

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

Established 1966

Distributed Free

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Australia Day Awards at Churchill



(L-R rear): Cr Darrell White, Peter McShane, Bob Lowick, Riley Hogarth, Bob Cooper, Front Kelly Nickson, Breeanna Croft, Ebony Webb, Lily Booth, Mitchell Berechee

The Lions Club of Churchill and District again prepared and ran the Australia Day ceremony and award presentations at the Churchill Hotel from 7am.

A good crowd came to participate and cheer the worthy recipients. The weather was kind. After some entertainment from Bob Cooper, proceedings began. The Scouts gave out Australian flags and leaflets. Peter Gray of AMPWORKS once again provided the P.A. system.

Peter McShane was MC for the event,

welcoming everyone. Councillor Darrell White was invited to speak on behalf of Latrobe City Council. Following the acknowledgement of the traditional owners and paying respect to their elders past and present, Darrell welcomed everyone.

This is what he said.

"Australia Day is a day on which we all turn our thoughts to what Australia means to us and what it means to be Australian.

It is pleasing to see you all here today attending this local celebration and ceremony,

to demonstrate your pride in our country – often recognised as the "lucky country".

Australia Day celebrations go beyond barbecues and fireworks, the day is a celebration of our very modern Australia:

our diverse society, our beautiful broad landscapes, our remarkable achievements either as individuals or working together, and our future potential.

The day is also an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history, and to consider how we can make Australia an even better

place in the future.

Congratulations to all of today's Award recipients.

Well done to today's organisers, especially the Churchill Lions Club, for another great Australia Day event."

A prayer for Australia and Australians was then said.

Peter McShane then invited two Scouts to unfurl and raise the flag while 'Advance Australia Fair' was sung.

Then the awards were given out.

Churchill Community

19th March 2016

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CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"
Established 1966

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

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Churchill and District News

Contributions

The deadline for the submission of articles and advertisements for the March 2016 edition is February 25, 2016

EDITORIAL

Articles for publication and Letters to the Editor can be sent to:

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Or Email: cdneditorial@aussiebb.com.au

All articles must be submitted by the 25th of each month for publication in the next issue.



Articles can be left in our Drop Off Boxes Located at:
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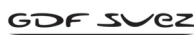
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We acknowledge the support of



Churchill's Mower Race



By Hannah Billington
The planning for Churchill's upcoming ride - on motor mower racing demonstration is well under way.

From humble beginnings as an idea to help establish an annual community event for the town, ride - on motor

mower racing is now set to 'put Churchill on the map'.

This year, on Saturday, March 19, Churchill will become one of the towns on VICMOW's Gippsland racing circuit.

At least 25 keen racers from around the country will flock to Churchill to compete

in the family-friendly event.

Current plans suggest the racing will commence at 10:30am after the newly established 5-kilometre parkrun.

The community will have an opportunity to witness the region's best mower racers in action as they 'go flat out on something that shouldn't go flat out', says VICMOW representative and mower racer, Debra Tormey. 'The novelty of the sport is what makes it interesting.'

As well as getting to watch them whizz around a track, spectators will be able to interact with the mowers (and drivers) as they go on display between races.

VICMOW reps and racers will be available to detail the specs of their machines and answer any questions regarding the sport.

VICMOW maintains their highest priority on the day will be public safety.

For this reason, spectators

will be unable to take the mowers out for a spin, and a six metre safety distance from the race track will be maintained.

However, this small detail will not stop the demonstration becoming a highly successful and popular event.

There is scope for other community organisations to run stalls and fundraisers during the festival while the mowers race - Hazelwood Rotary will be selling their world-renowned sausages to the ravenous masses.

Churchill is now well on the way to establishing its own annual event thanks to VICMOW, Rotary, Lions and The Churchill Neighbourhood Centre.

Any questions about the sport may be directed to VICMOW representative Debra Tormey on 0402 846 411 or go to admin@vicmow.com.



December 2015

In December Churchill received 39 mil of rain giving us a total of 656 mil for the year, well below our average. It was interesting that the total was 11 mil more than in 2014.

Since taking regular Churchill rainfall details for the last 23 years our 2015 total was still well above the 1997 total which was only 476.5 mil. The highest yearly rainfall for Churchill in the last 23 years was the 1058 mil that was recorded in 2011.



January 2016

January started as a very dry and hot month but the last two days received 36.5 mil.

This gave the Churchill area much needed and refreshing rain for the farms and gardens.

The January 2016 rainfall total was 65.5 mil.

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OR put in one of our collection boxes at: Churchill Post Office and at the Co-Operating Churches.

Advertising enquiries can be emailed to: cdnadvertising@aussiebb.com.au

Churchill Community Festival

Churchill Community Festival is to be held on March 19, 2016 at several sites in Churchill. After the success of the Family Fun Day in 2015 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Churchill, the local community supported the idea of having an annual event for Churchill. We hope to offer an event that is low cost to families whilst still providing a range of activities that are interesting and lots of fun.

The festival will begin with the Lions Churchill Community Market in the Churchill Hotel carpark from 8.30 am – 1.30pm. From about 10.30 there will be a ride - on mower racing event next to the Churchill Hotel, this is being organised by Hazelwood Rotary and



Churchill Neighbourhood Centre

VICMOW. From 10am – 3pm activities will also be happening in and around the Churchill Community Hub. Inside the hub the library will be open and a Devonshire tea will be provided by the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre's Gumleaf Quilters. There will also be quilting machine demonstrations and patchwork displays.

Outside the Hub there will be gumboot throwing, painting and planting activities, marimba

workshops, Beans the clown and her balloon sculptures, music, henna painting, giant board games, sausage sizzle and more!

The Churchill Community Garden will be displaying garden art and showing off their wonderful garden as well as having a stall of seedlings for sale.

