Issue Number 261 ~ October 14, 2026

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

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SCAN TO VIEW: CDNEWS.COM.AU



ARC Yinnar - p8



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Disc Golf Masters Championships









The Victorian Masters Series players took to the road again on September 5, this time to Mathison Park in Churchill on the excellent course located here.

With the threat of some nasty weather and possible lightning, 12 players took to round one with a 13th joining for round two.

Six locals took to the course with a majority of them having their first taste of disc golf competition, and learning a lot from the more seasoned players.

Outside of a 20 minute period early in round two when the heavens opened and the wind roared through, it turned out to be excellent conditions for disc golf.

The swampy area at 15 was handled well by the players.

Both MA50 and MA55 (indicates the age of the player) saw an exciting battle between two players each with the final result after two rounds being one shot difference with both divisions seeing a lead change over the final few holes.

Between rounds of the Victorian Masters Series, a free "Come and Try" session from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm was available at Mathison Park. The session was open to people of all ages and abilities, providing the perfect opportunity for anyone who has been curious about disc golf to give it a go. Experienced players were on hand to provide discs, basic instruction and guidance throughout the session. Easy to learn, affordable and suitable for the whole family, disc golf is a great way to combine fun, fitness and community.

Unfortunately, the threat of bad weather seemed to put off any attendees.

Keep your eyes open though for further event of disc golf held in the park for another opportunity to have a go.

With one round left to go in the Victorian Masters Series 2026, it could come down to who turns up for the event, so let's hope players turn out to make it an exciting finish to the season.

Divisional Champions

- MP40: Mathew Redmond
- MA40: Paul Baker
- MA50: Peter Barry
- MA55: Paul Tindall
- MA60: Doug Adams

CTBs

- Hole 1, All In: Doug Adams
- Hole 9, MA 50, 55, 60: Peter Barry
- Hole 13, MP40 and MA40: Paul Baker

BE A Churchill LOCAL SHOP LOCAL

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Christmas Market
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

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Neighbourhood Centre

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

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MEMBER 2026

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We acknowledge the support of
LatrobeCity
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Maryvale Private Hospital strategic plan

Maryvale Private Hospital plans capacity for 1,000 more local patients a year.

Five-year strategy targets growth in services, workforce and access to private care in Gippsland.

Gippsland's only private acute medical and surgical hospital has released a five-year strategic plan aimed at treating around 7,000 patients a year in the region by 2031 — around a thousand more than it cares for today.

Maryvale Private Hospital's 2027–2031 Strategic Plan sets out how the not-for-profit hospital will grow its clinical services, support its workforce and expand access to private healthcare for people who would otherwise travel outside the region for treatment.

Maryvale has cared for more than 65,000 patients since it opened in 1991. The plan was built with the hospital's staff and visiting medical officers, its Board, its Medical and Community Advisory Committees, and its owner, Latrobe Health Services.

Chief Executive Officer Daniel Scholtes said the plan was about narrowing the distance between the care Gippsland needs and the care it can get close to home.

"Every week, people in this region travel for procedures that could be delivered here," Mr Scholtes said. "This plan is about changing that — more capacity, more specialists and more services, delivered locally, so fewer families have to make that trip.

As a not-for-profit hospital, we have no shareholders. Every dollar we earn is reinvested in our services, our facilities and our people. That is what allows us to build local healthcare capacity rather than send it elsewhere."

The plan is organised around four goals: that Maryvale's people thrive and lead; that the hospital is an active member of its community; that it delivers high-quality care reflecting its community's needs; and that it remains an agile and sustainable health service.

Board Chair Nathan Voll said the strategy honours Maryvale's history while committing the hospital to a clear direction.

"For more than three decades, Maryvale has existed for one reason: so that people in Gippsland can access quality private healthcare without travelling far from home," Mr Voll said. "That purpose is no less important today than it was in 1991.

This plan is ambitious, and deliberately so. It commits us to supporting our people, working alongside our community and remaining a strong, sustainable and trusted provider for generations to come."

Over the life of the plan, the hospital will focus on attracting and retaining healthcare professionals, deepening relationships with local practitioners, and investing in the services and infrastructure needed to meet growing demand. Its work is guided by its values of Kindness, Collaboration and Excellence.

The 2027–2031 Strategic Plan is available at maryvaleph.com.au

Rainfall



Churchill Rainfall

Rainfall for the month of September for Churchill was fairly low with a total of 27mm. September so far is currently the second driest month of the year here in Churchill.

The month started off promisingly for rainfall with the highest 24 hour rainfall of 14.5mm falling in the first week of the month. After that we did not receive many high daily rainfall totals.

We had a few cool mornings with a few frosts but overall we were close to average for minimum and maximum temperatures.

Churchills' rainfall Year to Date total is now 405.5mm

Hopefully October will give us the rainfall that is badly needed.

Rain at Hazelwood South

September had the third lowest rainfall in 40 years. The 39mm for the month; averages 1.3mm per day, and with a roof area of say 150 square metres, that is 195 litres per day into the tank; enough for about one load of washing plus one shower each day, and no water for the garden, and flushing the toilet. The month's 39mm of rain is 44% of the September average, and for the year the deficit has increased to 9% from 1% in August. The higher temperatures are drying the bush out early, and lowering the ground water level. The higher ocean temperatures make it more likely to receive summer rain from the Timor Sea and Indian Ocean.

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November 17, 2026. Morwell RSL. 12 noon till late.

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Kinder shapes the way our children play, learn and grow. That's why Victorian families with three- and four-year-old children can access two years of Free Kinder, saving up to $2,700 per child, per year.

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CHURCH news

Co-Operating Church Snippets

Matthew 18:21-35 was the focus of our second Sunday service. Melissa took the children's talk in which she retold the Bible reading about forgiveness using some hand puppets. The children were involved and helpful as she explained the story and how Jesus asks us to continue to forgive those who hurt us in some way. But she also emphasised the importance of forgiving others generously.

Our services always have a wonderful selection of hymns to sing which fit in with the service theme or are favourites.

Cathie's theme for her Sunday September 20 service was Growing in Faith, Growing in Joy, Growing in Love.

Philippians 1:21-30 and Matthew 20: 1-16 were the focus of Cathie's service.

Faith grows through difficult times, as illustrated by Paul's life, yet somehow Paul continued to have Christ as the centre of his life. This shows Christians do not have to pretend everything is fine when it is not. Sometimes life hurts, we struggle, have questions for which we do not have answers. Sometimes faith feels difficult.

Cathie reminded us that we are a work in progress - we never stop growing in faith, joy and love. There are still things to learn and implement in our faith journey. The good part of being God's family is we do not have to do it alone. We can listen, work together, encourage and help one another, be patient, share, serve, be there.

The challenge: How can I help someone else to grow?

Matthew 20: 1-16 is where a very kind and generous vineyard owner kept going out and hiring workers for his vineyard up to five in the afternoon. This owner does not want anyone to miss out. At pay time everyone received the same pay. Those who had worked all day grumbled thinking they should earn more. The owner told them they had agreed to work for him for that pay. He told them to take their earnings and go. He said I have a right to do what I want with my money. Why be envious because I am generous. Cathie asked the children who do you think the owner represents. Their answer was God. Yes,

This reading illustrates God's sense of fairness as opposed to ours which may hide a sense of self importance. God wants everyone to have all that is necessary for them to flourish. God does not mind when we come to know Him, He accepts with His grace and mercy. The reading also challenges us to examine the selfishness that is often labelled as 'Fair" in a world that puts high value on being successful. The wealthy and powerful are promoted as being worthy of their positions, whereas the poor and suffering are often seen as being responsible for their own misfortune.

We do not all begin in the same place or at the same age with our faith. We do not understand things at the same speed, or have the same gifts, or the same experiences. Our lives follow diverse paths.

Some people have known Jesus for as long as they can remember. Some discover faith later. Some are still asking questions. Sometimes faith has been strong, other times difficult. Our journey is ours and we do not need to compare. The wonderful part is God continues to call, invite, work and be generous. We can ask "God, where are you calling me to grow? Is it in patience, courage, forgiveness, generosity, prayer, how we treat someone, in love for God and one another."

We do not need to grow alone.

Craft connections

Craft connections at the Co-Operating Churches in Churchill has had a month of card making with an exceptionally talented teacher. All the supplies to do this have been sponsored by St. Matts Op Shop Yinnar. A wonderful group of women come together every Tuesday morning where skills have been shared and friendships have blossomed. The group members are very supportive of each other and full of laughter and fun. Morning tea is provided and everyone is welcome. Please feel free to contact Sue on 0411 714 564 for more information.





Church Times

Co-Operating Churches of Churchill
Sunday Services: 10.00am
1 Williams Avenue,
Churchill.
Tel: 5166 1819

King of Glory Ministries

Yinnar / Boolara
Meeting at RSL Hall, Yinnar
3.00pm each Sunday.

Prayer and Bible Study
10.00am Mondays at
Yinnar Bakery
and Coffee Shop.
10.00am 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 Sacred Heart, Morwell.
Sunday 9.00am Lumen Christi, 37-39 Williams Ave, Churchill.
10.30am Sacred Heart, Morwell.
Thursday 5.00pm at Lumen Christi
9.00am every 4th Sunday alternating between Yinnar / Boolarra.
See Church bulletin or call 5134 2849

Boolarra / Yinnar Co-Operating Parish Boolarra / Yinnar
10.00am 1st and 3rd Sunday.
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

King of Glory Ministries International

King of Glory Conference

King of Glory Ministries International's fifth annual conference will be held from November 11 to 13 at the Churchill Christian Fellowship hall, 762 Tramway Rd Churchill with the theme "Rise, Shine! For your light has come!"

The Wednesday 11th session will just be the evening, and the other two days will be both day and evening sessions.

Full details are on the KOGMI website, https://kogmii.com/events/conference-2026/

Worship will be led by well-known musicians David and Rosanna Palmer, who have led worship at all the KOGMI conferences so far. David and Rosanna are pastors of Eternity Centre, Kerang, and will also speak at some sessions.

Other conference speakers are Brian Heath, pastor of City Builders Church at Sale, Patrick O'Neal, leader of Heart Apostolic Ministries, and Lynn Fowler, leader of King of Glory Ministries International.

Everyone is welcome, but if you are planning to come to the day sessions please register on the web site, as this helps us with our planning.



Conference speakers - from top left - Brian Heath, David and Rosanna Palmer, Patrick O'Neal, Lynn Fowler

Churchill Christian Fellowship

By Steve McNeilly (Pastor)

Three members or attendees at Churchill Christian Fellowship have this year been doing a Bible School course called 'Deeper and Wider' at our Moe church.

'Deeper and Wider' is a one-night-a-week course with 20 units, each with four sessions. There are ten Spiritual Development units on topics such as Knowing Who We Are in Christ, Healing in the Gospel, The Holy Spirit, Victorious Living and Hearing From God. There are also ten Outreach and Evangelism units including Revival History, Every Believer Evangelism, Making Disciples, Spiritual Warfare, Missions Principles and Apologetics.

Each evening, we do one Spiritual Development session and one Outreach and Evangelism session with a short break in between.

If possible, we would like to run this course in Churchill in 2027.

Do you want to go deeper in God and wider in Christian influence in society? Maybe this is something you should consider.

Enquiries welcome.

Our men's breakfasts now happen on the third Saturday of each month, $5 suggested donation, 9am start. Ladies' meetings continue on Wednesdays, Home Fellowship on Tuesdays and other special events as advertised.

Visitors are always welcome.

For more information or to receive regular newsletters, please call 0409 173 747.

#Lovegippsland stronger communities grants now open

Gippsland community organisations can apply for grants of up to $20,000 to help deliver local infrastructure projects under Round 10 of the #lovegippsland Stronger Communities Programme (SCP). Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester has called for expressions of interest from eligible local groups, with grants of between $2,500 and $20,000 available across the electorate.

"In total, Gippsland has been allocated $150,000 for projects that deliver practical social benefits and strengthen local communities," Mr Chester said. "The Stronger Communities Programme has helped dozens of local organisations turn good ideas into worthwhile projects that increase participation, improve facilities and make our towns better places to live.

Previous grants have supported projects such as the development of Sale's Seed Community Garden, a wet-weather shelter at Bruthen Lions Park, extensions to the Gippsland Immigration Park Heritage Walk in Morwell, and improvements to the playground and picnic area at Mathison Park in Churchill.

These are exactly the types of grassroots projects that make a real difference in regional communities. Local groups are very good at making every dollar stretch further, combining these grants with their own fundraising and volunteer effort to deliver projects that might otherwise be out of reach." Mr Chester urged potential applicants to carefully review the Round 10 guidelines before submitting an expression of interest.

"Projects must meet the eligibility requirements and directly align with at least one of the program objectives," Mr Chester said. "I encourage any community organisation considering an application to check the guidelines early and make sure their proposed project is eligible." Expressions of interest are now open and will close at 5pm on Monday, November 23, 2026. EOIs must be submitted via Mr Chester's website, www.darrenchester.com.au, to be considered. EOIs will be assessed by a Community Consultation Committee, with shortlisted organisations invited to submit a full application.

Churchill Scout Group celebrates 60 years of Scouting

1st Churchill Scout Group

Churchill Scout Group is proud to be celebrating an incredible milestone, we are marking 60 years of Scouting in our local community. Since our establishment in 1966, the group has provided generations of young people with opportunities to develop confidence, leadership skills, friendships, and a spirit of adventure through the Scouting movement.

Over the past six decades, hundreds of local youth have taken part in activities ranging from camping and hiking to community service projects and leadership development programs, as well as attending major events that shape them for the future. Many former scouts, youth members and leaders have gone on to make valuable contributions to the wider community, carrying with them the skills and values learned through Scouting.

To commemorate this special anniversary, the Churchill Scout Group is inviting current members, former scouts, leaders, volunteers, families, and members of the public to join in the celebrations on Saturday October 17.

The event will be an opportunity to reflect on the group's rich history, reconnect with old friends, and recognise the dedication of the volunteers who have helped shape the organisation over the years.

Guests will be able to explore displays showcasing photographs, memorabilia, and stories from the group's 60-year journey.

There will also be activities for families and young people, along with opportunities to learn more about Scouting and its continued role in developing young Australians.

