

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

Established 1966

Distributed Free

Scout Hall opening - p 2

Local Doctor Awarded - p 11

Opening /Closing Times

West Res. Development - p 19



Merry CHRISTMAS

Christmas Spirit is alive and well in Churchill

Churchill & District News thank our wonderful supporters, advertisers and readers.

Churchill and District News has had another successful year with several achievements under its belt.

We have :

1. Produced 11 issues of the paper which has grown to an average of 30 pages.
2. Won an award at the Community Newspaper Conference 2014
3. Helped run successful "Come and Try days" with the Churchill Baseball Club and Churchill Tennis Club, as well as planning with the Golf Club for their "Come and Try day" in February.
4. Our annual Writing Competition was again well patronised.
5. The Junior Fishing Competition saw 82 young anglers participate.
6. We have continued to build positive partnerships with local organisations, our service clubs and individuals.
7. We have attracted willing sponsorship from several new and ongoing sources for our competitions, and paper productions. We thank those sponsors and supporters very much. We are so grateful for their help.
8. Our readers give us much positive feedback.
9. New volunteers have joined our team and are contributing wholeheartedly. Our volunteers make a great team.

Thank you everyone. We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas with wishes for a healthy, satisfying and productive 2014.

Stay safe. We want your continued support in the New Year.

- Churchill & District News Team

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS



Christmas Spirit is very evident in Churchill. There are decorations up in the streets and Churchill Primary School banners are displayed in the West Place Shopping Centre. Shop windows are decked with Christmas images. Houses have Christmas lights to delight the hearts of all ages. Churchill Newsagency is

hosting Santa on December 21, between 10 am and noon to talk to the children, and while they are waiting they can have their faces painted.

Food and toy parcels have been collected for distribution to the needy. The lonely will have comfort.

Carols by Candlelight saw a happy crowd of

people come to sing carols and be entertained.

Children participated in the Nativity story through Christmas Club and Christian Religious Education.

Shop assistants are smiling and people are greeting each other with wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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New Scout facility unveiled in Churchill

In a joint venture with Scouts Victoria and the State Government, a brand new facility at the Churchill Scout Hall was unveiled on Saturday December 7 at 11am.

Present for the occasion, included Member for Morwell, Russell Northe, Robert Taylor Retiring Chief Commissioner of Scouts Victoria, Alan Wilson, retiring Regional Commissioner Gippsland Region, Councillor Darrell White, Group Leader Peta Whelan, leaders and members of the Churchill Scouts and Rovers and other scouting leaders from the district.

After a tour of inspection of the Rover's Den, the Q Store, covered space and office, Peta Whelan began formalities by thanking everyone for coming to unveil the new facilities.

This facility was made possible by a grant of \$25,000 from the State Government's Scouts and Guides Facilities Grants Program, and \$25,000 from Scouts Victoria. Help was also received from Latrobe City Council with installing the air conditioning and heating systems.

Much of the work was done by Jeff Kemp, a long serving scouting leader at Churchill and now in Region, his brother Ken Kemp, an electrician, and his cousin Mark the erector of the building. Jeff worked night and day to produce the final outcome, which included lining of the new building and blocking in the roof space above the offices and kitchen in the main hall, to make an out of sight storage facility. The Kemp family has also presented an Awards Board for the main hall.

Peta thanked Jeff and his team, presenting him with a gift in appreciation.

Peta also thanked Kaspa who, free of charge, painted out the hall and the floor, lightening and brightening the space.

Robert Taylor was invited to speak. He thanked the State Government for its pro-active involvement with this initiative. Due to the funding, 70 new facilities have been approved in the last 3-4 years. Scouting has grown 25% in the last few years. The State Government is concerned with mental health in our young people. Scouting is a great way to prepare our kids for life.

An additional \$5 million has also been provided by the Victorian Government to support the Scouts and Guides for buildings, to increase the participation of culturally and linguistically



diverse young people and to improve training of volunteers. The total \$5 million investment into the Scouts and Guiding movements aligns with the Victorian Government's Engage, Involve, Create Youth Statement.

Robert also said he was encouraged to see this lovely new facility for the Rovers, who also are very much involved with Showtime, and to note that a new Joey's group was going to start in the new year.

He thanked the leaders and other volunteers for their dedication saying they contribute about six hours weekly on a local basis.

Russell Northe spoke thanking everyone for their efforts, saying it was a credit to them to see such a wonderful, new facility which was very practical. He remarked on the great transformation which had taken place from the condemned previous building to the new complex.

Russell thanked the Scout leaders for their service to the community through Scouts which provides opportunities for a pursuit of recreational activity, the acquisition of new skills, involvement in leadership and volunteering, a chance to be active while engaging in social interaction, making of new friends, and, of course, having some fun along the way.

"It is pleasing to hear of the increased participation in Scouting and Guiding which has resulted in having the new facilities available to attract young people to these organisations", he finished.

Cutting of the ribbon to officially open the building then proceeded.

Morning tea was served in the main hall where a further presentation was made by Robert Taylor to Alan Wilson in recognition of his services as Regional Commissioner for Gippsland Region over the last two years.

Churchill Scouting group has 30 plus youth members, 16 Rovers, nine leaders and plans to start a Joey's group early in 2014.

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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

The Team

- Team Leader/ Secretary: Ruth Place
- Treasurer: Ruth Courtis
- Editor: Carol Scott
- Advertising: Ruth Place, Tracey Burr
- Layout: Allan Larkin
- Production: Tracey Burr, Carol Scott, Ruth Place, Sam Gillett, Allan Larkin
- Proof Readers: Ruth Place, Olivia Jackson, Geraldine Larkin, Carol Scott
- Team Members: Val Prokopiv, Bethany Leak, Delma Hodges, Charlie Rawlinson, Bea Stallborn, Barbara Cheetham
- Webpage: Cassandra Hooimeyer

www.cdnews.com.au

Contributions

The deadline for the submission of articles and advertisements for the February 2014 edition is January 30, 2013

EDITORIAL

Articles for publication and Letters to the Editor can be sent to: Churchill & District News, PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842. Or Email: cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au. All articles must be submitted by the 30th of each month for publication in the next issue.



Articles can be left in our Drop Off Boxes. Located at: Churchill Post Office, Co-Operating Church, Williams Avenue (east side door)

ADVERTISING

Advertising enquiries can be addressed to: Ruth Place, Tracey Burr or Allan Larkin, Churchill & District News, PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842. Or Email: cdnadvertising@aussiebb.com.au. Telephone: Ruth 03 5122 1961, Tracey 0422 823 179, Allan 0427 372 517

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Churchill rainfall November

By Bruce Stephenson year since February, November has been with only 41 mls of rain recorded, giving the Churchill area 68 mls so far this year, or just over 27 inches in the old terms.



