one year and defeated as member for Gippsland (Commonwealth Parliament) in 1906. Allan spent 10 years chasing recognition as a state and federal parliamentarian. His biographies fail to detail Allan's local community involvement. His time was spent with other priorities.



Rotary



DINNER MEETINGS:

1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays
6.30pm - 8.00pm

VENUE TO BE DECIDED

Contact Secretary Paula

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Contact:

Richard Henshaw
0466 233 991

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Hazelwood Rotary Club



Aaron Pearce Plumbing Services

PO Box 408 Churchill
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- * Split System Air Con
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- * Drainage



STAMP MATTERS- A NEW EXPERIENCE



The Corinth Canal

Recently I attended a presentation of the holiday snaps of a Mediterranean holiday which I must say was very interesting. Included in the section on the visit to Greece was a photo of the Corinth Canal and someone asked how such a waterway was built and why. The answer opened a complex topic involving the development of tools over time, geology, economics and geography.

Firstly we must deal with the geography. In the southern part of Greece, we find the Peloponnesian peninsula jutting out into the Mediterranean Sea between the cities of Athens and Corinth. The neck of the peninsula in the north is only about six and a half kilometres wide, but it is part of a mountain range. In antiquity the passage of trade goods across the neck was difficult and this limited the volume of trade. Simply put, it cost too much. The alternative was to transport goods by sea, but this was a much longer journey and was beset with the constant danger of shipwreck, a problem with ships of the day. The answer seemed simple; just build a canal.

The first attempt recorded



for this took place in about 700BC when a scheme to move ships overland was tried but it did not work. The first digging attempt was done by the Romans using Jewish prisoners of war as slaves, but this too failed because of the geology. The underlying rock is a particularly hard form of limestone, and it defeated the tools of the Romans at that time. Other groups such as the Eastern Romans and the Venetians examined the idea but rejected it for the same reason.

It was not until the late 1800s that a French company took on the project, using the newly invented dynamite. However, the company was under-resourced, and it took them eleven years to complete

the project. When it was finished, it was found to be too narrow for major shipping and too liable for landslides to block the canal for it to be an economic success. Widening and deepening the canal was not a viable option due to cost and the limiting factor of the Canal Effect. This last problem, common to all narrow waterways carrying shipping, limits shipping to slow speeds and a need to constantly stay mid-channel. If these restrictions were not followed the ship would be wrecked against the sheer walls on either side, causing the cargo to be lost and the canal blocked for an extended period.

The canal is used today for small vessels with limited carrying capacity. They can move in both directions but only slowly. Passing one another is difficult and so the seemingly simple solution is still not so simple. It is simply not cost-effective.

A set of Greek stamps issued in 1927 included three featuring the distinctive view of the Corinth Canal with its steep sides and narrow waterway being traversed by a small coasting vessel.

Schools ask for help as gambling increases among Gippsland students

As young people across Gippsland continue to gamble online, schools are asking for increased support. Teachers and wellbeing staff report a growing number of students gambling during school hours, with one local principal estimating that around 25 per cent of their senior students have been involved in gambling activity. In response to rising concerns, the LCHS Gambler's Help team is delivering an education program, 'Be Ahead of the Game', to secondary students across the region.

Steve Tong, Gambler's Help Community Engagement Officer, says the sessions are designed to give young people clear, practical information about gambling, its risks, and where to seek help if they need it.

"Over the past six months, there has been a 143 per cent increase in demand for gambling harm workshops in Gippsland schools compared to the same time last year," Mr Tong said.

"It is important to raise

awareness and understanding of gambling harm, and how it particularly affects young people."

The 'Be Ahead of the Game' program includes three tailored sessions for schools and community groups:

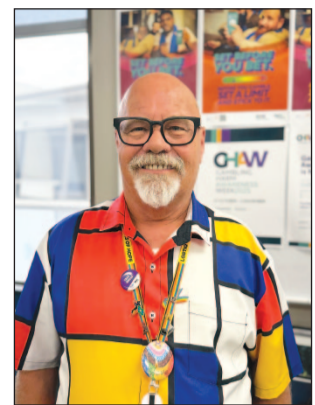
When Gaming Meets Gambling – exploring the link between online gaming and gambling-style features. Know the Score – helping young people understand how sports betting works and the risks involved.

Your Money Matters – encouraging positive financial goals and reinforcing that gambling is not a safe pathway to financial independence.

Each session runs for approximately one hour and is delivered free of charge across Gippsland.

The workshops aim not only to educate students about gambling risks, but to build critical thinking skills and confidence to make informed decisions, particularly in a digital environment where betting apps, in-game purchases and sports promotions are increasingly visible.

Mr Tong said the community



response has been powerful. "I get immense satisfaction when a young person approaches me at the end of a session to say thank you and shares how gambling has impacted their life," he said.