The Churchill Scout Group would like to thank the local community for its ongoing support throughout the years and looks forward to celebrating this significant achievement with everyone who has been part of our story.

Whether you are a former member, a supporter, or simply interested in learning more about Scouting, everyone is welcome to attend and share in this memorable occasion.

Join us on October 17, as we celebrate 60 years of friendship, adventure, community service, and Scouting at Churchill Scout Group.



Thursday November 5, 2026 11am GPAC Main Theatre

They Sang at Carnegie Hall

For more than a century, Carnegie Hall has stood as one of the world's most celebrated stages.

An iconic venue where the greatest voices in music history have captivated audiences. From Maria Callas, Billie Holiday and Judy Garland to Edith Piaf, Shirley Bassey and Dolly Parton, generations of extraordinary female performers have graced its hallowed stage, cementing Carnegie Hall's reputation as a beacon of musical excellence.

In 'They Sang at Carnegie Hall', acclaimed Australian performer Bernadette Robinson (Songs for Nobodies, DIVAS) brings these legendary artists vividly to life in a breathtaking display of vocal and theatrical artistry. Seamlessly transforming between music icons, Robinson recreates the voices, personalities and unforgettable performances that helped make Carnegie Hall a legend. Renowned for her astonishing vocal versatility and masterful character portrayals, Robinson delivers an intimate and enthralling celebration of some of the greatest female singers of all time.

Jimeoin

Saturday November 21 7.30pm, GPAC Main Theatre, Tickets from $64

Catch Jimeoin for his unique blend of observational humour, physical expressiveness, and spontaneity. Join Jimeoin as he turns the everyday into the absurd, often riffing on mundane moments. Get a peek inside one of our great comic minds as he bounces from one quirky thought to another. For a great night of guaranteed laughs, why not do something spontaneous and book a ticket to see one of the greats live.

Churchill & District Lions Club

Meet
1st and 3rd Wednesday
of each Month

Contact Secretary Peter Tait
Phone: 0421 167 915

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Friends of Morwell National Park



Australian Cheesewood



Small Poranthera Microphylla

The day's activity was to have a plant ID walk around Fosters Gully. Caitilin welcomed the group and gave the safety reminders. She commented positively upon all of the new members who have joined the group over the last year. In sad news a group has broken into the shed and undertaken some redecoration in the shed. A sheet of iron has been ripped off the side of the shed (to provide access), and a back door remains open. This will need to be reported to Parks.

The group split with Matt, Anita, Duncan and Peter travelling up to the Blue Gum Hill Track.

A few months back the group had cleared this track up to a large tree which had fallen across the track, across a few of the zig zags near the top of the hill. The group inspected the blocked track and concluded that the tree is too large to remove from the track, but it would be possible to divert the track around the tree if a few steps were constructed. A few of this group were able to divert around the tree and make it to the top of Blue Gum Hill.

Caitilin, Ken, Gordon, Cathy and Darren completed the plant ID walk around Fosters Gully.

Before the beginning of the Fosters Gully track a koala was seen. The koala started warming in the sunshine and then moved into the shady side of the tree.

During the walk many birds were seen and lyrebirds were heard calling. Over the walk many plants were observed and some of these are shown.

During the Plant ID walk Gordon and Darren led to Lyndon's Clearing looking for both plants and birds. Caitilin, Cathy and Ken investigated more closely. The group reformed at Lyndon's Clearing and after checking the side creek completed the loop back to the picnic area.

The whole group reformed at the picnic area, with each group returning at different times.

We were not the only walkers out in the Park on this Sunday. Many family groups overlapped us on our walks. It was a lovely spring day to be out walking in the National Park.

Thanks go to Ken, Caitlin and Gordon who shared their photos from the day.

October Activity - Sunday October 18

Activity 1 - Koala Count 10.00am

The Friends of Morwell National Park will be carrying out the annual 'Koala Count in the Park'. Willing participants are requested to meet at the Kerry Road - Fosters Gully car park at 10.00am to commence the Koala count. The 'Koala Count in the Park' event is part of the long-term strategy to document the numbers and measure the general health of the koalas within Morwell National Park. Bring your family and friends and enjoy a pleasant stroll in the park while simultaneously helping the team by spotting the resident koalas that can be found in the park. Participants are advised to bring suitable clothing and footwear applicable for the weather conditions, and if possible, bring a pair of binoculars as it certainly makes it easier to spot the koalas.

If you are staying for the orchid walk you will need to bring your lunch, which can be eaten in the Kerry Road picnic area between the activities.

Activity 2 – Orchid Walk 1.30pm

The second activity will be a walk around Fosters Gully or Stringybark Track to search for the orchids which can be found at this time of the year. You will need to bring clothing suitable for the weather conditions on the day.



Forest Clematis



Yellow Admiral

Martin **CAMERON MP**

MEMBER FOR MORWELL

Your truly local voice in state parliament



martin.cameron@parliament.vic.gov.au
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THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria



Melina **BATH MP**

THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN

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2/181 Franklin St, Traralgon VIC 3844
03 5174 7066
MelinaBathMLC

BOOK REVIEW

"The Echo Chamber" by John Boyne 2021

John Boyne is an Irish novelist and author who received a Bachelor of Arts from Trinity College in Dublin and a Master of Arts from the University of East Anglia. He has written sixteen novels for adults, five for younger readers, two novellas and a collection of short stories. His best-known book is "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" which has been made into a film. Born in 1971 he is openly gay but refers to himself as a man. He does not want unwanted terminology forced upon him but respects how others refer to themselves.



This story is set in London and is told in five parts, beginning in 2004 and documents milestones in the development of social media. Each chapter begins with a snapshot of where the Cleverly family are at that particular time then moves on to real time. The entire story is told over the course of a week.

The Cleverly family comes from wealth and privilege. George, who refers to himself as a "national treasure" hosts a talk show on the BBC and is used to mixing with the rich and famous. His wife Beverly is an author who has written two mediocre novels but now employs ghost writers to do the work for her. She has recently appeared on "Strictly Come Dancing" and is having an affair with her much younger Ukrainian dance partner. He has gone back to Ukraine for his father's funeral and left his pet tortoise in her care, with strict instructions to feed it leafy greens. When she discovers it likes after dinner mints she doesn't worry about the greens.

The eldest son Nelson is a teacher who is in therapy because he has trouble relating to women. He feels more secure when wearing a uniform, preferably scrubs or those of the police. Their daughter Elizabeth volunteers at a soup kitchen with her boyfriend Wilkes and they are thinking of going to Indonesia to work in a leper colony. Privately Elizabeth has a social media account called "@TruthisaSword" where she posts vicious and spiteful comments about people. Her main aim in life is to increase her number of followers. The youngest child is Archilles and he attracts men online then extorts money from them. All three live at home and have no intention of moving out.

When sixty year old George discovers that his lover is pregnant he decides to see his solicitor to sort things out. He asks the receptionist where Aiden is and when she becomes aggressive George is rude to her. When he is told that this is actually Aiden who has transitioned, he posts online what he intends to be a message of support.

However he uses the wrong gender and social media explodes. He is required to go on the BBC News and make a public apology but he has a total meltdown and is escorted off the set. When he is asked to meet the head of the BBC he is met by an angry mob and needs to be escorted into the building. Miraculously he keeps his job and two other staff are dismissed. The story moves on to an unlikely climax followed by an even more unlikely conclusion.

This satirical novel pokes fun at our dependence on our mobile phones and social media. We all enjoyed this often "laugh out loud" story but it also made us aware that messages on social media can easily be misunderstood. In face-to-face discussion body language gives important clues as to the intent of the conversation. It also made us aware of how language around identity is changing.

For older people the new terminology goes against what we were taught to be grammatically correct. The author uses Wilkes to represent the extremes of wokeness and the Cleverly family to represent arrogance and bigotry. The message we can take from this book is to choose your words carefully and with kindness.

Plants In My Garden

By Mike Beamish

Species: Chiloglottis formicifera.

Family: Orchidaceae.

Derivation:

Chiloglottis: From Greek, cheilos, meaning 'lip', and glottis, meaning 'mouth of the windpipe' and referring to the resemblance of the orchid's labellum, with its conspicuous callus, to the human windpipe.

formicifera: From Latin, formica, meaning 'ant' and –ferens, meaning 'carrying or bearing' and referring to the resemblance of labellum calli to an ant.

Common Name: Eastern Wasp Orchid or Common Ant Orchid.

Distribution:

From south-east NSW (Nowra area), along the coast and ranges northward to Mt Norman in Queensland, and inland to The Pilliga and Warrumbungles.

At one time, also naturalised in New Zealand, but not recorded there in recent times. Grows in moist, sheltered sites in grassy or shrubby woodland and open forest.

Description:

Plants form a pair of green leaves to 60mm long by 25mm wide and may produce a single stem to 10cm tall holding a single greenish or reddish flower with a dark labellum callus. Sepals are up to about 12mm in length and the labellum is trapezium-shaped, 10mm long and covered with an extensive callus consisting of a few large glands and numerous smaller ones. Flowering occurs from late winter throughout spring.

Opinion:

My plants are in a hanging basket with several other species of orchids, probably causing dedicated growers to have conniptions and shake their heads in horror. They seem to like it though, and are slowly increasing in numbers. The problems will come when it is time to repot due to overcrowding.

I am only a beginner when it comes to growing orchids, so it always worries me when it comes to disturbing the plants. Generally, the colony-forming orchids like this species are considered easy to grow, but the main concerns are keeping the snails and bugs at bay and getting the watering right. Keeping the mix too damp over the warmer months can result in all the tubers rotting, but not watering enough may cause the tubers to desiccate. Disturbing the mix is the most likely time to upset the plants or unwittingly introduce pathogens. Oh, the stress!

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:

Copeland & Backhouse – Guide to the Native Orchids of NSW and ACT.

Jones – A Complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia, Third Edition.



Whispers of the Forest
A Journey through spirit and time
An Exhibition by
Alvina Bishop- Edwards
Mandi Thorpe & Valerie Hibberd
Arc Yinnar
Main Street Yinnar
31 October - 28 November 2026
Opening Event 31 October, 3pm
arc yinnar
EVERY FOREST HOLDS A STORY
EVERY STORY LEAVES ROOTS

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/dannyobrienmp
THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria

ARC Yinnar art exhibition

Whispers of the Forest comes to ARC Yinnar.

Whispers of the Forest: A Journey Through Spirit and Time comes to ARC Yinnar from October 31 to November 28, 2026, bringing together the work of Gippsland artists Alvina Bishop-Edwards, Valerie Hibberd and Amanda (Mandi) Thorpe.

Through painting, sculpture and mixed media, the three artists offer different perspectives on the forest and our relationship with the natural world.

Alvina Bishop-Edwards explores trees and organic forms as symbols of memory, resilience and interconnectedness. Her work reflects both the spiritual presence of trees and the beauty, fragility and vulnerability of the natural environment.

Valerie Hibberd draws upon mythology, folklore and storytelling, exploring how stories connect us with nature, cultural memory and those who came before us. Her forests are inhabited by ancient guardians, mythical creatures and echoes of stories both old and new.

Mandi Thorpe, working in clay and paint, uses motifs of goddesses, animals and trees to explore the interconnectedness of spirit, soul, mind and heart with the earth. Emerging from meditation and quiet creative practice, her work expresses hope for a more positive future for forests, animals and people.

Together, the artists invite visitors to step beyond the forest as simply landscape and consider it as a place of memory, spirit, story and connection.

Whispers of the Forest: A Journey Through Spirit and Time

ARC Yinnar

Main Street, Yinnar

October 31 – November 28, 2026

Opening: Saturday October 31, 3pm. All Welcome

For further information: Valerie Hibberd, E gippscreative@gmail.com, T 0432 702 272



Arc Exhibition L-R Alvina, Valerie, Mandi

Positive Ageing Festival

Latrobe City Council's Positive Ageing Festival is back this October, bringing together more than 100 events and activities designed to celebrate, support and connect older residents across the municipality.

Latrobe City Council Mayor, Councillor Sharon Gibson, said the festival was a way to honour the generations who have helped shape Latrobe City into the community it is today.

"Positive ageing is about remaining connected, active and involved in the things that matter most to you," Councillor Gibson said.

"The Positive Ageing Festival provides opportunities for people to try new things, meet others, explore local services and enjoy a range of fun activities.

With more than 100 events on offer, there really is something for everyone. We encourage people to book early, particularly for the Country Concert featuring Wendy Stapleton, as bookings are already filling fast."

As part of the Victorian Seniors Festival, Australia's largest celebration of older people, the Positive Ageing Festival highlights the valuable contribution older residents make to Latrobe City while creating opportunities to build new connections, learn new skills and stay active.

The month-long festival includes a diverse program of free and low-cost events for people aged 55 years and over, as well as their families, carers, friends and support networks. The program includes everything from historical walking tours, music performances and social gatherings to behind-the-scenes bus tours, health and wellbeing activities and learning opportunities across Latrobe City.

The festival delivers on priorities set out in the Council Plan 2025-2029 by creating opportunities for community connection, participation and access to Council services.

People are encouraged to browse the full festival program and secure their place at events as soon as possible.

For the full program and bookings, visit: www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Positive_Ageing_Festival



LIONS CLUB OF CHURCHILL & DISTRICT AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

2027 NOMINATION FORM

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

DETAILS OF PERSON / PERSONS / GROUP BEING NOMINATED

Full name of citizen/persons/organisation/event: _____

Contact name (if nominating organisation/event): _____

Residential address: _____ Town: _____

Postal address: _____

Suburb: _____ Post Code: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (M) _____

Email: _____

Date of birth of nominee (if nominating Young Citizen/Young School Citizen of the Year):____/____/____

Reason for Nomination: Contribution/s to the community for which the person is nominated:
Summarize (In 100-150 words) the reasons why your nominee should be considered.
Note: *If you require additional space, please write on a separate sheet and attach to the form.*

_____

_____

_____

Other significant contributions and achievements:
ie: Community / Professional bodies / Sporting or Service Groups

_____

_____

_____

Nominator (To be completed by person submitting)

Title: _____ First Name:_____ Surname: _____

Position / Organisation: _____

Address: _____ Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone (H/W): _____ (M): _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

Title: _____ First Name:_____ Surname: _____

Position / Organisation: _____

Address: _____ Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone (H/W): _____ (M): _____

Email: _____

Nominations can be lodged at any time; however, nominations for the Lions Club of Churchill & District Australia Day 2027 awards close on Tuesday 15th December 2026 at 5.00 pm.