Let's hope we get some more good rain in December to get us close to the 30 inches for the year.

Best wishes to everyone for a very healthy and happy festive break in 2013-14.



Dr David A. Forys, Chiropractor
Laberta K. Forys, MSc, Dietitian

3 Switchback Road, Churchill
Phone 5122 3336

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Churchill & District News reaches readers in Churchill, Yinnar, Yinnar South, Boolarra, Hazelwood North and South and Mirboo North.

It pays to Advertise in your local Community!

Mathison Park



Another great working bee was held on Saturday November 16. It was good to welcome Andrew and Jenny. Some more fallen branches were taken care of, but the main work was to clear the tall grass on both sides of the concrete pathway to Kurnai. Max used the brush cutter for about four hours to reduce the grass level. Others raked up the grass while others collected it to take it to the rubbish piles. The exercise certainly got our heart rates up without going to a gym. Nor did we need a heater to keep warm.

Our December working bee will be held on December 21. Call Ruth 5122 1961 for instructions about where to meet.

We enjoyed a lovely meal together for our Christmas breakup at the Churchill Hotel.

Thank you to all those who use the park responsibly, caring for the environment and thinking of other park users by cleaning up after your dogs, and disposing of rubbish.

Some people have noticed snakes in the park. Please be careful. Dogs should be kept on the leash. A snake bite can be fatal for a dog, and antivenin is very expensive.

The Mathison Park Committee wishes all those users of the park a happy time over Christmas and a safe and relaxing time during the holiday season.

Churchill Neighbourhood Centre

To all our tutors, students, volunteers, and supporters, we at the Neighbourhood Centre wish you all a very Merry and Festive Christmas, and a very Happy and Safe New Year.

It's been a fantastic year for our participants, with many and varied classes to choose from. It's been a pleasure to have you attend our Centre. We hope you enjoyed your Life Long Learning, meeting new people and making new friendships, and in the process have enjoyed yourself, and had fun in doing so - many thanks.

2014 - What will it bring?

We are hoping that it will bring you back to our Centre, a safe and friendly environment for learning, where our first class tutors will teach and enhance your skills for a better life style, whether it's for pleasure or work.

Term 1, 2014 will commence on Monday February 3. The office will open the week before, so if you are interested in joining any of our classes, please come in or phone / email and make it known what you are interested in, or let us know of other classes you would like to have available at the Centre.

Painting/folk art classes, patchwork for beginners, computer classes - basic, social media, computers 4 employment, photo editing, patchwork for advanced, book club, discussion group, craft circle - stitch/chat/knit/sew - finish UFO's, creative writing, career / personal development - adult literacy and numeracy, quilting machine training are available. We also have a Community Workshop - woodwork/ metalwork, and a Tai Chi class, to keep our bodies fit and our minds alert.

A Community Kitchen - if enough cooks can be found - will also start and hopefully cook up a storm in 2014.

If you do not wish to join a class, come in and have

a chat / cuppa. Let's meet and greet, become a member and support the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre, and/or become a volunteer, and help with many fund raising activities required to keep the Centre operating. It's not hard work but a very valuable, satisfying, and community building exercise.

Child Immunization:

Child Immunization sessions are also done here at the Hub - 14/1, 11/2, 11/3, 8/4 - 12.30 pm - 2.30 pm.

Contact us:

Phone 5122 2955,

Email - churchillnc@bigpond.com,

www.churchill.org.au - find us on facebook.

We are inside the Churchill and District Community Hub, 9 - 11 Philip Parade, Churchill 3842. Postal Address - PO Box 21, Churchill.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Dear Editor,

As we approach 2014, many local groups, clubs and associations will be planning their activities for next year.

Churchill and District Community Association would like to suggest that planning for 2015 also needs to be considered.

In 2015 Churchill will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

This is a major milestone in our history, worthy of commemoration by residents, local associations and stakeholder organisations.

There are many diverse groups within Churchill and district. CDCA believes that to focus celebrations on only one or two events would not pay due respect to the entire community: schools, service and social clubs, sporting associations, long term residents and recent arrivals.

CDCA hopes local groups will embrace the notion of celebrating our 50th anniversary. We would like to see a range of commemorative activities staged across 2015, hosted by a variety of local organisations.

If we are to make 2015 'a year to remember', the planning needs to start next year.

Margaret Guthrie
President, CDCA

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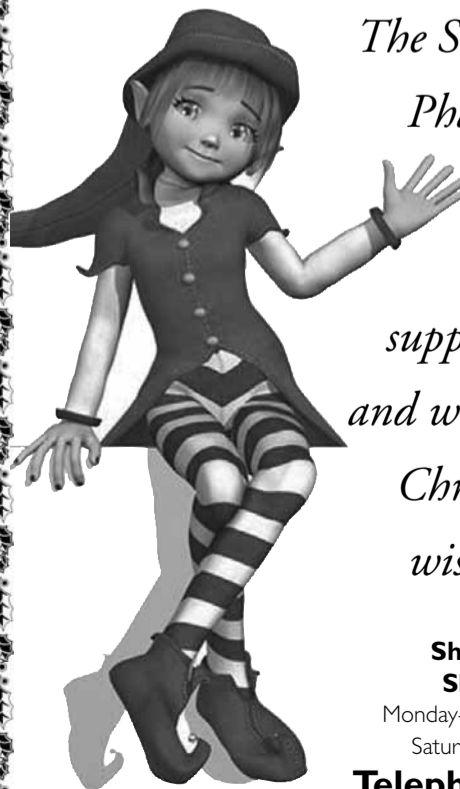
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*The staff would like to wish all
our valued customers a very
Merry Christmas and a
Prosperous New Year*



Please be responsible

By Bruce Stephenson



Please be responsible when picnicking and camping over the Christmas Holidays. Take your rubbish away with you; don't leave it and the environment in a mess like these people did at a camp site recently... Please don't leave a mess; campsites are not tips.

Churchill Gardening Group

Hi, here it is, December already, with all the Christmas parties, luncheons, present buying, and Kris Kringles coming.

It seems like only yesterday that I took down the last Christmas decorations. (Maybe it was !!!)

My husband and I had a ten day sojourn on Norfolk Island just recently and I was so impressed with the hibiscus shrubs, they were everywhere and of the most beautiful colours.