As schools continue to seek support, LCHS is encouraging community organisations and families to reach out and start important conversations about gambling and gaming at home.

To find out more or book a free workshop, email GamblingSupportServices@lchs.com.au or call 1800 242 696 and ask to speak with a Gambler's Help team member.

ANZAC DAY PROGRAM OF EVENTS – SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2026



BOOLARRA ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

ANZAC Day Dawn Service for the township of Boolarra 6am to 7.30am

Venue: Railway Park, Corner of Tarwin St and Christian St Boolarra

Organiser: Boolarra Community Development Group Contact: Matt on 0494 322 239

CHURCHILL ANZAC DAY SERVICE

ANZAC Day Service commencing at 9am to be hosted by the Morwell RSL followed by a gunfire breakfast at the outdoor venue.

Venue: Churchill Place, Phillip Parade, Churchill

Organiser: Morwell RSL Sub-Branch Contact: Don on 5134 2455

MORWELL ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

ANZAC Day Dawn Service for the township of Morwell commencing 5.45am. The Tarwin and Elgin Street intersection will be closed from 5.45am till 6.30am to conduct the event.

Venue: Morwell RSL

Cenotaph Corner Elgin & Tarwin Street, Morwell

Organiser: Morwell RSL Sub-Branch Contact: Don on 5134 2455

MOE ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

ANZAC Day Dawn Service and wreath laying for the township of Moe. The ceremony will be held at the cenotaph outside the Moe RSL in Albert Street commencing at 6am. Albert Street will be closed from Kirk to Moore Streets Moe from 5.45am till 6.30am to conduct the event.

Venue: Moe RSL Cenotaph in Albert Street Moe.

Organiser: Moe RSL Sub-Branch Contact: Steve on 5127 1007

MOE ANZAC DAY PARADE & SERVICE

ANZAC Day Parade and wreath laying for the township of Moe. The parade will form up at 10.20am. The ceremony will be held at the cenotaph outside the Moe RSL in Albert Street

commencing at 11am. Albert Street will be closed from Kirk to Moore Streets Moe from 10am till 1pm to conduct the event.

Venue: Moe RSL, Albert Street, Moe

Organiser: Moe RSL Sub-Branch

Contact: Steve on 5127 1007

MORWELL ANZAC DAY PARADE & SERVICE

ANZAC Day Parade & wreath laying service for the township of Morwell. Parade will form up in the Morwell Town Common at 11.30am and then turn into Elgin Street to the cenotaph on the corner of Elgin Street & Tarwin Street Morwell. The cenotaph intersection will be closed from approximately 11.30am till 1pm

Venue: Morwell RSL Cenotaph Corner Elgin & Tarwin Street, Morwell

Organiser: Morwell RSL Sub-Branch Contact: Don on 5134 2455

YALLOURN/ NEWBOROUGH RSL

10.30am for refreshments. Portions of Darlimurla Avenue,

Western Avenue, Ellinbank Road and Wooreen Streets will be closed from 9am till 10.30am

to conduct the event.

Venue: Yallourn/ Newborough RSL and cenotaph in Newborough Square

Organiser: Yallourn/ Newborough RSL Sub-Branch Contact: Neil on 0419 313 738

TRARALGON ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

ANZAC Day Dawn Service for the township of Traralgon commencing at 6am. Portions of Kay Street and Franklin Street will be closed from 5.45am till 6.45am to conduct the event.

Venue: Traralgon Cenotaph in Kay Street Traralgon

Organiser: Traralgon RSL Sub-Branch Contact: Brian on 0437 257 601

TRARALGON ANZAC DAY PARADE & SERVICE

ANZAC Day Parade and wreath laying service for the township of Traralgon. Parade will form up in Hotham Street at 10.30am proceeding to cenotaph at 10.45am for the 11am service. Portions of Hotham, Franklin and Kay Streets Traralgon will be closed from 10.30am till 12.15pm to conduct the event.

Venue: Traralgon Cenotaph in Kay Street Traralgon

Organiser: Traralgon RSL Sub-Branch Contact: Brian on 0437 257 601

YALLOURN NORTH ANZAC DAY SERVICE

ANZAC Day Service for the township of Yallourn North. Wreath laying service commencing at 9am.

Venue: Cenotaph adjacent to Monash Hall, Reserve Street, Yallourn North

Organiser: The Committee of Management of Yallourn

North's Hall and Recreation

Reserve Contact: Linda on 0427 671 780

YINNAR ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

ANZAC Day Dawn Service at 6am

Venue: Service at Cenotaph in Service Road, Yinnar

Organiser: Yinnar RSL Contact: Luke on 0491 605 939

YINNAR ANZAC DAY PARADE & SERVICE

ANZAC Day Parade and wreath laying service for the township of Yinnar. Parade will form in Main Street Yinnar at 9am and travel to the cenotaph in Service Road for the service at 9.30am. Portions of Main Street Yinnar from Jumbuck Road to Bennett Street and Service Road from Main Street to Belmont Lane will be closed from 9am till 10am to conduct the event.