The United Muslim Sisters of the Latrobe Valley will have a stall with henna tattoos, jewellery, name writing in different languages

and food from around the world. The Churchill Bowls Club and Latrobe Valley Hockey Association will be running some activities on the day, and we are hoping to organise something for the skate park. More community groups are welcome to participate in the event.

We are also looking for volunteers to help out on the day, so if you'd like to get involved please contact Julia at the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre 5122 2955 or info@churchill.org.au for more information.

The Churchill Festival is a joint initiative of the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre, Churchill & District News, Hazelwood Rotary, Churchill Lions and Federation University.

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The Australian Plant Society

Plants in my garden

By Mike Beamish

Species:

Leptospermum 'Double Pink'

Family:

Myrtaceae

Distribution: This plant is a cultivar, probably from New Zealand stock and does not have a natural distribution.

Description: A medium-sized, compact shrub to 2m high and 1.5m broad. Leaves spread widely and are variable in shape. Flowers are prolific in spring and early summer, bright pink in colour with white frilly edges and are about 15mm in diameter. This cultivar is derived from *L. scoparium* (Manuka), which occurs from the far south of NSW to the Grampians in Victoria and is widespread in Tasmania and New Zealand. Most Australian plants are white-flowered, but pinks and reds occur in New Zealand, so



it is presumed that the parents of this cultivar are from New Zealand, the cultivation work was probably done in the USA and it is a stretch to call it an Aussie native!

Opinion: Whether it's a native or not, it's still a pretty plant when in full flower. Mine came from the raffle plants at APS LV and is planted on the northern nature strip. Currently it is about

a metre high. It did flower patchily for the first time last year, but this year has put on a much better show. Pity it only flowers for a few weeks, the rest of the year it is just another scratchy tea-tree.

The Australian Plant Society will resume their regular meetings soon. Please contact Marg on 0428 601 425 for further details.



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I didn't want to live through another bad Christmas.

How many years have I said that and here it goes again!

This time I really must do something as last Christmas again we ended up fighting, screaming, broken glasses and food thrown.

This just can't go on. I can't say alcoholism is a disease because although I read it, hear it, I really don't believe it.

Why if he says he loves me, do we argue and fight.

I didn't know that the first drink was too many until I looked it up, then found "One drink too many.

One thousand is enough for an alcoholic".

Meetings in the Latrobe Valley:

Traralgon: Monday 10.00 am at Learning House, Breed Street

Newborough: Tuesday 8.00pm or Wednesday 1pm at the Uniting Church

Or Phone: 1300 Al-Anon (1300 252 666) or 0419 864 377

Old Time Family Dance

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Friday, February 26

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World wide agriculture event coming to Latrobe City at Federation University

Latrobe City will host the World Wide Agriculture Conference in July 2016, a leading event on the farming and primary producer industry calendar.

It is expected that more than 200 delegates will be attending this prestigious event and coupled with the high quality range of presenters, both home grown

and international, Federation University's Gippsland Campus will be an ideal host venue. Agriculture is a great strength in our region. Latrobe City is known for its local beef, dairy, sheep, fruit and vegetable industries, as well as boutique food production.

In addition, our neighbouring municipalities also have a broad array of strong agricultural pursuits. Having the Conference at Churchill is testament to Latrobe City's reputation, not

just as a farming region, but as a venue for quality regional events.

The Conference will be held at Federation University in Churchill on July 20 and 21, and on July 22 the delegates will tour local regional growers. Additionally, one of the speakers will host an intensive course on feeding the soil at the Century Inn in Traralgon from July 25 to 27.

The aim of the conference is to show farmers how they can increase their yields

by applying conventional fertiliser products at no added expense.

The very successful first World Wide Agricultural Conference was held in Ashburton, Canterbury, New Zealand last year. The intention is to be able to build on that event and grow it by expanding to other centres.

Speed restrictions lifted

Following recent rainfall the water level at the Hazelwood Pondage has increased sufficiently to

allow Latrobe City Council, the waterway manager for the Hazelwood Pondage, in conjunction with Transport Safety Victoria, to lift the current five knot speed.

Restrictions which were introduced to ensure the safety of all users were removed as of 1pm Friday February 5, 2016. This means that the five knot speed restriction on the entire waterway will be lifted, with the northern boat ramp open to public access.

Russell Northe



As 2016 begins, I'd like to wish all community members a Happy New Year, and I hope that the festive season was an enjoyable time with family and friends.

I was pleased to recently visit the Churchill CFA with Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Brad Battin and

Member for Eastern Region Melina Bath.

The Shadow Minister was extremely impressed with the contributions the volunteers have made to our community over many decades, and in particular during recent fire events that have impacted our region.

We were able to present an Australian flag to the Churchill CFA and sign a pledge demonstrating our

support for Presumptive Legislation that is equal for all CFA firefighters.

Unfortunately 2016 didn't get off to a great start for V/Line commuters with a number of train cancellations on the Gippsland line.

This is simply not good enough, particularly compared to our regional counterparts in Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo who came through this same period relatively unscathed.

I have been running a petition for some time now that calls upon the State Government to adopt the plan of more services, duplication of tracks, removal of level crossings and additional carriages.

When Parliament resumes these matters will be strongly raised on behalf of our community who deserve better when it comes to our rail services.

Copies of the petition are available for printing from my website www.russellnorthe.com.au/petitions/

On January 26 we had strong attendances across our region at local Australia Day events.

It's always wonderful to see our communities enjoying the festivities to commemorate our great nation and this year's Australia Day celebrations were no different.

A number of people were recognised on the day, and I would like to congratulate all those who were nominated for, and received Australia Day Awards this year, and commend you for your actions which led to your nomination.

It is terrific that we are able to celebrate the fantastic achievements of extraordinary people and highlight the work

that they do each and every day, for the good of our towns and residents.

Well done to Churchill Citizen of the Year, Bob Lowick. Bob is involved in a number of community activities across Churchill and District including secretary of the Churchill & District Lions Club.