Nominations should be addressed to:
Lions Club Secretary
Australia Day Awards
PO Box 110
Churchill. Vic. 3842.

For further details:
The Secretary: Peter Tait
Mobile: 0421 167 918
or email Churchill.lionsclub@gmail.com

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

Rotary

DINNER MEETINGS:
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VENUE TO BE DECIDED
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GROUP FUNCTIONS

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Darren Chester Releases 2026 Age Pension Guide

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester has released his 2026 Age Pension Guide to help older Gippslanders, pensioners, carers and their families better understand the support available to them.

Mr Chester said the guide provides practical information for older Australians and their families as they navigate the Age Pension system, concessions, aged care support and other government services.

"Older Australians make a wonderful contribution to our communities, and we have an obligation to ensure they can access clear information about the support available in their retirement years," Mr Chester said.

"The Age Pension system can be complex, particularly when it comes to eligibility, income and asset testing, investments, overseas travel and additional payments or concessions.

This guide brings together useful information in one place and is a practical resource for older Gippslanders, their families and carers."

The 2026 Age Pension Guide covers topics including an introduction to the Age Pension, eligibility rules, how assets, investments, income testing and overseas travel may affect payments, information regarding the Pension Age, and benefits for carers.

It also includes information about health care and concession cards, aged care assistance, support services for older Australians and other government services.

Mr Chester said his office regularly assists older Gippslanders and their families with questions about Federal Government services and programs.

"My office is here to help Gippslanders access information and raise concerns about federal services," Mr Chester said."Whether people are already receiving the Age Pension, preparing for retirement, caring for a loved one or simply trying to understand what support may be available, I encourage them to get in touch if they would like a copy of the guide."

The Age Pension Guide 2026 is available from Mr Chester's electorate offices in Sale and Traralgon.

Older Gippslanders and their carers can also request a copy by post by contacting Mr Chester's office either via phone on 5144 6744 or emailing darren.chester.mp@aph.gov.au



Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester is working with local volunteers to give older Gippslanders increased social opportunities.

Australia is a sporting nation, but can we still afford to play?

For many Australian families, signing a child up for sport is no longer a simple decision.

It means looking at the household budget and asking: can we actually afford this? When groceries, rent or mortgage payments, power bills and other everyday costs are already stretching the family budget, thousands of dollars a year for sport can be the expense that simply does not fit. That matters because community sport has long been part of the fabric of Australian life. It is Saturday morning football, netball under lights and weekends spent travelling to competitions. It is where children make friends, adults stay active and people find connection, confidence and a sense of belonging. New national research confirms what families have been feeling for some time: community sport is becoming increasingly difficult to afford. When cost determines who gets to play and who sits on the sidelines, we have a much bigger problem than rising registration fees. Our research shows just how significant that financial burden has become. Families are spending an average of $4,567 per child each year on community sport. For adults, the average annual cost is $2,894. Registration is only the beginning. Once uniforms, equipment, coaching, travel, accommodation, competition costs and other expenses are included, the real price of participation becomes much clearer. Even the entry level cost of getting a child onto the field or court averages $1,161 a year. The total varies enormously between sports. Families reported spending an average of $3,896 a year for a child playing Australian Rules football, $5,622 for soccer and $6,369 for basketball, climbing considerably higher for some individual sports. For families with several children, or those already choosing which bills can wait until the next payday, these costs can put sport out of reach altogether. Our findings show 67 per cent of participants consider cost a limiting factor. Among children, that rises to 78 per cent. Perhaps even more concerning is who those figures cannot tell us about. Our survey captured people currently participating in sport. It does not tell us how many children and adults have already been priced out or unable to participate because of cost. The true impact may be even greater. When people are priced out of sport, we lose more than players on a field. We lose the friendships made at training, the confidence that comes from being part of a team and the connection that keeps people involved in their communities. Sport might be the reason people turn up, but what they take home from it is much bigger than the game. Keeping those opportunities within reach matters. But the responsibility cannot fall on community clubs alone. Many rely heavily on volunteers and work hard to keep participation affordable. Asking them to simply cut fees or absorb increasing costs is not a sustainable solution. Keeping Australians in community sport requires a shared response from clubs, sporting organisations, governments and policymakers. There are practical things sporting organisations can do. Uniform programs and equipment exchanges can extend the life of sporting gear, while partnerships that recycle and repurpose equipment can reduce some of the costs faced by families. Measures like these can only be part of the solution. Governments, sporting organisations and policymakers need accurate information about what participation really costs if funding programs and other measures designed to improve access are going to work. Until now, focusing heavily on registration fees has given us only part of the picture. Our research shows the financial burden extends much further. Understanding those costs gives us an opportunity to design policies and programs around the expenses families are actually facing. Australia likes to think of itself as a sporting nation. However that cannot just mean celebrating our elite athletes and filling stadiums on the weekend. It has to mean giving every Australian the opportunity to play. No parent should have to look at the family budget and decide that sport is the thing their child has to go without. Adults should not have to give up the sport that keeps them active and connected simply because they can no longer afford to play. No child should have to miss out on taking to the field with mates because sport has become a game of who can afford to pay. Community sport should be about the games we love, the friendships we make and the connection and belonging that come with being part of something. The ability to afford it should not determine who gets to participate.

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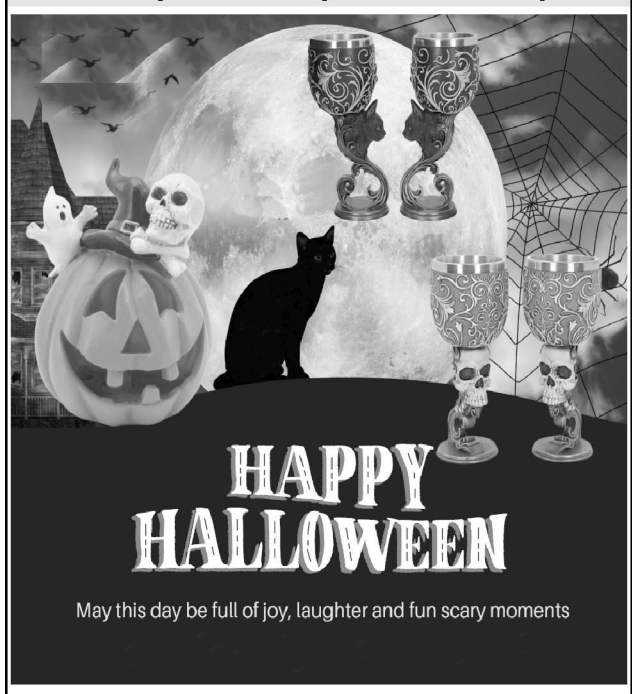
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We love our community newspaper!
CDCA meets on the fourth Thursday of every second month
Next Meeting - 7pm Thursday, 22nd Oct, 2026
Downstairs in Churchill Town Hall
Contact CDCA via our website – www.cdca.org.au or find us on Facebook!

Smart Saver
Discount Variety Store
Monday - Saturday 9 am to 5.30 pm



SHOP3, HAZELWOOD VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTRE
CHURCHILL

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

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Latrobe Community Health Service
Gippsland Wide

Fifteen years of volunteering keeps Les connected to his community

When Les retired, he found himself with more time on his hands.

His wife, Di, suggested they look into volunteering, and what started as a way to try something new has turned into 15 years of helping people across Gippsland.

Les and Di began volunteering with Latrobe Community Health Service (LCHS), driving the social support bus and helping people get out and about, socialise and stay connected with their community.

After several years, when more drivers were needed for medical transport, Les put his hand up again.

These days, he regularly drives people to medical appointments across Gippsland, sometimes travelling long distances to help them access the healthcare they need.

"It is a really good opportunity to get to know local people and keep connected," Les said.

"There is a lot in it for the client, and for me too."

For some clients, Les' support means they can get to important medical appointments they might otherwise struggle to reach.

One person Les transported had been paying about $100 for a taxi to make the same journey. Through the LCHS volunteer transport service, they were able to make the trip at a much lower cost.

For Les, though, the rewards of volunteering go beyond helping people get from one place to another.

He enjoys the conversations along the way, hearing people's stories and getting to know people from across the region. He also appreciates the chance to see more of the Gippsland countryside as he travels to different appointments.

After 15 years, Les has no plans to stop volunteering. He encourages anyone with some spare time to give volunteering a go.

"Just come and have a chat to the volunteer coordinators and have a look at the range of opportunities," he said.

To find out more about volunteering with LCHS, call 1800 242 696 or visit lchs.com.au/volunteer







STAMP MATTERS- A NEW EXPERIENCE



Oranges and Lemons

The opening line of the old nursery rhyme hides a cautionary warning to us all. The fruits of the citrus family are a rich source of Vitamin C which everybody needs in their diet to ward off the debilitating effects of the condition known as scurvy. The symptoms are not pleasant and the eventual outcome is death. Once the scourge of European sailors, the condition caused a death in Queensland just recently. So unnecessary, so easily preventable, it is a warning to all parents to provide a balanced diet to their children despite the protestations of "I don't like that! Yuk."

Citrus plants thrive in temperate climates and come in a variety of forms with greater and lesser levels of sweetness. They originated in south-east Asia thousands of years ago and gradually spread to other regions. Man has cultivated them as a food source to eat raw and to flavour other foods. The segmented fruit is contained in a skin which is quite acidic. After the skin is removed, the juices in each segment are edible. The skins can be scraped to add flavour to other foods.

The juice contained in the segments ranges from quite sweet to very sour. The lemon usually produces a very acidic, sour juice, so acidic, it can cook the light flesh of fish on its own.

Very tasty, too. Man has adapted some lemons to produce a sweeter juice. Lemon juice can also be added to water with sugar to produce a refreshing drink. The lime has similar characteristics.

Oranges are sweeter, except for the Seville variety which is quite sour. However it was the source of the original marmalade jam we fancy on our breakfast toast.

A cargo of them was purchased very cheaply by an enterprising Scottish lady who was adept at jam-making and her resulting product made her and her family very rich.

Other oranges are sweeter although peeling them can be difficult, and the outer pith clings to the segments inside unless the fruit is exactly ripe. They come in a number of varieties including the navel and the blood orange. Orange juice has become a part of our regular diet as a drink.

The favourite with children is the mandarin. Its skin is easier to peel, there is little or no pith underneath and the segments come apart easily.

Selective breeding by orchardists has produced several varieties, some of them seedless which adds to their popularity.

The sour variety is the cumquat, which is usually a small fruit.

One of the characteristics of the citrus fruit seed is that it contains pectin, which causes the boiled chopped fruit to set in a jelly-like form which we call jam.

Most citrus trees are grown by grafting a cutting onto a host plant at a level where the new growth produces fruit and the old plant produces no fruit at all.

Many pictures of citrus fruit grace postage stamps making them a theme of their own.





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

Latrobe City Community Groups information

Gippy Girls Can month is finally here.

It is time to get moving, have fun, try something new and celebrate the incredible women and girls in our community!

Whether you are into team sports, fitness, walking, getting outdoors, or simply getting together with your friends — there is something for you.

The best part? There are 50 low-cost or FREE activities to enjoy across Latrobe City.

Sign-ups are mandatory for some activities, so make sure you check the details and register where required.

Step outside your comfort zone with us, support each other and help us show that Gippy Girls CAN!

Traffic Management Grant

This program has been extended to allow community groups to apply for up to a maximum amount of $5,000 for either training of volunteers in traffic management or for assistance with the costs to engage a traffic management company to deliver traffic management for you at a community event.

Applications must be submitted by Friday October 30, 2026 – however the event requiring traffic management can be held up to December 30, 2026.

It is important to discuss the event with Council's events team prior to submitting for funding.

Please refer to the Traffic Management Grant Guidelines for more information and eligibility and timeframe for review. Applications must be made through Smarty Grants.

International Rose Garden Festival

A highlight of Latrobe City Council's events calendar, the International Rose Garden Festival Morwell will return on November 6 and 7, 2026, bringing back much-loved festival favourites alongside exciting new supporting events.

Now in its ninth year, the free community event continues to grow, thanks to the funding support from major sponsors, AGL Loy Yang and the Victorian Government.

This funding will help deliver the aerial acrobat performance 'Bloom' along with crowd favourites Costa the Gnome, dirtgirl and scrapboy.

Further information can be found through Facebook and Instagram or the website.