Venue: Service at Cenotaph in Service Road, Yinnar Organiser: Yinnar RSL Contact: Luke on 0491 605 939



CFA Fire Danger Period ends



The CFA Chief Officer has determined that the fire restrictions for CFA District 9 (Baw Baw Shire Council and South Gippsland Shire Council), District 10 (Wellington Shire Council) and District 27 (Latrobe City Council) will end at 01:00 am on Tuesday April 7, 2026.

The lifting of fire restrictions means that

our community can now conduct burning off and other outdoor fire operations without requiring a written permit from CFA or Latrobe City Council.

However, it should be noted that:

Latrobe City does have Local Laws about burning off, so it is still a requirement that community members comply with

these Local Laws. See the Latrobe City website for further information.

It is best to notify the Burn Off Information Line of your burn off so that your local fire brigade does not get called out unnecessarily. Information about how to register a burn off is available from firepermits.vic.gov.au/notify

Burn-off checklist:

- ✔ Check restrictions
- ✔ Check weather
- ✔ Have water nearby
- ✔ Never leave a fire unattended
- ✔ Put the fire out properly



Check. Apply. Notify.
firepermits.vic.gov.au
or call 1800 668 511



We remember Darren McLean



Brigade President Allan Larkin, Darren's father Barry McLean with Brigade Captain Matthew Fisher.

Before the brigade's March meeting, members paused to pay tribute to Darren McLean who tragically lost his life while fighting a fire in the Jeeralangs in 1982.

Darren was just 17 years old when he sustained fatal injuries while on duty with our brigade. The truck he was travelling on rolled into Middle Creek after the road

gave way, injuring several members of the Churchill-Jeeralang Rural Fire Brigade.

We were honoured to be joined by Darren's father, Barry, who for more than 40 years has remained a constant and respected presence within our brigade. Barry's ongoing connection with the brigade ensures that Darren's sacrifice and

memory are never far from our thoughts.

Moments like these are an important reminder of the risks our firefighters face and the strong sense of community that exists within the CFA family.

Darren's legacy continues to live on through the brigade and the members who proudly serve today.

Photo Credit: Megan Cannon



Brigade members pause for the memorial to Darren McLean.



Fire Danger Period Amendment

Fire Restrictions will be lifted as of 1am **Tuesday 7 April 2026** in the following municipality

Latrobe City Council

Thinking about burning off?

Check local council restrictions

Learn how to keep it safe

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/burnoff

Register your burn off

www.firepermits.vic.gov.au



Are you burning-off safely?



For many people, burning-off vegetation is an effective way to prepare and maintain properties. Unfortunately each year CFA crews are called out to help people who lost control of their burn-off.

Here is some simple advice to stay safe when burning-off.

FIRE DANGER PERIOD

You can only burn-off if you have a written permit issued by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer or the CFA District Office.

TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS

All fires in the open air are banned during Total Fire Ban days.

Any permits are suspended for the duration of any Total Fire Ban days.



Have you checked your council's local law regarding when and where you can burn off?

You need to check your council's website for local laws to ensure you're allowed to burn off. Your council may have regulations and certain days that you can burn.

If CFA has declared the Fire Danger Period for your municipality, open air burning is prohibited unless a specific permit is obtained. Fines for burning off during this time without a permit can be up to 120 penalty units and/or up to 12 months' jail.

Have you checked the weather?

Check weather forecasts for the day of your burn-off and a few days afterwards. If more than light winds you should postpone your burn-off.

Also check it won't be too windy on following days, as the wind can reignite your burn.

Do you have an adequate water supply?

You need to have enough water to extinguish a possible outbreak. For small fires, it's recommended you either have access to a hose or at least 10 litres of water. For larger fires appropriate firefighting equipment and/or machinery may be required.

Clean up around your burn site.

Create a 3-metre clearance of all flammable material around your whole burn-off site.

Have you registered your burn-off?

Register your burn-off by calling **1800 668 511**. This will ensure CFA won't be called out unnecessarily to your burn-off.

Have you notified your neighbours?

Ensure you are considerate of your neighbours when burning off. Notify them if you are in close proximity and the smoke may affect them. Also burning items that are wet or green may cause excessive smoke.

Have you put it out properly?

Make sure there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish your burn-off safely and effectively. Ensure that your burn-off is completely extinguished before you leave it.