Bob is also the main organiser behind the successful Churchill Community Market which commenced last year.

It's obvious with Bob's extensive community involvement that he is a most deserving winner of this award.

Congratulations must also go to all the Churchill Student and Junior Citizens of the Year Lily Booth, Mitchell Berechree, Ebony Webb, Breeanna Croft, Kelly Nickson and Riley Hogarth.

I'd like to thank all service clubs that were involved in putting on an excellent spread of food at various Australia Day events.

It is certainly appreciated by the community, and makes the day all the more Australian. Your hard work and commitment is to be commended.

Congratulations must also go to Churchill resident, Don Di Fabrizio on receiving the prestigious Latrobe City Council 2016 Citizen Year.

As Chair of the Gippsland Immigration Park committee, Don has contributed to the development of the Gippsland Heritage Walk, Gippsland Immigration Wall of Recognition and the Committee's book 'Stories of the Wall' recognising the immigrant contribution to the

development of Gippsland. Well done Don!

Also to well-known Churchill identity Margaret Guthrie and her team at Churchill & District Community Association, congratulations for being awarded Event of the Year at Latrobe City's Australia Day awards for Churchill's 50 year event celebrations in 2015.

It was a wonderful occasion and so many positive tributes from past and present Churchill residents.

Well done again Margaret and all associated with making the Churchill 50 year celebrations such a wonderful success.

Churchill Parkrun is now up and running with 158 people participating in the launch on Saturday January 23, 2016.

Churchill parkrun is a weekly free 5km timed run for runners of all standards every Saturday at 8.00 am.

The event takes place at Eel Hole Creek, Philip Parade and McDonald Way, Churchill.

To register you can visit <http://www.parkrun.com.au/register/> and for more information you can contact Matt via email mattbriggs@gmail.com or phone 0427 142 928.

Well done to all volunteers who have assisted in getting the event up and running in Churchill

With the 2016 school year just started, I urge all drivers to be careful on the roads, and ensure you obey all school hour speed limits. To all the students, I wish you good luck for the beginning of the academic year, and every success in your studies.

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Churchill CFA New Australian Flag



Churchill Fire Brigade's flag pole gets a lot of use, especially at this time of year with the posting of a Total Fire Ban notice flag. It is one of the ways the Fire Brigade is able to bring attention to passersby that it is a dangerous day for fires. On occasion we fly the Australian flag. The flag had seen so many uses it had become worn out. A request to local MP, Russell Northe

was met with a favourable response. He was able to procure a new flag for the Brigade to use for the necessary occasions it is required.

While presenting the flag to the Brigade, Russell along with Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Brad Battin and Member for

Eastern Region, Melina Bath signed a pledge for politicians to support non-discriminatory Presumption Legislation for all Victorian Firefighters with cancer.

We thank Russell, Brad and Melina for taking the time to present the new flag to the Brigade and for their support for volunteer firefighters with cancer.

Boolarra Folk Festival



The 2016 Boolarra Folk Festival will again be staged in the town centre on Saturday March 5, 2016.

This will be the fourteenth festival featuring the friendly and relaxed carnival-like atmosphere of music and market stalls throughout Centenary and Railway Parks.

The festival will open at ARC Yinnar on Friday night, March 4, where acts will perform between 8pm and midnight.

There is a small cover charge and tickets may be obtained through ARC.

The free main music event will begin at 11 am this year with the ever popular school percussion segment led by Steve Schultz - the Boolarra Primary School children are the first of 13 acts that look certain to please the audience

again.

For the first time in 2016, we will have free music at the Old Boolarra Pub Cafe on the Saturday night after the festival as well as on Sunday afternoon.

The committee is hoping for strong support of these new additions to the festival.

Food options on the day will include homemade icecream, mini doughnuts, vegetarian, vegan and gluten free food, baked spuds, as well as plenty of BBQ style eats.

The Boolarra Top Shop will be open for food and supplies and both pubs will be serving food, alcoholic drinks and coffees.

Arts and crafts stalls, healing tent and drumming circle will also be present on the day and Boolarra Folk

Festival wine will be for sale which may be consumed on site. (BYO alcohol may be consumed in designated areas.) There will be free camping at the Boolarra Recreation Reserve (about a five minute walk from the festival site) with free showers and toilets.

None of this would be possible without the support of our many sponsors: Latrobe City, Russell Northe MP, Mirboo North Community Foundation and Mirboo North Bendigo Bank are just a few of those we value.

Like our Facebook page for updated information, or www.boolarrafolkfestival.com.au has more information on the festival. If you would like to help as a volunteer on the day, contact Ray on 0467 080 921.

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Church News



Co-Operating Churches Snippets

Christmas services.

Blue Christmas service was once again held at Boolarra church with some appreciative participants.

Blue Christmas is a service which acknowledges the fact that Christmas is not always a happy time for people for various reasons.

These could include the recent death of a loved one, family breakdown, family absent from the Christmas table, or illness.

Christmas Eve saw families old and young gather to learn, in a fun way, the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas becomes such a rush with all the things we think we have to achieve that it is easy to forget that it is the birthday of Jesus our Saviour.

In the play the Spirit of Christmas alerted those present to that important fact.

The children were encouraged to dress up as the characters from the Christmas

story and in the end to assemble in the stable scene to complete the effect.

Thank you to our actors, those who worked to set up the church, Barb and George for the trinkets the children received at the end, Ian for the church decorations, the fire brigades who did the Santa lolly drop run in Churchill and called into the church at the conclusion of the service so the children could see Santa and receive some lollies,

and all those who attended thinking it important to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with their family.

Holy Communion was celebrated at Boolarra on Christmas Eve, then at Churchill and Yinnar on Christmas Day. Reverend Brenda Burney led these services and preached some stirring sermons.

Blue Moose.

A group of eighteen young people stayed for ten days in

Churchill and ran a program for youth each evening in the town hall.

The numbers attending grew over the time and the young leaders were pleased with the response.