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History Exhibition

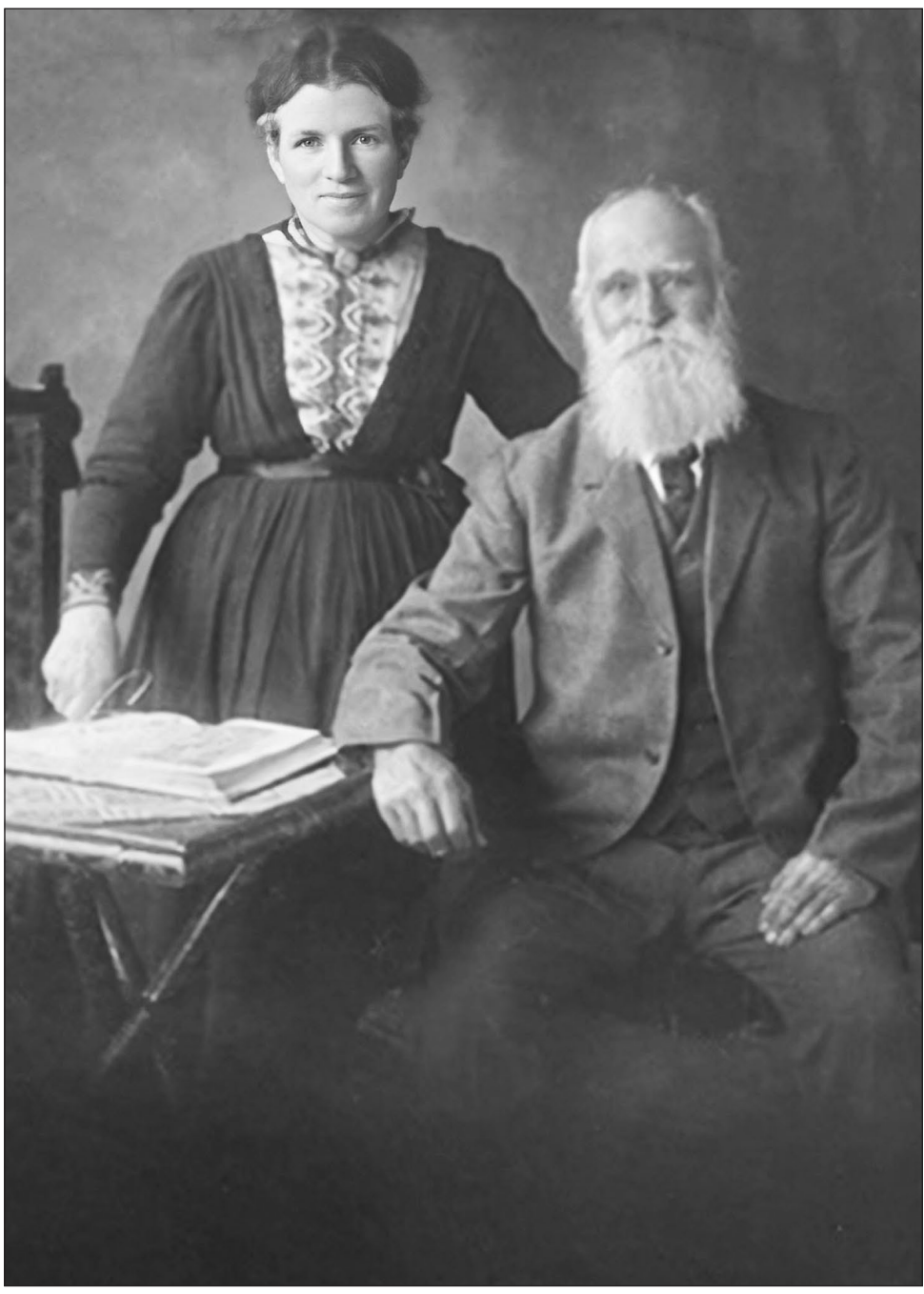
The Northways were Pioneers of Hazelwood.

The Morwell Historical Society is presenting The Pioneering Northway Family Exhibition at the Society's building at 12 Hazelwood Road. The Exhibition features many photos, documents and maps of the three pioneering generations. The exhibition is a graphic display following the Northway family from their immigration from England in 1848 to their lives at Hazelwood.

William and Mary Northway's two sons and wives were also pioneers of Hazelwood. They were Thomas Full Northway and William Northway Junior. Northways Road in Churchill was named after the family of Thomas Full Northway. He trained in Adelaide as a wheelwright and worked as a wheelwright in Adelaide and Sale before selecting land and becoming a farmer at Hazelwood.

William Full Northway and William Northway Jnr selected land around the junction of Tramway Road and Boldings Road. This intersection became known as Northways Corner and they farmed in partnership as W. and W. Northway.

The Exhibition has many 100 year old photos and documents and is open to the public from Wednesday October 21, 2026 from 11am to 2pm. Thereafter, the exhibition will be open during these times on Sunday October 25, Wednesday November 4 and 18, and finally November 29, 2026. For any enquiries, please contact David McInnes 0400 809 376.



Thomas Full Northway and his wife Barbara Northway

COMMUNITY SAFETY
Words of Wisdom

FOR EMERGENCIES, RING 000

FOR NON URGENT POLICE ASSISTANCE OR ATTENDANCE
WITH NO SIRENS - RING 131444

In an emergency, getting help quickly is what matters most.

That is why all Australian mobile network operators work behind the scenes to help your Triple Zero (000) call connect. Even when you are outside your network's coverage, a 000 call can still be made, if another mobile network is available.

Here's how it works, the backups in place, and what to do if you are having trouble connecting.

When you call 000 from a mobile phone, it will first try to connect using your mobile network. If your network is not available, your phone will try to connect to another mobile network, if available. This is known as 'emergency camp-on'.

What does emergency camp-on mean?

If your network is unavailable, your phone looks for another available mobile network and temporarily connects to call 000. You do not need to change any settings or do anything yourself. It works automatically at no cost to you - even without an active SIM in your phone.

What to do if your 000 call does not seem to be connecting?

1. The emergency camp-on process can take time to connect to another network. Generally, there will be silence on the line while this happens. If your initial call does not connect within around five seconds, hang up and try again immediately
2. On subsequent attempts, stay on the line for up to 60 seconds to give your phone the best chance to connect
3. All phones are different: if emergency camp-on is available, iPhone will show 'SOS' or 'SOS only' depending on iOS version. Android will show 'Emergency calls only', 'No service – emergency calls only' or a small SOS icon.

If your phone shows 'No service', there is no mobile network coverage available where you are and you will not be able to call 000 using a mobile network. You may also see a satellite connection on some phones - but the same applies as 000 cannot currently be reached over satellite.

Look for other ways to get help while you are holding the line.

Emergency camp-on will not work if you are out of range of any network. In this situation:

- Use a landline phone or public phone, if available
- Connect to Wi-Fi and use Wi-Fi Calling on your device

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

St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

St Vinnies
SOUP VAN
Starting 1st July 2026 we are changing from Friday to Wednesday
6.00 pm at White Parade reserve
6.30 pm at Illawonga Court
Soup, sandwiches, frozen meals, fruit, pantry items.
Please bring a bag and yourselves. SPREAD THE WORD

Cooking with Noelene

https://thegardeninggastronomer.blogspot.com/



What do you know?

Here are the answers to September's challenge:

1. Sandwich.
2. Korma.
3. Joint.
4. Hummus
5. Coriander.
6. Kosher.



Here is my October challenge for you:

1. Refers to one or more edible trimmings added to a dish to enhance its appearance and or flavour?
2. Large pretzel shaped pastry, traditionally flavoured with cardamom and served at Christmas?
3. The science of gourmet food and drinks?
4. Colourless alcoholic drink made with fermented rice?
5. To preserve meat or fish by hanging in smoke, or by salting or drying?
6. Yoghurt based salad-like side dish served as a cooling accompaniment to curries?

Flavour Filled Chicken Mango Loaf

Ingredients:

500 gm chicken mince, 2/3rds cup of chopped onion, 2/3rds cup of frozen mixed vegies, 1 cup panko breadcrumbs, 1 tsp ground cumin, 1 tsp ground coriander, 1 tsp ground turmeric,

2 tbs chopped fresh mint / 1 tbs dried mint, 1 egg, lightly beaten, 8 fresh whole mint leaves, 4 tbs mango chutney.

Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Line a loaf pan (11 cm x 21 cm) with baking paper, so the paper overhangs the ends. Put the chicken mince, frozen mixed vegies, chopped onion, breadcrumbs, spices, mint, 2 tbs mango chutney and egg in a large bowl. Mix well to combine. Press the chicken mixture into the prepared pan. Spread the remaining 2 tbs of mango chutney over the top. Press the whole mint leaves down the centre of the log. Bake for 50 minutes in the preheated oven or until tender.



Oh the aromas wafting through the kitchen.

Drain off any excess liquid and remove the chicken loaf from the pan. Serve hot or cold.

I love to serve this chicken loaf with mashed potatoes or if I am serving it cold, it is perfect with sliced cucumber and plain yoghurt.

Polenta and Zucchini Patties with Tomato Sauce

Ingredients:

2 cups water, 1 and 1/2 cups polenta, 2 zucchini grated, 1/2 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese, 1 tbs rosemary leaves, cracked black pepper, to taste.

Bring the water to boil in a medium saucepan, over a high heat. Pour in the polenta. Reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring until all the liquid is absorbed. Stir in the grated zucchini, Parmesan and rosemary. Season to taste with cracked black pepper. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl. Allow to cool. Divide the mixture into 8 even sized patties, set aside.

Tomato sauce: 30 gm butter/marg, 1 onion, sliced, 2 tbs minced garlic, 400 gm can of diced tomatoes, 2 tbs canola / rice bran oil, 8 cooked chipolatas, (mini sausages), mixed leaf salad leaves to serve (optional). Melt the butter /marg in a frying pan over a medium heat. Saute the onion until softened and add the garlic, stirring until fragrant. Add the tomatoes and simmer for 5 minutes, until the sauce thickens. Set aside, cover and keep warm. Heat half the oil in a large frying pan on a medium heat. Cook the patties in two batches until golden each side. Drain on paper towelling. Cover and keep warm. Repeat with remaining oil and patties.



Serve the zucchini patties with the warm tomato sauce, cooked chipolatas and salad leaves or whatever you choose.

These are so easy to prepare and make for a tasty meal.

Simple One Bowl Easy Mix Butter Cake

Ingredients:

125 gm butter/marg at room temp, 1 tsp vanilla extract, 275 gm castor sugar, 3 eggs, lightly beaten, 150 gm plain flour, 75 gm self raising flour, 1/4 tsp bi carb soda, 125 ml milk.

Preheat your oven to 160 deg C. Lightly grease a 20 cm round or square cake pan and line with baking paper. Place all the ingredients in the bowl of your electric mixer. Beat on a low speed until all the ingredients are just combined. Increase the speed to medium and beat until the batter is smooth and pale in colour. Pour the mixture into the prepared pan. Bake in the preheated oven for 75 minutes or until tested with a skewer, (one inserted and coming out clean). Leave the cooked cake in the pan for 5 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack, turn the cake top side up to cool.



Sprinkle the cake with icing sugar to serve.

Wonder Loaf

Ingredients:

1 cup milk, 1 cup All Bran, firmly packed, 1 cup soft brown sugar, firmly packed, 140 gm glace cherries chopped, 1 tbs honey, 1 cup self-raising flour.

So now you have read the ingredients, you have to be wondering how will this produce a loaf ? But trust me, it does and it is delicious!!

Combine the milk, All Bran, brown sugar, chopped glace cherries and honey in a medium bowl. Cover and stand overnight. Next day preheat your oven to 160 deg C. Grease a loaf pan (20 cm x 10 cm / 8" X 4") and lightly sprinkle with polenta. Add the flour to the combined mixture and mix with a wooden spoon, do not overmix. Spoon the cake batter evenly into the prepared pan and smooth over the top.

Bake in the preheated oven for 60 minutes or until a skewer inserted comes out clean. Turn out and cool on a wire rack, before slicing to serve.

Wrap loaf in foil and keep in an airtight container.



Savoury Cheese Shortbread

These are a rich, savoury and crunchy shortbread.

Ingredients:

50 gm butter/marg, 50 gm plain flour, pinch of cayenne pepper, pinch of cracked black pepper, 50 gm finely grated Parmesan cheese (found in the pasta aisle of your supermarket, well it is in mine).

Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Line a baking tray with baking paper. Cream the butter/marg. Season the flour with cayenne, cracked pepper and Parmesan. Gradually work in the creamed butter/marg. Knead until smooth and then refrigerate until stiffened. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to 1/4 inch/ 5 mm thickness. Cut into small squares or circles and using a palette knife carefully transfer to the prepared tray. Re work any excess dough and shape into biscuits. Prick all prepared biscuits with a fork and bake in the preheated oven until the shortbreads are firm and golden.

Cool on a wire tray and store in an airtight container.



Lemon Thyme Roast Chicken

Ingredients:

1.8 kg chicken, trimmed, washed and dried, 8 onions, halved, 1 lemon, sliced, 1 bunch of thyme, woody stems trimmed, 3 tbs minced garlic, 2 cups of dry white wine, cracked black pepper to taste, vegetables of choice to serve.

Preheat your oven to 200 deg C. Place the chicken in a large non metallic casserole. Tie the legs together with kitchen string and tuck the wings under. Add the onions, lemon, thyme and garlic to the tray. Pour over the wine and season to taste with cracked black pepper. Cover with plastic wrap and chill for 40 minutes, turning once.

Bake in the preheated oven, basting occasionally with the pan juices, for 75 minutes or until golden brown and the juices run clear when pierced with a skewer. Cover with foil and rest for 10 minutes.

Carve the chicken and serve with vegetables of your choice.



Homemade Olive Bread

Ingredients:

300 gm strong white flour /bakers flour, plus extra for dusting, 1 and 1/2 tsp instant yeast, 1 tsp salt, a pinch of castor sugar, 100 ml lukewarm water, 250 gm silverbeet, chopped, 100gm sliced black olives, 2 tbs olive oil.

Line a baking sheet with baking paper. Combine the flour, yeast, sugar and salt into a bowl and make a hollow in the middle. Add the lukewarm water. Knead the mixture into a smooth, silky dough. Leave to rise, covered, for about 1 hour or until doubled in size in a warm room.

Now preheat your oven to 220 deg C. Knead the chopped silverbeet and sliced olives into the dough, then divide it into thirds. Form each loaf into a rounded rectangular loaf. Place each loaf on the lined baking sheet. Cover with a flour dusted cotton tea towel and leave for an hour.

Brush the loaves with oil and bake in the preheated oven for 25 minutes. Leave to cool completely on a wire rack before slicing to serve.

This is so good.



Churchill Fire Brigade Open Day

Churchill Fire Brigade will be holding an Open Day on Sunday October 25, 2026 from 9:00 am to 1.00 pm. The event is a part of CFA's Get Fire Ready campaign which will be operating statewide throughout October.

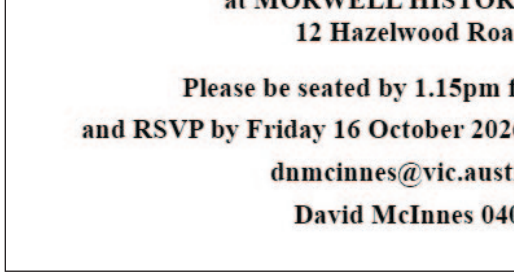
The Open Day will enable community members to come and inspect our refurbished fire station, talk to members about volunteering, and to get advice on planning and preparations for your property ahead of the coming high risk weather season.

The brigade will also be conducting a barbeque for everyone in attendance. Come along and have a chat with our friendly members, and see why volunteering with CFA is such a great way to contribute to our local community. Learn more at CFA's Get Fire Ready page cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/cfa-events/get-fire-ready

Turning 80 – A time for Celebration

Preparations were well under way in getting ready to commemorate our 80th birthday which we celebrated at our 2026 Annual Presentation Night on Saturday October 10, 2026.

