

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

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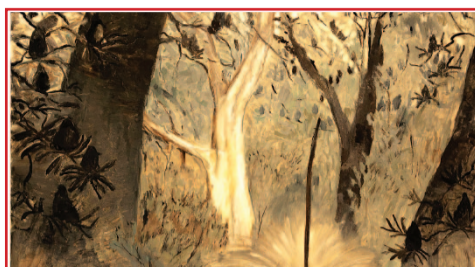
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ANZAC Day - centre pages



Latrobe Regional Gallery - p 2



Fed Uni Student - p 11



Yinnar South Church - p 19

This year's Shop Local Markets off to a good start



This year's Shop Local Markets are off to a good start with fine warm and mostly sunny conditions which was noted with pleasure after 2025.

Approximately thirty stalls set up at both shopping areas, with a wide variety of craft, plants, preserves, books, and many other items to tempt buyers.

In talking to the stall holders some amazing things were discovered.

Two ladies who call themselves Carry On Sales make a range of children's knitted items, material toys, and quilted throw overs. But the proceeds they obtain for selling these items, and many of the items, all go to charities. They have supported Berry Street Latrobe Regional Hospital, Quantum, and the Bikies Christmas Toy Run. The men were overawed at the amount and variety they were able to give. It has given them so much pleasure over the years.

Another lady called Janice from Glengarry, also makes a wide variety of craft items, often themed for occasions like Mother's Day and birthdays. She has been selling things for charities since 1968. Her recipients include Berry Street, Guardian Angles, Glengarry Kinder, the church in Park Lane, Mitchell House and the Cancer Council. Well done ladies for your efforts.

Noelene Marchwicki was there with Churchill & District News, selling her latest cook book. Noelene has donated all her recipes and photos to create this new book, the sales of which go to support the Churchill & District News. Noelene was telling us that her cook books are now found in homes all over Australia.

The Neighbourhood Centre had a large display and did very well.

Matta Hive bee keepers were there with a real live beehive and the products of

their extracting the honey and packaging it. They are a local family with this interest.

Hand Made Kritters had a glittering display of critters including scorpions, spiders and other bugs.

Lavender Sue was there with her thousands of buttons; all packaged up and unusual with their designs and colours.

A busy market with a good flow of people to visit and peruse the goods on sales.

Markets like this do not just happen and so there are some important thanks to record. Firstly the Neighbourhood Centre with Nathan and his volunteers who took the bookings and did the majority of the organisation.

Thank you for helping to make it happen. Margaret Guthrie was the very involved CDCA volunteer who has organised and run the last few years. She graciously supplied a list of what she had done in the past as she

took a well earned rest late last year. CDCA gave some sponsorship money.

The free BBQs are a great drawcard and the Churchill Fire Brigade and the Churchill Lions deserve a big thank you for getting up early and having those delicious aromas ready for an early start.

To Woolworths we say another thank you for the box of fruit supplied and the resources ready for the BBQs. One hundred dollar gift cards could be applied for to help with the supplies.

Rachel the face painter was a busy bee all morning while she decorated faces. She is a wonderful draw card.

To all those who turned out to support of shopping centre businesses and the market a big thank you.

The next market will be August 29, just prior to Father's Day.

More photos Pages 23..



Shop Local
MARKET
2026

Father's Day Market SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Christmas Market SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5



"Connecting Your Community"



CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

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

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- Team Leader/Sec: Ruth Place
- Treasurer: Maureen Schenkel
- Assistant Treasurer: Rachael Perrott
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- Production: Carol Scott, Maureen Schenkel, Ruth Place, Allan Larkin, Aaron Xuereb
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Contributions

The DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of articles and advertisements for the June 2026 edition is May 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.



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We acknowledge the support of



Shifting Grounds

The downstairs Galleries present the theme Shifting Grounds which is a celebration of nature and how we as humans shape our environments.

The Land as Witness, LRG collection (Galleries 1 and 2) looks at the evolution of our

environment from natural to agricultural to industrial landscapes. Earthsong (Gallery 3) by Lucy Hersey is a meditation on the rural/rustic pulse of our living world.

The Land as Witness

The Land as Witness traces the



George Colville, Untitled Landscape. Oil on canvas. 58.2 x 59 cm. Latrobe Regional Gallery Collection, gift of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, 2002.

Rainfall



Churchill Rainfall

April was another fairly dry month for Churchill with another month of below average rainfall. On the bright side we have had some fairly warm days which is always a bonus for this time of the year.

For the month of April Churchill received a total of 29.25mm. The highest 24hr rainfall total for April was 9mm. The rainfall Year to Date total for Churchill is now 127.5mm.

Rain at Hazelwood South

April was dominated by a blocking high, keeping the

temperatures high with little rain. In contrast for five days, south westerly winds brought cold, wet weather, and most of the month's rain, for a total of 47mm, and a monthly average of 76%.

The annual rain deficit has increased to 10%. Hazelwood South had 76% more rain, than the Latrobe Valley weather station. The warm sunny days, and frost free mornings has extended the season for harvesting the summer crops from the garden. The frequent watering is lowering the water in the tanks.



evolving relationship between people and the environments they inhabit. Moving from untouched wilderness through cultivated landscapes to sites of industrial transformation, the exhibition reflects on how human ambition and necessity have reshaped the natural world.

Lucy Hersey: Earthsong
 Earthsong is a newly

commissioned body of work by South Gippsland artist Lucy Hersey – a fervent celebration of the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland. A meditation on the deep, agrestic – of rural/rustic living – pulse of our living world.

Photo documentation by Karli Duckett, The Good Side Photography.



Lucy Hersey, The Stewardship of Ants, 2025. Grounded earth pigment, charcoal, copper carbonate on canvas. 180 x 150 cm.

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No.	Size	Column size	B/W \$	COLOUR \$	10% Discount (6 issues)	
					B/W \$	COLOUR \$
1.	58 mm x 83 mm	2 x 5.8 cm	32.00	NA	28.00	NA
2.	123 mm x 83 mm	2 x 12.3 cm	65.00	103.00	58.00	93.00
3.	93 mm x 128 mm	3 x 9.3 cm	74.00	118.00	66.00	106.00
4.	58 mm x 260 mm	6 x 5.8 cm	93.00	150.00	84.00	134.00
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CHURCH *news*

Co-Operating Church Snippets

Maundy Thursday

This is the last gathering before the darkness finally takes the light and the love of God is silenced.

The Christian identity was formed around the table, in the breaking and sharing of bread, the institution of the Holy Communion or as the Catholics call it Mass.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NLT)

For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it.

Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and

his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it." For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until He comes again.

This is the heart of Christian worship, gathering to share bread and cup in remembrance of Christ whose life was poured out, with anticipation that he will come again.

The last meal that Jesus shared with his closest followers was a Passover meal—a ritual meal of celebration and remembrance of God's deliverance of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt.

At this meal Jesus also washed his disciples' feet as an example of service to others, beseeching them to do likewise. He also gave

them a new commandment to love one another as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.

As we receive the stories of the past from our Bibles we also know we are required to hand them on to those who are coming after us, so this amazing act of God's love is not forgotten but is passed on and available to all those who wish to hear and heed it.

Jesus wants us to remember to give thanks. To live lives shaped by words and gestures of gratitude. To know that all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God.

Good Friday

We stand at the foot of the cross, the cross where Jesus, God's Son, died, a lonely painful death, a death

that reveals the depth of God's love for us. We come on Good Friday to remember that God's love overcomes death; that God's love is greater than our hate; that God's love can restore all things.

Jesus' greatest gift to us was to live the way of love no matter what, even when it led to a horrible, painful death, that we might see how much God loves us. Jesus calls us to die to our selfish wants and desires so that we might care for others.

The service was followed by the Walk of Witness in Mathison Park

Easter Sunday

A day of celebration for Jesus is alive. The tomb is empty. The spirit of the risen Lord is abroad in the world, Alleluia!

With joy and a sense of

relief, we acknowledge that the cross was not the end.

The cross stands as the symbol of all that the world got wrong and all that we continue to get wrong today.

It is a time to confess the wrongs we have done such as complicity in a society that can all too easily turn aside from the values of the Kingdom; let injustices run rampant, doing nothing to stop them; watching as the poorest are denied their liberty, washing our hands of it as if it is nothing to do with us; settling for the way things are instead of fighting for change; too readily criticising others and hurting people by our ungracious words, not realising the harm we cause.

Easter is a story that needs telling! 'Tell it as it is'. Trust the Holy Spirit to work and allow people to make

of it what they will; allow people to hear what they need to hear in their personal situation.

Let the story breathe resurrection faith into all who need the energy of hope in their lives.

Easter Sunday is the opportunity to announce once more that nothing, not even death, separates us from the love of God.

The resurrection is good news for God's people; more than that, it is life-changing and world transforming.

Easter Sunday is vital to appreciate the resurrection of faith that took place in his followers and see the wonderful possibility of resurrection faith for all people of our time.

Coffee Connections was a happy time of fellowship and sharing about a favourite book or film.



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)

Churchill Christian Fellowship had its annual Op Shop/ Garage Sale day on April 18. Lots of people turned up, most of them grabbing a free sausage out near the carpark before heading inside to fill bags with clothes, linen, etc, for the cost of just a gold coin.

We had way more clothes than ever before, and all of it was quality checked by our team. We also had an impressive variety of garage sale items. (I bought a very cool pair of bookends!)

Churchill is a beautiful town and a great community.

Sometimes, people still feel disconnected and long for something useful to do, something where they can make new friends. There are many such opportunities in Churchill and we like to think that our church is one.

Our mission statement, printed on the back of our newsletter each week, starts with the following: "God has called us to serve the people of Churchill and district." We take this very seriously. We genuinely want to be a blessing to our wider community.

On Friday lunchtimes, we open up the hall for

people who want to do crafts, or help with our veggie garden, or just chat with other people over lunch and tea or coffee.

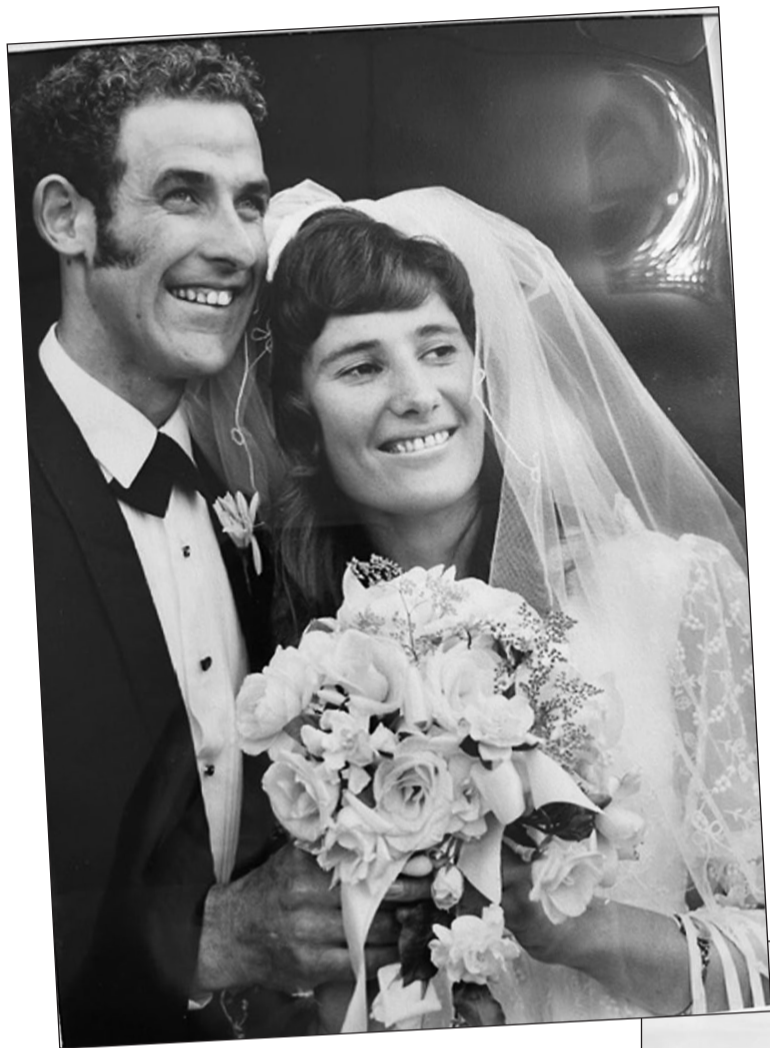
Our men's breakfasts happen on the first Saturday of each month, \$5 suggested donation, 9am start. We also have a ladies' meeting on Wednesdays, home fellowship meetings on Tuesdays and lots of special events.

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

For more information, please call 0409 173 747.

CHURCH *news*

Vale Sylvia Cranwell 1948 - 2026



Sylvia brought the sunshine wherever she went.

Sylvia was a very loving person. She enjoyed playing the organ and praising God as she assisted with worship. She enjoyed finding new hymns for us at the Co-Operating Churches to learn. Sylvia was dedicated to choosing hymns for some services.

Sylvia had a quick reply sense of humour. She was thoughtful for the needs of others.

Sylvia hosted our singing group for some while, always starting with afternoon tea and a good chat. It was a great way to get to know each other and to prepare songs for the services.

Although she and Dave moved to Traralgon, she still took time to come to the church in Churchill where she played the organ, even when it became so difficult.

She was a lovely lady and a true Christian in every

sense of the word.

Sylvia knew God loved her.

Sylvia always had a smile. She loved to be part of a joke or a stir, but always in a friendly way.

She took criticism with a laugh, especially with her organ prowess.

She was never heard to talk ill of anyone. Never ever!

Sylvie has been a close and supportive friend to many of us at the church, sharing the same Christian values we have journeyed together through the ups and downs of life. She always wanted to know how you were managing in your times of stress. This, even when she was going through tough times herself.

Sylvia was a wonderful example to children, especially her grandchildren. Sylvie had a quiet strength and determination about her. The friendship she offered was treasured.

Sylvie was always self-deprecating when you tried to compliment her. No matter what the challenge, she found a way forward. Sylvie would always make time for a cuppa to just listen and be with you. When prompted her advice was wise and loving. Sylvie was an example of devoted faith and authentic discipleship.

Sylvie had many special gifts. Hospitality was one she practiced often. Dinner at the Cranwells was always a fun occasion with good food and wine and great fellowship.

No-one could deliver a joke like Sylvia. Sharing a meal with Dave and Sylvia was very special. Sylvia loved to have visitors and if it was in the evening a glass of red was always enjoyed with laughter and merriment. She loved a party time.

We were always kept up to date on what the grandchildren were doing.

She made the best fruit

cake.

We were blessed to have known and spent time with Sylvia.

Some time ago the KYB (Know Your Bible) group met at Sylvia's. This was a special time of growing our faith, supporting each other and building lifelong friendships.

Sylvia made each one of us feel special and welcome, always providing a delicious afternoon tea wearing her trademark aprons.

Sylvia was such a proud Nan.

Sylvia was a great cook and she loved sharing food with others and would regularly drop off meals, slices and fruit cakes to people who were unwell or just as a treat

Nan Sylvia always brought her grandchildren to church with her and Dave if they were staying with them for the weekend. It was a joy to welcome them, but also to see the happiness in Sylvia's

face as she brought them in and reminded us of their names as they grew.

Sylvia loved her animals - cats and dogs. When a congregational member's Dad died Sylvia took on the responsibility of looking after his dog Boss. The dog was aptly named. He would bail us up as we arrived for the singing group. We knew who was Boss.

Sylvia was a carer for a small number of the congregation, as part of an overall program of caring.

It was a responsibility to keep in touch with the people in her group and make sure they were all right. Sylvia was dedicated to doing this.

Sylvia was a regular helper at the church's activities.

When Sylvia became sick with MND her family rallied more closely. She told us how much they were doing and asked us to pray for each family member,

which we did. Our prayers now are that they will know God's comfort and peace as they go through this time of grief. May they draw close to one another, share the good memories and be able to let go of the things that have been difficult.

Sylvia was also a great supporter of charities and would cook for stalls and fundraisers.

How fortunate we were to have had such a delightful organist. The church congregation loved and appreciated Sylvia, not just for music but for her friendly, welcoming manner. She was just a kind, caring and humble person.

She was a lovely lady who faced her final challenges with great dignity. She is very much missed by friends and family including her church family.

If the world was made up of people of Sylvia's stamp, it would be a wonderful place.



This Scam Alert is a joint warning from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and the National Anti-Scam Centre's Scamwatch.

What is happening?

Criminals are committing fraud by taking control of mobile phone numbers or making unauthorised changes to phone accounts. Once they gain access to your phone, they can receive verification codes, reset passwords, restrict access to your systems, and get access to a wide range of services that rely on your mobile number for security checks, including:

- your bank accounts
- myGov
- subscription services
- rewards programs.

Some people are at risk of mobile phone fraud when their email account is compromised. Mobile phone fraud can also occur when scammers gain access to your ID documents or passwords through phishing attempts and following data breaches.

Who is at risk?

Anyone with a mobile phone number can be targeted by this scam. However, people who know

or suspect they have been in a data breach may be at greater risk of being targeted.

Warning signs to look out for:

Unexpected alerts about changes to your mobile account.

Verification codes you did not request.

Account login attempts or password reset emails you did not initiate.

Your phone suddenly stops working, shows no signal or switches to 'SOS only'.

If you have been affected:

- If your phone stops working unexpectedly or you notice suspicious activity, contact your bank immediately then contact your phone provider.
- Change passwords on all your devices and online accounts and notify your bank or card provider straight away.
- Monitor your bank statements and account activity for anything unusual.
- If a scammer has your personal details, contact IDCARE on 1800 595 160 for support.

Stay protected

STOP. Do not click unusual links, download attachments, or install apps

you were not expecting. These can be used to steal your personal information. Do not share your ID document or numbers unless you are sure of who you are dealing with.