They also ran a two day holiday program from 10am-12pm which was for primary age and younger children.

Those who attended had a happy time.

Thanks go to Liz and Richard Henshaw and Jenny

Smethurst for cooking for the young leaders who had healthy appetites. The church hopes this program can happen again next year.

Church in January

Through January one service was held each Sunday for the parish. The Blue Moose team ran the first service for the month at Churchill. Following services were held at Boolarra, Yinnar and back to Churchill with good participation.



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by Frank Lees
 Federation Chaplain
 That's often the point made about faith; in that faith is said to be belief without good evidence.
 So here's something to think about, in regard to saying that 'seeing is believing'.
 The science behind the eye shows that we do not actually believe what we see, as the eye sees things inverted

Seeing is believing, yes?

and the brain makes sense of that image.
 In a broad sense, we do not believe what we see, and we do not walk by sight. In order to do so, our brain draws on other ways of discerning reality.
 The science of that is, simply, that the image we see is turned upside down before it hits the retina and is then translated into neural impulses and transmitted along optic nerve fibres to our brain.
 Our brain's clever processing then builds the image (two dimensional) into what we see (three dimensional) the right way up.



There are even 'rods' which process the monochrome images, and 'cones' which process the colour.
 All this is very interesting.
 But with saying that 'seeing is believing' we have an interesting parallel with

faith.
 If we cannot believe what we see and our perceptions are not our primary source of what's true, and if what we see requires the help of another source in order to make sense of the image, then to see what is 'right side up' we human beings are actually walking by faith, not by sight.

Our senses are really meant to be secondary and complementary to faith.
 So, without faith it is impossible to see correctly.
 In a world that sees 'upside down', faith enables us to see 'right side up'.
 Worth thinking about!

Church Times

<p>Lumen Christi Catholic Church Williams Avenue, Churchill Tel: 5134 2849 Father Francis/Father Antony Saturday: Mass: 6.00pm Sunday: Mass: 9.00am 1st and 3rd Sundays: Yinnar: Mass: 10.30am 2nd and 4th Sundays: Boolarra: Mass: 10.30am</p>	<p>Co-Operating Churches of Churchill Sunday Service: 9.00am Rev. Brenda Burney Williams Avenue, Churchill. Tel: 5122 1480</p>
	<p>Boolarra/Yinnar Co-Operating Parish 1st and 2nd Sundays 11.00am Christ Church Boolarra 3rd and 4th Sundays 11.00am Yinnar 5th Sundays 11.00am Yinnar South</p>
<p>Churchill Christian Fellowship Maple Crescent, Churchill Sunday: 10.00am</p>	

World Day of Prayer Invitation

This years host country is Cuba and the theme is **RECEIVE CHILDREN RECEIVE ME.**
 When : Friday March 4 at 7-30 pm.

Where: Lumen Christi Church, Williams Ave Churchill.
 Light supper provided. Everyone Welcome.

World day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement which brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

Hazelwood Cemetery

By Leo Billington

At midday on Sunday, February 21, Hazelwood Cemetery Trust will host Vietnam veteran members of the Gippsland Sub-Branch when they gather to pay their respects to fallen mates.

Similar gatherings, on the same day at the same time, will also take place at Traralgon and Yallourn Cemeteries as part of Victoria state-wide simultaneous gravesite commemorative services. At Hazelwood, a service will be held at the new ANZAC memorial.

Members of Gippsland Sub-Branch will join with other members of the Victorian Vietnam Veterans Branch, also assembling at the same time at 35 Victorian cemeteries in which 98 Australians who died during the Vietnam War are buried or commemorated.

The state-wide gravesite commemorations will mark the start of a year of activities by Victorian Vietnam veterans to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

The Gippsland Sub-Branch President Mr Geoff Hopkins said "This is the first time that simultaneous statewide commemorations of this type have ever been attempted. We wanted to visit all the gravesites across the state where our mates are buried to honour their service and sacrifice and to show that they are not forgotten. Most of them died very young; they never had the chance to marry, to have a family, to enjoy their

grandchildren and to grow old as we have, so we will assemble at their resting places, conduct a simple service and then carry their spirit with us throughout 2016."

"We will be conducting three services, one for Adrian Rich at the Hazelwood Cemetery, a service for three, Allan Lloyd, Wayne Blanck, and Robert Grist at the Traralgon Cemetery. There will be a service held at Yallourn Cemetery for Joseph Manicola. Next of kin have been advised of the commemorations and invited to attend, and I invite members of the public, especially the young, to join us and take part in what will be a unique and moving commemorative event"

Mr Hopkins advised that "the state branch has called for buglers to play at all the cemeteries and the response has been excellent. We are particularly pleased that a number of talented high school students have volunteered to participate"

Adrian Rich, from Morwell, was a member of the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR). On the afternoon of February 17, 1967, a Viet Cong ambush in Phuoc Tuy Province triggered five hours of vicious engagement between 6 RAR and two companies of Viet Cong from D445 Battalion.

Trapped and unable to advance or withdraw, the Australians fought bravely, warding off counter attacks



before both sides eventually fell back. It was a major battle after Long Tan, about six months before.

Records from the Australian War Memorial show the following:

Adrian William Rich
Service Number: 38728
Rank: Private
Unit: 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
Service: Australian Army Conflict
Operation: Vietnam, 1962-1975

Conflict eligibility date: Vietnam, 1962-1975

Date of death: 17 February 1967

Place of death: South Vietnam, Vietnam

Cause of death: Died of wounds

Cemetery or memorial details: Hazelwood Cemetery, Victoria, Australia

Source: AWM153 Roll of

Honour cards, Vietnam.

For further information relating to the planned commemorative services, please contact the Gippsland Sub-Branch Secretary on 03 5143 1633.

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People can self-refer or

be referred by other service providers, doctors, health professionals or solicitors. We provide services at every stage of relationships from pre marriage to post separation.