SPORT

Churchill & Monash Golf Club

Men's Monthly Medal (Stroke) February 28, 2026

Monthly Medal Winner: C. Gilfillan 66 Nett Scratch Winner: M. Brereton 82
 Putts Winner: C. Gilfillan 26 A Grade Winner: D. White 69 Nett
 B Grade Winner: C. Gilfillan 66 Nett C Grade Winner: T. Bennett 70 Nett
 D.T.L: 1. B. Kilday 69, 2. P. Flanigan 70, 3. B. Cluderay 71, 4. M. Brereton 71, 5. R. Timbs, 6. G. Barnes 72, 7. P. Bolding 72, 8. J. Wicks 73, 9. C. Waring 73 c/b N.T.P: 3rd J. Soppe (Propin), 12th G. Spowart, 14th C. Sterrick Birdies: 14th C. Waring Target Hole: G. Barnes

Women's Monthly Medal (Stroke) March 3, 2026

Monthly Medal Winner: L. Brent 73 Nett Scratch Winner: S. Caldwell 97
 Putts Winners: S. Turner D.T.L: S. Caldwell 77 Nett 5th L. Van Rooy, 12th M.

Dear, 14th J. Clegg Stableford March 7, 2026

A Grade Winner: I. Fortune 40 pts B Grade Winner: C. Gilfillan 46 pts
 C Grade Winner: V. Monument 38 pts D.T.L: 1. G. Barnes 42, 2. G. Leahy 39, 3. G. Spowart 39, 4. A. Jenkins 37, 5. C. Wilson 37, 6. R. timbs 37, 7. C. Sterrick 36, 8. P. Flanigan 36 c/b N.T.P: 3rd D. Burrige, 5th B. Jenkins 12th C. Wilson (Propin), 14th G. Spowart Birdies: 5th G. Barnes, B. Jenkins, 12th I. Fortune, 14th G. Barnes, J. Thornby, G. Spowart Target Hole: I. Fortune
Mary Mitchell Day (Stableford) March 10, 2026
 Winner: S. Caldwell 42 pts D.T.L: J. Clegg 40 pts N.T.P: 3rd L. Van Rooy, 5th S. Turner, 12th S. Turner, 14th S. Caldwell
Par March 14, 2026
 A Grade Winner: G.

Beyer +2 B Grade Winner: W. Sutton 0 C Grade Winner: T. Collins +5 D.T.L: 1. M. Lugton +4, 2. R. Zomer +1, 3. J. Cahill +1, 4. D. Taylor +1, 5. W. McGrath +1, 6. A. Jenkins 0, 7. M. Soppe 0, 8. P. Bolding -1 c/b N.T.P: 3rd P. Jordan (Propin), 5th B. Downie, 12th M. Allen, 14th W. McGrath

Birdies: 5th B. Downie, 14th M. Allen Target Hole: S. Allison
Stableford March 17, 2026
 Winner: L. Brent 42 pts D.T.L: M. Hutchinson 33 pts N.T.P: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th L. Brent, 12th S. Turner, 14th S. Caldwell
2 Person Multiplication March 21, 2026
 Winners: T. Bennett/J. Balding 98 pts Runners Up: S. Leatham/M. Hammer 93 pts D.T.L: 1. G. Beyer/D. Taylor 78, 2. J. Shea/T. O'Sullivan 75, 3. D. Burrige/C. Waring 74, 4. L. Bevis/S. Sterrick 74, 5. B.

Kilday/A. Auld 72
 N.T.P: 3rd G. Beyer, 5th C. Sterrick, 12th R. King (Propin), 14th J. Shea
4BBB March 24, 2026
 Winners: C. and S. Gosling 48 pts Runners Up: S. Vary/C. Gardiner 44 pts
 N.T.P: 3rd P. Kearns, 5th M Dear, 12th C. Stevens, 14th L. Brent

Men's Monthly Medal (Stroke) March 28, 2026

Monthly Medal Winner: P. Jordan 66 Nett Scratch Winner: G. Beyer 79 off stick Putts Winner: A. Auld 26 A Grade Winner: G. Beyer 67 Nett B Grade Winner: C. Gosling 70 Nett C Grade Winner: P. Jordan 66 Nett D.T.L: 1. G. Sanders 73, 2. R. Sands 73, 3. R. King, 4. G. Spowart 75, 5. B. Jenkins 75, 6. B. Jenkins 75, 7. C. Stevens 75, 8. D. Taylor 76, 9. T. Collins 77 c/b N.T.P: 3rd S. Sanders (Propin), 12th J. Cahill Target Hole: C. Gosling
Par March 31, 2026
 Winner: L. Van Rooy +1 c/b D.T.L: 1. C. Carder +1, 2. S. Caldwell -2
 Birdie: 5th C. Carder N.T.P: 3rd L. Van Rooy, 5th C. Carder, 12th M. Hutchinson, 14th M. Dear



The Churchill Baseball Club is gearing up for an exciting start to the 2026 season, with preparations already well underway across all grades.