CHECK. Check whether it is really your telco company by calling back using the phone number on a bill or official website or app. Check your account regularly for unusual changes or activity. Ask your telco how they would normally contact you and be cautious of contact that differs from this.

PROTECT. Secure your personal details and accounts by using strong, unique passwords or passphrases and update them regularly. Where you can, use multi-factor authentication. Delete emails, including emails you send, with ID documents attached so they cannot be accessed if your email is ever compromised. If your ID is lost or stolen, contact your telco and bank immediately and replace the documents.

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



From Bairnsdale to Wodonga: LCHS supports Elaine at home

Uprooting your life and moving more than 300km from Bairnsdale to Wodonga brings plenty of change—new hairdressers, new GPs, even a new favourite café.

82-year-old Elaine expected her Support at Home provider would have to change too. But with LCHS, she discovered that was not the case.

"It all started because I was missing my family," Elaine said. "I have children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and they do not stay little for long. I wanted to be closer to them and make it easier for my family in Melbourne to visit me too," she said.

Elaine first started accessing Support at Home services when she was in Bairnsdale, after a friend recommended she be proactive about it.

"I went around and got

all the pamphlets and visited all the providers. When asked why she decided on LCHS, Elaine said: "it was the people."

"I met my Care Partner Jess, and she was so pleasant, helpful and honest. If you wanted something, she would go in to bat for you. I just knew she cared, and I cannot speak highly enough of her," she said.

When Elaine made the decision to move, she felt comforted knowing that LCHS provided Support at Home services in Wodonga too. She spoke to Jess about the change, to make the transition as smooth as possible.

"Jess and I caught up and spoke about everything and how it would work. I thought to myself, even if I get someone half as good as her, I would be okay," she said.

Although the transition has not been easy with a recent knee surgery, Elaine accesses things like

equipment, cleaning and domestic assistance, and transport services to make settling into her new place easier.

"I am still feeling my way for what I need," she said.

One thing Elaine does know, is how important it is to her to stay living in her new place for as long as she can.

"At 82, it is a bit of a privilege to get to this age you know—how long is a piece of string? But to make it easier for our loved ones, we owe it to them to put everything we can in place," she said.

"Things are going to happen, but I do not want my son to worry about me. I just want to be independent for as long as I can."

If a friend or family member could benefit from Support at Home, let them know they can reach out to us. Give us a call on 1800 242 696 today to learn more.

COMMUNITY SAFETY
Words of Wisdom

Rising Petrol Prices - Options

Rising petrol prices are causing travellers to cancel or alter plans, frequently switching to shorter trips or public transport options like Victoria's free transport initiative. To manage costs, travellers are filling up before long journeys, using price-tracking apps, and considering alternative transport to reduce reliance on personal vehicles.

Travel Behaviour Changes

High fuel prices are significantly impacting how people travel:

- Trip Modifications: Many travellers are cancelling trips, shortening their journeys, or limiting travel to areas closer to home.

- Reduced Spending: Higher fuel costs are causing travellers to spend less in local towns, instead confining themselves to caravan parks to save money.

- Alternative Transport: In response to high prices, some states have implemented initiatives. For example, Victoria is offering free public transport during April and heavily discounted travel for the rest of the year.

Cost-Saving Strategies

Travellers and officials recommend several strategies to mitigate the impact of fuel price spikes:

- Strategic Refuelling: Buy only necessary fuel for immediate needs, and fill up before longer trips.

- Price Monitoring: In Western Australia, the Fuel Watch service helps consumers by requiring retailers to lock in prices for 24 hours and publish them a day in advance.

- Alternative Logistics: Consider flying to destinations rather than driving, though be aware that jet fuel costs may cause flight prices to fluctuate.

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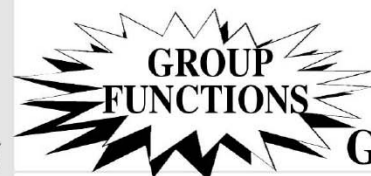


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We are Water Heroes



Goodstart Early Learning Morwell's artwork finished equal second in Victoria for the 2025 competition.

Young artists invited to bring water saving messages to life

Gippsland Water is inviting local students to take part in the annual National Water Week poster competition.

Local students are encouraged to design a poster based on this year's theme: water heroes: make every drop count.

For the first time, the competition has expanded to include Year 7 and 8 students, giving more students the chance to get involved.

Managing director

Sarah Cumming said the competition encourages students to learn about responsible water use.

"It inspires students to think about everyday actions they can take to help protect this precious resource for future generations," Ms Cumming said.

"We are looking forward to seeing how students interpret the theme and the creative ways they share messages about saving water."

Some simple tips to help local students become water heroes may include taking four-minute showers, making

sure there are no leaking taps, or using a sponge and bucket to wash the car.

There are a range of prizes up for grabs, with local winners automatically entered into the state competition.

Entries close at 5pm on Friday September 11. Local winners will be automatically entered into the statewide poster competition as part of National Water Week.

For competition information and how to enter, visit www.gippswater.com.au/nwwpostercompetition.

Plants in my Garden



By Mike Beamish

Species: *Acacia lanigera* var. *gracilipes*

Family: Fabaceae (previously Mimosaceae)

Derivation: *Acacia*: A Greek word used by Dioscorides for some prickly species growing in northern Africa (Egypt), derived from *acis*, 'a pointed instrument'.

lanigera: From Latin, *lana*, 'wool' and *gero*, 'to bear', thus meaning fleecy or woolly.

gracilipes: From Latin, *gracilis*, 'thin or slender' and *pes*, 'foot', referring to the flower stalks (peduncles).

Common Name:

Woolly Wattle.

Distribution: Restricted to far southern New South Wales (Wallagaraugh River) and far eastern Victoria (Genoa and Betka Rivers and the upper Snowy River), mainly growing amongst rocks within flood zones. Other varieties grow in western, central Victoria northwards through the western side of the ranges in NSW into Queensland.

Description:

An erect bushy shrub up to 2 metres tall and broad,

with narrowly elliptic, green phyllodes (modified stems acting as leaves) to 4cm long and 4mm wide, with a sharp tip and streaked with raised veins. Young foliage usually has a whitish-woolly covering. Clusters of bright yellow ball flowers are borne in the leaf axils in August/September, each about 5mm in diameter on stalks to 9mm long, followed by woolly, curved pods to 10cm long and 6mm wide.

Opinion:

My plant came from Col's propagation table back in 2017, which in turn came from an old friend's property up along the Genoa River north of Genoa, where it naturally grows in the rocks along the river. I cannot remember exactly when it went into the ground, perhaps a couple of years later, but it has never looked back and is now roughly its mature size and would be bigger if I had not pruned it back from the wall and the pathway to the garage on the western wall of the house. Pruning did not really slow it down at all and it now needs another trim to stop it from grabbing hold as you walk past. It has probably smothered a couple of smaller plants

that were planted nearby (a *correa* 'Candy Pink' and a *grevillea*), but they were both doing poorly anyway and I doubt they would have survived even without the wattle. The other neighbours are a spear lily and a tall kangaroo paw, both large and robust enough to fend for themselves. The Wattle has flowered well every year since 2023 (when the photos were taken), so I expect it will continue to do so for a few years to come. The upcoming pruning will provide plenty of material for cuttings, so I will put a few punnets in and see what happens.

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: Wildflowers of East Gippsland – Wilkinson & Turner.

Native Trees and Shrubs of SE Australia – Costermans.

VicFlora – Flora of Victoria Online.

PlantNet – NSW Flora Online.



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Autumn has come to the park. Our deciduous trees are displaying their autumn colours which adds some delight to the park.

The disc golf course continues to be used regularly.

A new path is being established in place of the old bitumen one along the east end of Mackeys Road.

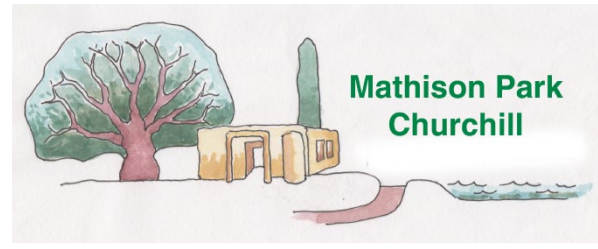
The Gippsland Interchange crew have done their regular visits to the park and have helped enormously picking up the continuous dropping of leaves, bark and branches as the winds blow strongly through the park.

The working bee in April dawned fine and remained that way until after the work was finished at 12 noon. It was however, quite cold with the brisk wind blowing. This did not stop Bruce taking loads of mulch to the beds along the Lions Walk in the top paddock. There the volunteers weeded and spread the mulch. Others lit and burnt the piles of rubbish that had accumulated over the fire season.

Then there were fallen trees cut up and other chainsaw work done. It was lovely to have a visit from Max to say hello after his hospital visit. We wish Max all the very best for his ongoing recovery. A big thank you to Faye for the delicious cake she provided for morning tea which was most appreciated after the hard work of the team.

Working bees are held each second Saturday of the month and we welcome new volunteers.

Most of our present volunteers are 80 or close to 80 with some physical disabilities. We need some young blood to help. Please consider.





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Strzelecki Koala

Controlling feral animals

For the future survival of the Strzelecki koala and other native animals total eradication of all feral animals would be the ideal outcome. According to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), this is unlikely to occur but remains the objective.

The DCCEEW uses control and reduction plans to prevent feral animals from entering an area or to completely eliminate a feral population in an important conservation locality. Other objectives are to reduce feral animal numbers continually or sporadically depending on the conservation requirements. The methods used can be : conventional like trapping, baiting, fencing and shooting, biological which use bacterial or viral diseases, and mechanical such as the use of machinery to destroy rabbit warrens. However whatever method is implemented the "guidelines for humane treatment and removal" are to be followed. (www.dcceew.gov.au Feral Animals in Australia 28/12/25)

The prevention of harm to any native species is an essential consideration when using eradication methods like baiting. Methods that are target specific like the Felixer that specifically eliminates foxes and feral cats are important in avoiding native animal loss. The DCCEEW states that research and funding is important to improve the effectiveness of humane eradication methods, to prevent native animal harm and to stop new exotic animal threats to Australia's biodiversity. Parks Victoria has a similar outlook and implements animal control programs involving the same methods and strict protocols.

(www.parks.vic.gov.au 18/4/26)
The Morwell National Park is managed by Parks Victoria. The Friends of the Morwell National Park support the work of the rangers assigned to this park. According to the existing Morwell National Park's November 1998 Management Plan, items 1.2 and 4.2, there is a responsibility by Parks Victoria to eradicate, control and prevent introduction of feral animals. (www.

parks.vic.gov.au 19/4/26) While efforts seem positive, continual eradication control of feral animals requires cooperation from landowners directly surrounding this national park and all citizens living in the local area.

There are programs and information available to assist citizens with feral animal management, such as the following:

Environment Victoria (www.environment.vic.gov.au 20/4/26) has a "Good Neighbour Program" that supports landowners with controlling pest animals. Also Agriculture Victoria has information for landowners. The link www.agriculture.gov.au "Pests, Diseases and Weeds" can be found on the Latrobe City site. The latter has information on the control of smaller pests like rats and mice and the European wasp. The Council also offers a loan system for cat traps and is a resource for relevant animal legislation. (www.latrobe.vic.gov.au "Nuisance Animals and Pests." 18/4/26)

Other ways to help keep native animals and their habitat safe

Responsible pet

ownership is another way that citizens can prevent native species extinction. Zoos Victoria and RSPCA Victoria "Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife" (www.safecat.org.au) has information for pet owners. Keep dogs on a leash whenever out and about and especially near or in bush areas. Desex and register pets and keep them indoors from dusk till dawn. Dogs and cats are not permitted in most national parks including the Morwell National Park.

Report feral animal sightings by using the Feral Scan App. The data collected is used by Government agencies and Biosecurity authorities to help guide future pest management programs. It also has "Handy Resources" and your collected data can remain private. This is an initiative of the "Centre for Invasive Species Solutions."

(www.invasives.com.au). Become a volunteer in our local parks especially with the Morwell National Park. Help restore and revegetate habitat for the Strzelecki koala and other native species. See Park Victoria at www.parks.vic.gov.au for more information.

Lastly speak to our local politicians and ask for increased research, action and funding to curtail the feral animal numbers. The Strzelecki koala and its habitat need our help, our action and to be feral animal free.

Both the "Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment, and Water" (www.dcceew.gov.au) and "Parks Victoria" (www.parks.vic.gov.au) have fact pages about feral animals. These describe the negative impacts and the methods that can be used to control these pests. Invasive Species Council (www.invasives.org.au 17/1/26) has feral animal and environment issues information.

Interesting Facts

"Victoria has possibly the largest deer population in Australia, estimated to be over a million animals occupying 40% of the State."(The Victorian Deer Control Community Network Inc. www.vdccn.org.au 24/4/26)

Recent Strzelecki koala event in Yarram

The Strzelecki Koala Festival held on Saturday April 4 as part of the Tarra Festival was a success. Yarram locals and visitors to the area saw many wildlife and environmental displays. Lots of people signed the SKAT (Strzelecki Koala Action Team) petition to the Environment Minister. This petition requests that the Mullungdung and Won Wron State Forests become koala reserves and be given more environmental protection. "New Report on Mullungdung and Won Wron State Koalas" published February 16, 2026 verifies the significance of these places as significant habitat for the Strzelecki Koala and other native species. (www.melbournefoe.org.au)

Upcoming Events

The Koalathon will be held in October. Refer to www.koalathon.raiselysite.com for more information.





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Friends of Morwell National Park

April Activity Report

We had a large group in for the Bird Walks and were joined by ten community members and Rangers Mark and Mark.

Latrobe Library had recently been promoting citizen science and birdwatching along with the day's Bird Walk. Morwell Library has had a display that included bird identification resources along with photos of birds from Morwell National Park. A complimentary copy of the 'Birds of Morwell National Park' was given to some of the younger walkers.

The group split over multiple bird walks and another group of Graeme, Peter, Ken, Darren and the two rangers who travelled to Billys Creek to undertake track clearing on Blue Gum Hill track.

Tamara and Matt led two of the Bird Walks and each have reported upon their walk.

Tamara's walk:

A cool, sunny autumn morning with barely a breath of wind made ideal conditions for our bird walk around the Fosters Gully circuit. Cathy, Mike, Beryl and Tamara guided an enthusiastic local family along the track, stopping often to admire the tall forest, including one impressive tree with a hollow trunk large enough for small children to step inside.

As we walked, conversation ranged from

binocular brands to the documentary 'The Listers', and to how bird diversity shifts with habitat and season, especially when comparing the foothill forest here with the cool temperate rainforest of Tarra Bulga National Park.

Many of the smaller birds were heard but not seen despite our best efforts, including brown thornbills, brown gerygones, rose robins, crescent honeyeaters, Bassian thrushes and grey shrike thrushes. Lyrebirds also called from the gullies but remained hidden. Even so, the walk offered plenty of highlights. A sulphur crested cockatoo was seen disappearing into a hollow in a mountain grey gum, and two yellow tailed black cockatoos perched high in a tree, one making the distinctive begging calls of a young bird. We had good views of a male golden whistler, and a usually secretive eastern whipbird perched low beside the track. Crimson rosellas fed quietly in shrubs, king parrots screeched as they flew overhead, and a wedge tailed eagle soared high above the canopy. Pishing coaxed in both a grey fantail and an eastern yellow robin.

A range of different fungi was beginning to emerge along the track, adding splashes of colour to the forest floor. Near the edge of Lyndons Clearing, Tamara found an intriguing black larva with orange

tipped spines; a quick iNaturalist search suggests it may belong to a Net winged beetle (Lycidae).

At Lyndons Clearing, we also spotted a koala resting high in a tree. The family turned back here for a nappy change break while the rest of the group continued around the circuit. As we left the clearing, a Lewin's honeyeater briefly flew in to investigate. Mike, moving slowly along the ridge, was rewarded with flowering autumn bird orchids and a tiny greenhood, while the rest of us saw only leaves.

During lunch we added several more species to the day's list: white throated treecreeper, superb fairy wren, pied currawong and Australian raven. Some members reported hearing Australian shelducks in Fosters Gully earlier in the morning, but our group (starting around 10:30 am) neither saw nor heard them. The group walking Stringybark Ridge later saw shelducks near the dams on West Boundary, along with a scarlet robin.

It was a relaxed and enjoyable outing, full of good company, lively discussion, and a satisfying mix of birds, plants, fungi and unexpected discoveries – everything that makes an autumn walk in our local bush so rewarding.

Matt's Bird Walk:

After our meeting, five of us headed off towards the Stringybark Ridge and

West Boundary Tracks. Earlier in the day we had had a lot of bird activity while Gordon, Caitilin and myself had cleared some small trees from Fosters Gully, including gang-gangs, sulphur-crested and yellow-tailed black cockatoos, along with king parrots and crimson rosellas. Several lyrebirds could be heard, and we also saw quite a few small birds such as brown thornbills, grey fantails and several different honeyeaters. Mountain ducks also seemed to be everywhere and were constantly flying overhead and calling. However, by the time the walks commenced, activity had really dropped off. We were not seeing the numbers, but we did manage to see and photograph quite a few, including Lewin's, New-Holland, crescent and yellow-faced honeyeaters, brown thornbills, grey fantails, superb fairy wrens, white-throated treecreepers, Bassian thrush, golden whistlers plus the aforementioned parrot species. We surprisingly had a blue-winged parrot fly across in front of us. This is around the time that they would normally have left the area, so it was a nice addition. Also, while walking West Boundary, we could see in the adjacent farmland magpies, wood, black and mountain ducks, hoary-headed grebe, Australasian coot, Australasian swamphen and masked lapwing. One very obliging male scarlet

robin sat on the farm fence, allowing us all a really good look. Raptors were oddly absent although we did see one wedge-tailed eagle high overhead when we returned. A bird that is normally quite abundant, the yellow robin, was also strangely nowhere to be seen but as I walked back home after the event, I came across half a dozen! Along with the birds, we found quite a few skinks out basking (three species) and a lot of fungi.