There were also many banana trees or palms, with fruit for the taking, along with paw paws and avocado fruit just falling to the ground. Passionfruit vines were scrambling around, however the fruit was not ripe yet. Growing and flowering in paddocks were magnificent hippeastrums - I was very envious, with my few bulbs contained in pots.

On our way home, we stopped in Sydney for a few days, awaiting the birth of our first great grandchild, but true to form, babies come when they are ready and not to any schedule.

Ashlee Claire arrived one week after we came home to Churchill. Mother and babe are doing well.

While in Sydney, travelling around on the public transport system, I was dazzled by all the jacaranda trees. They were everywhere and in my mind I was planning where I could plant one in our garden at Churchill; but I was brought back to reality on arriving home, with a few glances around the garden and seeing the limited space that I would have for such a big tree.

Oh well, I can dream!

Being away for the month, I was a little late in planting my vegie garden, but they seem to be powering away now.

Small sowings of almost any vegie such as beans, carrots, beetroot, lettuce, or silver beet will thrive now.

Keep up with the watering - a long deep soak is better than a light sprinkling, weak liquid feeding weekly and mulch will keep the vegies happy. For that matter this will keep the whole garden happy.



Seeds or seedlings of aster, candytuft, cosmos, dianthus or petunia to name a few flowers, will carry the flower garden through to autumn, and by removing spent flowers from the annuals this will keep new flowers coming.

Keep pruning spent flowers on your roses and also give them a light feed now and again, this will keep those new buds coming.

This will be my last article for the Churchill News for now. I am passing the baton, shovel or trowel so to speak, onto someone else.

Wishing everyone a wonderful, happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Happy gardening everyone.

On behalf of the Churchill & District News team, I would like to thank Bev for her informative and interesting articles, and wish her all the best for the future.

Editor

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Merry Christmas



Irene, Joy and Kim

Wishing you safe travels over the holiday period

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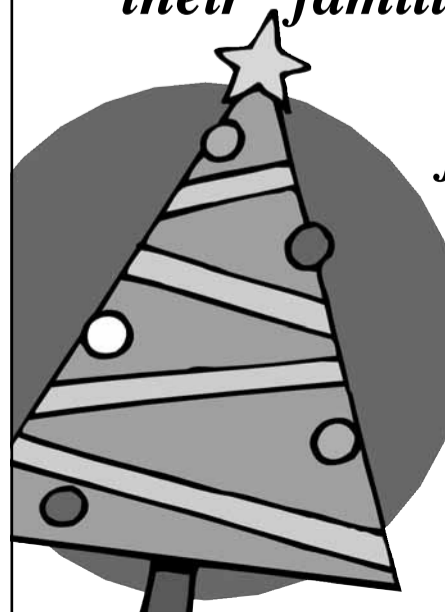
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Churchill & District Community Association
wishes all residents, their families and friends a safe and joyous festive season.



Contact CDCA at P O Box 191, Churchill 3842
Phone 5122 2997

or email:

mgcdca@hotmail.com

DANCING IS BACK!

Old Time Family Dance Jeeralang North Hall

Jeeralang North Road

Friday, January 24, 2014

Dancing from 8.00 pm to 11.30 pm
Music: Ken and Alice

Admission: \$8.00
Door Prize
Supper provided



For more details please ring Judy Mele 0402 923 897 or Heather 51661494

Church News

Christmas Message

Reverend Brenda Burney

One of the best things about this time of the year is the joy and happiness that children have as they look forward in excited expectation to the coming of Christmas. Many of us probably know at least one child who is already excited about the possibilities that Christmas will bring. Often it is through the excitement of young children that we are able to recall the joy that we once experienced as Christmas morning came closer.

Over the last few weeks our church has been involved in bringing the good news of Christmas to many children in our local school communities via the Christian Religious Education program, Christmas Club and Community Carols. On Christmas Eve we will have one more opportunity to share in that excitement as we present the Christmas story at a special family service at our church in Churchill.

When we celebrate something like Christmas we need to know what it is we are celebrating, otherwise our celebrations have no real meaning. This year our Christmas Club message has been focussed on God's great gift of Jesus.

The giving of gifts is central to our celebration of Christmas. Getting together with our families, sharing a meal together, sending and receiving Christmas cards and decorating our homes and Christmas trees are all part of the joy and excitement of Christmas, but the giving and receiving of gifts are signs of the true meaning of Christmas.

I don't know about you but I often find it very difficult to choose what I am going to buy for someone. I put a lot of thought into it and usually a lot of time as I wander from shop to shop looking for inspiration. I want to be able to give a gift that is special, that will bring happiness and pleasure to the person I am giving it to.



This year, as I was looking through some of my Christmas resources, I came across a skit called "Christmas Shopping". In this skit there is an angel and a group of people shopping for Christmas gifts. As the shoppers march along with their carry bags they say, "We're Christmas shopping. And we're not stopping. Got to find the greatest gift for Christmas." They talk about all the things they might buy until an angel appears in front of them and tells them to stop. The angel tells them that she has good news for them, tidings of great joy - that in Bethlehem a Saviour has been born - Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who brings peace on earth for everyone and glory to God in heaven.

On that first Christmas and every Christmas, Jesus continues to be the gift God sends us, a gift wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, a gift from God, chosen carefully because of God's love for us. I pray that you will unwrap that gift of love this Christmas and that it will bring you joy and happiness.

On behalf of the Cooperating Churches in Churchill, Boolarra and Yinnar I wish you a holy and blessed Christmas.

Saturday Breakfast

By Rosslyn Jackson

Saturday Breakfast was presented by Milton Sheilds and Rosslyn Jackson on November 23. They spoke about their experiences in the outback volunteering with Frontier Services.

The presentation began with the story of Reverend John Flynn. In 1912 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church established the Australian Inland Mission (AIM), in response to a report by Reverend John Flynn about the needs of people living in the outback.

Flynn's vision was to create a "mantle of safety" so people could build sustainable communities despite the hardships of outback life. His work led to the development of the pedal radio and the flying doctor service.

Following union of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches in 1977, their outback work came together using the name Flynn himself had used - "Frontier Services".

Today Frontier Services is the largest provider of remote ministry, and of aged care and community care in remote Australia, and delivers a wide range of other services including health care, children's services and community support across 85% of the continent.