The brigade was first formed through a meeting held on October 7, 1945, but was officially recognised by registration with CFA dated February 6, 1946. There have been a few name changes on the way, with us starting as the Jeeralang North Rural Fire Brigade, then on February 27, 1961 the name changed to Jeeralang Junction Rural Fire Brigade. In 1967, the brigade was relocated into Churchill and on October 29, 1974, the name changed again to Churchill/Jeeralang Rural Fire Brigade. Our final name change occurred on December 19, 1990, when CFA granted the brigade Class D Urban Fire Brigade status, and on January 8, 1991 the brigade name formally changed to the Churchill Urban Fire Brigade, which we still retain today.



Assisting at Churchill Shop Local

The brigade was pleased to again assist at the Churchill Shop Local event on August 29, by conducting a BBQ and providing advice to community members about fire safety and pre-summer property preparations.

North Gippsland Football League Preliminary Final



The NGFL Preliminary Final was held at Churchill on September 5, and the brigade was privileged to be invited by the league to provide assistance with manning the gate and assisting with collecting gate takings throughout the day. Started out a not too bad day, but the weather did turn out a bit nasty mid-afternoon. A great day of football and netball, and congratulations to all of those playing on the day.

The brigade wishes to thank the league for the opportunity to help out on the day, and the football public for the many donations given that will support the brigade to provide much needed personal equipment for our members.

Summer Preparations

Given the spring seasonal outlook, we need to start preparing now for this spring/summer and taking actions to prepare our property to minimise the risk of fire.

Know your fire risk:

Visit CFA's website cfa.vic.gov.au/fire-safety/bushfire-safety-basics and learn about:

How bushfires start

Types of fire - bushfires, grassfires, forest fires, coastal fires

How your location and environment affects fire behaviour

Ember attack and radiant heat

The importance of having a bushfire plan

How to know if there is a fire near you

What to do when a fire starts

Fire restrictions

Know where to get up to date information.



Download the VicEmergency app and set a watch zone.

Prepare your property:

Simple property preparation can help reduce your bushfire risk.

Create a bushfire plan

Use the Victorian Government's online Fire Planner to create a plan in as little as 10 minutes.

Keep burn offs safe and legal.

Burning off grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation is generally permitted outside the declared Fire Danger Period.

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

Notify your neighbours.

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

Find out more on CFA's website (cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property).

Unregistered burn-offs can cause brigades to be called out unnecessarily.

Register your burn-off:

Notify Triple Zero Victoria of your planned burn.

Online (Preferred) - Register online through the website https://firepermits.vic.gov.au/

You can do so if your burn-off commences more than two hours from now.

By Phone - If you wish to start your burn-off immediately, you may register your burn-off by calling Triple Zero Victoria on 1800 668 511, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. National Relay Service Users can ring 1300 555 727 and ask for Information to be relayed to Triple Zero Victoria via 1800 668 511.

* Please remember that emergency 000 calls will always take priority. Registering online is the fastest and simplest option.

THE PIONEERING NORTHWAY FAMILY

INVITATION to the EXHIBITION



William and Mary Northway

Pioneers of Hazelwood and their pioneering two sons and their families

You are invited to the Opening of the Exhibition on
TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2026

at MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell

Please be seated by 1.15pm for 1.30pm Opening
and RSVP by Friday 16 October 2026 with numbers attending to
dnmcinnes@vic.australis.com.au
David McInnes 0400 809 376

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL



Please contact me with any *State Government* matters.



Harriet Shing MP
State Member for Eastern Victoria
216 Commercial Road, Morwell Vic 3840
harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au
(03) 5134 8000 harrietshing.com.au

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

Strzelecki Koala

Report about "The Status of Victoria's Population"

At last the report about Victoria's koala populations has been tabled in Parliament. This report is part of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change's Victorian Koala Management Strategy May 2023. The research involved many scientists from various scientific organisations.

To read the full report: https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/.parliamentary-activity/tabled-documents-database/tabled-document-details/10478

According to "The Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research Technical Report Series No 393, June 2025," this research is the first to study Victorian koalas at a state wide level. It covered koalas in seven regions, one being South Gippsland. This report does not refer to the Strzelecki koala as a separate population, so it is inferred that this population is incorporated in the South Gippsland group. The research studied the Victorian koala population's abundance and distribution, their genetic makeup and health and welfare. The surveys and studies involved random samples of individual koalas on public land and eucalyptus plantations on over 182 sites.

These are some of the findings which will provide baseline data for future research.

The number of Victorian koalas is estimated to be around 224,800. The South Gippsland koala population was estimated at 47,500. (This would include the Strzelecki koala which according to Strzelecki Koala Action Team is approximately only around 2000 individuals.) Koalas only covered 34% of the estimated potentially suitable koala habitat in Victoria. The Genetic Analysis showed that the South Gippsland Region has the "highest genetic diversity and lowest inbreeding." But there is a group living on the Gippsland south coast that has low genetic diversity because they are descendants from the French and Phillip Island koalas. South Gippsland koalas share their genes within 25 kilometres and the best gene flow transfer occurs within 10 kilometres. The average distance travelled from birth site to breeding place is 3.5 kilometres. (Because koalas do not travel very far, connectivity between home ranges and suitable habitats is necessary for high genetic diversity.) All regions showed koalas regardless of age having poor health and disease, 59% had infectious disease like chlamydia, koala retrovirus and herpesvirus, 37% had dental disease with the exception of Mallacoota. The misalignment of upper and lower teeth, was present in 31% of koalas examined. This condition, which causes ineffective leaf chewing, was in all regions. Mange and kidney disease were not detected because of season issues.

Forty three per cent of koalas that were captured and examined were euthanised because of chronic health conditions.

In the discussion and recommendations the report highlighted action in the following areas:

A) The report highlighted the need to further investigate the high density koala populations that live in the hardwood forests in the south-west of Victoria. There is concern over the effects of plantation management on koala movement and welfare.

(Such studies will be pertinent to the needs of the Strzelecki Koala as this population's habitat is in the Strzelecki Ranges where the plantation industry also occurs.)

B) Koalas from South Gippsland, Queensland or New South Wales could be used to improve the genetics in koala populations that have low genetic diversity. Translocation of high diverse genetic koalas could prevent population decline. This would require regular genetic monitoring to determine when a koala group needs intervention and would help evaluate the success of the program. (Before this direction is used, more needs to be known about the viability of Strzelecki koala and the South Gippsland koala populations and the effects of the removal of fertile adults. The report states that the South Gippsland koala is a "critically important unique cluster" and any future actions should not make the Strzelecki koala vulnerable and endangered.)

C) The poor health and well-being of all Victorian koalas in all regions is a very serious concern.

Research is needed to find out what is causing the ill health and the role of genetics in such conditions particularly those involving abnormalities.

The report recommended that thorough physical examinations be conducted to find out more about the causes and the presentations of disease in koalas.

It also stated the need for a central "Koala Health data base" so that all koala information can be used to increase the knowledge of koala genetics, disease and health.

(The unexpected poor health result is a wakeup call for the viability of all of the Victorian koala populations particularly for the Strzelecki koala.

Poor health is a sign that koalas are under great stress and require urgent help. This report does not mention human impact, habitat loss or habitat degradation. Perhaps these and other threats will be incorporated into future research.)

I have tried to provide an outline of this report and added my opinion after the future recommendations. Hopefully further research and the implementation of actions that are suggested by the scientists involved in this report, will produce positive outcomes for the Victorian koala populations and especially for our precious Strzelecki koala population in the near future. Victorian koalas are thought to be abundant but that does not stop population decline when so many koalas are sick and not doing so well.

Some ways to help the Strzelecki koala

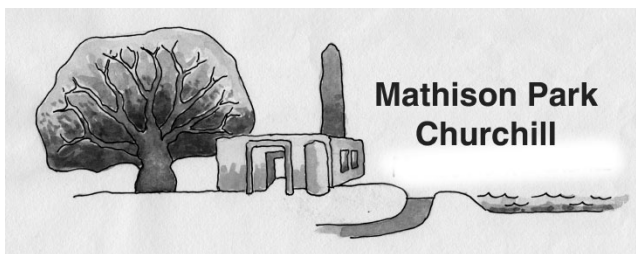
Drive carefully through bush areas around the Jeeralangs, Strzelecki Ranges and areas around Churchill. It is breeding season and koalas are on the move. Be a responsible pet owner and prevent dogs from coming into contact with koalas. Preserve, protect and plant koala food trees.

Be a weed warrior and remove weeds from native habitat.

Add sightings of koalas to the Koala Map by emailing location coordinates to anthony.amis@foe.org.au Take part in the Koalathon on Sunday October 25, 2026.

Visit https://koalathon.raisely.site.com for details and registration.





Our working bee saw a good turn up of willing folks who went to work with rakes and hands to pile up leaf, branch and other debris along the west pathway and into the top paddock.

This was part of the park clean up for the fire season which promises to be a bad one this year.

These piles were later collected and taken to the burn piles, some of which had been set alight in the ideal conditions.

It was good to welcome Therese and her daughter for the first time.

Former plantings were explored to see what the success rate was and overall it was good.

The Gippsland Interchange crew was able to come on some Thursdays which were not wet.

They did a great job helping to clean up also.





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Every child who has registered gets a chance to win a prize for catching a fish. They will also receive a Lucky Door prize entry ticket, a free sausage and a drink.

Registration opens at 10.00am.

Fishing starts at 10.30am and finishes at 1.30pm.

Prize presentation starts at 2.00pm





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Hazelwood Cemetery

By Leo Billington

How people are remembered and, hopefully not erased by time (series continued)

In my cemetery news column (CDN, September 2026 edition), I wrote "Hazelwood Cemetery is not part of Latrobe City Council's responsibility and the original 10 acre site is where it has been for 147 years. Just as old as Morwell."

This produced a response, which was anticipated. It has been written before that Morwell's local history requires thorough research. So much is hearsay, relying on flimsy, constructed facts.

Several weeks back, while explaining a short history of our cemetery, two residents from a nearby town were wondering where was the Morwell Cemetery and how are unmarked graves identified

These questions provided ample scope for a mini history lesson. As regards unmarked graves, or interments where detailed (grave) locations lack accurate details, it is not always straight forward.

For example, using cemetery records typed on a card system, there is a Free Section somewhere within the Church of England Old Section. (This designation seems to date back to the late 1940's and is related to the Church of England New Section. Also, some older residents have recalled the 1944 bushfires sweeping northwards across the Church of England Old Section, destroying wooden headstones in its wake.)

This Free Section has approximately 70 interments - babies, infants, adults - for whom there are no written records to identify actual grave locations. There could even be more.

Dates go back to November 1918 when Leslie Daniel Kelsmore Kelly, aged 8 months, and born in Koroit, was interred in the Free Section. Angela Weston, aged 2 days, died and interred on May 1, 1953. Both Leslie and Angela rest in unmarked graves.

(Several years back, Angela's brother was seeking information about a location for her grave. Using social media, his enquiry prompted a series of crazy, ill-informed suggestions. Social media platforms can be the bane of cemetery trusts, especially when others seemingly become experts.)

There is a Free Section within the Presbyterian Section; well signed albeit more names may be added. Currently, there is research aimed at memorialising a similar section within the Methodist/Uniting Section.)

A feature of our cemetery is, what many say, "the principal cemetery tree; the Cupressus sempervirens, the Italian pencil cypress." History recalls it was a symbol of mourning, and in the modern era, it remains the principal cemetery tree in both the Muslim world and Europe. Cupressus sempervirens is important in Mediterranean and Middle Eastern culture; it has long been valued for its role in symbolism, various rituals, and folk festivals.

In addition, in popular culture C. sempervirens is often stereotypically associated with vacation destinations in the Mediterranean region, especially Italy. The tree has been seen on travel posters for decades, providing enticing images coupled with Tuscany landscapes.

Some years back, the Hazelwood Cemetery Trust unsuccessfully approached Latrobe City Council, to have these trees tagged with a heritage listing of some kind.

On occasions, "new" history is found in our cemetery. Recently, when old, dried grass was being cleared from a headstone, it was revealed that James Andrew Young died "on active duty in France" in December 1916. Aged 30, he died from complications associated with bronchial pneumonia while serving as a member of the 28th Australian Army Service Corps Company.

Andrew is at rest in Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, Picardie, France. His headstone shows he was a driver. Born in Macedon, his occupation on enlistment in Melbourne was gardener and he was officially 29 years and 1 month. He was then living with his uncle, George Arthur Young "at Crooklog Gardens, Hazelwood."

Andrew disembarked at Marseilles on June 24, 1916. He died on December 8, 1916; not quite two years after April 25, 1915, when Australian soldiers landed at what is now called Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Research shows Mr and Mrs Young, together with their nephews, lived along the ridge presumably immediately south of Morwell township. (Crooklog does seem an unusual word.)

The headstone also records two other names - David Young, 70 years (brother to George Arthur Young), and Henry William Young, 9 years old, (brother to James Andrew Young).

Previous editions of the Churchill & District News have touched on a history of the Hazelwood squatting run. Before it was divided into smaller areas for selectors, John MacMillan (and family) was the holder of the Hazelwood Estate from 1860 to 1919. Then it was acquired by the state government for soldier settlement.

A tall headstone in our cemetery's Presbyterian section is dedicated to John, his wife Isabella and others. Confusion is possible when ascertaining who is who when reading this headstone - for example, Flora was one of John's daughters and Dr. Horne was Flora's husband.

There is a lengthy story behind Doctor Horne, and space in this CDN edition will not be enough. His story must wait for next month.