Thanks to Tamara and Matt for the reports on their walks.

The other group who went to work on the Blue Gum Hill track were met by David from the Friends of Baw Baw NP group in the Junction Road car park. The group drove to the base of Blue Gum Hill and organised the equipment while Ken started walking up the track. With chainsaws, brush cutters, hedge trimmers and fuel in hand the group followed Ken up the track. Parks rangers had previously cut and removed trees across the tracks on Zig Zag Track and at the beginning of Blue Gum Hill, so the group crossed the side creek and started clearing the main track.

A number of trees were across the track, so these were removed by ranger Mark while the track was cleared of other obstacles and slashed. Many ragworts and some inkweeds were also removed. Progress at the

start of the track was slow with many weeds, rocks and trees to remove but as we moved out of the valley our speed increased.

After the sunny track that zag zags up the ridge we entered the tree line again. About three quarters of the way to the top of Blue Gum Hill, a massive tree has come down, a massive tree across the track. Much work was done to remove the crown of the tree from the track, but the base (at least 2m across) remains across the track. So, access to top of Blue Gum is currently blocked via the main track.

Ken was keen to continue on to the top, but it was time to stop for a late lunch, so the group gathered all of the gear and returned back via the main track to Billys Weir to have lunch. Ken, after travelling all the way up, started the slow trip down the hill. It was likened to walking on a carpet compared to how the track was on the way up.

While eating lunch at the weir, there were two very friendly European wasps buzzing around us. They were way too friendly. After the late lunch the group called it a day. Peter drove Ken out while Graeme and David trekked up the Blue Gum Spur Track to see what obstacles were on that, with the intension of surveying what obstacles remain at the top of Blue Gum Hill main track.

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Chaos: Inside the student mind. Campus places: where life finds you.

By Catherine Yeates

Regular readers of this paper may notice the change in by-line and title for this segment. I have been given the privilege of taking over the student column in this paper. My name is Catherine Yeates. Or rather this is the name I choose to go by. I have been studying at Federation University for the past two years and have picked up a myriad of information during my time on campus. From where the best vending machines are on campus, to which doors will work with your student card afterhours (not all of them are accessible).

Following this vague introduction let me tell you about the university campus, the places to be and those to avoid on your visit. Beginning with the beating heart of this regional campus - the library. This is where you can find me most days huddled over a laptop with a pile of books stacked to my right and a takeaway coffee cup to my left.

The university library is three floors total with the ground and first floor dedicated to regular library collections and front-line services. What the students love about this library can be found on the second floor, which is dedicated to a 24-hour study space that is also accessible afterhours for all those who think sleep is a social construct.

The library also functions as the info point for the university. All questions can be posed to the team of librarians who staff the front desk. Most, like myself know this campus better than their own home, or can at least point you in the direction of who knows the answer to your questions.

Second only in popularity to the library is the cafeteria. Which has seen its fair share of sleep

deprived medical students feeding their addiction to caffeinated beverages as well as formal staff lunches in the bistro beside it. On your average Monday you will find a crowd of high school students with whom we share the space and a scattering of uniformed allied health students all trying to get a few bites down before their next class. This space is known for its chip buckets, chicken strips and very popular chicken Caesar salad that due to its scarcity has become a thing of legend. The cafeteria also now features budget meals on Wednesdays during which students and staff can get economical and nutritious meals for only three dollars. Meaning you can experience meal prices from your parent's generation.

Attached via the main hallway is our final stop on the most popular campus locations. This is a real hub for student activity, from the microwaves that always faintly smell of the last dish they heated, to the ping pong tables that have seen their fair share of slightly unhealthy competition. The true heart of this space however is the pool tables. These tables have been the sight of many a wounded pride, I personally have never experienced the joys of victory on these tables but I have witnessed it before.

Moving on from the most popular spot on - campus I am going to share some of my personal favourites that deserve a little more love. For all you late night studiers there are two sets of vending machines on campus, the ones next to the student lounge are the most popular by far due to their proximity. However, my favourites are the ones located near Monash rural health. These machines have a healthy supply of cup noodles and a larger selection of energy drinks than the others. I do not know about you but

having a variety of different flavours of caffeinated carbonation is often what keeps me going during those long study days.

Another must see on campus that is not often discussed is the amphitheatre on the grounds. For those of you who did not have an ancient Greek phase, an amphitheatre is a concave structure that was originally used for theatre performances in ancient Greece, as its construction allowed for the speaker at the centre of the pit to be heard by even those at the very top. If I was an engineering major here is where I would discuss the mechanics behind this very cool feature but alas, I am not.

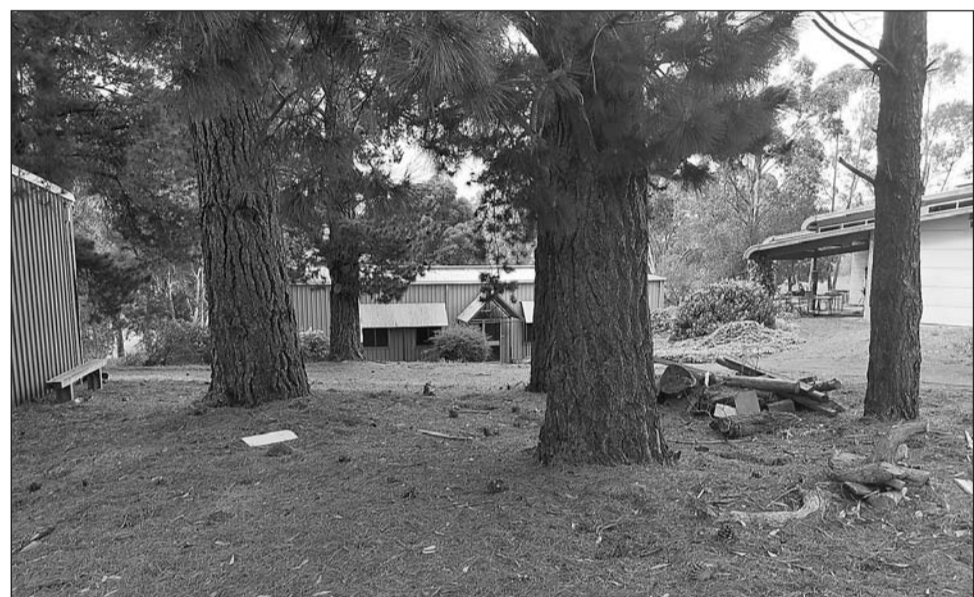
This structure is the perfect place to sit with classmates and enjoy lunch in the sun. However if you are like my first-year self you and your friends might enjoy participating in dramatic readings of Shakespeare to fulfill your high school theatre dreams.

The final location on my list of personal favourites is unfortunately not going to be around for much longer. As many of you know Federation University's Gippsland Campus originally had a Fine Arts department situated in the forest portion of the campus. This section of the campus is largely closed following the removal of fine arts as a degree on this campus. However, this previously vibrant part of the university is now a prime example of nature wrapping its viny limbs over that of manmade structures. Many an afternoon I have sat inside the rotunda that once heard the clever quips of eccentric artists and have seen the modelling of clay sculptures. It gives the sense of a bygone era in which creativity was largely more valued, and such a serene location to explore the impacts of that ability to create were treasured. While this section

of campus is currently not accessible, there is a walking track that passes through the same area, perhaps you too can soak up the lingering remains of inspiration left behind by artists past.

Right - Outside the library Federation University Gippsland photo by Catherine Yeates

Below - The old Fine Arts department Federation University Gippsland Campus photo By Catherine Yeates



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BOOK REVIEW

"The Island of Missing Trees" by Elif Shafak

Elif Shafak was born in 1971 in France to Turkish parents. When her parents separated she moved to Ankara, Turkey where she was raised by her mother and maternal grandmother.

She spent her teenage years moving from country to country with her mother who was a diplomat, so she had a very multicultural upbringing.

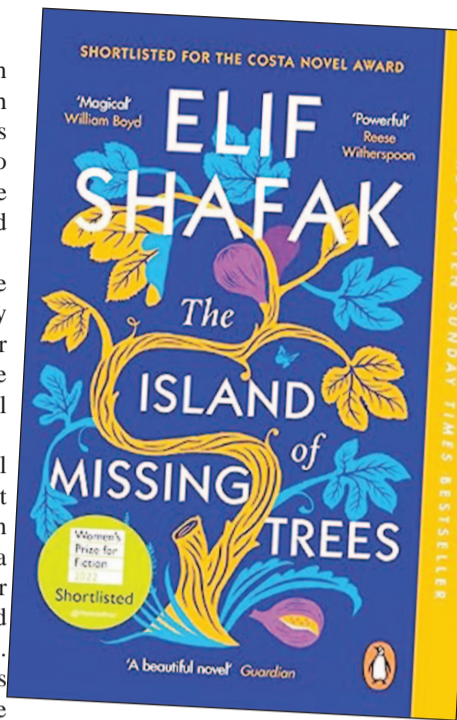
She studied international relations at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara as well as earning a Masters Degree in Gender and Women's Studies and a PHD in Political Science. She has spent many years living and working in the United States of America and Great Britain, where she now resides.

She has written twenty-one books and received many awards, having been translated into fifty-five languages. She has also been a vice-president of the Royal Society of Literature

This book opens with a clue to events that happen later in the story followed by a description of the beautiful island of Cyprus where the story begins.

A memory from the fig tree takes us to 1974 when the civil unrest between Greeks and Turks came to a head and the island was divided in two.

We are then taken to London in the late 2020's where sixteen year old Ada is waiting for the school year to



end. The teacher asks her if she has anything special from her heritage and Ada begins to scream uncontrollably until she is hoarse. This alarms the teacher but fellow students capture the episode on their phones and to Ada's horror it soon appears on social media.

Ada is going through a difficult time because she is grieving the death of her mother Defne, and her usually close relationship with her father Kostas has become distant.

Then she learns that her mother's sister Meryem, with whom she has never had any contact, is coming to visit. Ada harbours a lot of anger toward her mother's family because she has never had any contact with them. However Meryem

is eventually able to form a relationship with Ada and the tragic love story of her mother and father's past unfolds. This enables Ada to put into perspective the events that have shaped the life of she and her parents.

This is a very unusual but beautifully written book which everyone in our group really enjoyed. The story jumps about in time and place and one of the main characters is the ancient fig tree, explaining history, clarifying relationships, adding commentary on events and reminding us of the interdependence of the natural environment.

The fig tree in London, which Kostas takes such care of, is symbolic of the adaptations many migrants must make in order to survive in a new country. Major themes in the book touched on grief and trauma as suffered, especially by Defne, Ada's mother, but also the power of love and family.

It also explores both the negative and positive effects of social media and the book has a strong conservation message.



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Owls

Owls are found on every continent except Antarctica and on lots of islands in our oceans as well. Australia is home to eight species, six of which can be found in Gippsland. Other countries have varying numbers of different species. Most owls hunt at night and perch during the day in trees with dense foliage so they can remain hidden. Other birds either shun them or attack them in a flock. They are usually solitary creatures except during the mating season.

The owl family has several notable characteristics. The most recognisable one is its flat facial disc with forward-facing eyes and a fringe of lighter coloured feathers. These feathers enable the owl to be a powerful hunter because they gather in and concentrate all the available light towards its dark eyes as they hunt. As well, the feathers concentrate the sounds of other animals towards the ears of the owl within the facial disc, further extending its hunting ability.

The second characteristic is the body and wing feathers which have evolved over time to produce soundless flight. They are also dull-coloured, making them difficult to see. The third is its talons, the sharp grasping claws on its feet and sharp beak. They also have 14 neck vertebrae which allows them to turn their heads to cover 270 degrees. What chance does a poor fieldmouse have?

Their prey includes small mammals, insects and other birds, although some species hunt fish. They swallow their prey whole and regurgitate the inedible parts as pellets outside the nest or below their perch. The nest is usually in tree hollows. Some species burrow and the barn owl nests in buildings because its feathers are not waterproof, and hunt inside. They usually lay four almost spherical white eggs in a clutch. The female sits on the clutch and the male, usually smaller than the female, is responsible for the collection of food for the sitting female and the chicks when they hatch. The hatchlings eat

meat pulled from the prey. A few species mate for life, but most change partners every year. Occasionally they will form a group which is called a parliament.

Across the world the owl is either celebrated or reviled. The Ancient Greeks associated the owl with Athena, the goddess of wisdom and modern Western European cultures see it as wise and vigilant. In Ancient Rome it was seen as a creature of evil and bad luck because of its nocturnal nature. This belief is shared by most African tribes, by the Chinese, as well as most native American tribes who also see it as a symbol of imminent death. In India they are the symbol of wealth, good luck and wisdom, in Japan a sign of good luck. Australian aboriginals believed it was a messenger from the spirit world. Rather a mixed bag.

Because they are widespread, they are a popular collecting theme with stamp collectors. Many countries have their native owl species on stamps.

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FedUni study into ageing

Seven key factors for ageing well

With Australians living longer than ever, new research has uncovered seven factors key to ageing well – challenging long-held assumptions that health alone determines wellbeing in later life.

The study drew on the experiences of 722 Australians aged 65 to 98 from the general population, as well as 13 Holocaust survivors now living in Australia – most of whom considered themselves to be ageing well despite the extreme childhood adversity they endured.

The research found that ageing well is shaped by seven key components: autonomy, purpose in life, independence, reasonable and manageable health, positive attitudes, active life involvement and social connectedness and belonging.

Federation University Psychology PhD student Chloe Waddell, who led the study, said the research shed new insights into what it means to age well, drawing on the lived experiences of older Australians.

“As our population lives

longer, it is important to understand how to support people in their later years. There has long been a lack of consensus about what ageing well actually means,” Dr Waddell said.

“Past ideas of ageing well were you had to be in perfect health – but as this research shows, feeling connected, having purpose and retaining control over your own life can be just as, if not more, important.”

Dr Waddell said understanding each of these key components could help drive positive change for people in later life.

“By understanding each of these factors, we can provide a clearer framework for policy-makers, aged care providers, carers and older Australians themselves to guide supports in future.”

The research found ageing well is a dynamic and evolving process that exists on a continuum – with most Australians considering themselves to be ageing well, regardless of gender or health status.

Of the 13 Holocaust survivors interviewed, most reported ageing well, with key themes including health, belonging,

autonomy, including uncoerced decision-making, active life involvement and positive attitudes like mental toughness.

“As part of my broader research, I wanted to understand what ageing well means to older Australians from different walks of life.

This group of our population has experienced prejudice and discrimination, marginalisation and extreme childhood adversity,” Dr Waddell said.

“There is currently no research on this group in relation to ageing well and given their advancing age, we are in a unique and privileged position to hear their insights.

I feel very privileged that they trusted me with their stories and life experiences.”

Dr Waddell said the findings offer an important reminder about the potential for wellbeing in later life.

“Together these insights remind us that later life can be meaningful, connected and fulfilling – even after a lifetime of adversity – if the right supports are in place.”

Conference of the Birds 2026



After two successful years, the Conference of the Birds is returning to Boolarra for another stunning community arts event on Saturday, May 23.

Conference of the Birds, based on a 12th century Sufi tale, is a seasonal community pageant when performers, artists and audience come together to celebrate the last days of autumn, around a bonfire that heralds winter. Artistic Directors, Margie Mackay and Gilbert Douglas, have developed and presented epic-scale, accessible, site-specific collaborative works of art and ritual both in Australia and internationally.

For Conference of the Birds Douglas and Mackay

have collaborated with Gunaikurnai Elders and the local community to foster new relationships and create a sense of pride in and care for Country and each other.

The event will begin at Railway Park for the Art Walk.

From 2.30pm, at the entrance to the Grandridge Rail Trail, the 2 km journey will begin. The audience will be invited to travel along the trail past six artistic installations, each representing a mysterious valley from the story.

The final valley will be staged at the Meadows. Here, the Valley of Harmony and Unity, will be music and dance performances culminating in the

spectacular Celebration of the Birds bonfire.

Food trucks and coffee vans will be located on site. The event is expected to conclude at 7pm.

For those with access needs a shuttle bus is available.

Bookings are essential and can be made via the website <https://events.humanitix.com/conference-of-the-birds-shuttle-bus-registration>. Register for a preferred timeslot. Buses will start running from Railway Park at 5pm. Dress warmly and wear walking shoes. Bring a torch and something to sit on, and enjoy community and country.



CDCA monthly report April / May 2026

This last month, the CDCA meeting had a lineup of nine people present at the bi monthly meeting, with talk about the “Churchill Guided Historical walk”. The May 16 walk is scheduled to be run and advertising is being worked out to promote the walk as required. A Web site has been made for the walk - <https://churchilltownwalk.com.au>

Discussion about the Churchill “Shop Local” day

and the good things it does for promoting the town.


Sargeant Atkinson gave us an update regarding police activities around Churchill. The current crime rate in Churchill, is looking very promising compared to other towns with discussion regarding graffiti around town, and electric motor cycles and scooters.

As per usual, the discussion regarding the 2026 Christmas decorations was had and getting in early to have things up to date was

most important and is up for further discussion. The new toilet block at West Place is well on the way with work due to commence fairly shortly. Thanks to Latrobe City for keeping us up to date via Councillor Potter.

The CDCA purchased an ANZAC day wreath for the Churchill ANZAC day memorial.

The next CDCA meeting will be conducted at the Churchill Town Hall at 7pm on June 11, 2026.



Churchill & District Community Association Inc.

supports Churchill & District News
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CDCA meets on the 2nd Thursday of every 2nd month
Next Meeting - 7.00pm Thursday June 11, 2026
Downstairs in Churchill Town Hall

Contact CDCA via our website - www.cdca.org.au or find us on Facebook!