If you are aware of any local needs that we may be able to assist with, please contact us as we are able to design and develop programs in consultation with the community to meet these needs.

A fee for service may be charged, calculated on income level.

Free services are also available. RAV Gippsland operates from Traralgon and Bairnsdale, with the Traralgon Office being open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am – 5pm and Tuesday and Thursday 9am – 8pm. Appointments can be made by calling (03) 5175 9500 or 1300 369 630.

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Churchill Community Market



Lions Club of Churchill & District

With over 50 stalls selling fresh local fruit and vegetables, organic breads, local honey, nuts, jams and preservatives as well as local arts and crafts, plants and trees, oils and incense, clothes, hats, scarves and much more.

Come along, bring the family, pick up a bargain or two, enjoy live music and the jumping castle

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For more information on market or stall bookings contact: Bob Lowick on 0408 377 781
Email: Churchill.lion@gmail.com

Churchill Neighbourhood Centre



Tell us what your community needs

Here is your chance to influence what programs, courses and services Churchill and district has to offer.

The Churchill Neighbourhood Centre is a place in the heart of Churchill where everyone is welcome to meet, learn, and get involved. Our role is to support

local communities, and we want to know from you how well we are doing that,' says Julia Leonard, Coordinator of the Centre.

'The Department of Education and Training's Capacity and Innovation Fund has allowed us to employ a project worker to help review what your community needs and wants. This is an

opportunity to tell us what is important to you, and how we can support you. For example, we have specific 'Learn Local' funding to help people build the confidence and skills needed to look for a job or go on to further study.

If getting a job is not your focus, maybe you want to better your health, build your confidence, learn new skills, or move on in your life in some other way.

Information we gather from you will be used to review courses and activities at the Centre to see if we can tailor our services better to meet your needs. It will also help us apply for funding for new initiatives and lobby for additional services or opportunities for

Churchill and district.'

How you can have your say?

* talk in confidence to Project Worker, Abigail Brown. She will be out and about in the community over the next two months – at the shopping centre, at the Community Market, and cycling about on her bike. Look out for the Neighbourhood Centre's new

logo, a colourful tree, and Abigail will be there!

* Arrange:
- a meeting where Abigail can talk with your community group
- a conversation over coffee, Abigail's shout. Bring friends together to talk (Contact Abigail on 5122 2955 or e-mail: projects@churchill.org.au)

* Drop into

Philip Parade to have a chat
* Add a comment to the 'Wishing Tree' at the Churchill Community Festival – March 19

* Watch out for an online survey via the Neighbourhood Centre's website – www.churchill.org.au

We look forward to hearing from you.



Women's health tests will continue to be covered by Medicare

The Australian Government has moved to assure Gippsland women there are no changes to Medicare benefits for physical pap smear examinations performed by a GP or specialist.

There will also be no reduction in the dollar-value of the Medicare rebate a patient receives to undertake associated pathology tests.

News reports recently led some people to claim there would be a cut to the Medicare rebate received for these important health tests.

One report falsely claimed a pap smear could cost up to \$30.

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester, said several people had contacted him directly to raise concerns and it was important the public was aware there

would be no change to the payments provided to patients.

"The Medicare rebate for these important procedures has not been changed," Mr Chester said.

"The confusion has arisen following a decision to reduce bulk-billing incentive payments that are paid directly to pathology corporations – not patients – which are separate to the Medicare rebate.

If a corporation is claiming that the cost of their tests will increase, they are not taking into account the value of the Medicare rebate a patient receives from the Government to help cover this very cost."

The pathology bulk billing incentive was worth between \$1.40 and \$3.40 at a total cost of \$500 million over

five years, however the Health Minister Sussan Ley has stated bulk-billing rates did not increase beyond natural growth between 2008/09 and 2014/15.

Diagnostic imaging services for concession card holders and children under 16 years old will still attract the bulk-billing incentive. The MRI incentive paid to providers for bulk billing concessional patients and children will be reduced from 100 per cent of the Medicare fee to 95 per cent to line up with the current arrangements for other diagnostic imaging services.

Mr Chester said ensuring the health system remained sustainable was crucial so the government could invest in new medicines.

Churchill Newsagency

The ladies at the Churchill Newsagency have spread some Christmas cheer for the last two years by having Santa visit the shop to meet the children and supply face

painting for them.

Last year the Saturday before Christmas was a total fire ban and so the fire brigade could not bring Santa for the occasion.

However, not to be daunted the ladies improvised by having Mrs Claus turn up so the children would not be disappointed.



Gumboots are needed for Churchill Community Festival activities on March 19 2016: Gumboot throwing, painting and planting. They can be dropped off at the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre inside the Hub on Philip Parade.

Restrictions lifted at Hazelwood Pondage

Following recent rainfall the water level at the Hazelwood Pondage has increased sufficiently to allow Latrobe City Council, the waterway manager for the Hazelwood Pondage, in conjunction with Transport Safety Victoria, to lift the current five knot speed.

Restrictions which were

introduced to ensure the safety of all users were removed as of 1pm Friday February 5, 2016. This means that the five knot speed restriction on the entire waterway will be lifted, with the northern boat ramp open to public access.

The water levels will continue to be monitored over the coming weeks. If

further rainfall is not received the 5 knot restrictions may unfortunately need to be reintroduced. Latrobe City Council thanks the community and users for their understanding and adherence to the usage restrictions over past months. For further information contact Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700.



Darren Chester

Federal Member for Gippsland



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Mathison Park



The last working bee for 2015 saw two blocks of concrete laid to accommodate two new table and seat sets.

Bill laid out the measurements and Aaron Pearce kindly brought his machinery to help with what would have been an impossible digging job with the ground so dry. The pads were prepared, dug out and the concrete poured in a good morning's work.

Aaron and his mate Garry were ably helped by Bill, Chris, Faye, Andy, Neil, Dave and Ruth. Thanks Faye for providing a delicious morning tea.