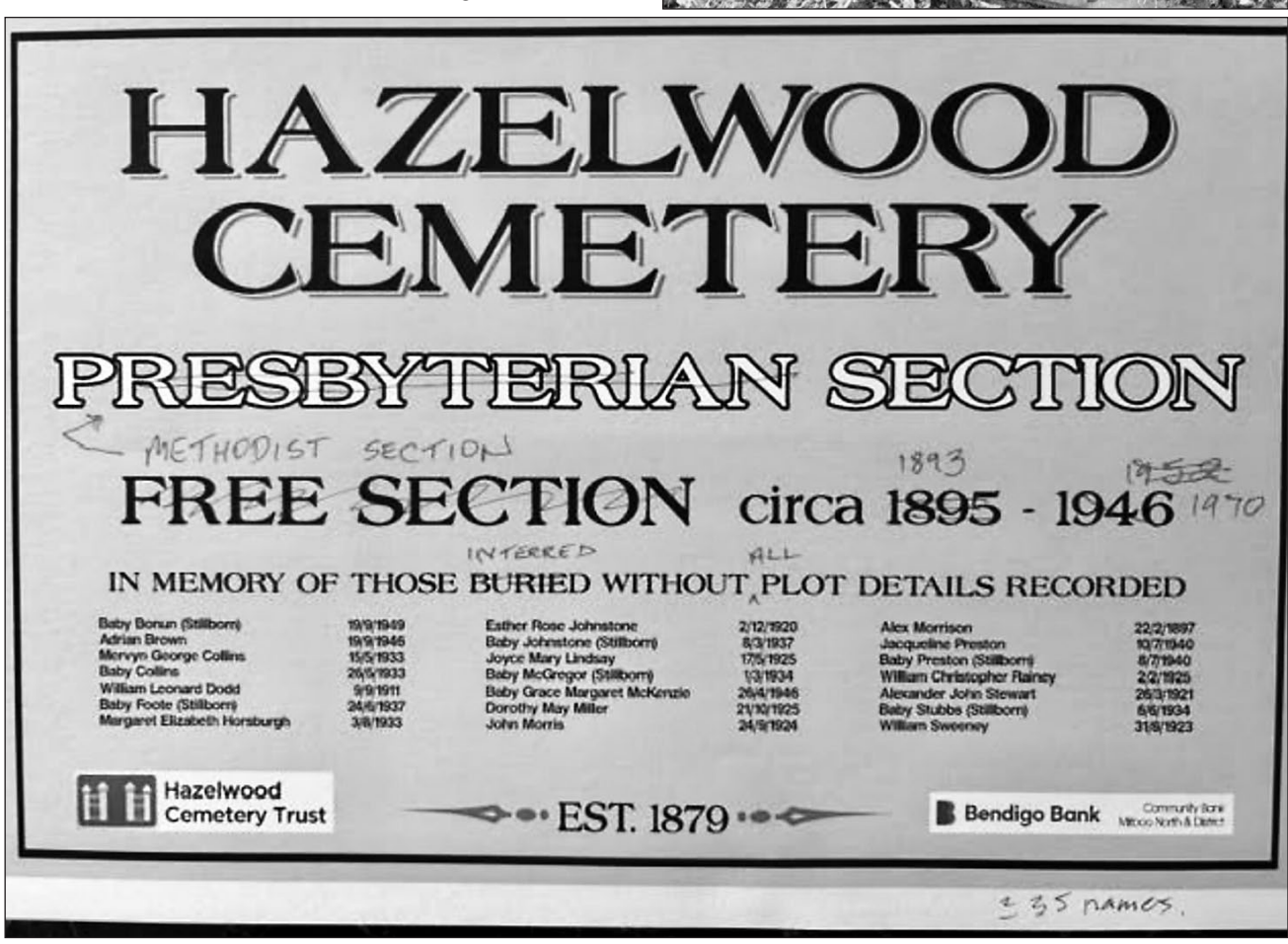
A brief introduction to Doctor Herbert Roger Horne is that he married Flora MacMillan in 1897. Flora died on Wednesday December 7, 1898 seemingly after extraction of some of her teeth. Some teeth were apparently taken, with chloroform being administered "by Doctor Horne" (Morwell Advertiser, Friday December 9, 1898).

It is intriguing to note that the magisterial enquiry returned its verdict, "That the deceased came by her death through an overdose of morphia (morphine) accidently self-administered subsequent to the effects of chloroform anaesthesia (Morwell Advertiser, Friday December 9, 1898).

Notwithstanding Doctor Horne married Flora's sister, Mary, four years later, it is his background as a doctor and soldier serving in the Boer War, which holds a fascinating story. See next month's CDN edition.







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A Churchill & District History Series

Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents

By Leo Billington

Do you remember? Looking back over our shoulder.

Let us look back for this history column. Currently, our world is so upside down, it can be a challenge to know which way to jump.

'Don't stop thinking about tomorrow

Don't stop, it'll soon be here

It'll be here better than before

Yesterday's gone, yesterday's gone'

Christine McVie Fleetwood Mac 1977 "Don't look back."

Perhaps yesterday is gone but there is no harm to remember what "signposts" were prominent in our lives.

Bread, considered as the mainstay of the human diet was once centred round the high tin loaf. Australian broadcaster, Phillip Adams, is credited with suggesting it was shaped like a backside. Others commented about splitting a double loaf down the middle.

This presented fluffy, fresh white bread to be gouged out in fistfuls on the way to school. During the 1950s, it was often a scene to see kids "woofing" into a loaf of fresh high tin. Would not do it these days.

Nissan Cedric - readers will recall this supposedly upmarket car.

Initial market research back in Japan thought selection of a word from another culture would be a strong selling point. As a motoring expert said, "In Japan, the name Cedric was probably not an issue at all, but Western countries interpreted it altogether differently."

From memory, there were a couple of Nissan Cedrics in Morwell. Nevertheless, as large and spacious as they appeared, cultural attitudes prevailed to prove Japanese marketers wrong.

On Monday March 5, 1956, the Morwell Advertiser announced its front-page headlines - 'Minister has plans for Valley - Century Development in Five Years.' A huge task!

To paraphrase - "Morwell is being asked to reach in five years, a stage of development similar to that achieved by Bendigo and Ballarat over the last 100 years. Minister of Public Works, Sir Thomas Maltby M.L.A said."

Basically, he wanted Morwell to achieve in five years what had been achieved over 100 years in central Victoria.

He believed brown coal was more valuable than gold. Born near Bendigo and living mainly in the Geelong area, the minister was described as "'Tall, slim and straight of bearing', dapper in dress and fond of bow-ties, Maltby was a forthright speaker with an eloquent turn of phrase and a crackling wit. Labor's then premier, John Cain advised new members: 'When Sir Thomas Maltby speaks, don't interject—he will cut you to shreds'.

Fellow parliamentarians on both sides enjoyed his 'puckish charm' and held him in high regard for his earthy wisdom, tolerance, fairness and help to newcomers."

Back to reality now. Remember using a handkerchief with four knots as a hat - mainly by guys working outside. Believed to be protection from sunburn, ears 'copped" being scorched. Sunburn, and resultant peeling skin years later made it common for doctors treating us for melanomas. Asbestos was a word back in the 1950s.

Only a word. That's all. Not now – it is a silent killer. It was used in manufacturing cement sheeting, lagging for pipes, coatings, friction products, gaskets and heat-resistant fabrics also contained asbestos. Construction workers were exposed to asbestos while working on homes and buildings.

This happened when they handled pipes, insulation, electrical panels and more. It was freely used in power stations and Morwell's Gas and Fuel Corporation.

Some readers may recall bags of asbestos powder, split open ready for use.

Billy carts - so called "gravity powdered vehicles." Made from wood - with pram wheels or even steel - rimmed ball bearings, possibly souvenired from elsewhere. Even prams were easy targets for wheels. Visit the Morwell rubbish tip, then in Latrobe Road, and scrounge for necessary bits and pieces.

Examples of challenging downhills in Morwell include Avondale Crescent (on the road to avoid reversing cars from driveways), Donald Street, Churchill Road, Comans Street; no doubt there were other favoured venues.

Early in August 1956, letters to the Morwell Advertiser expressed concern about "children playing in a billy cart on an intersection. Further, it was most common for speeding billy carts to use roads and footpaths." Concrete was much smoother albeit problematic.

Atlantic and Esso - Ken Billingsley was our main agent. Ken's Commercial Road office adjoined his brother's real estate office, with Frank Johnston's electrical shop next door.

Sparkling wines; cheap champagne, table wines, - Sparkling Rhinegold, Starwine, Gala Spumante, Porphyry Pearl, Ben Ean - looked good on a restaurant table, perhaps used to win over a girlfriend, perhaps a cost-effective way of getting drunk.

Long necks were meant for men! Passiona - another way to establish a relationship in the 1950s and, perhaps further beyond. Developed by Lismore farmer, Spencer Cottee, to deal with excess passion fruit, his company was subsequently bought by Schweppes and, now owned by Asahi Group.

Passiona was a popular soft drink; sold in Morwell by cafes such as Campbells, Open Cut Café, Hughes' Café, Bermingham's, Rayner's and Kohler's in Avondale Crescent.

There is a tonne of history out there, asking to be harnessed.

I will provide more memories next month.

A long debate (in 1956) over the need for a comfort station in Morwell's shopping centre will also be explained.



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CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS
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SPORT

Churchill Braves Complete

Senior Premiership Double

The 2026 season will go down as one of the most memorable in Churchill Braves history, with the club's senior and junior programs combining for a remarkable finals campaign that delivered four Grand Final appearances, four premierships and a ninth consecutive Under 16 championship.

The Braves' finals campaign began with a huge weekend at Andrews Park, Churchill, where the club hosted three senior semi-finals and two junior Grand Finals on home soil.

All four Churchill senior teams had enjoyed successful regular seasons. C Grade Green finished on top of the ladder to earn a direct passage to the Grand Final, while A Grade, B Grade and C Grade Gold were required to fight their way through the semi-finals.

Adding to the excitement, both the Under 13s and Under 16s had finished their regular seasons on top of their respective ladders and went straight through to their Grand Finals.

It was a huge weekend for the Braves, bringing the club's senior and junior programs together at Andrews Park and giving Churchill supporters plenty to cheer about.

When the dust settled, the Braves had earned a place in four Grand Finals — with two junior premierships to celebrate before heading into the following week's senior championship deciders.

Under 13s — Champions at Home

The Churchill Under 13s entered their Grand Final having already demonstrated their quality throughout the regular season.

One of their standout performances came against Traralgon Redsox on September 6, when the Braves recorded an impressive 9–0 victory.

Jack was outstanding, launching two home runs and driving in five runs. He homered in both the third and fifth innings, while Hudson collected three hits as Churchill's offence produced 12 hits in total.

The Braves took control early, scoring in the opening inning before breaking the game open with five runs in the third. Jack's three-run home run to centre field was the major blow, with doubles from Joey and Murphy adding further damage.

Jack struck again in the fifth with another home run to centre as Churchill completed the 9–0 shutout.

Joey was equally impressive on the mound, striking out 12 batters while allowing just one hit and no runs across five innings. Churchill also showed plenty of aggression on the basepaths, stealing 10 bases while committing no errors defensively.

That form carried into the Grand Final.

The Under 13s completed the job on home soil and were crowned premiers, with Joey named Grand Final MVP.

The premiership-winning Under 13s team was Jack, Hudson, Paige, Sophie, Murphy, Dylan, Finn, Isaac, Jax, Luna, Joey, Leah, Zack and Vihaan.

The team was coached by Gregg Duncan and Danny Cannizzaro, assisted by Hunter and Jake, with Brooke Duncan and Kirby Cannizzaro handling the scoring duties.

Under 16s — Nine Straight Premierships

The Under 16s added another chapter to one of the most remarkable streaks in Latrobe Valley junior baseball, claiming their ninth consecutive Under 16 premiership.

The Braves had already shown their ability to perform under pressure during the regular season, including a tight 6–5 victory over Moe Newborough Dodgers on September 6.

Churchill fell behind 1–0 early before responding with three runs in the bottom of the first. Blake delivered a two-run single before Jake grounded out to bring home another run.

The Braves extended their advantage in the second inning when Hunter doubled down the right-field line before stealing home, putting Churchill ahead 5–1.

Moe refused to go away, battling back to level the contest at 5–5 in the third inning.

Churchill regained the lead in the bottom of the third when Holwerda grounded out to score the go-ahead run, completing a 6–5 victory.

Duncan also contributed on the mound, striking out eight across three and one-third innings, while Beau provided relief. Hunter went 2-for-2 and drove in two runs, while Churchill's aggressive base running produced 10 stolen bases.

That resilience proved valuable as the Braves progressed towards their championship.

In the Grand Final, Churchill completed the job and extended its extraordinary streak to nine consecutive Under 16 premierships, with Blake earning Grand Final MVP honours.

The premiership-winning Under 16s team was Ethan, Beau, Royden, Jackson, Jake, Keiran, Nick, Blake, Hunter, Hudson, Lilly and Vihaan.

The team was coached by Mark Johnson, assisted by Brad Jones, with Ash Hartwig and Brooke Duncan handling the scoring duties.

B Grade — Fighting Through to the Grand Final

B Grade finished second on the ladder, meaning the Braves had to earn their place in the Grand Final through the semi-finals.

They faced Traralgon Redsox at Andrews Park with a Grand Final berth on the line.

Traralgon struck first in the opening inning, putting two runs on the board and giving Churchill an early challenge.

The Braves responded immediately.

Gregg Duncan, Tim Bellerby and Mat Prior all contributed hits before Jack Thomas came to the plate and delivered a crucial two-RBI single, bringing home Bellerby and Duncan to level the scores at 2–2.

Churchill then took the lead when Jason Rossit reached on a fielder's choice, with a Redsox error allowing Mat Prior to score and putting the Braves ahead 3–2.

The game remained tight through the middle innings before Traralgon eventually found a way through in the fifth, tying the game at 3–3.

Churchill responded once again.

Mat Prior singled to start the Braves' scoring opportunity before Jason Rossit followed with another important hit. Dylan Eldridge then grounded into a fielder's choice, bringing Prior home to restore Churchill's lead.

Luis Mayo followed with a ground ball that brought Rossit across the plate, extending the advantage to 5–3.

From there, the Braves' pitching and defence did the job.

Jack Thomas delivered six strong innings before handing the ball to Mat Prior for the seventh. Prior closed out the game with a clean final inning, including a looking strikeout of Brian Spiteri to secure the victory.

Prior was also outstanding at the plate, going 3-for-4 and contributing throughout the game.

After falling behind early and being pegged back to 3–3, Churchill showed composure when it mattered most, scoring twice in the fifth before shutting the door on the Redsox.