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Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare Group

By Rose, Jay and Arno

Laura Owen, an ecologist with a passion for bats, came to Yinnar on the evening of March 25, and enthralled us with her collection of tiny bats, bat photos, bat facts, and bat love. Laura is employed by 'Wildlife Unlimited', based in Bairnsdale. We learned of the astonishing ability of micro bats to drink by flying over the surface of ponds and puddles and licking up the water caught in their chest fur. We discovered that these tiny creatures gobble hundreds of mosquitoes and insects nightly, up to half their body weight. Admittedly their bodies weigh very little, another impressive aspect because they are able to fly quite far each night. We learned they are companionable and not inclined to quarrel over territory.

Apart from their enormous insect appetite, micro bats also visit nectar bearing flowers and are key pollinators. It is this characteristic that makes them especially valuable to farmers and gardeners. European bees have been relied upon across the world for pollination of fruit trees and vegetable crops and are killed by the Varroa mite.

This mite reached Australia in 2022 and has spread from Newcastle in NSW. It has lately been detected in Bairnsdale and is coming towards Gippsland. If we are to continue to produce foodstuffs from trees and vegetables in volume, micro bats and native pollinating insects must be encouraged and supported. Most small bush birds that are also useful pollinators are not happy in open fields with isolated paddock trees or shelter belts but micro bats do inhabit these environments. One easy action you can take is to protect your paddock trees to increase pollination and pest insect

control.

Micro bats are hard to see, being so little and quiet and night active, and hard to hear because nearly all of their calls are beyond the range of human hearing. Special audio recording devices are needed to find out whether micro bats are in an area and to indicate what species they are. Our group has purchased two of these devices. One is handheld and displays a sound graph on a small screen as you walk around. The other is fixed in place for hours or days and then the recordings downloaded and reviewed. Interpreting the call graphs is tricky.

There are algorithms to help but we fear that you may need to have or develop some good computer skills when working with the call analysis software. We are forming a study group to learn and practise the recording of bats and interpreting the recordings. If you want to be part of this activity please get in touch.

After Laura's talk we went for a walk in Yinnar, taking our recording device and saw the call shapes of perhaps three micro bat species zipping across the screen. It was a windy, damp evening so to see any of these tiny bats out and about was a surprise.

In February last year our group had funding through Landcare Victoria for 'Wildlife Unlimited' (Laura again) to set up recording devices in woodlands at the old caravan park site on the pondage and at Hazelwood Cemetery. A potential seven species were detected. Another four species have previously been identified by bat researchers in the forested environment of Morwell National Park. We know of a further three species that appear in our area on distribution maps, making a total of fourteen species for us to look out for.

There is much more to learn about bats and their favoured locations. Our goal is to take many more recordings in and around Yinnar and environs and make the information available to the public and to researchers. We shall have time to look at the data we have captured over winter when the bats hibernate or go into a state known as

torpor to conserve energy during the colder months.

There has been more bat news recently.

Scientists have recently been working on calculating an economic value for the role that the Australian grey-headed flying-fox (fruit bat) plays in re-seeding eucalypt forests. It came to between \$217 million and \$955 million a year.

These amazing animals can fly huge distances. One of them has reportedly been satellite tracked flying 500 kilometres over 48 hours. Gippsland lost massive areas of forest in the 2019-2020 summer fires, and flying-foxes are about the only prospect for regenerating these areas. Although it is easy to think these animals are abundant, in fact they are now endangered. Higher temperatures during their breeding season mean that many young are lost every summer. Adult bats also die

when temperatures are too high for them to effectively cool themselves, and a great deal of potential habitat and food resources are lost through land clearing and fires.

<https://share.gle/3bX2lzMx4U6NWLLJT>

This next item is about a town council getting serious about light pollution endangering their local microbats.

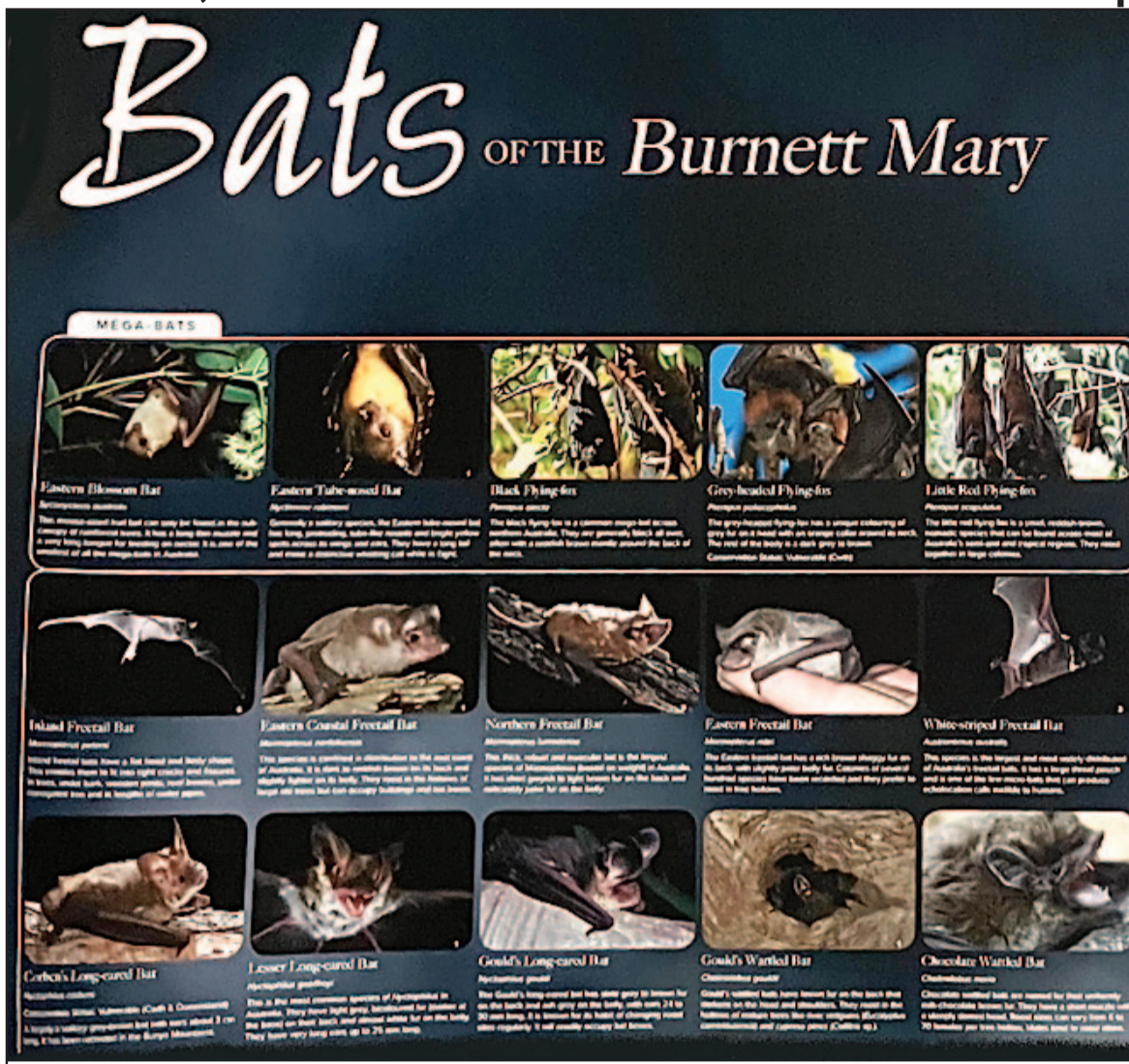
Denmark is turning off the white light from its streetlamps and painting a road red to solve a night time crisis that almost no one sees: urban light is blocking the path of bats <https://share.google/HlFlpHlIp4LbmJ46g>

The Australasian Dark Sky Alliance is another source of information about light pollution and its effect on wildlife and humans.

Next month we will report on our April workshop about creating habitat in gardens for native insects, birds and bats.

You can contact us at yinnar.landcare@gmail.com or through our website at:

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



Most of our local bats are shown on this poster - Image courtesy Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management

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State Member for Gippsland South

Working for Gippsland South

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History can teach us plenty

Only two books have been written about Morwell's town history. These do not mention Peter Bertrúe nor his wife, Isabella Bertrúe.

Peter was quite a saviour for the good folk of the town back on January 28, 1888, when he was given a permanent appointment "to the office of scavenger." His Key Performance Indicator (KPI) was to restore the town to a "wholesome condition."

When Peter was appointed, Morwell was described as "insanatory"; the correct spelling should have been "insanitary". Writing to Morwell Shire Council in January 1915, one resident described Morwell as "an eye - sore" because of rubbish being dumped anywhere, everywhere. Others, especially some Shire Councillors, were concerned about the "town's pestiferous condition."

About this time, there was supposedly a rubbish depot at the eastern end of town (approximately where an old crumbling coal dredger is currently sited as a tourist attraction). Councillors wanted this depot fenced. It is written that what might have been a rubbish tip, was doubling up as a nightsoil depot.

Rubbish, and lots of it.

Cr. Charles Davey (licensee at Murdoch's Hotel) pointed out that there were unsightly heaps of rubbish containing tins, broken bottles, etc. deposited all over the town and on several of the main roads.

The practice should be stopped, and all those depositing rubbish made to remove it. The Shire Secretary (Thomas Sinclair) said it was very hard to catch people, but the Inspector of Nuisances (Constable Gorman) had caught a few and made them remove the rubbish they had deposited. (Morwell Advertiser, May 19, 1905.)

It is difficult to conclude if Peter Bertrúe achieved his KPI. Nonetheless, Peter kept his job until he gave up his contract in October 1907.

He was being paid £2.5/- annually with extra income from whatever was saleable. Isabella advertised her services as a "Ladies Nurse".

Peter, a carpenter by trade was originally from Bordeaux, France and was attracted to a possible fortune from gold via alluvial mining in the Bendigo area.

Isabella was from Marong and they had two children, Janet Isabella and Peter Francis. From Morwell, the family moved to Queensland, living at Tara, near Dalby.

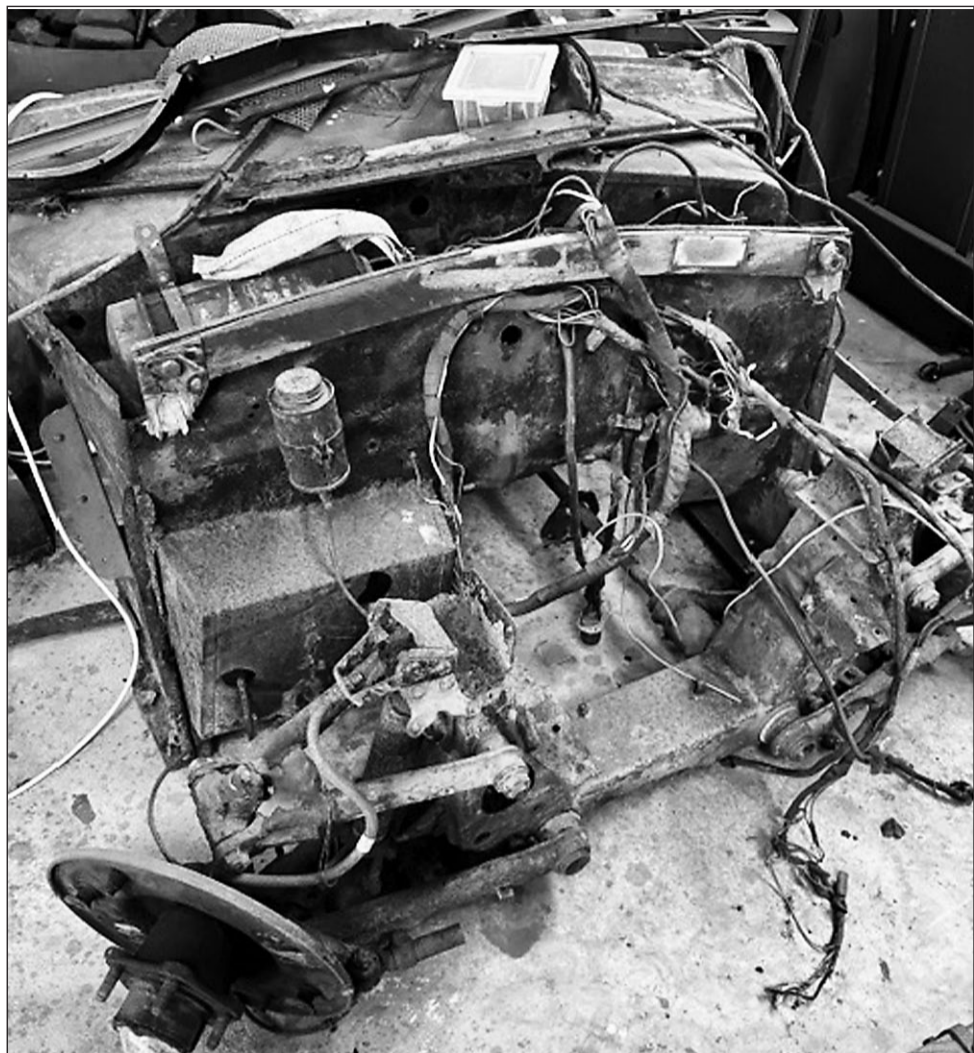
Peter received his carrier's

licence in February 1894 and, at various times, named his occupation as a labourer, a dayman and a nightman. That is, he was multiskilled. While in Morwell, he was fined for not sending his children to school - a smallish matter for Isabella and Peter.

One rather precarious situation for him, and he was not guilty, occurred when his half-full night cart was allegedly tipped over by Mr Joe Quigley in the backyard of Smyth's Cricketers Arms Hotel. Joe apparently didn't like the tip-dray in the yard - at 12.15 am on December 24, 1901. After a magisterial hearing, Joe was fined £5 and costs of £2.8/-. Apparently, the stench lasted for some weeks. Constable Gorman gave evidence in this matter.

Putrid matter, urine, stale beer, stale soap suds, and other obnoxious refuse were allowed to stagnate in drains and channels for days at a time. It was in early March 1914 when council accepted a tender for £12.17/- from Mr J Robertson to erect a fence around the rubbish tip at the Ridge.

Isabella and Peter apparently took up farming at Tara, but his death was recorded in The Toowoomba Chronicle, Saturday November 17, 1917 edition. Isabella died a week later. Both are interred



in the Tara General Cemetery.

Peter's appointment back in 1888 signified a cultural change was urgent. Effective, efficient disposal of rubbish still remains a contentious issue in 2026. Back in the day, residents were concerned about vermin, typhoid, and tramps sleeping in waste.

These days, it is worth giving consideration to establishing municipal appointments similar to what Peter Bertrúe and Constable Gorman held in earlier times.

Now for a change of topic.

In the March 2026 edition of the Churchill and District News (CDN), words were written about the Riley car. In Morwell, Alf Grange was a local representative for Rileys. Your scribe wrote "Locally, there are keen Riley devotees working all hours, all weeks and years to reconstruct their sleek, commodious Riley."

What a pleasant surprise when a number of CDN readers made contact after reading that March issue. A correction was urgently required - that is, the car

named after its creator, William Riley Junior, however, the company did not start as part of the Nuffield Company in 1890.

Initially, the company began as the Riley Cycle Company, moving to manufacture engines as the Riley Engine Company. Through 1913, William's sons began a focus on automobiles.

Further rationalisation was apparent when it was announced on September 9, 1938 that Lord Nuffield had bought the assets and goodwill of Riley Motors (Coventry) Limited. Nonetheless, Rileys were still produced under a new management structure.

My astute reader explained just over 28,000 Riley cars were produced in the RM (Riley Motors) series between 1945 and 1957. Two accompanying pictures show restoration of a RM 1950 model.

The front-end awaits its engine and a highly polished distinctive grill surround is protected in heavy plastic also ready for final positioning.

This local history section has appeared in the CDN for many years now. It is always encouraging when readers make contact. Thanks everyone.

It is also relevant to emphasize that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not used.

A reminder of a past history - thank goodness. During the 1950s 1960s and even earlier, a marketing catchcry yelled "(have) a cup of tea, a Bex and a good lie down."



Yinnar Community Garden



Left - Woodfired pizza at the YCG's AGM in March 2026.

Right - Fresh "zero miles" salad greens from the Yinnar Community Garden.



Save the Planet - Grow Lettuce

Food prices are on the rise, and most of us are

now aware that the diesel to transport food relies on boats bringing it from overseas. Remembering iceberg lettuce

at an incredible \$10 per head during COVID, growing your own is a great option, and one of the most efficient

places to start is lettuce/salad greens.

Lettuce is mostly water, and it just does not make sense to use precious fuel to transport it long distances when you can produce your own in even the smallest balcony garden. As an added bonus it will not need to be wrapped in plastic to get to you, and you can just pick what you need – no more wilted slush in the back of the fridge.

Growing lettuce is super easy – the seeds germinate very quickly, and you can start picking baby leaves within 20-30 days. Just remember to keep planting enough seeds for a constant supply.

Do not want the bother of continually planting more seeds? There are lettuce alternatives such as sorrel, a perennial which means it lives on year after year. French sorrel adds a lovely lemony zing to salads. All you need to do is keep it

watered, and make sure a few leaves stay on the plant to keep it going.

Fresh "zero miles" salad greens were on show at the Yinnar Community Garden's AGM in March, which also featured woodfired pizza with homemade zucchini dough bases. Other things we have been working on include cleaning out the whole greenhouse and sorting all our pots, weeding and laying down weed mat, and replenishing the raised beds for winter seedlings.

All are welcome to the YCG's Wednesday working bees, check Facebook for the latest seasonal times: <https://www.facebook.com/yinnarcommunitygarden>

If you would like an invitation to our next woodfired pizza event, you can receive email alerts by becoming a member. The cost is \$20 per year, per person - email yinnarcg@gmail.com for more details.