Kurnai College Churchill campus has made two sets for

us and these will be installed in the new year.

Aaron again came to the rescue by returning to remove the pile of earth dug from the pads.

Tree guards and stakes were also checked during the morning.

Special thanks go to Tim who mowed the eastern side just before Christmas making it look very tidy and attractive.

Jim also receives our thanks as he has willingly moved the mulch and sprayed the path edges, weeds in the mulched garden beds and the odd blackberry which insists on growing.

To end the year the committee decided to have

a BBQ in the picnic shelter at the park. It was a balmy evening, perfect for eating outside. A delicious meal was provided and all who attended enjoyed the food and socialisation.

We extend our thanks to Simon, our Latrobe City Council officer who is a great help to us. We have had a productive year and thank all our volunteers for their input.

Lastly we wish to thank Latrobe City Council for awarding us a community grant to purchase a new piece of play equipment to enhance the selection already available. This will be installed early this year.

Noelene's Cooking Corner - Frittata



Preheat your oven to 160 deg C.

You can use any leftovers in the fridge for this dish.

I used one flet of broccoli sliced very thinly, 1 whole stalk of celery, peeled and sliced thinly (leaves included).

Place a peeled and sliced red onion in a pan with two sliced cloves of garlic and heat through till softened.

Add two sliced rashers of bacon to the pan. (you could use any left - over meat from the fridge or maybe salami or chorizo).

I also found a few sliced mushrooms in a packet in the fridge, so they went in the mix.

Spray an oven proof dish with cooking oil.

Add all the ingredients to the dish.

Beat 10 eggs together with cracked pepper and salt to taste.

Pour into the dish.

Bake for 30 minutes or until set and golden in colour.

The beauty of this dish is that it is very economical and reheats really well, and any leftovers can be used as a breakfast or snack served with avocado or a simple salad.

Bunting Working Bee - volunteers needed!

Churchill Neighbourhood Centre is calling for volunteers to cut out and sew bunting to be used at the Churchill Community Festival.

The bunting will be made from cotton fabric so if you have fabric you would like to donate please feel free! Only very basic sewing and cutting skills are required. We will supply sewing machines,



scissors etc.

Morning tea provided. Come and join in the fun of making the bunting on Monday February 22 from

Churchill Neighbourhood Centre

9.30 am to 12.30 pm at Churchill Neighbourhood Centre.

RSVP on 5122 2955 or info@churchill.org.au.

"Dragonflies and Damselflies"

A presentation on "Dragonflies and Damselflies" will be given by Reiner Richter at the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists' Club meeting on Friday, February 26.

Reiner is a dragonfly enthusiast from Melbourne who has travelled extensively, photographing and documenting the ecology of species occurring in eastern Australia.

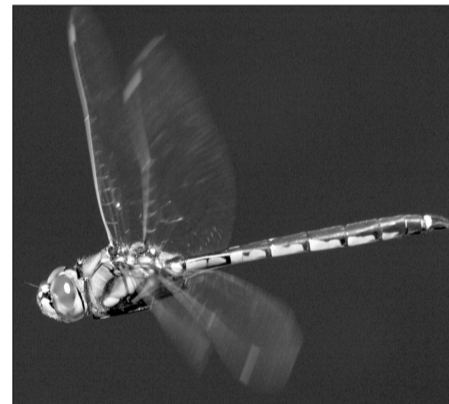
His talk will focus on our local species, techniques for photographing them in the wild and the diagnostic features to look for when

identifying them.

The meeting, from 7.30pm, is at the Uniting Church Hall on the corner of Old Sale Road and Chamberlain Road, Newborough.

On the following day there will be a related excursion to the Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve.

Visitors are most welcome to both activities; there is no



charge. For more information phone 5127 3393 or 5634 2246.

Photograph: Local Dragonfly by Tamara Leitch

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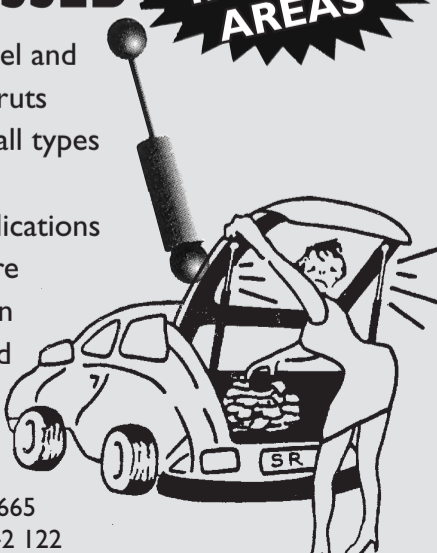
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FedUni Gippsland gears up for the New Year



ABOVE: (Left - Right) Austyn Bellinger, Dr Andrew Greenhill (FedUni) and Selina Morley at a recent Federation University Australia event

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Churchill Town Safety Group

With Bushfire Season well and truly upon us at the moment, it is important to be vigilant when travelling around the area.

If you see flames or a solid column of smoke rising from the ground, call 000 and report the situation.

Also, keep an eye out for suspicious circumstances like

people being nearby and acting suspiciously.

Make note of car details and registration numbers that may be helpful in the case of deliberately lit fires and report the details to Police or Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000.

Keep safe and keep a watchful eye out for your community.

FOR EMERGENCIES, RING 000

FOR POLICE ASSISTANCE, RING 000

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.

Federation University Australia's Gippsland campus is preparing for another big year, welcoming new students from across the region and beyond.

New courses introduced for 2016 are also adding to the increasing range of study options available in Churchill, including new degrees in Sport and Physical Education, Early Childhood and Secondary Education, Environmental Science and more.

The campus recently made 363 first-round offers to students – 26 more than 2015. State-wide, Victorian universities made 55,412 offers – down 1.3 per cent from last year.

The growing interest in FedUni Gippsland was evident at an Information Day held on-campus in late December.