The season build-up begins with the annual Gippsland Championships, set to be held across two venues on April 11 and 12. Games will be hosted at Morwell Baseball Club and Moe/Newborough Baseball Club, providing a fantastic opportunity for local players to test themselves against the region's best ahead of the regular season.

Following the Championships, the home-and-away season officially gets underway on April 19, with Churchill looking to build momentum early and set the tone for a strong

campaign. Training has already commenced, with solid numbers and energy across the club. Women's training is held on Tuesday evenings from 5:30pm, while Thursdays are dedicated to junior and senior development. Junior players take the field from 4:30pm to 5:30pm, before senior training runs from 5:30pm through to 7:00pm.

With a strong preseason foundation, a competitive lead-in tournament, and clear structure across training, Churchill is well positioned heading into the new season. The club welcomes players of all ages and abilities, with a focus on development, community, and on-field success in 2026.

For the latest updates, including fixtures and announcements as they are released, follow the Churchill Baseball Club Facebook page, with the finalised season schedule still to be confirmed.

SCHOOL news

Kurnai Uni Campus

VIC SRC Congress

On Monday March 2, our Senior Leadership Group attended the 20th Anniversary VicSRC Congress, held at Morwell Tech School in its first regional visit to Gippsland. The event brought together student leaders from across the region for a day of workshops, discussions and collaborative activities focused on strengthening student voice in schools.

Students heard from the Victorian Electoral Commission about democratic processes and civic participation, as well as the Courage to Care Foundation, whose presentation encouraged reflection on leadership, responsibility and standing up for others.

Our students represented the school with pride, engaging thoughtfully, contributing confidently, and demonstrating leadership aligned with our values. The day provided a valuable opportunity to connect, learn and be inspired while experiencing student leadership at a state level.

Student Leadership Group
 On March 23, our Student Leadership Group was formally recognised in a presentation where they received badges and congratulatory letters from The Nationals Member for Morwell, Martin Cameron MP.

Martin shared his journey



from a trades background into politics, offering a relatable perspective on pathways into leadership.

He emphasised the importance of authenticity, integrity and impartiality, encouraging students to be consistent and genuine representatives of their peers.

His message strongly resonated with our student leaders as they begin their roles for the year.

Offshore Surf School

On Wednesday March 18, the First Year Sport, Aquatics and Recreation class took part in a surfing and paddleboarding excursion with Offshore Surf School at Inverloch Surf Beach.

Students embraced the experience, showing

enthusiasm and a willingness to challenge themselves in the surf.

Following the session, the group moved to the inlet for paddleboarding, continuing to build their skills and confidence on the water.

Throughout the day, students demonstrated respect, strong engagement and positive attitudes. Their teamwork and encouragement of one another made the experience highly enjoyable and a great reflection of the group.



SSV Senior Schools Cricket - Gippsland Championships

After winning the Wellington Championship, our senior boys competed in the Gippsland Championships at Boolarra Cricket Club against Bass Coast Secondary College in a

15-over match. After losing the toss, Bass Coast set a target of 136. Despite being a player short,

Kurnai showed determination in the field, with strong bowling from Urand, Hart (1/19) and Duncan, and reliable wicketkeeping from Duncan. Catches were taken by Ceeney, Urand and Duncan.

In response, Urand and Forbes opened with a steady start before Ceeney (43) and Urand (42) combined for a strong 71-run partnership that kept the chase alive. The team ultimately fell 30 runs short but displayed impressive skill and resilience throughout.

Urand was named Player of the Match for his outstanding all-round performance.

The team represented the school with pride and demonstrated strong cricketing potential.

SCHOOL news

Churchill Primary

Sports Day shines bright at Churchill Primary
 After a light sprinkle in the early morning, the sun soon made an appearance for Churchill Primary School's annual Sports Day. Students proudly dressed in their team colours, while families lined the sidelines, cheering enthusiastically with signs and words of encouragement. From Prep to Grade 6,

students took part in a range of events including long jump, sprints, high jump, discus, accuracy throw and distance running. A highlight of the day was the exciting house colour relays, with the much-anticipated teachers' race drawing plenty of excitement. It was a close contest, but Yellow House claimed

victory for the fourth consecutive year. Well done to all our students for their great effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the day. We wish all students the very best as they prepare to compete in the upcoming Champions Day!

CPS students at Sports Day



SCHOOL news

Boolarra Primary

Term 1 at Boolarra Primary School

Ever since we returned to school, a lot has happened. We have a new Principal Mr. Kilday. Mr Kilday is the Acting Assistant Principal at Churchill North Primary, and will share the Principal job with Mrs Duncan at Boolarra. Mr Kilday works from Wednesday to Friday with us. He loves kicking the footy with my friend Jake and I at lunchtimes. We also have a new teacher Ms Pulbrook who is in Grade 2-6. She is fun.