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Matchbox Gallery - Yinnar

Relationship scams, scams that cause deep emotional and financial harm.

Scamwatch is running a campaign to help people spot the signs of a relationship scam.

Relationship scams (also called romance or dating scams) happen when someone pretends to be interested in you so they can take your money. They build trust, then ask for money, gifts, or your personal details. They may also try to get into your bank or online accounts. Some scammers also push fake investments, including cryptocurrency. They may ask you to move the chat to a private messaging app so it is harder to trace.

They might say they live or work overseas. They may



avoid meeting in person or on video. They may also invent an emergency (like a hospital bill, travel issue, or legal trouble) to pressure you to send money quickly.

If you think you or someone you know may be in a relationship scam, remember: scammers can be very convincing. They use feelings to control people and may try to cut them off from friends and family. It is never the victim's fault. Help is available.

Who is at risk:

Anyone can be targeted. Scammers often go after people who want connection or support online. You may be at higher risk if you:

- use dating apps or social media to meet new people
- are newly single, have recently lost someone close, or are going through a big life change
- feel lonely and want ongoing contact
- have money set aside to invest (including in cryptocurrency).

What it can look like: These scams feel real. Here are some common examples:

Romance baiting scams: These can be short. They may start on a dating app and then shift into a fake cryptocurrency or investment scam.

Long-term romance scams: The scammer builds a close bond over months or years. Then they make up a crisis (like a medical emergency, work problem, or travel issue) to get money

from you.

Warning signs to look out for:

They say they love you or want a serious relationship very quickly.

They ask you to move the chat to another app.

They will not video call, or meet in person, or always cancel.

They ask for money, gift cards, cryptocurrency, or bank transfers. They may also ask for personal details (like ID, passport, or address) or access to your accounts or device.

They tell you not to talk to anyone else and say you should only trust them.

They ask for money, gift cards, cryptocurrency, or bank transfers. They may also ask for personal details (like ID, passport, or address) or access to your accounts or device.

They tell you not to talk to anyone else and say you should only trust them.

If you think it is a scam:

If something feels wrong, pause. Think about what you know about the person and what they are asking for.

•Never send money or personal information, even if the person promises to repay you.

•Talk to someone you trust. Tell a friend or family member what's happening. Scammers rely on secrecy.

•Check who they are by doing a reverse image search on their photos.

Look for details that do not match, or a story that keeps changing. Be careful if

the profile looks too perfect.

•Keep proof. Save messages, screenshots, usernames, phone numbers, bank details, and receipts.

•Report the profile to the app or platform, then block the person.

•If you have sent money, contact your bank straight away.

Stay protected:

STOP. If someone you met online asks for money, cryptocurrency, gift cards, or help with an "urgent" problem, stop. Do not send money. Do not share passwords, one-time codes, or ID documents.

CHECK. Take your time when you meet new people online. Ask questions. Watch for things that do not add up. Be careful if they will not meet or video call, or if they quickly move the chat off the app.

Before you invest, check the business is licensed (search ASIC's professional registers). Also check ASIC's investor alert list on Moneysmart.

PROTECT. If you have shared details or sent money, contact your bank straight away. Change your passwords, turn on multi-factor authentication, and report the scam to Scamwatch. If you feel unsafe, contact local police. Find out more about what to do if you have been scammed.

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

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MEMBER FOR MORWELL

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THE NATIONALS
for Regional Victoria

Hazelwood Cemetery

By Leo Billington

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

In Victoria there are

the larger entities such as at Springvale, Fawkner and other larger ones. Basically, these cemeteries are connected to The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries

When the Trust made contact to explain about volunteers, there was no response.

On the other "side of the ledger", compliments are regularly forthcoming - which is very pleasing. Currently, autumnal colours of trees add a magnificent vista to the cemetery.

Recently, a new sign was erected in memory of those interred in the Presbyterian Free Section. With funding secured from the Mirboo North Bendigo Community Bank under their 2025 community funding program, and designed by Young Signs in Morwell, the metal sign commands a presence - and rightly so.

These interments are known by name only, no record of co-ordinates - row number and no grave number. Traditionally known as pauper graves, this derogatory, degrading title still keeps being mentioned. This word needs to be analysed carefully because many of these deaths will have a background story.

(Since 2007, Old Ballan Cemetery is one of several locations in Victoria that State Trustees has been using to inter the people who have nowhere else to go.)

There are other Free Sections at Hazelwood where on-going research will allow for further memorisation.

A backstory has recently been researched. This story is an example of how historical errors are made. Annie McDonald was 3½ years when she died on Tuesday morning June 1, 1897.

Her terrible accident was reported in the Morwell Advertiser (Friday June 4, 1897). Annie was a daughter of Flora and John Fraser who were living at Cowwarr after shifting from Jeeralang. As reported;

"It appears that whilst Mrs. Fraser was outside the child had been muddling with the fire when its clothes suddenly ignited. The little one ran out screaming and the flames, fanned with the wind, were soon curling above her head. With some difficulty, the fire was extinguished, but not, however, before the child had been severely burned. She was brought down to Morwell for medical treatment, but although Dr. Moir did all in his power for the little sufferer, she passed away a few hours after. Her remains were interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery".

Annie McDonald Fraser is interred in an unmarked grave within a large family plot. She was the third daughter of John and Flora Fraser. It was the earlier family connection with Jeeralang that a decision was

to have Annie "back home".

Flora Fraser, who died on Friday November 27, 1908, is interred alongside Annie. The Morwell Advertiser reported her death on Friday November 6, 1908;

"DEATH OF MRS JOHN FRASER.

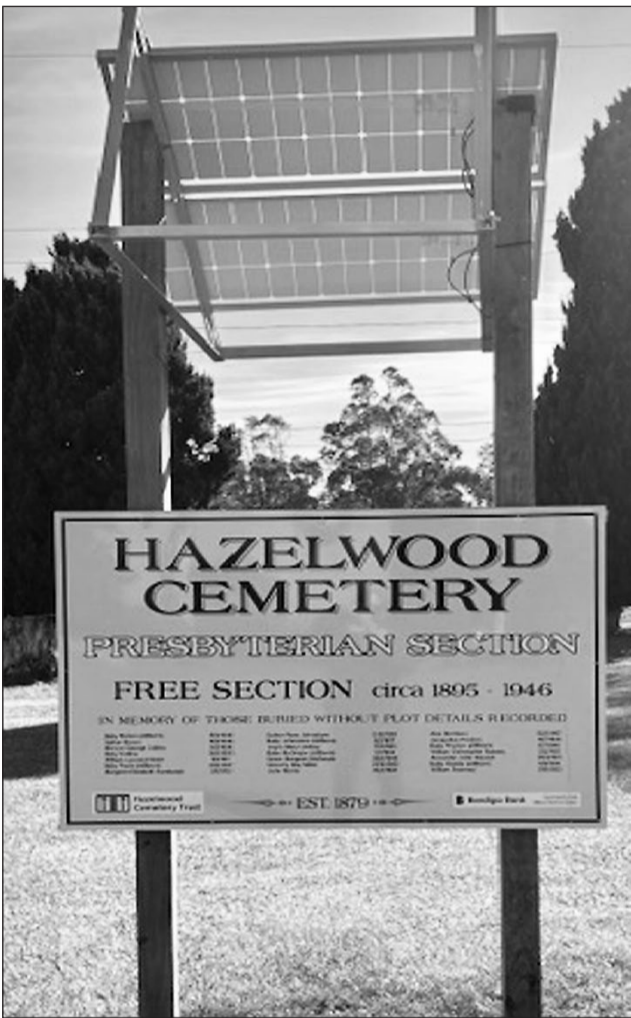
We regret having to record the death of an old and highly respected



name was not regarded as important. A woman was a chattel. It is all different now - Flora was not John.

Undertaking historical research is sometimes

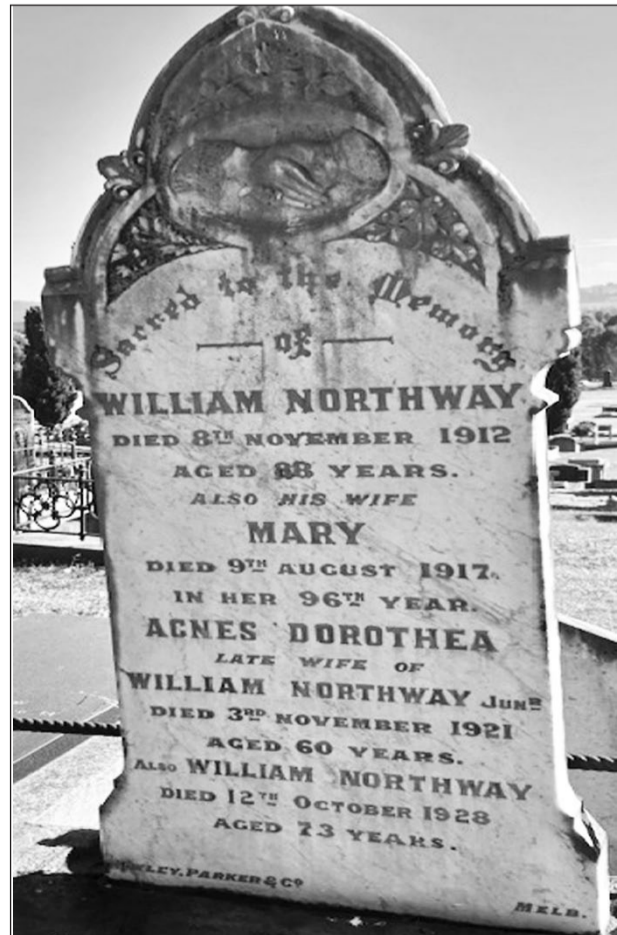
Helen Northway. Helen was born on Saturday January 19, 1884 in Sale. She died on Sunday February 17, 1884; about one month after birth. Helen is interred



over 400 Class B Cemetery Trusts managed by community members, often in a voluntary capacity. The Hazelwood Cemetery Trust is one of these. Now 147 years since being established - 10 acres of land was gazetted for a cemetery on March 7, 1879 - the Trust consists of volunteers (along with a part-

Trust. Our cemetery is part of the state government Department of Human Services. Local government is not connected with the operation of the Hazelwood Cemetery Trust.

This point needs to be clearly understood, particularly by those who complain about wet grass



time secretary employed to handle administrative duties) who are custodians of the cemetery.

Class A cemeteries are

on internal roads. Wet grass sticks to wet asphalt until it dries. As one complainant argued, "get the council to clean it!"



resident of this district, in the person of Messrs John Fraser, daughter of the late Mrs Marian McDonald, of Morwell, which sad event took place on Friday last, at the age of 48 years. Deceased resided in

interrupted and frustrated when tracing family lineages using male names instead of female names; albeit from the same family.

Back to Flora, it was written that "She was a lady very highly esteemed by all who knew her, and deep

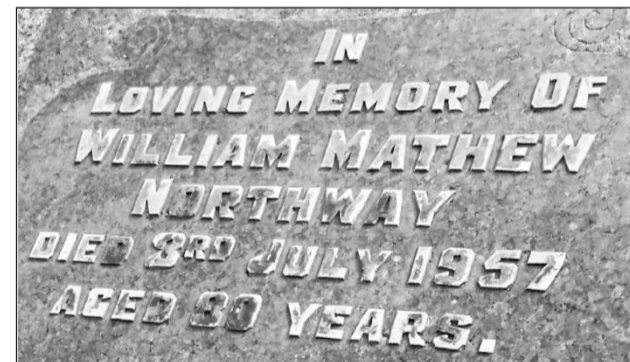
an unmarked grave at the Hazelwood Cemetery. Her parents were Barbara and Thomas Full Northway - they had 11 children, and Helen was number five in the line. Barbara and Thomas are interred in the Drouin Cemetery.

One of Helen's brothers was William Mathew Northway (1876 - 1957). He married Edith Charlotte Danks, of Kensington. Edith and William Mathew are interred together in the Hazelwood Cemetery - Edith, with husband but not acknowledged on the plaque.

Helen Northway's grandfather was William Northway Senior who died in 1912. Her uncle, William Northway Junior, died in 1928. William's daughter, Agnes married Hugh Murray Thompson - who enlisted for wartime service on April 3, 1917.

Helen is interred next to her grandfather at the Hazelwood Cemetery.

Postscript - Research is well now advanced to know more about the extensive Northway family.



Jeeralang for a number of years before and after she was married, and also lived at Cowwarr and Narracan for a time".

"Messrs" is technically the formal, plural form of "Mr.", used to address or refer to two or more men. It was Flora who died, not John.

While times have changed thank goodness, acknowledgement of women by their correct given

sympathy is expressed for the bereaved husband and family who are left to mourn her loss. The remains of deceased were removed to Morwell and interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery."

Annie is interred in an unmarked grave in the Presbyterian section. However, her row number/letter and grave number is known.

Another example of an unmarked grave is that for



Yinnar South church



Beautiful, raw, and honest: Events at Yinnar South

Twin events, 'On Being Mortal', a group reflection led by death doula Rev Sue Newcombe, and 'Aidios', an art installation by local artist Liz Tyler, provided a safe place for people to talk about death and dying at the Yinnar South Historic Church on the weekend of April 11 to April 12.

Eleven people attended Rev Sue's session 'On Being Mortal', where she led an intimate discussion on what death means for those experiencing or contemplating their own death journey or that of someone close to them.

As a death doula, Rev Sue is trained to help people navigate their end-of-life journey. A safe space, whereby mutual agreement thoughts expressed would not leave the room, the session was a time of sharing thoughts and experiences as well as asking questions.

Some of what was spoken of was hopeful and some bittersweet, as people shared their fears and feelings and beliefs about death and dying.

The art installation 'Aidios', a Greek word meaning 'timeless eternity', was also well-attended, even though the weekend was a rainy one. The installation by local artist Liz Tyler -- who has been exploring archways as a point of transition -- consisted of five large monotype prints, four of which were suspended from fishing line within the church, and one which was attached to the pale blue entry door.

Their arched shape complemented the arched windows of the church. Each of the prints contained dancing or falling figures, lit by the natural light filtering through the church windows. The positioning of the prints was done in such a way as to have the blue paint of

the church interior above and the white paint below, and many of the visitors commented on how well the colour enhanced the artwork, remarking that the blue made them think of the sky or of heaven.

A few of the visitors had an added tour of the Yinnar South countryside as they got lost while looking for the church and arrived by circuitous route! Visitors were both impressed and touched by the exhibition. One lady, Michelle, commented, 'We loved the experience and wanted to linger.'

Somehow, even the dreary weather today just added to the drama. Beautiful, raw, and honest.'

Both events were held on the weekend of April 11-12, with 'Aidios' held from 1 pm - 4 pm both Saturday and Sunday, and 'On Being Mortal' held from 11 am - 12 pm on Saturday only.

Boosting allied health services

Boosting allied health services with Traralgon student-led clinic

Federation University Australia is boosting allied health services in Gippsland while giving students critical hands-on training, with the opening of its Community Wellness Clinic at the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre in Traralgon.

The clinic is delivering face-to-face physiotherapy appointments to the public, provided by third and fourth-year physiotherapy students under the guidance of experienced clinical educators, helping to ease the pressure on regional health services.

The student-led clinic can assist with musculoskeletal injuries, post-operative rehabilitation, breathing issues, arthritis and joint pain, along with chronic pain management, among other mobility-related health issues.

Established with funding from the Victorian Government's Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund and Regional Skills Fund, in partnership with Latrobe City Council, the clinic aims to reduce wait times and support early intervention by connecting members of the Gippsland community with care.

Federation University is seeking community feedback on expanding services at the clinic to further address demand for allied health across the region and support students with local placement opportunities.

Community members, healthcare providers, allied health professionals, students and community organisations attended a meeting at 1.30 pm on May 5 at the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre, 49 Breed Street, Traralgon.

To access the Community Wellness Clinic, visit www.federation.edu.au/forms/gippsland-wellness-centre-referral, email cwcreception@federation.edu.au, or phone 5122 6002.

Quotes attributable to Federation University Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Duncan Bentley

"Federation University is responding to the urgent demand for allied health professionals in our regional communities by training our students where they are needed most.

The Community Wellness Clinic is giving students clinical experience in their own communities where they develop critical assessment, treatment, communication and collaboration skills while easing the pressure on local



Fourth year physiotherapy students Sofia Perks and Bianca Middlebrook at the Wellness Centre.

health services." Quotes attributable to Latrobe City Council Mayor, Councillor Sharon Gibson

"Latrobe City Council is proud to partner with Federation University to deliver the Community Wellness Clinic at the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre.

The student-led physiotherapy clinic shows how when you combine education, government and community together, you can achieve much better benefits for our Latrobe City community.

These services are easily accessible and make it simpler for people to stay active by managing their injuries earlier to maintain their overall health and wellbeing, while providing

the students with much-needed experience for our future allied health workforce."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Regional Development Michaela Settle

"We are proud to have supported the establishment of the Allied Health faculty at Federation University, and it is wonderful to see the program doing what it was designed to do.

Happy, healthy communities are the backbone of thriving regional economies, and this clinic will help keep people living their best lives, both at work and at home."

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Latrobe Community Groups

2026 Latrobe City Volunteer Expo

Do you want to give back to your community and make a real difference?

Join us at the Volunteer Expo to meet local community groups and organisations with which to get involved.

When: Saturday May 23, 2026, 9am to 12noon.

Where: Gippsland Performing Arts Centre Forecourt.

Creating Conversations Men's Project

Bring Creating Conversations to your group! This program from The Men's Project helps workplaces, sporting clubs, and community groups build respectful, safe, and inclusive cultures, and it is easy to get involved.

Why it matters:

Men and boys face pressures that affect wellbeing, relationships, and team culture. Creating Conversations provides a safe, practical space to discuss these challenges and explore solutions that

work for your group.