Work parties are groups of people who volunteer their time, usually for two weeks, and travel at their own expense. We have been part of the work party at St.Philips school in Alice Springs for several years. St Philips is a secondary college with about 600 students. About 60 of these are boarders from remote stations. Our tasks include cleaning and maintaining the evaporative air conditioners, painting, fixing almost anything and more painting. We work under the direction of the school's maintenance team during the July school holidays.

We have worked at the Katherine Hostel, a residential aged care home. The buildings badly needed painting so most of the 2 weeks was spent



doing that. The residents were very pleased to have their home brightened up. While we were in Katherine we enjoyed the hospitality at Janbar cattle station to celebrate the centenary of Frontier Services.

Another 2 weeks was spent in Mt.Isa at the Remote Area Family Services (RAFS) office installing a new kitchen. We were very grateful to have extra help for this job from a couple who departed from their planned travels to assist us. The staff at Mount Isa sometimes travel 400 km (each way) to present preschool activities and playgroups at remote towns and stations.

We are always left in awe of the Frontier Services staff who work in remote places.

Christmas Services

Christmas Church Services for the Cooperating Parish of Churchill, Boolarra, Yinnar

All are welcome to any of our services.

Thursday, December 19 - A Blue Christmas Service at 7pm at Christ Church, Boolarra This service acknowledges that Christmas can be a painful time for some.

It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult.

The constant refrains on radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost.

The anguish of the death of a loved one can make us feel alone in the midst of the celebrating and joy.

We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness; we need to know that we are not alone. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

Sunday, December 22

A Service of Lessons and Carols at 9.00am at the Cooperating Churches in Churchill

A Service of Lessons and Carols at 11.00am at the Uniting Church in Yinnar

Christmas Eve

- Crib Service at 6.30pm at the Cooperating Churches in Churchill

This is a family oriented service that goes for about an hour and includes lots of activities for the children and telling the Christmas Story.

Holy Communion at 8.30pm at Christ Church, Boolarra

Christmas Day

Holy Communion at 9.00am at the Cooperating Churches in Churchill

Family Service at 9.30am at the Uniting Church in Yinnar

Next Service at Holy Innocents, Yinnar South **Sunday, December 29**

at 11.00am - Anglican Holy Communion with Rev. Brenda Burney

Our little church has had a bit of a facelift in recent months - a new coat of paint and a new fence.

Thanks to those who have helped to look after this special little church.

We have also had two weddings there recently. Blessings

Rev. Brenda Burney (Priest-in-Charge)
Phone: 03 5122 1480

Churchill Christian Fellowship.
Sunday December 22 at 10am

Lumen Christi.

Christmas Eve
8.00pm at Lumen Christi

Christmas Day
9.00am at Lumen Christi.

There will be no Masses at Yinnar or Boolarra on Christmas Day.

Church Times

Co-Operating Churches of Churchill

Rev. Brenda Burney
Williams Avenue,
Churchill.
Tel: 5122 1480

Glenda and Ian Combridge
Tel: 5166 1819
Sunday Service: 9.00am

Lumen Christi Catholic Church

35 Walker Parade, Churchill
Tel: 5122 2226

Father Francis/Father Darek
Saturday: Mass: 6.00pm

Sunday: Mass: 9.00am

1st and 3rd Sundays:

Yinnar: Mass: 10.30am

2nd and 4th Sundays:

Boolarra: Mass: 10.30am

Boolarra/Yinnar Co-Operating Parish

Week 1 - 11am at
Christ Church Boolarra
Ang. HC

Week 2 - 11am at
Christ Church Boolarra
Ang. PPP

Week 3 - 11am at
Uniting Church Yinnar
U C A. H C

Week 4 - 11am at
Uniting Church Yinnar
UCA Service of the Word

Week 5 - 11am at
Yinnar South Anglican H C

Churchill Christian Fellowship

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Put a smile on someone's face this Christmas

Father Francis Otobo, Lumen Christi Parish - Churchill.

Wow! Christmas is here again. What a season to look forward to! A season of joy, a season of celebration, a season of jubilation. We can see and feel this from the change in the looks of the environment: Christmas trees in private homes and public places; shopping centres, nursing homes, hospitals, churches, restaurants and even the streets are decorated with beautifully designed "Christmas lights" and fine images. Santa Claus is seated ready to welcome the kids and bless them with gifts such as chocolates and lollies. Even the beauty of the weather is a testimony to the beauty of the season. The beaches are packed full of families and friends. It is indeed a time, a period, and a season to look up to.

However, the Christmas season always has two sided faces for different people, depending on which side of life's fortune has placed one. While for some it is a time of celebration, catching up with friends and families and catching fun; for others, it is a time of expectation: expectation of gifts from donations, food on the plate, clothing to cover the body, shoes to protect the feet; expectation of "life."

But wait a minute, what are we celebrating? At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of a figure who had, and still has, a great influence in the history of the world. Someone who made a great impact in the style of life that he lived. Over two thousand years ago, Jesus was born. He lived a very simple life. He lived for the poor, though not despising the rich. He lived for the less privileged. He associated with the downtrodden of the society. He lived to reconcile humanity with God. It is the birth of this Jesus that we



Fr Francis Otobo

celebrate at Christmas.

Thus, as we celebrate Christmas this year, let us emulate and reproduce the qualities of the life of Jesus in our lives. Let us be of assistance to someone who needs help. Let us become the food that someone needs badly. Let us become the clothing that someone needs to cover from the harsh elements. Let us become instruments of reconciliation. Let us become sources of love and support for someone. Let us become Jesus for someone. Let us put a smile on someone's face this Christmas. Let us become for someone the reason to live. Let our celebration become the reason for someone else to celebrate.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Co-Operating Churches Snippets



We have had the pleasure of a visitor from Gahini Diocese, our diocese in partnership in Rwanda. Manasseh Gahima is a vibrant, deeply committed Christian, whose life has been very difficult. However he has overcome many obstacles and now shines forth in all he does. Manasseh is married with eight children. He works for his diocese in administration work.

A welcome meal was shared by members of the congregation on the Saturday night. This was followed by Manasseh sharing part of his incredible life story.

Manasseh also preached on Sunday, attended Churchill Home Group, Communion at Hazelwood House, Coffee Connections, enjoyed a flight over the Valley courtesy of one of our parishioners, and shared a meal and meeting time with Parish Council.

It was a whirlwind stay, but we gained so much appreciation of the situation in Gahini and of Manasseh's great trust in God's love and strength and his belief in the power of prayer.

Alex McDougall has been our verger for nineteen years, helping to keep the church neat inside and setting up for weddings, baptisms and funerals. Alex was honoured with the presentation of a certificate of appreciation for a magnificent job well done.