The Braves won 5–3 and earned their place in the Grand Final.

C Grade Gold — A Hard-Fought Finals Campaign

C Grade Gold also entered the weekend with a Grand Final berth on the line, facing Moe Newborough in their semi-final at Andrews Park.

Under the guidance of coach Dean Baillie, the C Grade Gold side had put together a strong season to earn its place in the finals.

Churchill made the perfect start, with Hunter launching a solo home run in the top of the first to give the Braves an early 1–0 lead.

Moe Newborough responded with a two-run home run in the bottom of the inning to take a 2–1 lead.

The Dodgers added another run in the third before Churchill fought back in the fifth. Gregg reached safely and later scored, while Dean singled and scored on an error, bringing the Braves back to within one at 3–2.

Moe Newborough extended their advantage in the bottom of the fifth, scoring another run to make it 4–2.

The Dodgers then broke the game open in the sixth, with a four-run home run helping establish an 8–2 lead.

Churchill showed plenty of fight in the top of the seventh.

Hunter hit his second home run of the game, followed immediately by a solo home run from Blake, cutting the deficit to 8–4.

Moe added two more runs in the bottom of the seventh, but Churchill continued to battle until the final out.

In the Braves' final at-bat, Connor hit a solo home run, bringing the final score to 10–5.





SPORT

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS
"Connecting Your Community"

Memorable 2026 Finals Campaign

While C Grade Gold's finals campaign came to an end in the semi-final, the team showed plenty of resilience and determination throughout the contest.

A special mention also goes to Brooke Duncan, who took on the important role of scorer throughout the season and was a valuable part of the team's campaign.

A Grade — A Return to the Finals

The A Grade season marked a new chapter for the senior side, with Dylan Eldridge taking over as manager for his first season.

The team also received a boost late in the season when former MLB player and current Team Australia and Melbourne Aces player Aaron Whitefield took the field for the Braves in a crucial win over Traralgon that secured Churchill's place in the finals.

Another major storyline was the return of assistant coach Jacob Dickinson, who made a surprise comeback after a back injury had kept him out of baseball for two years.

The A Grade scoring team of Kirby Cannizarro, Katrina Thomas, Tony Dickinson and Ashleigh Hartwig were also an important part of the side's successful season.

Churchill faced Moe Newborough in the semi-final at Andrews Park, but the Dodgers took control early, scoring three runs in the first inning before adding another three in the third.

Churchill was unable to find a way through the Moe Newborough pitching, managing just two hits for the game, while the Dodgers' offence continued to apply pressure.

Jarrod Thomas started on the mound for Churchill and battled through six innings, allowing 10 hits and seven runs, although only three of those runs were earned.

Churchill also turned two double plays during the game, while Tim Bellerby and Jack Thomas collected the team's only hits.

Moe Newborough ultimately secured a 10–0 victory, bringing Churchill's A Grade finals campaign to an end in the semi-final.

While A Grade would not progress to the Grand Final, reaching the finals in Eldridge's first season at the helm provided an important foundation for the future

Churchill & Monash Golf Club

Monthly Medal (Stroke)
August 29, 2026

Monthly Medal Winner: C. Gilfillan Nett 70 Stroke Winner: G. Beyer 85

Putts Winner: R. Madigan 21 putts A Grade Winner: M. Brereton Nett 74

B Grade Winner: C. Gilfillan Nett 70 C Grade Winner: C. Stevens Nett 75

D.T.L: 1. G. Beyer 75, 2. M. Soppe 75, 3. D. Cluderay 76.4, 4. A. Sharrock 76, 5. G. Sanders 76, 6. R. Harvey 77, 7. D. Taylor 78, 8. G. Stewart 79 c/b, 9. P. Smart 79 c/b N.T.P: 3rd C. Hogpin (Propin), 12th J. Keighran, 14th G. Sanders

Target Hole: G. Beyer

Monthly Medal (Stroke)
September 1, 2026

Monthly Medal Winner: C. Carder 72 Nett Stroke Winner: C. Carder 99

Putts Winner: C. Carder 24 D.T.L: S. Caldwell 78 Nett N.T.P: 3rd M. Ryan, 5th M. Ryan, 12th M. Dear, 14th S. Caldwell

Stableford September 5, 2026

Winner: P. Kearns 34 pts D.T.L: 1. C. Gilfillan 33, 2. N. Erasmus 32

N.T.P: 14th C. Gilfillan Target Hole: C. Gilfillan

Par September 8, 2026

Winner: M. Hutchison -2 D.T.L: G. Dingwell -7 c/b N.T.P: 3rd K. Piccolo, 5th S. Caldwell, 12th S. Caldwell

Mulligans September 12, 2026

A Grade Winner: A. West 40 pts B Grade Winner: P. McCann 38 pts

C Grade Winner: R. Welsh 41 pts D.T.L: R. Zomer 40. Stacy 39. R. Dent.39. R. Tewierik 38. M. Soppe 38. G. Sanders 37. R. Reggardo 37. G. Beyer 37 c/b. N.T.P: 3rd R. King (pro pin) 5th P. Kearns. 12th G. Beyer. 14th P. Kearns.

Birdies: 12th M. Soppe. 14th P. Kearns. Target Hole: R. King

Stableford Tuesday
September 15, 2026

Winner: C. Stevens 28 pts c/b D.T.L: C. Carder 28 pts N.T.P: 3rd M. Ryan. 5th M. Ryan. 12th S. Caldwell. 14th S. Caldwell.

Monthly Medal: (Stroke)
September 19, 2026

Monthly Medal Winner: I. Fortune (12) Scratch 87. 75 nett

Putts Winner: C. Gilfillan 26 putts A Grade Winner: I. Fortune 75 nett (12)

B Grade Winner: J. Soppe 76 nett (21) C Grade Winner: C. Stevens 74 nett (42) D.T.L: M. Hutchinson 75. M. Ryan 76. R. Dent 76. A. Sharrock 76. C. Sterrick 76. G. Tatterson 77. G. Leahy 77 N.T.P: 3rd A. Auld. Pro pin 12th M. Dear. 14th R. Dent. Target Hole: G. Barnes Birdies 12th M. Dear 14th I. Fortune.

Stableford4BBB:
September 22, 2026

Winners: M. Dear and A. Dingwall 45 pts. D.T.L: J. Clegg and J. Tatterson 42 pts. c/b. M. Ryan and G. Maddocks 42 pts. N.T.P: 3rd G. Maddocks. 5th



M. Dear. 12th M. Dear. 14th M. Ryan. Birdies: 3rd M. Hutchinson and G. Maddocks.

Churchill United soccer team wins the Under 11A Championship

The Rams under 11 team has lifted the inaugural Gerry Riess Trophy in a dominant tournament display, testing their stamina on an unseasonably warm day.

Over the course of the five match tournament the team did not concede a goal, which was thanks to a resolute display from goal keepers Tommy Lawless and Zane Burge, along with defenders Tom Breheny, Charlie Jones, Liam McDougall and Noah Sanders.

Churchill's attackers were in devastating form collecting a bag full of goals led by Mason Crawford, Nash Apted, Zaiden Apted and Flynn Bennett, with Breheny also contributing two goals from free kicks.

The final was a tense affair with Churchill prevailing 1-0 over Traralgon Olympians.

Churchill took the early lead after Crawford's silky skills found a pin point cross for Nash Apted to volley home, leaving the Olympians keeper with no chance.

Churchill then strangled the match, happy to sit on their lead and create counter attacking opportunities, to the frustration of the Blues who could not get past the Rams defensive wall as the heat took its toll on both teams.

The win makes it three years in a row that Churchill has won the top tier of the Football Victoria Latrobe Valley Under 11 competition.

The tournament itself was a massive success with 16 teams competing from across Gippsland.

The tournament was named in honour of Churchill stalwart Gerry Riess who was a well known football identity not only at Churchill but across the Latrobe Valley for over 40 years.



Churchill Bowls Club

The Churchill Bowls Club held its season opening on Sunday September 20 with twenty players having a fun day followed by an enjoyable, social afternoon tea.

Practice matches have been played against Yinnar and Boolarra.

The official midweek season starts on Tuesday October 13, with Saturday's competition starting on Saturday October 17.

Practice is on Wednesdays and Fridays from 4 pm and anyone, regardless of age, is most welcome to come and join in. Flat soled shoes are required and bowls are available for all to use.

A well-attended, fun trivia night was held on October 2 and future social events are being planned.

The bowls club is situated in Manning Drive adjacent to the football ground.

For any further information please contact President, Gill Turpin 0417 341 057 or Secretary, David Moir 0419 555 875.

MORWELL BOWLING CLUB
Bistro Open 7 days
Lunch and Dinner
Bookings essential
Phone 03 5134 3449
Website
www.morwellbowls.com.au
Email
bowls@morwellbowls.com.au
morwellbowls.com.au



SCHOOL news — Boolarra Primary

Boolarra Primary School has been enjoying an exciting new sporting experience with DS Sport, who have been visiting us to teach students and teachers the skills and techniques of basketball.

The sessions have given students the opportunity to learn new basketball skills, including dribbling, passing, shooting and teamwork. Students have enjoyed getting active, trying new challenges and developing their confidence on the court.

The students have especially enjoyed learning new skills and putting them into practice through fun games and activities. There have been plenty of smiles, teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the sessions.

A big thank you to DS Sport for coming to our school and helping everyone discover the fun of basketball.

Boolarra Primary School was treated to a wonderful musical experience when students from Kurnai College visited our school for an exciting music workshop.

The workshop featured musical presentations performed by talented students from Years 7–12. Our students enjoyed listening to a diverse range of musical genres and discovering just how many different ways music can be performed and enjoyed.

The workshop was not just about watching and listening. Our students had the opportunity to get involved through interactive singing and dancing, creating a fun and energetic atmosphere throughout the session. There were plenty of smiles as students joined in and experienced the joy of making music together.

The workshop was a fantastic opportunity for our students to be entertained, learn something new and discover the possibilities that music can offer. Seeing older students sharing their musical talents was also an inspiring experience for our younger students.

A huge thank you to the students and staff from Kurnai College for visiting Boolarra Primary School and sharing their passion for music with us. We hope the workshop has inspired some budding musicians and encouraged our students to continue exploring, creating and enjoying music!

A big thank you to Churchill & District News from Boolarra Primary School for recognising our talented writers in the 2026 Writing Competition. Our winners were delighted to receive their certificates and bags of goodies, and we are very proud of their wonderful achievements!

The article below has been written by Jake and Ava about our recent excursion.

'Boolarra Primary School Grades 2-6 travelled to Yinnar South Primary School for a joint excursion with Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC). As we arrived at Yinnar Primary School we met the beautiful therapy dog Winnie. We moved to the art room to meet with scientist Dr Diania and learned all about designing rockets. We all made rockets and went to the bottom of the hill where the launch stations were set up. Excitement was high as we filled our rockets with water and pumped air to launch our rockets. After our first launch we launched our rockets for a second time with more air to make our rockets go higher. We had so much fun and learned lots of new and exciting information about space and science'.







SCHOOL news — Churchill Primary

A special Father's Day morning at Churchill Primary School

What a wonderful morning we had at Churchill Primary School as we celebrated Father's Day! We were delighted to welcome so many dads, grandfathers and special people to our school to enjoy a delicious breakfast and spend some quality time with our students.

The sunny morning was filled with smiles, laughter and plenty of bacon and eggs! It was a lovely opportunity for our students to share a special moment with the important people in their lives before everyone headed off to work or began their day of learning.

RUOK? Day

On September 10, CPS students learnt that asking someone "Are you OK?" is a simple way to show care, notice when someone might be struggling, and start a supportive conversation. Our students took part in activities to learn about the importance of checking in with others and showing kindness and care.

Students explored how to recognise when a friend might not be feeling themselves, how to start a conversation by asking "Are you OK?", and the importance of listening and seeking help from a trusted adult when needed.

It was a wonderful reminder that a simple question can help someone feel supported, valued and cared for.

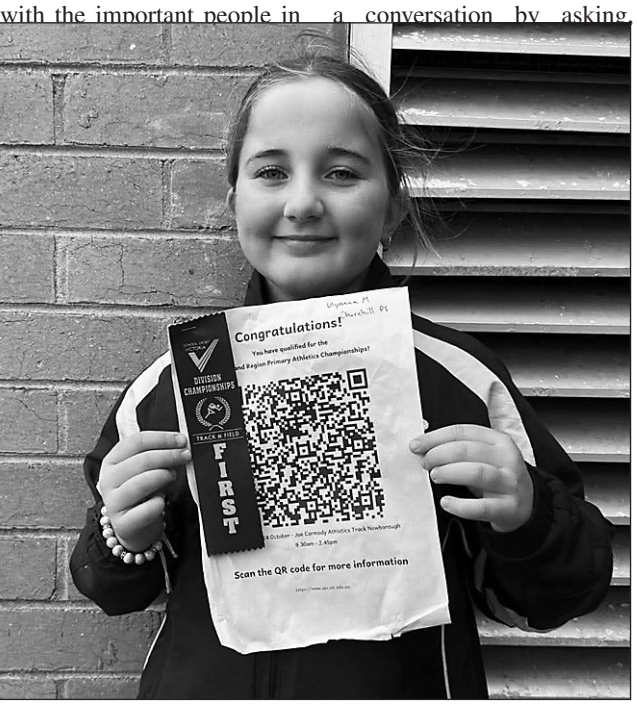
Latrobe Valley Division Athletics

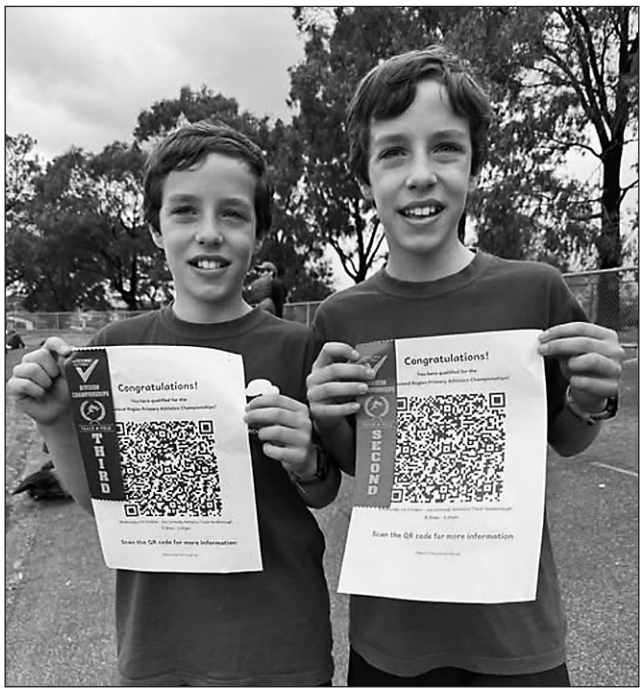
Churchill Primary School students enjoyed a successful day at the Latrobe Valley Division Athletics, with 12 students from Grades 4 to 6 representing our school across a range of events. Despite challenging weather conditions, including constant rain and very little sunshine, our students showed determination and gave their best effort throughout the day.