In February we watched old and new cars drive past our school. We had flags and cheered them. Some of the cars revved their engines really loud. It was fun.

Coach Sherry from Geko Sports has been back this year to teach us volleyball. This has been so much fun. We are also having a School Sports day on March 31 with Yinnar South.

Last week we had a welcome BBQ for parents to meet the teaching staff and for the kids to play. The sausages were yum.

We still have toast every Wednesday that Mr and Mrs Black make for us.

Connor School has been interesting. On Wednesday March 18, we had school photos and the MARC Van which happened at the same time.

On Tuesday March 17, we had a welcome BBQ though the date was set back because of the bad weather, but on Tuesday, the Student Leaders received badges and awards.

The School Captains Ava (Grade 6) and Jake (Grade 5) received awards. House Captains Gewalin (Grade 4) and Jackson (Grade 4) (I'm Jackson) Liam (Grade 6) and Emma are our Junior School Councillors.

New Boolarra students

include Braxton (Grade 3) Foundation which includes Banjo, Charlie, Emma, Emily, TJ, Sadie and Declan.

The Grade 3's and 5's have been doing Naplan this term.

Recently, a koala has been spotted on the far side of the oval in a gum tree. As expected, the koala was sleeping. Many people hope to see it again.

We now have two half time Principals and a new teacher. Mr Kilday is now sharing the job with Mrs Duncan and Ms Pulbrook is teaching the Grade 2-6 and she is very nice.

Jackson

Our year has begun smoothly, and students are happily engaged with their learning. We have welcomed eight new Foundation students to our school. Below are some recollections of their first month at school. We are so proud of their first month achievements.

TJ: I love to play with my friends a lot and a lot and a lot. We like to play Star Wars, we made a really really nice Fairy Garden together and I like playing tennis at lunch playtime with Harry. And I loooove the racing cars that went past our school. We waved our flags at the people in the racing cars, there were lots of cars. That's all, I think.

Emily: I love to play on the playground on the pirate ship, playing Zombie tag with Liam and Sadie and me, it makes me feel happy. I like to say goodbye to my mum because I love her and then I go inside to Morning Circle. I like M.C because I really, really, really like Morning Circle because it's the very first thing we do.

Charlie: Playing in the swing with Declan and the big Emily is my favourite thing to do at school because it makes me happy because it's so much fun and it

makes me dizzy. My food is so yummy, my cheese is yummy. I like doing our numbers and stuff in maths.

Banjo: At Boolarra Primary School, I like the swings. I like going on them and pushing it myself. I like playing tennis with my friends but it's a little bit boring and we play until the bell goes. On Friday after lunch time the whole school plays games together. I like playing Kick the Can because I can kick the can and win the game. That's all.

Emma: I like reading at school. I do reading at home too. The Pirate Needs To Pee is my favourite book at school because it says Pirate Pee a lot and it's funny. My best friend is Charlie because I like playing with him and he's actually my neighbour. Dad's buying wings for dinner, chicken wings. I like the inside.

Declan: Um, I like watching the racing cars

and Lamborghini going past and playing outside with the football and eating and home time and I like playing ball with my friend Leondre in the tunnel and he was laughing when it comes to him. I like doing like Tub Time like LEGO too.

Leondre: OOOO I don't know I love my friends Jake and Azalea, and I like playing with y ball. I like the playground and the Zombie Tag games. Snack. Yep! I like Snack Time and um I don't know what else. I love my mum.

Sadie: Um I like to play with Liam, Star Wars and Zombie Chasey with Emily and TJ and Declan and Charlie and going in the sandpit making vanilla ice cream. I like Tub Time, um, the Fishing game because I get the fishies. I like reading and the sounds and my name puzzles. I like Science and we made a butterfly today.



SCHOOL news

Hazelwood North Primary



March has been a busy month for students at Hazelwood North Primary School!

A big congratulations to our swimmers who participated in the District Swimming Carnival on February 20. Ethan, Harvey, Chloe, Phoebe, Spencer, Elijah, Chase, Savannah, Emma and Isobel demonstrated our school values superbly and showed great sportsmanship. Special mention to Harvey for volunteering to go with another student from another school to do relay! Seven students qualified to then compete at the Division

Swimming Carnival on March 3. Although there were no placings, these students gave it their all! We look forward to seeing what they can do in 2027!

We had spectacular weather to hold our annual whole school athletics day! Students showed their house spirit and dressed up in their house colours for the day. There was high jump, discus, bean bag toss, shot-put, 100m sprint, long distance running and of course relay races! Students enjoyed the extra games of egg and spoon racing, sack racing and tunnel ball with lots of laughs and team spirit. After

all of the scores were tallied, it was Wadjun House that took the trophy for the first time in over 10 years! Well-done Wadjun House!