"Bill and the Boys and Girls" provided a wide range of musical entertainment at the Scout Hall in Boolarra. This is always a good night when you can sit and enjoy toe-tapping music played excellently, and all for free. Some people were able to arrive early for a BBQ.

Saturday Breakfast guest speakers were Milton Shields and Rosslyn Jackson. Both of these people joined Frontier Services working parties, which originated from services begun by Reverend John Flynn (Flynn of the Inland).

Each year they head to Alice Springs and other venues when work commitments allow, to do valuable maintenance work on schools and other buildings. This year they also took some time to do some sightseeing.

Our third evening service was a celebration of music in worship service with lots of singing. It was very enjoyable and uplifting. Music certainly has a powerful part to play in our adoration of our God.

Reverend Brenda Burney has been with us now for just over twelve months and we have celebrated joyfully all that she has brought to our parish, and the differences she has made to our programs and outreach. Thank you Brenda.

Youth Group had their final get together for the year at the bowling alley. A good time was had by all, we hear.

Christmas Club has been running through November and December. The children from Churchill Primary School have come to the church to hear about the first Christmas and what it means. This has been followed by a variety of craft activities which are really enjoyed by the children. The final week some congregational members presented a play which highlighted that it is not just about receiving gifts at Christmas, but about God's gift of love in Jesus.

Our new updated website was launched in February, for all your information about the Churchill & District News, Previous Issues, Advertising Enquiries, Competition Details, etc. visit -

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CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

Merry Christmas and a safe and
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- Churchill and District News Team

Farewell Wendy

Wendy Ellis has been a member of the staff of the Churchill Pharmacy for 19 years. Her familiar smiling face, cheerful hello and efficient manner will no longer be present at the front counter from Friday November 29.

Wendy lived a lot of years in Churchill where she brought three children into the world, all of whom attended Churchill Primary School.

Nineteen years ago Wendy joined the pharmacy staff under Ross Ollquist in the new Hazelwood Village shop.

Wendy managed the beauty room for eight years. Ashley Kearns who now works for Advantage Pharmacy says she remembers Wendy piercing her ears at age 4.

Wendy says she was responsible for keeping the community beautiful - both genders.

She is also known for being the Christmas Elf.

Wendy remembers collections of donations for the Churchill News boys and girls Christmas party, and having a Christmas tree where people could place gifts for those less fortunate.

Wendy says she will miss the shop and surely she will be missed too. This had been evident with many people coming into the pharmacy over the last two weeks of her employment and especially on the last day to say farewell and thanks, and to leave some lovely gifts of appreciation.

But the time has come and Wendy is also looking forward to, and plans to enjoy her retirement with



more time for grandchildren, her garden where she wants to grow herbs, learning a new language at a Neighbourhood Learning Centre, and relearning how to cook.

Wendy says she will miss the people of Churchill, but will return from Traralgon on special occasions. She wishes to thank everyone for their good wishes, hugs and gifts.

Your year of writing

By Cora Pal

If you love reading, have a way with words, and enjoy the company of creative people, Churchill Neighbourhood Centre's writing class is the place for you!

Why not join this friendly, relaxed group next year and make 2014 your year of writing? The group meets at the Hub on Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m to 12 pm with a short break for tea, coffee and a chat.

Typically, a short story or article on some aspect of creative writing is read and discussed.

Class members then do some writing of their own and positive feedback is provided by the group. Members experiment with short stories, memoir, children's books and light verse. No pre-requisites are needed.

Writing is relaxing and it's fun. It provides a means of expressing your thoughts, ideas and dreams. Make 2014 a memorable year by joining us at the Hub. Classes start on Tuesday February 28. For further information contact: Henry Parniak, Coordinator 5122 2955 or Cora Pal, Tutor 5122 1611.

Latrobe elects new Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Councillor Sharon Gibson was elected Latrobe City's new Mayor at a special council meeting. Councillor Dale Harriman was elected Deputy Mayor. Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Sandy Kam, was

thanked by council for her leadership during the past twelve months, and presented with a ceremonial gavel in recognition of her service.

Charles Dickens – A Christmas Carol

By Sam Gillett

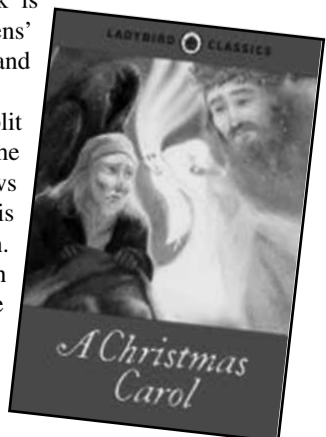
Many people will be familiar with Charles Dickens' classic novella, "A Christmas Carol", which hasn't been out of print since publication in December 1843. Though most people will be familiar with the films or plays or other media in which "A Christmas Carol" is portrayed, nothing beats the words of Dickens' himself.

The story focuses on Ebenezer Scrooge, a greedy man with a cold-hearted approach to life. The characterisation of Scrooge, is initiated by a meeting with his 7-year dead partner, Jacob Marley, who was just as greedy as Scrooge before his own death.

The narrative relies heavily on symbolism with each of the characters representing particular themes

and ideas. The book is highlighted by Dickens' blend of comedy and atmospheric horror.

The book is split into five staves. The first staff shows Scrooge before his moment of realisation. The second to fourth he is visited by three ghosts before finally showing how far he has come in the fifth.



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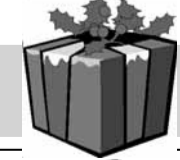
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Churchill Police report



In regard to Police News for the Churchill and District, things have been busy, for all the wrong reasons.

As has been reported widely in the media recently, domestic violence, and violence against women has a huge impact on our families and the community. Unfortunately, it is this type of behaviour that dominates the workload for police at Churchill.

Again, I would encourage people to ensure that valuables are not left in their vehicles, and that they lock their vehicles when left not only in the street, but also in driveways. Unfortunately there are those in our community who are more than prepared to take what is not theirs.

With the introduction of the 'tap to pay' style credit or debit card, there is no requirement for a PIN or other form of identification for purchases, making these cards a popular item for thieves. We have spates of thefts in the area, usually from unlocked vehicles where valuables have been left within view.

With the rapid approach of the festive season, I would encourage people to think before they either get behind the wheel of their car, or get into a car driven by someone who might be affected by alcohol or drugs. Operation RAID is currently being conducted throughout the state, and the Churchill Police have been active in supporting this operation. RAID stands for Reduce Alcohol Impaired Driving, and will continue throughout the festive season.