Among those in attendance was Selina Morley from Thorpdale. Selina has been studying at the John Monash Science School in Clayton and is looking forward to studying the Bachelor of Biomedical Science locally.

Austyn Bellinger from

When to harvest popular summer edibles

For picking purposes you can divide fruit and vegetables into three groups.

They are those picked when:

1. Young before they are full size.
2. Fully ripe or just before totally ripe.
3. Fully ripe.

Group 1 :

Asian greens – cut off whole plant at ground level when 15-18cm tall.

Squash, cucumber and zucchini – don't let them grow too big.

Loose leaf lettuce – pick outer leaves when eight or more leaves are on the plant or grow to full size and then cut off at ground level.

Group 2 :

Beans – baby or midsize are best.

Capsicums – sweeter at full size.

Beetroot – baby beets at six weeks or full size at 12 weeks.

Carrots – take 4-6 months to full size. Baby carrots can be pulled earlier.

Potatoes – Wwen foliage

dies off dig them up. New potatoes can be dug up earlier.

Group 3 : Pumpkins – when stem becomes woody.

Tomatoes – ripe when fully coloured. Nearly ripe ones will ripen in a cupboard.

Corn – cob silks go dry and brown.

Written by Sheina Renton from Churchill Community Garden which meets 10am every Monday at the "Hub" in Phillip Parade.

Information sourced from Burkes Backyard February 2008.

Churchill & District

Lions Club

Meet

1st and 3rd Wednesday

of each Month

Contact

Bob Lowick

Phone:

0408 377 781



Australia Day Celebrate what's Great!

Australia Day at Churchill

Australia Day Awards - Latrobe City Council Recognition Awards

CHURCHILL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT - COMMUNITY EVENT

March 15, 2015, marked the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of Churchill and the town celebrated this milestone with a community fun day.

The event started with formal speeches and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at the new Churchill Town Plaza.

The closure of Phillip Parade created a pedestrian safe community festival precinct which offered a range of free activities, displays and fund-raising stalls supporting local not-for-profit organizations.

The festivities were preceded by a commemorative church service and plaque unveiling to mark 50 years of Churches in Churchill. There was strong media coverage and a successful Facebook campaign resulted in former residents returning to Churchill and sharing old photos.

A free barbecue was provided by Churchill Lions Club. Attendance exceeded expectations with local police estimating a crowd of over 2000 people.

Entertainment was provided by the choir from Churchill Primary School, the Kurnai College band and local musicians. Memorabilia from community groups provided a forum for reminiscing and the children enjoyed a jumping castle, face painting and sports activities.

The sunny day was 'abuzz' with greetings, reunions and chat as current and former residents caught up on Churchill's development and all the local news.



Bob Lowick Churchill's Citizen of the Year

ROBERT LOWICK (Bob)

Robert Leslie Lowick (Bob) was born in Melbourne on April 20, 1948. Bob was one of eight children. In 1971 he married Sue. That same year he joined the Victorian Police Force.

In 1976 the family grew when Nicole was born followed by Simone in 1979.

Being in the Police Force and having a young family and keen to assist and help young people, saw Bob umpiring Junior football and mentoring local youths to become umpires.

Bob started the Blue Light Disco in Box Hill Plaza and ran it for five years raising money for local charities and helping youth of Box Hill.

In 1987 an opportunity came for a life style change with a move to the country and the family moved to Churchill, where Bob was Sergeant and Officer in Charge of the Churchill Police Station for ten years until his retirement from the force. On his arrival to the District Bob was soon active in the community joining the Churchill Lions Club in 1987, his first year in Churchill, coached basketball, sometimes in uniform including utility belt, just in case he got called out. If he did someone else had

to take over. He umpired in the Latrobe Valley Football League and the Latrobe Valley Junior Football League and was a mentor to junior umpires from all over the Latrobe Valley, a role he still does with the same passion now, at the age of 67.

Bob is also very involved with Camp Quality, a charity which assists children and their families living with cancer to have a better life by giving them optimism and fun therapy. Bob along with Sue, are Area Leaders for the Gippsland area of Camp Quality, organising Family camps, Fun Days and fundraisers etc. Bob was instrumental in getting Rosedale Speedway involved to support Camp Quality with a Family Day meeting at the start of each race year. Children suffering with cancer were given rides in the speedway cars and along with their families, given a day out to forget their troubles, at the same time raising funds for Camp Quality.

Bob has always been heavily involved in the community in one way or the other and has a strong passion to assist and help the youth of Churchill and district.

As a member of the Churchill Lions Club, Bob has been involved as organiser of the Churchill Australia Day activities for

the past 10 to 12 years, organising award winners, getting local schools involved, the entertainment and liaison with the Latrobe City. It's a commitment that takes a lot of time and effort.

Bob was also a prime mover in getting Churchill community market up and running and is busy each month managing the running of the market. Each year at Christmas time, Bob organises the Lions Club Christmas trees. The valuable funds raised from this project assist the Club to fund its Christmas projects which help those less fortunate in our community.

Bob is also very active in the school community especially at the end of year Lion's Club school awards.

Bob also assists the Lions Club as Assistant Secretary and has served the Club as Secretary.

Bob's greatest attribute is his support for his wife Sue. Bob has attended all her treatments at the hospital, being there for her. Bob has a great family with Sue. He is blessed with two beautiful daughters who he absolutely adores, two wonderful sons-in-law and four beautiful grandchildren Khianna, Kayla, Rylan and Tahli.





Australia Day Celebrate what's Great!

Riley Hogarth - Churchill Young Citizen of the Year

Riley was born on July 17, 1997 and currently lives with his parents and sister in Hazelwood where for the last five years he has been working on the family farm, completing various tasks such as machinery operation and general maintenance.

Riley wants to be a surveyor as he feels that it is an occupation that would suit him.