What is included:

two planning meetings with managers / supervisors
two in-person 90-minute sessions (1 week apart)

Leadership debrief and evaluation

Submit your Expression of Interest: The Men's Project Creating Conversations Program - Expression of Interest - Collaboration

Partners in Parenting - Research Opportunity

Do you have a teen aged 12-17 and are concerned about their mental health? Partners in Parenting is an evidence-based, online program designed to help parents and carers build skills and confidence in supporting their teenager's mental health.

More than 5,000 families across Australia and the UK have already benefited from the program, and researchers at Monash University want

to give more families in the community access to the program.

Federation University Gippsland Wellness Centre

The Gippsland Wellness Clinic is a student-led service operated by Federation University and supported by experienced clinical supervisors.

The clinic will provide services across Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Pathology, with a focus on increasing access to affordable allied health support for the community.

The clinic has currently commenced Physiotherapy services, with Occupational Therapy and Speech Pathology to be introduced in the near future.

In addition, they are offering virtual physiotherapy appointments at no cost, while the in-person student-led clinic operates at a fee structure.

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club

April has been a very full calendar for the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club. There have been beach walks, hiking on and off track, bike rides and kayaking. Over Easter an intrepid group of members completed the famous Viking Circuit in Victoria's remote high country. This is quite an achievement and was completed over four days. This walk is rated hard and for experienced walkers only. This certainly was a "bucket list" experience for the walkers!

Another highlight of April was a multi-day trip to Porepunkah. This was hosted by our Club President, John Scarlet who organised members on walks to Mt Buffalo and Mt Feathertop. Several members enjoyed bike riding on the magnificent bike trails in the area. A great time was had by all who attended!

There is something powerful about walking

your boots and join us on the trail. Our Club continues to welcome walkers who are keen to connect with nature, stay active and enjoy some great company on the way.

May is here and the program is looking exciting! There is a walk planned in the Mount Dandenong area which will include magnificent views of Melbourne (should the weather permit). The scenic and remote Loch Valley will be another area visited by SBWC members in May. This walk is beautifully forested, and walkers are likely to spot many Lyre birds along the way.

The beautiful Lysterfield



Strzelecki Bushwalking Club members bike riding in Porepunkah

kangaroos and various bird species.

SBWC has numerous skilled leaders who are generous with their knowledge and time. We place a strong emphasis on safety and environmental care. Our experienced leaders ensure that each walk is well-planned and enjoyable.

Another popular feature of the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club is our monthly club nights. This is a great way for members to catch up over a "cuppa". Each month a guest speaker will host a discussion on a topic relating to bushwalking.

Our club nights will now be held on the second Thursday of each month beginning at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are welcome to join us and this is a great opportunity to find out if the club is something you may be interested in.

For further information on anything that you have read in this article go to sbwc.org.au, our Facebook page or by contacting publicity@sbwc.org.au



SBWC members walking up Stringer's Creek Walkhalla

bush tracks in the company of like-minded walkers. As we move into the cooler months, conditions are ideal for walking. Crisp mornings and clear views mean it is the perfect time to lace up

Lake, situated in the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges will also be visited by SBWC in the near future. There are several walking trails around the lake with many opportunities to spot

Latrobe City Council

Council strengthens arts and culture with Gallery and Creative Industry Advisory Committees

Latrobe City Council is calling for Expressions of Interest for membership on the Latrobe Regional Gallery Advisory Committee.

Council recently updated the Terms of Reference for the group, which will refocus the Committee on advocacy, community and industry engagement, and providing strategic advice to support the long-term direction of Latrobe Regional Gallery.

To complement this work, Council will also establish a new Creative Industries Advisory Committee, which will provide strategic advice on creative and cultural industries across Latrobe City.

The Creative Industries Advisory Committee will focus on strategy, industry engagement, community input and increasing activation and use of Council-owned and supported cultural facilities



across the municipality.

The new committee will also support delivery of Council's emphasis on growing participation, strengthening networks and supporting a sustainable local creative economy.

Latrobe City Council Mayor, Sharon Gibson, said the refreshed Gallery Advisory Committee would help strengthen the future direction of the facility.

"The Gallery is a wonderful community facility where people can see some incredible artwork on display, including works from many of our talented local people," said the Mayor.

"This committee is for people who love the Gallery

and the visual arts.

It will provide a dynamic forum where they can share ideas and help shape its future."

The Mayor also spoke about the value of establishing the new Creative Industries Advisory Committee.

"We have seen the benefit of advisory groups like the Tourism and Major Events Advisory Committee. This new group will give our creative industries that same chance to come together and provide advice," said the Mayor.

"This committee will help showcase Latrobe City as a place where arts and culture thrive."

Expressions of Interest for both committees are now open, with further details available on Council's website:

www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Creative_Industries_Advisory_Committee_Expressions_of_Interest

www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Latrobe_Regional_Gallery_Advisory_Committee

Churchill & Monash Golf Club

Green Keepers Revenge (Stableford) April 4, 2026

A Grade Winner: Adam West 35 pts B Grade Winner: P. Flanigan 33 pts

C Grade Winner: R. Davidson 35 pts D.T.L: 1. J. Balding 34, 2. M Brereton 33, 3. L. Chessum 33, 4. M. Allen, 5. P. Bolding 32, 6.98 C. Gosling 32, 7. R. Timbs 31, 8. R. Dent 30 c/b N.T.P: 3rd R. King, 12th M. Soppe (Propin), 14th B. Kilday

Women's Monthly Medal (stroke) April 7, 2026

Monthly Medal Winner: S. Caldwell 73 Nett Scratch Winner: S. Caldwell 93

D.T.L: 1. C. Stevens 75 Nett N.T.P: 3rd C. Cunninghame, 5th L. Brent, 12th S. Caldwell, 14th J.

Blizzard Stroke April 11, 2026

A Grade Winner: G. Beyer 70 Nett B Grade Winner: P. Bolding 73 Nett

C Grade Winner: M. Hutchinson 68 Nett Scratch: T. Webb 77. D.T.L: 1. J. Balding 69, 2. R. Davidsoon 70, 3. T. Webb, 4. D. Taylor, 5. G. Leahy 73, 6. D. Burrigide 73, 7. D. Yates 74, 8. T. Collins 74, 9. S. Gosling 74

Target Hole: D. Burrigide

N.T.P: 3rd I. Heppleston, 5th J. Balding, 12th B. Kilday, 14th P. Kearns

Birdies: 3rd I. Heppleson, 14th P. Kearns

Target Hole: Adam West
Stableford April 14, 2026
Winner: Sue Gosling 36 pts D.T.L: S. Caldwell 35 pts N.T.P: 3rd M. McQuillan,

5th S. Gosling, 12th C. Stevens, 14th S. Caldwell

Stableford April 18, 2026

A Grade Winner: C. Hogbin 35 pts B Grade Winner: M. Allen 34 pts

C Grade Winner: B. Mathieson 34 pts D.T.L: 1. S. Allison 35, 2. P. Smart 34, 3. R. Harvey 33, 4. A. Auld 33, 5. P. Kearns 32, 6. D. Ireland 32, 7. A. Sharrock 31, 8. G. Tattersson 31, 9. R. Davidson 31 N.T.P: 3rd I. Heppleston, 5th B. Downie, 12th C. Thompson, 14th S. Caldwell

Target Hole: C. Hogbin

Par April 21, 2026

Winner: J. Blizzard Even c/b D.T.L: 1. J. Clegg Even c/b, 2. S. Turner -3. N.T.P: 3rd J. Clegg, 5th M. McQuillan, 12th S. Turner, 14th L. Van Rooy

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

COOKING with Noelene

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



What do you know?

Here are the answers to April's challenge:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. Drippings. | 2. Plump. |
| 3. Steam. | 4. Treacle. |
| 5. Water Bath. | 6. Fudge. |

Here is my May challenge for you:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. A confection made of egg whites, honey and nuts ? | 4. Tiny tube shaped pasta used in soups ? |
| 2. Edible pumpkin seeds with husks removed ? | 5. Rich fudge like biscuit usually made with chocolate and cut into squares ? |
| 3. A sweet edible coating ? | 6. To incorporate air into food to make it lighter ? |



Pizza Muffins



Ingredients:

1 tbs canola/rice bran oil, 1 onion, finely chopped, 1 tbs minced garlic, 150 gm chopped ham pieces, 80 gm grated tasty cheese, 1 cup crushed pineapple, drained, 1 and 1/2 cups plain flour, 1 dsp baking powder, 75 gm butter/marg, melted, 1 tsp dried oregano leaves.

Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Grease a 12 hole muffin tray. Heat the oil in a frying pan and gently fry the onion until tender, add the minced garlic and ham pieces. Cool the mixture and add the remaining ingredients. Stir gently to combine - do not over beat.

Three quarter fill each muffin cup, then bake in the preheated oven for 20 minutes or until a skewer inserted comes out clean. Once baked and cooled these muffins can be frozen. Place a frozen muffin in the lunchbox and it will thaw in time for lunch.

Salad Roll Ups



Ingredients:

2 sheets lavash bread, 90 gm mayonnaise, 50 gm bean sprouts, 115 gm shredded carrot, 1 small red onion, thinly sliced, 1 small Lebanese cucumber, thinly sliced, 3 cherry tomatoes, thinly sliced, 90 gm grated tasty cheese, Italian herb mix.

Lay out the sheets of lavash bread, with the short sides at the top and bottom. Spread with mayonnaise. Spread the bean sprouts and shredded carrot over the bread, leaving a border of 2.5 cm/ 1" down one long side. Scatter the onion, cucumber and tomato evenly over the carrot. Sprinkle the grated cheese all over the top followed by a sprinkle of Italian herb mix, avoiding the bare edge.

Fold the bare side of the bread over the filling. Roll up the lavash bread, keeping the folded side tucked in, so the filling does not fall out.

Chia and Quinoa Truffles



Ingredients:

2/3 cup quinoa, 150 gm pitted dates, 2 tbs boiling water, 1 cup crunchy peanut butter, 2/3 cup almond meal, 2 tbs chia seeds, 2 tbs cocoa, desiccated coconut or melted 70% cocoa chocolate, to coat.

Line a tray with baking paper. Place the quinoa in a saucepan with 1 and 1/2 cups of water and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer until the water has been absorbed. Cool and set aside. Process the dates and 2 tbs of boiling water until a thick paste forms. Add the quinoa mix, peanut butter, almond meal, chia seeds and cocoa. Process until well combined.

Using damp hands, roll the mixture into balls and place on the lined tray. Chill until firm. Roll the set balls in the melted chocolate and or desiccated coconut.

Raising Agents

Baking powder is a mixture of cream of tartar and bicarbonate of soda. When mixed with moisture, baking powder releases carbon dioxide that expands during baking to make food rise. Plain white flour is mixed with baking powder as a rising agent to give us self raising flour.

Bicarbonate of soda produces carbon dioxide when mixed with lemon juice or buttermilk.

Yeast is a single cell organism that converts the natural sugars in the flour to produce carbon dioxide. Yeast needs warmth, moisture and sugar to work. Yeast is available in both dried and fresh forms for baking.

Salmon Fishcakes



Ingredients:

50 gm frozen peas, 600 gm potatoes, peeled and chopped, 1 tbs dried chives, 360 gm can of salmon, 1 lemon, grated and juiced, 1 tbs flour, 1 egg, lightly beaten, 1 tbs canola / rice bran oil.

Heat a large saucepan with water and add the chopped potatoes, simmer until cooked through and add the peas for the last 3 minutes. Drain and mash the potatoes and peas. Set aside to cool. Drain the salmon through a colander, place into a bowl and use a fork to break into small chunks. Add the beaten eggs, chives and lemon zest and juice, mix it all together. Season with cracked pepper. Add the mashed potatoes to the salmon mix and stir until everything is well combined. Sprinkle a little flour over your work surface and a large plate. Divide the mixture into 8 balls. Use your hands to pat and shape into fishcakes, about 2 cm thick.

Place the formed fishcakes, singly on a lightly floured plate. Heat a large frypan over a medium heat with the oil. Carefully place the fishcakes in the pan and cook on each side until golden and crisp. Serve with a drizzle of the lemon juice.

NO BAKE RASPBERRY RIPPLE CHEESECAKE.



Ingredients:

125 gm butter/ marg, 250 gm plain sweet biscuits, 1 tsp vanilla extract, 450 gm cream cheese, 225 gm castor sugar, 300 gm fresh raspberries, 60 gm icing sugar, 400 ml thickened cream.

Place the biscuits in your processor or in a bag and crush them with a rolling pin into crumbs. Melt the butter/ marg in a saucepan. Tip the biscuit crumbs into the melted butter/ marg and stir through thoroughly. Line a 20 cm / 8" round cake pan (with a removeable base), with cling wrap.

Spoon in the biscuit mixture, press it flat with a masher and place in your refrigerator to set. Now let's start the raspberry puree by bringing the raspberries and icing sugar to the boil, then simmering for 10 minutes. Cool, then press through a sieve and set aside. Mix together the cream cheese, castor sugar and vanilla extract. Whip the thickened cream until stiff, then fold into the cream cheese mixture. Spread half the cheese mixture over the biscuit base. Then blob on 3/4 of the puree and swirl it into the cheesecake mix. Gently spread the remaining cheesecake mixture on top. Drizzle in straight lines the rest of the raspberry puree. Pull a skewer across the lines for a decorative effect. Leave the cheesecake in the refrigerator for a minimum of 4 hours or overnight before removing the sides of the pan and serving.



Station refurbishment update



Works have now started on the fire station refurbishment program as will be seen now the station has had temporary fencing erected all around. As well as getting a much needed internal refresh, there is also an extension being added on the South side which will include a Group Headquarters, a brigade office, storeroom, workshop, laundry and drying room, and a Breathing Apparatus cleaning and drying room. These additions and the remodelling will future proof the station for the next twenty years, with the added facilities giving a much needed boost to the brigade with dedicated spaces for equipment and personal protective equipment maintenance.

Monday May 4 - International Firefighters' Day



Together we remember them



ANZAC day on April 25 each year commemorates the contribution and sacrifice of veterans and serving personnel across time. It involves honouring, remembering, thanking and renewing connections with those who have served. Churchill Fire Brigade attended the ANZAC Commemoration Service in Churchill and laid a wreath in remembrance of the fallen. Lest we forget.



International Firefighters' Day is observed each year on May 4. On this date you are invited to remember the past firefighters who have died while serving our community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all. At the same time, we can show our support and appreciation to the firefighters world-wide who continue to protect us so well throughout the year.

By proudly wearing and displaying blue and red ribbons pinned together or by participating in a memorial or recognition event, we can show our gratitude to firefighters everywhere.

The IFFD ribbons are linked to colours symbolic of the main elements firefighters

work with – red for fire and blue for water. These colours also are internationally recognised as representing emergency service.

CFA Annual Memorial Service for Firefighters

Each year, on the first Sunday closest to International Firefighters' Day, CFA hosts its Annual Firefighters Memorial Service to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities.

The memorial service provides an important opportunity for family, friends and colleagues to come together to honour and remember members who have lost their lives while serving.

Since 1998, the service has been held at locations across Victoria, including Bendigo, Wangaratta, Sale, Warrnambool, Shepparton, Lilydale, Leongatha, Stawell, Frankston, Myrtleford, Geelong, Beaconsfield, Ballarat, Wodonga, Churchill, Belmont and Treasury Gardens in East Melbourne.

This year the Service is being held at VEMTC Central Highlands training centre, Ballan. Churchill Fire Brigade will be represented at the service, along with Churchill local Barry McLean whose son Darren died on March 7, 1982 as a result of an accident whilst fighting a fire on Middle Creek Road, Yinnar South.

Smoke Alarm Program

During April our Community Engagement Coordinator Craig and his team have been busily organising visits, and visiting and checking smoke alarms and batteries for senior members of our community.

This is a no cost annual service from the Churchill Fire Brigade and requires members to do several on - line training courses to be ready. Our seniors appreciate this service and it is a joy for our members to do something useful to help others.



Shop Local Markets continued..



SCHOOL news

Churchill North Primary

Churchill North Students Honour ANZAC Day through Meaningful Learning

The first week back at Churchill North Primary School has been filled with excitement, as students and teachers returned eager to share holiday stories, reconnect with friends, and dive back into learning.

Among the many highlights across the school, ANZAC Day learning has stood out as a meaningful and engaging focus for all year levels. With a strong

commitment to honouring the historical significance of ANZAC Day, teachers thoughtfully planned activities to help students understand and appreciate its importance.

From Foundation through to Year 6, classrooms were immersed in a range of age-appropriate and engaging experiences.

Our youngest learners in Foundation explored the story 'A Poppy to Remember', sparking thoughtful discussions

about the symbolism of the poppy and why ANZAC Day is commemorated. Students then expressed their understanding through beautiful poppy artwork.

In Years 1 and 2, students stepped into the role of bakers, heading to the school kitchen to prepare delicious ANZAC cookies with the guidance of their teachers after reading a story by Phil Cummings. The students used the Country Women's Association recipe, which they were able to take home.

This hands-on experience helped students connect with the traditions of the past in a fun and memorable way.

In Years 2 and 3, students investigated important ANZAC symbols, including the bugle, poppies, ANZAC biscuits, medals, and rosemary. Their learning was proudly displayed through creative and respectful presentations that honoured those who have served.