One of the issues that has arisen from the CDCA Town Safety Group is a report of vehicles travelling at unsafe speeds on Philip Parade near the kindergarten and Community Health Centre. I would urge drivers to slow down not only in this area, but also at all of the other school crossing areas in town, some of which are permanent speed zones. No one wants to hear of a pedestrian, particularly a child, being hit by a car.

Finally, I wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Churchill Neighbourhood Watch/Safer Community Group Crime Report 1/11/2013 to 30/11/2013

Robbery

Nil for the month (Nil previous month)

Assaults

3 for the month (8 previous month)

In all incidents an offender has been charged with assault-related offences.

Arson

1 for the month (Nil previous month)

Overnight on November 6, unknown persons have set fire to a small area of a fence at a property in Heesom Crescent.

Property Damage

7 for the month (6 previous month)

Two offenders have been charged with property damage offences during November. Between November 10 and 20, unknown offenders have sprayed painted graffiti on the scoreboard of a football club in Manning Drive. All the other damages involved objects being thrown at windows of residential premises and a preschool in Churinga Drive.

Burglary

3 for the month (4 previous month)

Two of the burglaries were committed on the one residential unit in Walker Parade, which now makes

three incidents in a four week period. In each incident entry has been forced with damage caused in the unit. Overnight November 14, entry was forced into a residential shed in Bunyarra Court, with a toy crane and motorcycle parts stolen.

Theft from Motor Vehicle

1 for the month (2 previous month)

Overnight November 3, unknown offenders have stolen a single registration plate from a vehicle in the driveway of a residence in Latter Grove.

Theft of Motor Vehicle

1 for the month (2 previous month)

One offender has been charged with theft of motor vehicle during November with the vehicle recovered.

Theft

2 for the month (3 previous month)

One offender has been charged with theft during November whilst money was stolen in an incident in Philip Parade on November 12.

Police remind the community if they see something suspicious they should ring 000 or if they have information in relation to an offence contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppers.com.au.

Neighbourhood Watch / Town Safety Group Team

On behalf of the Neighbourhood Watch / Town Safety Group team at Churchill,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

We will continue to work throughout the new year to see that Churchill and District is kept safe and a great place to live and work. Peter Gray.

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SEASONS GREETINGS FROM MUGSU

WRITTEN BY DAN WHITTINGHAM - MUGSU 2014 PRESIDENT

Hello readers! My name is Daniel Whittingham and I am the newly elected president for the Monash University Gippsland Student Union. I have been on the board in the previous year as the environment director which has given me the experience and knowledge necessary to ensure that the year of 2014 is an exceptional one in all aspects of the word.

Here at MUGSU we believe the relationship with the community is a crucial one. This is because numerous students that we represent interact and socialise with community members every day.

For this reason, I encourage you to contact us if you have any suggestions or ideas that could build on this relationship and provide opportunities for both the students of the university and the community. As 2014 comes closer, we are working hard to organise an array of events that will provide a platform for students to engage and connect with locals which we believe will benefit all involved.

On behalf of the student board and staff here I would like to wish everyone a safe and fun summer holidays. We would also like for you to have a very Happy New Year and Merry Christmas!



Churchill rural health professional honoured at 2013 Rural Health Awards



Dr Fred Edwards receiving his awards at the RWAV Awards.

From left to right David Davis Minister for Health, Dr Fred Edwards, His wife Judi Edwards, sister Margaret Edwards, sister Laurine Pease, her husband Richard and Chairman of RWAV Phillip Webster.
Photograph by Barry Gittins

Member for Morwell, Russell Northe, has commended Dr Fred Edwards for making a real difference in the Churchill community through his dedicated work in rural health.

Recently at the 2013 Victorian Rural Health Awards Dr Edwards was awarded the Outstanding Contributions Award, which recognises those doctors and their families who have made outstanding contributions professionally and through strong community engagement.

“Rural health professionals, like Dr Edwards, provide indispensable support to communities, delivering a wide array of services to people in local clinics, rural and regional hospitals, community and Aboriginal health centres and even in the home,” Mr Northe said.

“Dr Edwards is well respected in our community and this award reflects the high regard in which he is held, by his patients and other members of the community alike.”

Speaking at the 2013 Rural Health Awards in Melbourne, Minister for Health, Mr David Davis, said the Awards were a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the ongoing and significant contribution rural health professionals make in maintaining the health and wellbeing of rural communities.

“This year’s Victorian Rural Health Awards provide an important platform to promote an enriched career working in rural communities to the health professionals of tomorrow,” Mr Davis said.

“Through the 2013 Victorian Rural Health Awards, now in their ninth year, we acknowledge not only the award recipients and nominees, but all the

health professionals and their families working and residing in rural Victoria, for their significant and ongoing contribution to these communities.”

Awards were presented across 9 categories: Outstanding contributions to Rural Communities by GPs, GP Locums, Medical Specialists, Aboriginal Health, Rural General practice, Rural Nursing, Rural Allied Health Professional, Rural Practice Manager and 35 years of service.

Mr Davis said the Victorian Government was committed to supporting the health of our rural communities, which includes strengthening our rural medical workforce.

“Since 2010, the government has invested more than \$200 million each year in training and developing Victoria’s health workforce,” Mr Davis said.

“This investment is currently being brought together under a new initiative, which will ensure our health professionals continue to receive the best training and education.

The initiative includes a strong focus on expanding training in rural and regional areas.” Mr Davis said. Victoria’s rural and regional communities deserved access to top quality health care.

Northern Car Park

Progress continues on works in the pedestrian concourse and northern car park at Churchill town centre.

Concrete has been laid along the centre of the pedestrian concourse, and a ramped “at level” crossing of the re-aligned Georgina Place has been completed. Electrical conduits have been installed for future public lighting along the concourse.

Crushed rock has been added in the new car parking aisle west of the concourse, on future Owners Corporation land. The Owners Corporation also intends to add a temporary seal on the area under the relocated “Hazelwood Village” sign in the near future.

Tenders are being prepared for the supply of landscaping material (particularly tree pits and root zone systems), and public lighting (including footings, poles and luminaires) along the concourse. These will be installed on the sides of the concrete pathway with exposed aggregate laid between the trees and poles. There is a 10-week delay between ordering and delivery of

poles, so they are not expected to be erected for some time.