We are incredibly proud of the way our students competed and, in particular, the outstanding sportsmanship, encouragement and support they showed towards their fellow competitors. A fantastic achievement for Churchill Primary School, with five of our students progressing to the Gippsland Region Athletics next term!

Congratulations to all our athletes on a wonderful effort.









SCHOOL news — Churchill North Primary

A fun - filled visit from Chris Collin!

Churchill North Primary School was delighted to welcome Chris Collin, an award-winning Australian author and publisher of wacky, rhyming children's books.

Chris entertained and inspired our students with his energetic storytelling, puppets, music, singing, dancing and creative art activities. His visit was filled with laughter, joy and plenty of fun!

The children enjoyed listening to two of his popular books, 'Funky Chicken' and 'Blue Whale Poo', and enthusiastically joined in with the activities.

Chris certainly brought his wonderful imagination and infectious energy to our school. We thoroughly enjoyed having Chris visit Churchill North Primary School and thank him for creating such a memorable experience for our students!

Footy Colours Day

Churchill North Primary School celebrated Footy Colours Day on the last day of Term 3. Students came dressed in their favourite football/soccer teams colours, and participated in multi-age group activities throughout the day.

Students said the hand balling target game was so much fun, and they loved creating a new guernsey for their favourite teams!!







SCHOOL news — Yinnar Primary

Collaborative Play

On alternate Fridays when it is not Celebration, the Prep children enjoy participating in collaborative play. This provides wonderful opportunities for our learners to put our core values and learner traits into action in meaningful and authentic ways.

As children play, they are learning to listen to others, share ideas, negotiate, take turns, solve problems and work towards a common goal. These moments allow them to practise collaborating, questioning, immersing and preserving, while also demonstrating our core values of curiosity and aiming high. It is lovely to see the children engaging with many of their peers during collaborative play and genuinely valuing each other's ideas and input.

Book Week

On August 28, we had Book Week Day and did a range of fun activities run by the teachers. We did four rotations in total - two before snack and two after snack.

While we were eating lunch, Mrs Coffin and Mrs Try announced the winners of Best Book Week Costume. Before they announced the winners, they said the honourable mentions would get a bookmark made by Mitch because they were very close to winning a prize. Thanks, Mitch!

Once they had done that, they pulled out the one raffle winner. The winner of the raffle this year was Steph.

During lunch playtime, Mitch had organised a scavenger hunt for everyone who wanted to join in. The challenge was to find 'Where's Wally?' pictures that were hidden all around the school.

It was lots of fun! Everyone who completed the challenge was entered into a draw, and the winners were drawn the following Monday.

In the last hour of the day, we had the music performances that all the classes had come up with. 5/6BC did 'The Cup Song', 5/6K did 'We Will Rock You' with the Boom whackers, 5/6C did the 'Cha Cha Slide', 3/4LC did 'Believer', 3/4G did 'Easton Rosellas', 3/4P did the 'Hoedown Throwdown', 1/2K did 'You've Got a Friend in Me', 1/2MC did 'Hakuna Matata' and Prep did 'Stand By Me'.

It was a really fun day, and it was a great way to celebrate Book Week together as a school.

We had lots of fun activities, costumes, music and of course books!

Written by Steph and Lylah

Building Project

It has been exciting to see the first steps of our Capital Works Project take place, with the successful delivery of our two MOD5 portables this week.

For many of our students, seeing the crane arrive and watching the different parts of the portables being delivered was a real highlight.

It was certainly something a little different from the usual school day, and I loved seeing the curiosity and excitement from our students as they watched the work take place.

While having this activity occurring in and around the school grounds was unusual, I would like to thank our staff for their support throughout the day in helping to manage the movement of students and ensuring the yard remained a safe environment for everyone.

The delivery of the portables is an important first step in what will be a significant project for our school.

It is great to see the work beginning to take shape, and I look forward to keeping our community updated as the project progresses.









SCHOOL news — Hazelwood North Primary

Wear it Purple Day:

Hazelwood North Primary School turned into a sea of purple on Friday August 28 as we recognised 'Wear it Purple Day for Equality'. We were reminded to be kind, caring and respectful to everyone!

Father's / Special Person Morning:

What a wonderful morning we had on Friday September 4, celebrating our fathers and special people in our school community. Our morning started with a delicious pancake, fruit and cereal breakfast in our school hall followed by activities and games in all of our classrooms.

Our wonderful Parents and Friends group organised a special Father's Day stall for all our students to make some very special purchases for their loved ones.

R U OK?

Our school turned into a sea of yellow to acknowledge "R U OK? Day". Students were involved in various activities to show how they can ask a friend if they are OK and what to do if the response is 'No'.

We learnt that being kind, offering to listen and get help is a simple but meaningful way to assist someone when they need it and it is important to check in with them again.

During our recess and lunchtime our student leaders organised some special games in the yard.

A Little Bit of Blue Visiting Performance:

On Wednesday September 16, we had a very special puppeteer named Jenny, all the way from Sydney, to perform a very special puppet show for our students and staff. All our students gathered in our school hall and were engaged from the very start of the show.

It was wonderful to watch some live theatre at our school and to see the joy on all of our students faces while they watched the show. We thank our wonderful school community for their support in allowing us to hold this special show at our school.

F-2 Marvellous Movers: Friday September 18

During Inquiry this term, our F-2 students have been exploring and learning about forces, materials and the science of motion. Students have designed, built and improved their very own 'Marvellous Mover' and ended the term with a 'Marvellous Mover Grand Prix'.

Parents were invited to come along and see all students sharing their plan and design with a gallery walk through all our F-2 classrooms where the students shared and talked about their 'Marvellous Movers', sharing their original designs and explaining the modifications they made to create their final creations. Students then moved on to our much anticipated 'HNPS Marvellous Movers Grand Prix' to see how far our fabulous vehicles could travel after rolling along a special ramp.



At the conclusion of the Grand Prix some special awards were given to our competitors. It was such a fun way to end our Inquiry unit for the term.

Footy Colours Day: Friday September 18

Our Footy and Sport Colours Day was a big hit across the school with so many different teams and sports represented. We also raised money to support the Fight Cancer Foundation with a gold coin donation.





SCHOOL news — Kurnai University Campus



VCE VM Year 12 students get hands-on at Caringal Scout Camp

As part of the VCE VM Year 12 curriculum, students are required to plan, organise and deliver a Community Project. Next term students will put these skills into practice through a community partnership with Caringal Scout Camp.

Students will volunteer their time and practical skills to improve camp facilities, including painting storage containers, cleaning accommodation and kitchen areas, and removing overhanging branches and hazards along walking trails.

They will also cater for themselves in the camp kitchen and stay overnight.

After the day's work, students will participate in team-building activities, developing communication, leadership and teamwork skills.

Recently, a small group visited Caringal to meet the caretaker, inspect the facilities and discuss the work required. The visit helped students identify priorities and begin planning their project.

Now, students will finalise their plans and prepare to make a genuine contribution to the camp — while hopefully keeping the leeches at arm's length!

History Revolutions excursion

On Friday August 28, our Year 12 History Revolutions class joined other VCE History students from across the Latrobe Valley at Traralgon College.

We listened to presentations from historians who specialise in the American and French Revolutions and had the opportunity to ask lots of questions about the topics we have studied throughout the year.

It was great to hear perspectives from professionals who work in the field. One of the highlights was seeing an amazing collection of primary sources up close, including original handwritten letters from George Washington, King George III, and King Louis XVI! It was a fantastic day and a valuable experience for everyone.

Football State Championship

On September 1, the Senior Boys/Mixed Football team competed at the SSV State Championship at Darebin International Sports Centre.

After winning both the Wellington and Gippsland Championships, the team earned their place among Victoria's top eight.

Facing elite competition, they showed determination and sportsmanship throughout the day. Their final match against eventual champions Brentwood College ended in a narrow 1–0 result — an impressive effort.

It was a huge day, with an early start, long bus trip and plenty of preparation before taking to the pitch.

A special thank you to all the students and staff involved.

What a fantastic team and memorable SSV football season! Top 8 in Victoria is an achievement to be proud of.

R U OK? Day

Recently, our College came together to celebrate R U OK? Day — a day dedicated to connection, kindness and reminding each other that a simple question can make a big difference.

Across each campus, students enjoyed a BBQ lunch, while our VPC students and Kurnai Young Parents Program students teamed up to create and distribute R U OK? bags for our senior students. It was fantastic to see these two cohorts come together and work side by side to deliver another meaningful initiative for our College community.

A huge thank you to our Advocate Team and Wellbeing Teams across each campus for the time, effort, and care they put into making the day such a positive and meaningful experience for our students.

New Public Toilets now open in Churchill

A long awaited project has finally come to fruition, with brand new public toilets in Churchill now operational, after the fence around the site was finally removed on Thursday September 25. The facility is centrally located next to Georgina Parade, just up from the Fish and Chip shop, and is well worth stopping by to take a look.

Some fencing will remain in place for now around the revegetated area surrounding the facility, to allow this landscaping to properly establish and regrow.

The new facility has been designed with the whole community in mind, and comes equipped with a genuinely impressive range of features. Families will appreciate the baby change table, while the facility also offers soap, a wash station and an air hand dryer to keep everything clean and hygienic. Toilet paper is dispensed automatically, and the toilet itself flushes on its own, so there is no need to touch a thing.

For added comfort, the facility even plays music, and a handrail has been included to support accessibility for all users. There is also a voice feature that talks users through using the facility, making it easy and welcoming for everyone, including those who may need a little extra guidance. For peace of mind and safety, the door will open automatically after ten minutes if it has not been used, ensuring no one is left locked in.

This project has been many years in the making, and special thanks must go to the Churchill & District Community Association, along with Margaret Guthrie and Linda Reid, whose determination and advocacy over many years has finally seen accessible, twenty four hour toilets centrally located in Churchill's business district for the whole community to use and enjoy.

This is a fantastic addition to Churchill, reflecting a genuine commitment to providing modern, accessible, and thoughtfully designed community infrastructure. Now it is up to all of us to look after this facility, so it remains in great condition and continues to serve the Churchill community well for years to come.

Next time you are out and about in town, be sure to have a look for yourself and see everything this new facility has to offer.



Federation University

A Newly Mown Labyrinth For Churchill



Federation University grounds curator Anton Vardy has expertly mown a classical seven-circuit labyrinth on the knoll between the university auditorium and the golf course, ready in time for RU Okay? Day. Several students tried this ancient walking meditation as part of the day's activities, which were all about de-stressing and promoting well-being.

The classical design is the oldest and most widespread type of labyrinth. Ancient sites have been found in most continents, some more than 3,500 years old. The particular design Anton has mown leads the meditator on a 500-meter journey of twists, turns and circuits, eventually leading into the centre.

Unlike a maze, there are no tricks. A labyrinth has a single journey in and a single journey out. As a meditative practice it is believed to lower breathing rates, clear the mind and promote creativity. The twists and turns have a way of mimicking life's journey and can help you think through problems.

This labyrinth is open to the public and can be used at any time. If you park in the carpark near the golf course and then head towards the auditorium steps you will easily find the entrance and exit to the labyrinth.



Latrobe Regional Gallery



Jeremy Kasper, Untitled (A love lost is not forgotten) 2026. 200 x 200 cm. Spray paint and oil paint on canvas.

Palm Tree Love

Palm Tree Love gathers eleven Gippsland artists, alongside works from the Latrobe Regional Gallery collection, each responding to the poetics, memories and interpersonal and inventive relationships formed around regional landmarks. Each of the works imaginatively explores township and the vessels of a landmark's identity and character. Some landmarks are iconic and widely known; others are niche, held only in generational memory or passed down through communal stories and limited texts.

Open to November 15 in Galleries 1 and 2.

Geo-luminescence

Geo-luminescence is a material exploration of the capacity of slaked lime to echo its' own origins in the deep sea, its' uplift into the air to become mountainous, and its' dissolution to form karst landscape above and below ground. Geo-luminescence is a material exploration by artist Sarah Tomasetti of the exchange of matter and light, where water and sedimentary stone meet, where one becomes the other and plant and animal life grows.

Open to November 15 in Gallery 3.

Ukiyo-e: Responding to Tradition

Ukiyo-e: Responding to Tradition brings together Japanese woodblock prints from Latrobe Regional Gallery's collection with a contemporary response by TWOONE / Hiroyasu Tsuri. TWOONE has spent time in Latrobe City and is weaving the local flora and fauna into his grand mural response to the collection. Spanning theatre, landscape, beauty and legend, the exhibition celebrates the enduring energy of Japanese print culture and its continuing influence on contemporary art.

Open to November 26 in Gallery 4

Robert Lee Davis: Between the lands of now and then

Robert Lee Davis: Between the lands of now and then, is an earnest and powerful exhibition by American Australian artist Robert Lee Davis.

The exhibition presents an imaginative Myriorama—a myriad of pictures and artworks—deeply rooted in storytelling, reflection, and communitydriven anecdotes.

Together, these works seek to replenish our understanding of how the lands we inhabit retain memory and how they bear witness to what we have achieved, removed and inhabited.

Open to November 29 in Gallery 5.

Catherine Bainbridge: Continuum

Catherine Bainbridge: Continuum is a gentle yet explorative tribute to East Gippsland, its waterways, lands and skies.

Spanning eight decades of works, the exhibition evokes the artist's connection to the elements and ecosystems from her youth to adulthood.

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