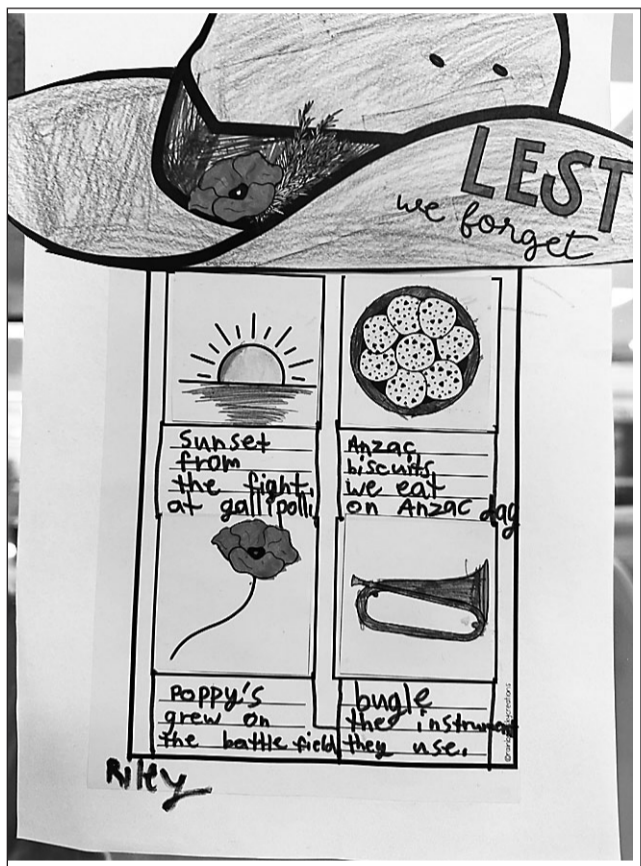
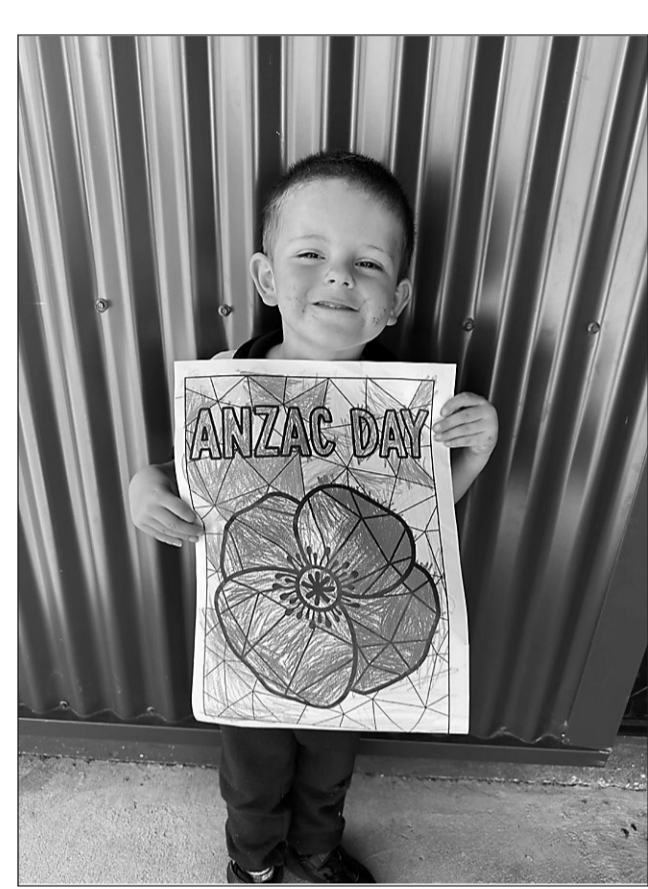
Year 4 students explored the history behind a well-loved tradition by reading

'ANZAC Biscuits'. Bringing their learning to life, students joined Mr. Chin in baking their own batch, connecting past and present through this meaningful activity.

Senior students in Years 5 and 6 deepened their understanding by watching an informative video about ANZAC Day, followed by mindful colouring activities featuring symbolic imagery. Their learning extended beyond the classroom, with our dedicated school leaders preparing to represent the

school at the Churchill ANZAC Day service. Alongside Mr. Price, they will deliver a speech honouring the occasion—an effort that has made the entire school community incredibly proud.

Churchill North Primary School is proud to foster respect, reflection and understanding in its students, ensuring the spirit of ANZAC Day continues to be remembered by future generations.



SCHOOL news

Boolarra Primary

Conference of the Birds

Conference of the Birds is a big performance that we are going to do in May. It takes place at the Boolarra Rail Trail at night. It will use lots of lights.

Margie and Gilbert are showing us the dance moves step by step. At the start of the dance we come in as groups of birds. Overall, the dancing and costumes look great.

The song that we dance to is called 'Black Fella, White Fella'. In the dances we pretend we are birds. We pretend we are magpies,

lyrebirds and sparrows.

You will enjoy the dance when we perform it.

By Gewalin, Emma and Richie.

Cross Country Run

At Boolarra Primary School, we had our Cross Country Run.

We did the cross country run at Boolarra Rail Trail. We had three groups running: Under 13, Under 10 and Under 7. After the run, we had a fun play in the park.

The Cross Country Run was very long. Some of us got very puffed-out.

I got very puffed. Other students ran for ages.

The students in the Run who are going on to the next level are Zed and Jake. We all enjoyed it but it was really good for the people who won. The 11-13 year olds ran 3km, the 8-10s ran 2km and the F/1/2s ran 700 meters.

We had lots of fun doing the Cross Country Run this year!

Easter egg baskets

This year for Easter celebrations, we made Easter egg baskets. The whole school helped make baskets, with even some of the

teachers joining in. We also made hats out of paper and decorated them.

It was interesting to cut them out and put them together. When we finished, we put them on our tables, and when we came back from play time, there were chocolate Easter eggs in our baskets! There were a lot of different baskets.

Some kids made baskets like diamonds and crystals, others made theirs comedic, using funny images. Some older kids helped the younger kids with their baskets.

A few funny things happened like our baskets kept falling apart and breaking, while some of our hats didn't fit our heads. We just became creative, making us add extra pieces.

I thought the whole experience was incredible and hilarious, particularly the basket disasters. It was nice to find chocolate eggs appear in our baskets.

Our Easter Egg Roll Event

The last day of term was lots of fun at Boolarra Primary School.

We had an Egg Roll Race with decorated eggs using

different colours. They were so cute. We walked up the hill and rolled our colourful and bright eggs down. There were a lot of kids and teachers cheering as we rolled them.

When we rolled our eggs, they smashed and spun around a lot. The hill is really long and not straight, so they broke easily into pieces. Mine broke into lots of blue pieces.

It was a really fun day.

By Oscar, Ava and Connor.



SCHOOL news

Churchill Primary

Easter Club Fun
At the end of first term, our Grade 1-4 students enjoyed attending Easter Club at the Cooperating

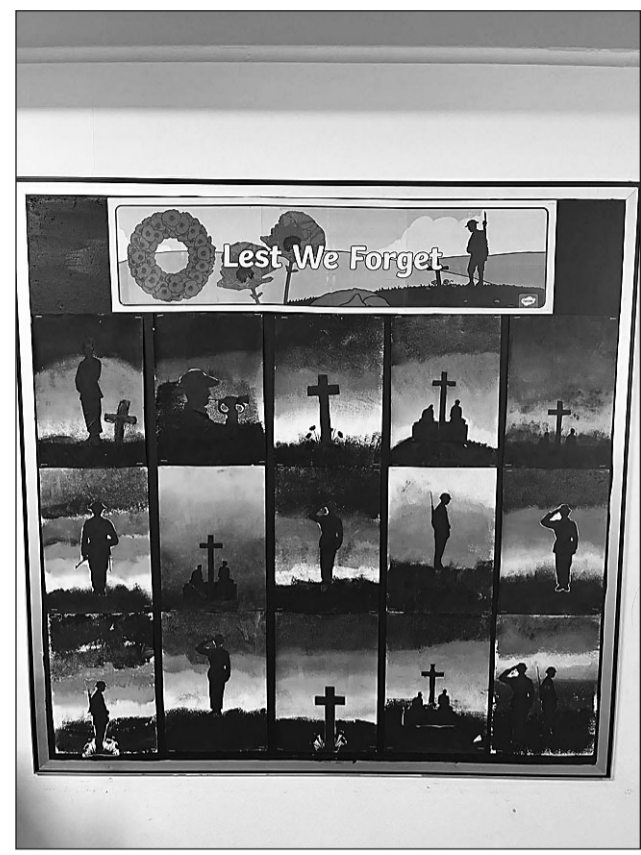
Churches. This special event provided a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about the story of Easter while connecting with

members of the Churchill community. A big thank you to Ruth and all the wonderful volunteers for supporting our students with the craft

activities. *Honouring ANZAC Day through Art*
During recent art sessions, CPS students

created thoughtful pieces to honour the soldiers who served in times of war as part of our ANZAC Day commemorations. Through

their artwork, students reflected on the significance of remembrance and paid tribute to those who have served our country.



SCHOOL news

Hazelwood North Primary

Totem Poles and tribute
Recently we had four totem poles installed in the central garden of our school. These totem poles have been decorated in the colours of the flags with handprints of current students and staff. A special fifth pole was installed next to the F-2 building to honour Andy, our beloved Education Support staff member, who suddenly passed away last November. Handprints for Andy were from students who worked with her regularly. We absolutely love how they turned out.

from Grades 3 to 6 competed in District Athletics this year. They entered in various events, such as running relays, sprints, long distance, high jump, long jump, discus, and shotput. With the fantastic weather on the day, an excellent time was had by all.

Easter Hat Parade
All classes had fun making Easter hats for this year's parade. The Grade 5/6 students helped their Foundation buddies to make their hats, while other classes made theirs out of paper plates, recyclables, leaves, gumnuts and materials found in the garden.

assessment at school during Term 1, Arthur passed his final assessment at Therapy Animals Australia in Bundoora over the holidays and received new badges for his vest. Congratulations, Arthur!

the first lot of plants into the sensory garden, and the rest of the money will be used to start putting together our planned veggie garden. We would love to try and double the number of cans/bottles collected this term so if you are able, please donate again this term, as the class with the most collected cans and bottles will win a whole class prize.

morning session at 9:30 to 10:30am with a morning tea to follow and an evening session from 6:00 to 7:00pm. Both sessions will include information and school tours.

District Athletics
Twenty-seven students

Game Shows
As part of the Grade 5/6 Term 1 inquiry project, students created their own games shows. To complete their study, they held two afternoons where families were invited in to experience the games and see what their hosts had learnt along the way.

Therapy Dog
It has not just been our students working hard at their learning, Arthur, our newly qualified Therapy Dog, has been putting in countless hours of training with Mrs Connolly and Sharon. Having already completed one formal

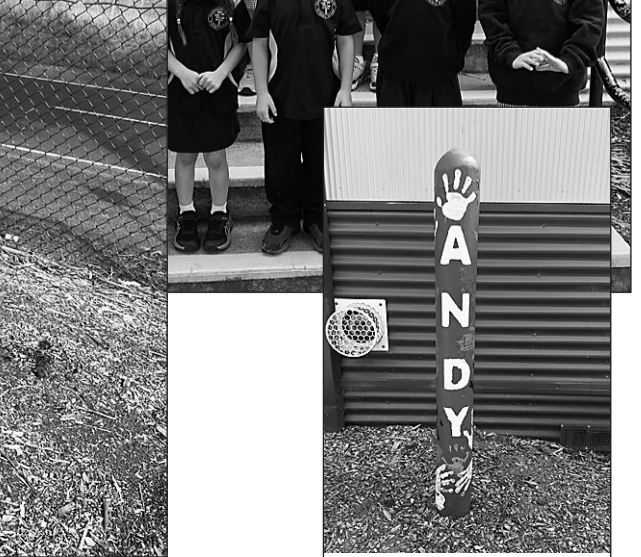
Goodall Group Thanks
Mr Murphy and the Goodall Group (Green Team) would like to send a big 'thank you' to all the families and community members who donated to our Term 1 recycling drive. We were able to collect 1674 cans and bottles, giving us \$167.40 to spend on our gardens. Students have already been out planting

Open Day and Evening
We are excited to be welcoming new families along to our planned information sessions for prospective 2027 Foundation students on Wednesday May 13, 2026. We will have a

Welcome Ms Ryan!
This term, we officially welcomed our Acting Principal, Ms Kim Ryan. While we will all miss Mrs Connolly, we are very excited to have Ms Ryan joining us for the rest of the year as Mrs Connolly and Arthur adventure around Australia. Having spent a couple of weeks at HNPS last term, Ms Ryan already fits into the team so well.



Left - Athletics Sports
Right - Easter Bonnet Hats
Below - Children planting trees
Below left - A sample of the totem poles
Below right - Andy's memorial



SCHOOL news

Lumen Christi Primary

Hats off to Creativity at Lumen Christi

There was a wonderful burst of colour and creativity at Lumen Christi Primary School as Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 students proudly showcased their handmade Easter bonnets in a joyful parade on Thursday April 2.

Under the guidance of their art teacher, Mrs Smythe, students spent time in their art lessons designing and creating their own unique bonnets.

Classrooms were filled with excitement as feathers, ribbons, flowers and Easter-themed decorations were carefully selected and assembled. Each bonnet

reflected the individuality and imagination of its creator, resulting in a vibrant display of creativity across the junior school.

The much-anticipated Easter Bonnet Parade brought together students, staff and families, who gathered to admire the colourful creations.

With big smiles and a sense of pride, the young students paraded through the school, modelling their bonnets for an enthusiastic audience of parents and community members.

Mrs Smythe praised the students for their effort and creativity, noting the care and thought that went into each

design. "It was wonderful to see the students express themselves so freely and take such pride in their work," she said.

The parade not only celebrated the artistic talents of the students but also provided an opportunity for the school community to come together in the spirit of

Easter. It was a memorable event, highlighting the joy, creativity and strong sense of community that defines Lumen Christi Primary School.



SCHOOL news

Kurnai University Campus

Eggcellent Egg Hunt

The Student Representative Council (SRC) hosted an "Eggcellent Egg Hunt and BBQ" on Thursday March 26, bringing together students for a fun and inclusive lunchtime event.

The egg hunt was a huge hit, with students eagerly searching high and low across the school grounds, creating a real sense of excitement and friendly

competition. Alongside the hunt, the SRC also ran a BBQ, providing a great opportunity for students to come together, enjoy some food, and connect with one another.

The event was a fantastic success and highlighted the SRC's ongoing commitment to creating positive, engaging, and inclusive activities for all students. It was wonderful to see so many students getting

involved and enjoying themselves.

A big thank you to the SRC members for their organisation and effort in making the day happen for our school community.

Halogen Inspiring Young Leaders

On Friday March 27, students from our Leadership Group had the exciting opportunity to attend the Halogen Inspiring Young Leaders event at

the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. The day was packed with inspiration, as students listened to a range of outstanding speakers, each excelling in their respective fields.

Among the highlights for our students was Catherine Laga'aia, who is set to become one of the most recognisable faces in the world with her upcoming Disney movie role as Moana. Catherine shared her journey,

showing how hard work, dedication, and a little bit of luck can open incredible opportunities.

Another standout speaker was Jacqui Bell, the youngest person on the planet to complete an ultra-marathon on all seven continents. Jacqui's story of perseverance, determination, and self-belief left a lasting impression on our students and staff, inspiring them to push beyond their limits and

embrace challenges with courage.

The day was a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage with real-life role models, reflect on their own leadership journey, and bring back ideas to positively impact our school community. The Leadership Group represented our school with pride, enthusiasm, and maturity throughout the event.



Student Leadership Group



SCHOOL news

Yinnar Primary

On the last day of Term 1, we celebrated Easter by holding our Easter Fair. The morning began with an egg toss, where families were encouraged to create a vessel to safely carry an egg, with the aim of landing it without it breaking. The creation was then launched across the netball court using our specially designed egg launcher, soaring through

the air as students watched in anticipation. It was carefully observed upon landing to determine whether it had survived the impact safely.

We also held an egg decoration competition, which showcased a wide range of creative and imaginative entries. Students transformed ordinary eggs into colourful, detailed, and unique designs.

This was followed by our annual Easter Fair, organised by the Junior School Council. The event was a wonderful success and enjoyed by all students, filled with fun, laughter, and plenty of chocolate.

A big thank you to all our families for their generous donations and ongoing support of the Easter Fair. Together, we are proud to

have raised almost \$1,500 for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

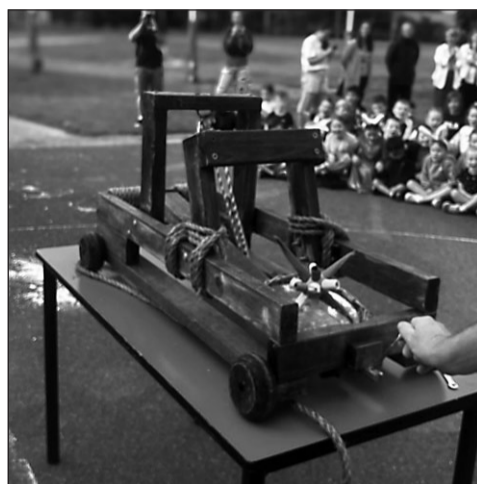
On Friday April 24, our school leaders hosted a special assembly to commemorate ANZAC Day. The assembly brought the school community together to reflect on the courage, sacrifice, and service of Australian and New Zealand

soldiers, both past and present. Students and staff gathered in a respectful silence as leaders shared readings

Our students have been learning about the historical significance of ANZAC Day during their first week back at school.

On Saturday April 25, our school leaders and many of our students and

teachers gathered on Main Street Yinnar. Together, we proudly marched alongside other schools and community groups to the town cenotaph to commemorate ANZAC Day. Our school leaders then laid a wreath in honour of the service and sacrifice of our servicemen and women.



SCHOOL news

Yinnar South Primary

Yinnar South Primary School has had a wonderful start to the year, with all of our students settling in quickly and confidently. It has been a pleasure to see classrooms filled with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a genuine sense of belonging as we begin another exciting year of learning together.