Advertising for the tender for the taxi rank and bus shelter on a north-eastern traffic island and a bus shelter on a south-eastern traffic island has closed, and the tenders will be considered at a Latrobe City Council meeting in the near future.

Some work will take place behind the existing safety fences over the next few weeks. The Churchill traders have requested that disruptions within the car park be kept to a minimum in the period up to Christmas.

Churchill East-West Link Master Plan

The proposed Churchill East West Link Master Plan was considered by Latrobe City Council at its meeting on December 2, 2013. This covers the precinct between Philip Parade and the university campus.

There were 12 submissions on the Draft Master Plan, and the consultants (“spire”) have taken these into account in refining the Master Plan.

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Hazelwood Cemetery



By Leo Billington
Persistence Pays Off

On Friday afternoon, September 27, it was reported that the main water pipe to Hazelwood Cemetery had disintegrated.

Being a galvanized pipe installed back in the early 1980's, well before technologically advanced poly pipe was available, the time had finally arrived when it decided enough was enough – the pipe, as it passes under the Yinnar Road at Eel Hole Creek had corroded beyond repair.

What followed has been rather a tense time as the Hazelwood Cemetery Trust explored various options to have water re-connected. To replace the old galvanized pipe with poly pipe remains an objective when funds become available. It will be a costly project as the pipe is not owned by Gippsland Water. The pipe delivers water to the cemetery "as of right".

A solution was found in the installation of a solar panel powering a water pump which is now delivering

water to the toilet block and most taps within the cemetery precinct. It has taken time to research the project and have the new energy system installed, and the Hazelwood Cemetery Trust takes this opportunity to thank everyone for their tolerance and patience.

Notwithstanding this unfortunate and unexpected interruption to our main improvement plan, work has been maintained on other projects which are receiving positive public acclamation – including a new rose garden around the new gazebo, tidying of the K2 area (for future expansion), a new concrete beam in the lawn memorial section and general mowing of grass areas. A continuing project also involves draining of the area immediately east of the new gazebo to ensure safety is not threatened by a large "boggy and soggy" area created during high rainfall.

Recent family donations of funding for new seats and extra roses are testimony to the general appearance arising from work being undertaken at the Hazelwood Cemetery.



Lumen Christi has partnered with the Churchill Conference of St.Vincent de Paul to create a Mini-Vinnies structure in which our students can participate.

The aim is to provide the students with the chance to help others in need, as well as consider how they can be contributors to their community. The students

in November have been busy creating Christmas hampers for distribution in Churchill during the festive season.

Students have been bringing in donations of food as well as having a very successful disco where all fundraising went directly to purchases for the hampers.

eBooks ready to download at Latrobe City Libraries

Latrobe City Libraries are excited to announce that eBooks have been added to the collection with a large range of titles available now for library members to borrow for free via the catalogue or website.

Latrobe City Council Mayor, Councillor Sharon Gibson, said that the feedback received from the community in our library customer satisfaction survey confirmed that this was an area of strong interest.

"The community asked for eBooks, and we're delighted to be able to respond to that request. Our libraries are a wealth of resources both in print and online so adding an eBook collection was always going to be the next step.

Having access to eBooks helps our community members who may have low vision or a vision impairment to experience the joy of reading. Downloading eBooks onto your own device allows you to expand and magnify the text. This is a wonderful tool for those more vulnerable members of our community," Councillor Gibson said.

Latrobe City Council's coordinator libraries, Deb Skinner, said that there were over 1,000 titles from

which to choose already, and we have plans to develop the collection over the next twelve months. Library members are able to place holds and download titles to their own reading devices directly from the library catalogue using an app called Blio. This can be done either in the library or over the internet from external locations.

"Each item has a standard loan period of three weeks and can be renewed once by the borrower. Items simply return to the catalogue on the expiration date, removing the need for reminder notices, overdue notices or fines. Over the past few months Information sessions have been held at our libraries in Churchill, Moe, Morwell and Traralgon so the community can learn how to download eBooks,"

Ms Skinner said.

Councillor Gibson added that this was a very exciting step into the digital space.

"We look forward to seeing it grow" she concluded.

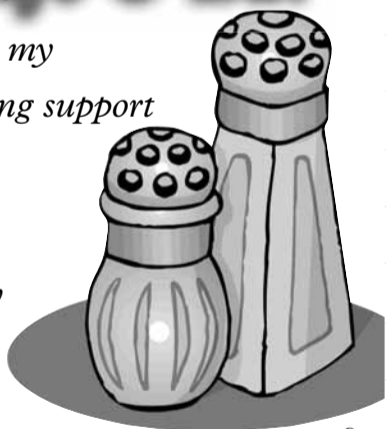
For further information on eBooks phone 1300 367 700, visit your local library or the Latrobe City Libraries website on <http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/library/Home>.

Anne's Cafe & Bar

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Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year . . .

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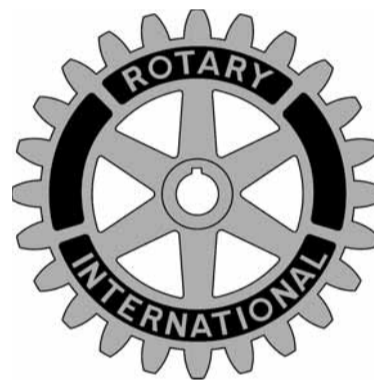
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On Friday November 22, the Morwell and District Group of Fire Brigades held their Gordon Bolwell Memorial Trophy event in honour of long serving past Yinnar Fire Brigade Captain, Gordon Bolwell.

Each year the brigades in the group come together to present their firefighting appliances for inspection, with a trophy being awarded to the cleanest and best prepared.

This year the event began its procession from the Churchill Fire Station and proceeded down Monash Way into Morwell, down Commercial Road, where the convoy of vehicles sounded their sirens for all onlookers at the ReActivate: Latrobe Valley spring festival.

The convoy then drove down Princes Highway back to Mid Valley where they parked for inspection, while attending members enjoyed a barbecue and catch up with fellow firefighters from the group.

In attendance were the Churchill tanker, Boolarra tanker, Driffield tanker and Driffield's new tanker (not yet in commission), Hazelwood North tanker, Morwell tanker, Yinnar tanker and HVP tanker as well as several slip-on four wheel drive units.

This year's winner was Yinnar with Boolarra second and HVP third. A great evening was had by all with the event providing an opportunity for group members to catch up socially before the upcoming fire season.

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Hazelwood Rotary

By Leo Billington

Hazelwood Rotary continues to establish itself as being a club that achieves plenty. Regular community-wide comment is "the club punches well above its weight" and subsequently is becoming well known.