To finish the month off, we celebrated Harmony Day! It was a fantastic day with families showing their support by coming in and joining in the learning with students. Learning activities ranged from colouring flowers and brainstorming what Harmony Day means, to showing each other which country their family originated from. A great day all round!



SCHOOL news

Kurnai Junior Campus

Student Leaders

Earlier in the year we announced our 2026 School Captains and Vice Captains.

These students have demonstrated leadership, commitment, and a genuine passion for representing their peers and school community. We look forward to seeing them lead with confidence and integrity in the year ahead.

We also had a visit from Martin Cameron MP who talked about his own journey from school, to employment, owning his own business and when the opportunity arose, joining politics.

Letters of congratulations to the student leadership team, including SRC Members and School

Captains.

School Captains: Sage Jobling and Rahzel Morley

Vice Captains: Leah Tassell and Dani James

Student Representative Council (SRC)

Year 7 - Adelaide, Shayla, Sebastian, Oriana

Year 8 - Bailyn, Abigail, Rory, Wes

Year 9 - Will, Ruby, Pippa, Jasper

Congratulations to all our student leaders — we cannot wait to see what you achieve in 2026!

Athletics Day - A strong display of school spirit

Our Athletics Day on March 3 was a great success and a highlight of the term.

It was fantastic to see strong participation across

all year levels, with students getting involved, supporting one another, and contributing to a really positive atmosphere throughout the day.

What stood out most was the way students conducted themselves -demonstrating sportsmanship, encouragement and pride in their teams.

Congratulations to Green House for taking out the win, well done to all involved!

Apology Day Koorie event

The Apology Day event was held at Lake Hyland in Churchill on Friday February 13, 2026. The event was put together by Aunty Christine Johnson and the Smith Family.

Guest speakers at this

event included Aunty Ivy Solomon, Aunty Doris Paton, Uncle Laurie Marks. The students got to put their hand prints on calico, they participated in basket weaving and colouring in as a mindfulness activity with others.

The event was attended by families, KESOS, other community organisations and primary schools.

KAAP students put their performance to the test

Our KAAP (Kurnai Aspiring Athlete Program) students recently participated in fitness testing in partnership with the Gippsland Sports Academy (GSA).

KAAP is proud to work closely with GSA, who

support the College on a fortnightly basis. Their professional trainers bring expert knowledge, high-level coaching and real-world athlete development experiences for our students — an opportunity we are incredibly grateful for.

During the session, students completed a series of performance tests, including:

20m sprint to measure speed and acceleration

Counter Movement Jump (CMJ) to assess lower body power

Using professional testing equipment, GSA recorded each student's results to provide accurate performance data. These results will be compared with

post-testing data at the end of the year, allowing students to track their development, measure improvements and set targeted performance goals.

It was fantastic to see the focus, effort and competitive spirit from all students across both campuses. Opportunities like this not only build athletic performance but also give our aspiring athletes exposure to elite-level testing standards.

We look forward to seeing the progress throughout the year as our KAAP athletes continue to grow and develop!

CHURCHILL CAMPUS SCHOOL CAPTAINS

LEAH TASSELL

SAGE JOBLING

RAHZEL MORLEY

DANIELLE JAMES



SCHOOL news

Lumen Christi Primary

Bethlehem Stars shine bright at Lumen Christi Athletics Day

Lumen Christi Primary School in Churchill came alive with energy and excitement on Friday March 6, as students, staff and families gathered for the annual Athletics Day. After rescheduling due to thunderstorms the previous week, we were blessed with perfect weather and the day provided ideal conditions for a wonderful celebration of participation, perseverance and school spirit.

Students from all year levels eagerly took part in a range of track and field events, demonstrating not

only their athletic ability but also their commitment to doing their best. From sprints and shot put to long jump and discus, each event was met with cheers of encouragement from peers and spectators alike.

A highlight of the day was the strong sense of house pride, with students proudly wearing their house colours and supporting one another throughout the competition. Congratulations to Gold House, Bethlehem Stars, who emerged as overall champions for 2026. In a proud moment, House Captain Chelsea lifted the winner's shield on behalf of her team, celebrating

their collective effort and determination.

Beyond the competition, the day reflected the true spirit of Lumen Christi, with students showing respect, teamwork and resilience. Staff commended the positive attitudes displayed by all participants and the way students encouraged one another to give their best.

The success of the day was made possible thanks to the dedication of staff and the support of families who attended and contributed to the vibrant atmosphere. Athletics Day 2026 will be remembered as a joyful and spirited event for the entire school community.