As a small rural school, we are proud to offer a learning environment where every child is truly known, valued, and supported. In 2026, we are running two classrooms—our P-2 Junior

Room, led by Mrs Joanne Ross, and our 3-6 Senior Room, led by Miss Joanna Watson. Having full-time teachers in each space allows us to provide consistent, targeted support while building strong, trusting relationships with every student. Our small class sizes mean that learning can be tailored to individual needs, ensuring that each child is both supported and challenged to achieve their personal best.

Across the school, students also take part in a

range of specialist subjects including Art, Science, and Auslan. These sessions are always a highlight of the week, giving students the opportunity to explore new skills, think creatively, and engage in hands-on learning experiences.

It is wonderful to see students so willing to have a go, take risks in their learning, and celebrate each other's successes.

Outside the classroom, there has been plenty of excitement as our new playgrounds have quickly

become a favourite for our Southies.

More than just a place to play, these spaces encourage students to think critically, solve problems, and work collaboratively. Whether they are navigating new equipment or creating imaginative games together, our students are constantly developing important social and thinking skills in a fun and active environment.

Our school garden has also continued to flourish over the summer months, providing an abundance

of fresh produce including snow peas, cherry tomatoes, zucchinis, and parsley. These ingredients have been put to great use in our much-loved Patch2Plate program, where students harvest, prepare, and cook their own food. One recent highlight has been making delicious sausage rolls using ingredients straight from the garden—a fantastic way to connect learning with real-life experiences while promoting healthy eating and sustainability.

At Yinnar South Primary

School, we are incredibly proud of the supportive, inclusive community we have built. Our size is one of our greatest strengths, allowing us to nurture each child's confidence, wellbeing, and love of learning. We warmly welcome enrolment enquiries and invite families to come and see firsthand what makes the little school on the hill such a gorgeous place to 'start, try and never give up!'

For school tours please contact 03 5169 1540.



Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club



Photo: Alpine dingo in the snow
Photo credit: Marcus Gwynne

On Friday May 22, the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists' Club will host speakers Marcus Gwynne and Jo Samuel-King from The Dingo Conservancy. They will outline the history of the animal and discuss recent research that found most dingoes alive today are pure, and that there are four distinct subspecies; Mallee, Desert, Alpine and Eastern dingoes.

Two of these subspecies are found in Victoria. They used to live throughout the state but are now only found in the Big Desert (Mallee Dingo) and alpine areas (Alpine Dingo). Surveys in 2024 by the Department of Environment found perilously low populations of 100 Mallee and 4,900 Alpine individuals remain.

Dingoes are shot and baited where their range overlaps with agricultural livestock, however this activity does not result in a straightforward increase in livestock health and numbers. One of the studies Marcus and Jo will speak about found that in Western Australia, "Dingoes greatly reduce high-density populations of larger kangaroo species and some feral animals, especially goats."

The reduction of these grazing animals lead to a greater abundance of fodder available to managed livestock. Dingoes are an apex species, next to humans. Apart from their role in predating kangaroos and goats, their presence has been linked to lower numbers of foxes and feral cats. This has had a positive effect on the number of small prey species active in the environment.

If you are interested in this topic you are welcome to join Field Naturalist Club members at Moe Library meeting rooms, 7.30pm on Friday May 22. The presentation will also be streamed online - please contact the club for the link. Email info@lvfieldnats.org or phone or text the secretary Rose on 0410 237 292

On Saturday May 23, there will be a club excursion. We hope to visit a dingo sanctuary on Mt Baw Baw however this is dependent on the weather forecast and the price of fuel. Arrangements for this or an alternative excursion location will be posted on our website.

Please visit our excursions page closer to the date for details, or call Rose 0410 237 292.



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ANZAC DAY

Churchill



No-one could have asked for better weather for ANZAC Day Churchill 2026. It was perfect. The Morwell Brass Band played hymns and other appropriate songs in the lead up to the ceremony. Peter Townsend was the MC for the day as Don George who had filled the role for many years, was unwell. Peter welcomed Joanne Campbell, Leanne Potter and Melina Bath as guests for the occasion. Then he spoke the following words as the Welcome Address At dawn on this day 111 years ago, Australian troops landed on a beach in a small cove, on the Gallipoli Peninsula, under heavy enemy fire for the first time in this campaign. This place would become known as ANZAC Cove. Sixteen thousand ANZAC troops landed at Gallipoli on 25th April 1915, and on that day 620 Australians would be killed.

By campaigns end an estimated 8,700 would die and another 18,000 would be wounded. At the start of WW1 Australians from many backgrounds, religions and nationalities enlisted and fought and died for this country. Sayings such as courage, mateship, compassion, respect, honour and digger were forged in the carnage of Gallipoli, and in the trenches of the Western Front which are still synonymous with the Australian Defense Force today. Due to the wide spread destruction and bloodshed, the remains of many service men were never recovered.

The population of Australia at this time was estimated at 5 million 100 thousand. From that population approximately 416,800 people enlisted. Some 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken as POW. A whole generation. Among those who died were some 25 nurses serving with the Australian Army Nursing Service. The names on the cenotaphs and honour boards erected in almost every country town, community and city around Australia at the end of the war, is testimony to the sacrifice of Australian men and women. We must also remember that the terrible conflict of WW2 came to an end some 81 years ago this year, where approx. 43,000 serving personnel lost their lives. David Lyne, President of the Churchill

Lions led the wreath laying ceremony with many groups participating from young to old. Three planes from the Aero Club did a fly over.

Peter Tait was called upon to do the guest speech. Here follows his words. ANZAC Day 2026

“A sixteen year old boy waits to board the Silver Star train at the Wellington Railway station. Its the evening of 3rd January 1978 and he is about to set off on a journey that will set the values and ethics around service and sacrifice that he lives by for the rest of his life. Things his parents could never teach him. An extraordinarily long overnight trip to Auckland to be met by a friendly WREN ushering us on to the bus to take us to HMNZS Tamaki to start basic training. A Petty Officer GI met us and proceeded to inform us of the rules and procedures that we must follow. The rule that made the most impact for me was “You are no longer children, you have joined this man’s navy and you will behave like a man”. We were expected to shave twice a day whether we needed to or not, wash our own clothes by hand and learn to iron. We knew how to embroider our names on our uniforms and replace a button. We learned to march, hold a rifle and fire it safely, hold formation and stand on parade for hours at a time without passing out. We never went to war, never fired a shot in anger, but we practised. Weeks at sea closed up at action stations, fully kitted up with fearnought suit and breathing apparatus at the after damage control station, waiting for the call that there was a fire or a hole in the side that had to be repaired or that emergency cables were needed to keep the steering gear operational. Running , running, running, no time to dawdle, everyone’s lives depended on you pulling your weight. 50 years later I now think upon how lucky I was to not have had to engage in any combat arenas, to endure the urgency of true battle and all the associated fears and anxiety, to suffer the loss of good mates and to experience dealing with the effects of war upon a person’s body and mind.

I often dwell upon the fact that during the First World War there were child soldiers who had felt that in their hearts, they must join the army to fight. The youngest should have been 18 years old though they would have needed permission from their parents to enlist. The youngest, James Charles Martin died at the age of 14 years and 9 months at Gallipoli from Typhoid. He lied about his age and as the army was frantically trying to raise numbers, there was little checking. There were those like the 12-year-old Perth boy Reginald Garth who stowed away on ships hoping to join the fighting. He was caught and sent home. And the young girl Maud Butler who not once but twice dressed up in khaki, cut her hair short and tried to jump on troop ships going to Egypt, was also caught and returned to her home. What inspired these children to want to enlist? Was it the promise of adventure? Was it a sense of duty? Was it peer pressure or was it something else that only they could tell us. They are no longer with us and must never be forgotten.

*Lest we Forget. “
Leanne Potter then introduced the students from our local schools to say
‘What ANZAC Day means to me.’*

The School Captains from Kurnai Junior Campus Sage and Rahzel delivered the following words: ANZAC Day reinforces the concept of mateship and the strength of our bonds with the people of New Zealand who we fought alongside in many conflicts throughout history, giving us the ANZAC name. It is often the toughest of times that bring us together the most. I remember during COVID-19 lockdown when we were limited with social connections. That year, we were unable to participate together in the Anzac Day services. Instead, we got up before dawn and went to the end of the driveway and listened to the dawn service on the radio. We lit candles for those who made the ultimate sacrifice and also to acknowledge all the defense forces for the important duty they perform for everyday Australians. That day when I placed our family’s wreath on the driveway, I think the

significance of Anzac Day really came to me. During the minute of silence, I remembered those who had lost their family members, their friends, their partners. I listened and felt pride in the stories that were broadcast on the radio and later through TV shows. The noble and courageous actions that had been taken to save others’ lives during combat and the risks they took in order to protect us. It is difficult to comprehend how many of those who fought were not that much older than us. This year is the first time I was given the opportunity to be involved in ANZAC day. It feels really important and I have an appreciation for the words and traditions upheld during this ceremony. Sadly, there is still much conflict in the world, and I hope we don’t face anywhere near the extent of injury and loss of life that we’ve suffered in the past. Thank you to all the service men and women who are ready to defend our great country. Today we acknowledge and honour those serving and those who have served in the past and pay our deepest respects for all those who gave their lives. Let us carry their spirit with us, not just today, but every day in our lives. Let us be worthy of the legacy they have left us. Lest we forget. Sage

I’ve realised that when I was younger I did do many activities in primary school, like making red poppies, colouring in and baking ANZAC biscuits. I must admit that I didn’t really begin to understand the significance of these activities until high school. Anzac Day for me means many things. For one it gives me pride in our nation. Pride that we can all come together to remember and pay our respects to those who lost their lives in wars for us, and for those who are currently serving our country at home and overseas. ANZAC Day also reminds me how forever grateful I am. Grateful for the amazing life we have in Australia. Grateful for those who fought for us, for those who still fight everyday for us. They have given us opportunities that we may have never had if they had not protected

Continued over...

Lest We Forget



ANZAC DAY

Churchill cont.



our country. For that I must always be grateful. I personally believe that ANZAC Day is very important as it allows us all to gather and pay our respects for the fallen soldiers from Gallipoli and every war Australia and New Zealand participated in. When I talk to my peers, we all agree it is a day of significance for us and important to learn about every year at school.

Rahzel.

Then our Primary School children from Churchill North, Churchill, and Lumen Christi delivered the following speeches.

Not all speeches had a name on them. Our apologies. To me, ANZAC Day means that we remember the brave soldiers that fought in the war. I think that it is important that I go to ANZAC day so that I can show my respect to them and what they have done.

I think it is good that we have the opportunity to come here and represent our school as the leaders. ANZAC day is a day to me where I can feel happy and sad at the same time because I am happy they fought but sad because many died. I am proud I am an Australian and

I am thankful to be here today.

Ebony

To me ANZAC Day reminds me of the brave soldiers how they fought for us and showed bravery and we should all be thankful for the sacrifices they made for our country. It makes me feel extremely proud that my grandfather lived during World War 2 and that I am an Australian.

Lizzy

ANZAC Day is a special

day because it is a time for us to remember the sacrifices of our fallen soldiers for our freedom. ANZAC Day is important to me because I remember the soldiers who fought in the war and died courageously. This makes me feel grateful for our freedom and peace we have in our country from our soldiers.

Bailey

As we gather here today, I would like to remember the people that sacrificed their lives for us to live on freely and peacefully. It means a lot to me because of my Pop and some of my other grandparents who were part of ANZAC which helps me feel so close to this day. To me ANZAC makes me feel grateful that some people fought selflessly to protect our land and freedom.

By Quinton

ANZAC Day is a special day when we stop and remember the soldiers who fought for Australia and New Zealand, especially the ANZAC's at Gallipoli. It helps us think about how brave they were and how hard life must have been for them, even when they were scared or far away from home. A time to stop and to thank them for their courage for protecting our country. We also remember the families who lost loved ones and the soldiers who still serve today. ANZAC Day reminds us to be grateful for our freedom and to always treat others with kindness and respect.

Good morning. Today, along with Australians everywhere, we gather to remember those who have served to defend Australia. We do

this because it is the anniversary of the day when Australian and New Zealand soldiers landed on the beach at Gallipoli in Turkey, on the 25th of April 1915. We remember and honour the brave men and women who served our country in times of war, especially the ANZAC soldiers. We thank them for their sacrifice and bravery. Because of them, we are able to live in a free country. Lest We Forget

ANZAC Day is a day to remember the people who died for us. They sacrificed themselves for us, this country, this nation. These Poppies rise each year just as our pride should. This day means as an Australian we should Stop, Think, Reflect and Celebrate.

Our soldiers were scared when they heard and saw the gun fire. But they kept fighting for their Country. Our Country. And we would not be who we are today without them and their sacrifices. We thank them as they are all heroes.

Upon the blood stained foreign ground, now comes a new growth - Poppies represent peace and victory. Let us thank all who went to war including my ancestors. Thank you all for listening.

Good morning everyone, service men and women and all present. I am here to tell you my thoughts about ANZAC Day. It amazes me how ANZAC Day is special and still a very big impactful day for our community. On behalf of myself and my school, and all the up and coming generations, I want to show my appreciation to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Thank you. ANZAC Day is a day to remember all those brave soldiers who gave their lives and

fought so that I could live free in Australia.

Good morning everyone and thank you for coming. Today we commemorate 111 years of ANZAC service and remember those who served and died in the war. We gather here to show our appreciation for the service of all veterans and currently serving men, women and animals, as it takes great courage and mateship. Thank you for your service. Lest we forget.

Leanne Potter congratulated the students, saying how proud it made us feel to hear their words. We have some wonderful young people to be our future.

Cathie Halliwell from the Co-Operating Churches prayed a very meaningful prayer for the day.

Peter Townsend read the Requiem, Then the Ode to the Fallen was said by Bruce Jeffrey OAM, who also thanked the organisers and everyone for their attendance. The Last Post and Reveille were played by Joseph Bonnici with a silent tribute between.

Then Bobby Nardu and Sue Townsend sang the New Zealand and Australian National Anthems. They were accompanied by the band. The Lions Club provided an excellent breakfast. The Rotary Club provided tea, coffee and ANZAC biscuits. It was a very social gathering with lots of friends to greet and thank, but with the ultimate aim to celebrate ANZAC Day with dignified ceremony. Thank you everyone for your respectful attendance, and to all who participated.



Lest We Forget

ANZAC DAY

Churchill cont.



Boolarra dawn service



ANZAC Day Boolarra

The Boolarra ANZAC Day Dawn Service was attended by over 50 members of the local community, who gathered in the early morning to pay their respects. Senior Constable Matt Ryan served as MC, guiding the service with dignity and respect. Roz Carstairs read the names of the fallen soldiers from the Boolarra district, honouring those who served and sacrificed.

This was followed by Dale Fransson playing the Last Post and Reveille, creating

a moving and reflective atmosphere for all in attendance.

Following the service, members of the community were invited into the hall for a warm breakfast, providing an opportunity to come together and reflect. The breakfast helped warm those who had braved the early morning conditions and was generously donated by the Boolarra Community Development Group. It was a fitting conclusion to a meaningful and well-supported community event.

Lest We Forget





ANZAC DAY

Yinnar



It was a big few days getting ANZAC day in Yinnar sorted again this year! Our flag bearers from Yinnar Primary School, Harry, Jimmy and Henry, started training on the Wednesday before and with plenty of help from Principal Christine Hall, they were ready to show off their skills by Friday afternoon at the school observance, where each class had prepared wreaths and even poems of their thoughts about the day.

I had spoken to Mirboo North Secondary School earlier on the Friday and then again at Yinnar Primary School at their assembly and it is always a privilege. Dawn Service was preceded by some archive footage of Australians in World War 1 and had narration of the poem 'Australia today, 1916' by Banjo Patterson. The Lions provided a delicious bacon and egg sandwich breakfast and Sonia and Jenny sorted out the coffee, tea and gunfire

breakfast.

Both the Dawn and the main service were well attended, with guest speaker Captain Cindy Jenkins CSC, providing some welcome remarks on both the historical aspects of the Royal Australian Navy's involvement in the Gallipoli landings and the relevance to current service life.

It was a great honour for us to have a current serving RAN ship's captain at the service in Yinnar, with proud parents Sheena and Gareth Peters in attendance.

The flag bearers again provided excellent service along with other students from the Yinnar Primary School (Amber, Fletcher, Patrick, Beau, Benna and Zeke) who read out the dedications to each of the crosses from World War 2. Many thanks to Nicky Gill for supporting the students on the day.

The March was further supported by Yinnar Veterans and Families, the Scouts and Cubs

(excellent flag drill by Miles Cooper), Kurnai College captains, Yinnar Primary, Yinnar South Primary and Yinnar Preschool.

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Pipes and Drums of the Morwell Caledonian Band for leading us and providing our bugler. They had to dash to make it to the Moe and then Morwell services after that. Altogether another great ANZAC day.

On ANZAC Day, Henry Cleaver, Jimmy Price and Harry Taylor had the honour of marching down Main Street Yinnar carrying the flags. Captain Luke Townsend gave us orders like "halt" and "attention." Some parts were pretty hard, especially when we were first learning how to put the flags into the frogs, which are the flag holders.

Even though we found it tricky at first, we got the hang of it in the end. Jimmy carried the Australian flag, I carried the New Zealand flag, and Harry carried the Great Britain flag.

It was a real privilege to carry the flags, representing Yinnar Primary School on ANZAC Day.

We had to carry them in a special way to make sure we looked smart and respectful. Sometimes it was difficult, like when the flags blew in our faces and we couldn't see if we were still in step. We also had to stand still in the street for quite a while, while people were speaking.

A big thank you goes to Captain Luke Townsend for spending so much of his time helping us practise. The three of us really appreciated him coming in, to help us perfect our marching. Another big thank you goes to Mrs Hall for giving us the honour of being flag bearers. We all felt really proud to be part of such an important day, and it was an experience we will always remember.

By Henry Cleaver, Harry Taylor and Jimmy Price

Lest We Forget