Once again, the club will take its usual lead role organising the Christmas Wrap at Mid Valley, commencing on Sunday, December 1 and continuing every day through until Christmas Eve. Funds raised are distributed amongst an array of community organisations in the Latrobe City municipality.

Recently, a large supply of used hospital equipment and associated furniture was given to our club, whereupon it was decided to send the goods to a Melbourne based Rotary International Donations - in - Kind store. From here a large proportion of the items will soon be dispatched to Timor Leste and some possibly to Ghana. Assistance with transport was generously provided by Morwell based Willatons Transport. Traralgon based business, The Doc Shop, donated the stock of goods which included hospital beds, side tables, over-bed trays and specialist chairs.

Following the recent Philippines typhoon disaster, the club was invited to join in a fund raiser with Mid Valley Shopping Centre Management. Preparations are now underway to conduct this in conjunction with the Christmas Wrap activity.

A combined Hazelwood Rotary and Traralgon Central Rotary Melbourne Cup eve auction raised \$400 for Rotary Centenary House (RCH). Subsequently, (after "the horses came home") a large amount of the winnings was also donated to RCH.

On Friday, November 15, the annual Hazelwood Rotary Club Charity Golf Day drew a large number of golfers.

Held at Traralgon Golf Club, the highly successful event raised just over \$2300 for the Motor Neurone Foundation. This event is now well established on the local annual golfing calendar and will be conducted again in 2014.

Hazelwood Rotary has been a long term supporter of The School of St Jude, which opened in February 2002 in Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa. As a charity-funded school, St Jude's provides a free, high-quality education to over 1,500 of the poorest children of Arusha Region, Tanzania, while also providing board for over 1,000 students. Occasionally a postcard or letter arrives from a student or two based at the school. A card received recently told us just how invaluable our financial support is to enable the provision of a highly sought after education.

Another Tasmanian bushfire recovery team of four volunteers from Traralgon South left on November 13 to travel to the Tasman Peninsula. Teams are proposed for 2014 and volunteers will be needed. Past President Margaret Palmer assists the teams to organise their trips and ensures there are work plans ready for their arrival to help victims of the January 2013 bushfires.

Our recent guest speaker was Manasseh Gahima, who was born as a refugee in Uganda. He grew up and studied in Uganda in difficult circumstances but eventually regained his status as a citizen of Rwanda, and is one of the few learned Rwandans with a Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Arts, Diploma in Education. He has almost completed a Master of Theology.

Manasseh has worked in different capacities - as Head Teacher at what is Rwanda's best school today; as Executive Secretary of a District; as Mayor of a District and speaker of a District Council.

In 2006 he left the government to work for the church and worked as a Diocesan Administrator. He was ordained as a deacon in January, 2009 and priest in May, 2009. Today he works as Diocesan Secretary - a technical/administrative role.

To obtain detailed information about Rotary and any of the above activities, or to enquire about becoming a member, please call Leo Billington on 0458 661 848. Hazelwood Rotary meets in Morwell every Monday night except on (Monday) public holidays.



Rotary Christmas Wrap



In conjunction with the Mid Valley Shopping Centre, Hazelwood Rotary's 2013 Christmas Wrap is back again through until Christmas Eve.

Located in the food court area, as in previous years, Christmas Wrap has been organised by long time Rotary member, Mac Wood (pictured with Richard Henshaw). Funds raised are eventually distributed to various community organisations, some of whom are allocated time on a roster to join with wrapping parcels and gifts.

Payment is by a monetary donation irrespective of the size of a parcel or gift.

This year, Mid Valley Centre Management and Hazelwood Rotary will stage a display and fundraiser for people who suffered greatly from the recent Philippines typhoon. This initiative is to support the ongoing work of Disaster Aid Australia, which is a Rotary Club project that really is making a difference.

Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) has destroyed 520,000 houses and damaged an additional 500,000 houses. That means that more than 1 million houses have been severely damaged or destroyed - over 4 million people have been displaced. In some communities, all houses have been destroyed.

Additional financial support is urgently needed to address the most urgent, life-saving shelter needs of the affected population. Under the Haiyan Action Plan, shelter agencies are asking for US\$46 million in funding. So far only US\$16 million (36 per cent) has been pledged.

In the typhoon ravaged areas, Stage 1 is the rebuilding of 500 homes and Stage 2 involves the building of an additional 500 homes.

The display of a Disaster Aid Australia life-saving Family Survival box will be located at the Christmas Wrap stand as well.

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New public artwork for Churchill



A new public artwork is now on display with the completion of an impressive wall mural on the retaining wall below Hazelwood Village and facing Philip Parade.

The riveting mural was completed by well known public artist, John Vukovic, over a weekend in early December.

John had previously worked with Kurnai College students in completing artistic panels

for the Churchill skate park and also carried out his own distinctive art on the skate park structures.

John has done extensive work through the Latrobe Valley as well as for councils and businesses in Melbourne, and has recently been working in Canberra where his skills are sought after by businesses.

During an overseas trip earlier this year,

John left his mark on European cities with his public art now on display there.

The Churchill wall mural, which was commissioned jointly by the Churchill businesses and the Gippsland Education Precinct, is the latest feature in the Art and Culture Pathway and complements the artwork on the skate park and the entrance to the Community Hub.

Local residents will recognise many familiar features in the mural including the now defunct binishell, the Hazelwood Pond Sauna sail, the bushfire of 2009, the Churchill cigar and two of the people whose names are significant to the town- Sir John Monash and Sir Winston Churchill. The mural also includes representation of the areas' indigenous heritage and educational focus.

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Wildflower Walk



On Saturday January 18, 2014, visitors are invited to join the Friends of Baw Baw National Park for an enjoyable, informative walk through the snow gum woodlands of the Baw Baw plateau.

Meeting in the Main Day Car Park (parking fees apply) at the Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort at 10.00am for a 10.30am departure.

We will walk along trails around the summit of Mount Baw Baw, returning by late afternoon. A botanist and ecologist will accompany us to interpret

the subalpine environment and identify the many different plants we will see on our walk. A moderate level of fitness is required.

You will need to bring your lunch, water, walking shoes and clothing suitable for an alpine environment, including wet weather gear. Weather conditions can change rapidly on the plateau, so be prepared! Don't forget your camera and binoculars.

There is no charge. For more information phone 5628 4459 or Parks Victoria on 5172 2186.

FOUR OUT OF FIVE

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