SCHOOL news

Yinnar Primary



Preps have settled in

It is hard to believe that the Prep students have now begun attending school full-time! This marks another important milestone in their first year of school.

We have been discussing our expectations as a learning team, encouraging everyone to always try their best to "Be a great friend. Be a great learner." We have been incredibly impressed with how the Prep students have already embraced and demonstrated this message, both in the classroom and out in the yard.

It has been wonderful to see new and existing friendships grow stronger, and the way the Preps look out for one another and include everyone in playtime activities has been especially

pleasing.

Targa Classic rev into Yinnar

On Tuesday March 3, our whole school was invited to welcome the Targa Classic to our town by waving flags and making banners. Around midday, the cars drove past, and the students had a wonderful time cheering and waving their flags as they went by.

After the event, a few students were asked to reflect on their experience of the day. "We were all waving flags as the fancy cars went by. My favourite was the red Lamborghini, when the cars stopped and revved their engine it was very loud". By Jaidah

"The cars were really cool. I liked it when they made really loud noises. The small green car was my

favourite." By Dottie

School house sports day

School House Sports was held on Friday March 6. All of our students had a fantastic time, with big smiles on their faces throughout the day at the Yinnar Recreation Reserve. It was great to see so many students giving it their best, and even more amazing to hear students cheering on their classmates

Students participated in a range of events, including running races, long jump, and high jump, as well as fun activities such as the egg-and-spoon race and sack races

Congratulations to the Red House team for placing first this year!



Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare News

By J. Duncan

Our group now has ultrasonic bat call recorders so that we can learn more about where these very useful, tiny insect-eating animals can be found around our district. Bats are complicated, and we are very much still learning to use the monitors and the software that will let us identify bats by their calls. We took the real-time monitor out in public for the first time at the Friends of Morwell National Park spotlighting and moth night on March 14.

Our Secret Life of Bats workshop in Yinnar on March 25 with Wildlife Unlimited was a great success. The rain and thunder even stopped long enough for us to take two bat call detectors for a walk down the path towards the Stock Reserve.

Ultrasonic detectors are needed to pick up the echo-location calls that microbats use to find their prey. Interestingly, during the workshop our presenter, Laura, did a test using a recorded call of one of the few bats that is within the range of human hearing. About two thirds of the people there were able to hear its high-pitched, metallic sounding regular clicking.

Many more people

have heard the much louder calls of flying foxes that navigate by sight and smell. These mega-bats roost hanging from branches in large groups, or camps, usually near water and appear to like a chat. In the workshop we learnt more about these fascinating creatures and their critical role in ecosystems both as pollinators and for spreading seed in forests.

Flying foxes are migratory; microbats tend to stay in the same place unless they migrate for breeding. Large hollows in live or dead trees may have hundreds of female microbats roosting together. Smaller hollows or bark crevices may be just the spot for solitary males. Bats in roofs, or coats in the shed, drains, chimneys or other human-made place may be there because the bats' previous home in a tree or cave has been disturbed or altered.

If you feel you need to change where a group of bats lives, or if you find an injured bat, please be careful not to touch the bat(s) without wearing strong leather gloves. Or you could use a towel to scoop up the bat to get it off the ground and away from predators. Somewhere warm and dry is then the best spot for it to recover its strength if uninjured.

If a bat is injured or needs to be re-located, WIRES on 1300 094 737 can put you in touch with the nearest bat rescue service in your area.

Bats may not recover from having to move when they are in torpor (semi-hibernation) in winter. They build up fat in autumn when prey is plentiful and often cannot replace the energy lost when they are disturbed. They need to get their body temperature high enough for flight and then find scarce insect prey to replace their lost energy.

Finally, did you know that microbats can send their echolocation calls out through their noses at the same time as eating their prey with their mouths? We suggest that you do not try this at home.

By the time this goes to press, we will also have held out annual Sycamore Slaughter at the Budgerie Bushland Reserve. It is now eighteen years since we began this weed control project and progress has been steady.

Coming up next:

On Saturday April 18 we have an afternoon workshop on 'Creating Habitat in Gardens'. This will talk about all sorts of creatures that are useful to have in gardens, and about gardens that provide useful habitat

for them. Bees, butterflies, birds and bats are all beneficial to gardens as are many more insects as well as skinks, lizards and perhaps turtles. All need habitat and reward with pollination and pest control while adding movement, colour and interest to the garden.

The workshop will be held at arc yinnar in the Switchroom. It costs \$5 for adults and is free for those aged under 18. Booking is through trybooking and the booking code is: <https://www.trybooking.com/DKWFP>

You can see more about our group by searching for Yinnar Landcare to find our website. It is on the Landcare Gateway that hosts pages for Landcare groups in Victoria.

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



Yellow-rumped Thornbill

Spotlighting with Red Light Torch



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