Riley in 2015 was a student at Kurnai College University Campus and completed his VCE and was awarded Dux. He also received two Rotary Club awards and was an all-round student.

Riley was School Captain and in that role he undertook multiple leadership training days to enhance his leadership skills. He was included in the school's leadership (Peer Support) program which saw him working with Year 7 students introducing them into the school as well as travelling to Taiwan as part of a leadership conference, where he interacted with students from a variety of countries discussing global issues.

In 2013 as part of a peer support program he returned to primary schools and for 10 weeks took a class of students for either sport or science experiments, performing the role of teacher.

He enjoys leadership roles outside school, and in 2015 he was captain of Morwell Football League's Under 18 interleague, as well as playing football with Morwell Seniors. As the Under 18 captain he performed the role of assistant coach and mentored young players.

For seven years he was a member of the Yinnar Football and Netball Club from 2007- 2013 where he played both football and netball.

In 2015 Riley was nominated for the Gippsland League Rookie of the year and in September last year he was named the overall winner of the award for the entire league.

The president of the Morwell Football Netball Club comments on Riley's dedication and volunteerism as:

"Throughout his time at the club he was always willing to volunteer week in and week out for whatever roles that needed to be completed around the club, and he goes out of his way to encourage others to help as well."

During his football career in:

2008 Won the Best and Fairest at YFNC.

2009 Won the Best and Fairest at YFNC.



Churchill Student Citizen of the Year - Breanna Croft

Breeanna and her twin sister Jasmine were born at Traralgon Hospital on February 11, 2004 and they live in Churchill. Breeanna is currently a grade six student at Lumen Christi Primary School Churchill.

Although she at times struggles at school, she gives it her best making up for it with endeavor and a never give up attitude.

She has an excellent school attendance record and is always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need, be it a fellow student, staff member or parent.

She is described by her teachers as a great role model for her peers as she is not afraid to jump in to help when required. She loves helping at school in particular with the Buddy System – performing leadership support, supporting other students while interacting with parents and teaching staff.

If she observes bullying or some child in distress, she takes it upon herself to take that child under her wing to help without resorting to teacher support. However, she will ask for support when she requires it.

She has a love/hate relationship with her sister but should any one give Jasmine a hard time look out for Breeanna.

She currently plays netball for fun and gives of her best. If she causes a fall or similar of an opponent she will help them out.

Breeanna is also seriously playing basketball in the Churchill under 14 age group. She has no hesitation in competing against the boys and gets right into it.

She loves any sport and has a great love for the Cricket Big Bash Competition. Never give up is her attitude.

Breeanna has represented her school on many occasions and always with great sportsmanship.

She loves to work in the garden and get her hands dirty. Breeanna complies with the Lumen Christi motto— Achieve – Succeed – Together

Her attitude is NEVER GIVE UP IS THE WAY TO GO.



Latrobe City Young Citizen of the Year

Maneesha Nambirajan nominated by Youth Council Maneesha is recognised by her peers as an inspiration to young people in Latrobe City and the wider Gippsland region. She is a role model for those around her and she is passionate about making a change and helping Latrobe City to be the best place it can be.

Maneesha has just finished Year 11 at the Kurnai University Campus in Churchill where she was Vice Captain and is a member of the Latrobe City Youth Council. She is a member of Soroptomist International as well as being a Youth Ambassador for the Global Volunteer Network.

She volunteers overseas and is going to Vietnam to work in an orphanage and then to Thailand to volunteer at an elephant village.

She has created a Facebook page to interview other young people, to share their stories and is very community-minded, encouraging and deserving of recognition for her positive attitude.



Australia Day celebrate what's Great!



Churchill Student Citizen of the Year - Ebony Webb

Ebony was born on April 15, 2004 and is a student at Churchill North Primary School, residing in Churchill with her parents, three sisters and two brothers. She is the second eldest and started school at Churchill North Primary as a Prep and is now in Grade 6.

She is very well respected by her peers and teaching staff and she will do anything to help at the school, and was nominated last year for school Captain but missed out. However, she is not deterred and has set her goals for this year.

Throughout her time at Churchill North Primary School she has been actively involved in assorted school programs, such as its Buddy System where older students assist junior students to develop within the school and its community. She is also involved in its Sound Wave Speech Therapy Program and assists with the Junior School Council.

She consistently and successfully tries to ensure that all students at her school have the right to:

be safe

be treated with respect

learn and play without interference or harassment

be a well-maintained school environment

In accordance with the Students Code of Practice.

She loves reading - hates maths.

Loves her family and wants a normal life.

This year she is keen to complete an AFL umpire's course.

When the chips are down she wants to step up and make every post a winner.

Ebony has played basketball for the past four years with various teams and received several team awards, and now plays soccer with Churchill Rams Under 14 girls team. She has a desire to attend SEDA School to enhance her training, coaching and self-development. Her main desire is to play sport as a life style.



Churchill Student Citizen of the Year - Kelly Nickson

Kelly was born in July 2003 and in 2015 she was a student at Hazelwood North Primary School, where she has shone with her well-developed leadership skills, taking a lead role across multiple areas and age groups within the school community.

Kelly's personal learning skills in 2015 developed significantly and as a result she was awarded the Hazelwood North Primary School Dux and a scholarship at Kurnai College for 2016. Staff at her school stated that Kelly always displays the school values of Challenge, Collaboration, Curiosity, Responsibility and Resilience.

She was elected House Captain of Yellow house last year taking a lead role, working towards assisting her fellow students, assisting them when required and interacting with teaching staff and any person who required assistance, no matter what. She was first to step in when she observed students in need and dealt with problems such as bullying and student welfare issues with no need of teaching staff assistance.

Kelly is said to be always in charge, highly organised and a neatness freak with a dry sense of humour, always looking for ways to help. She is actively involved in the Scouts as a Junior Cub Leader and is well on the way to being awarded the Scout's Medallion which is one of the highest awards in scouting.

She has the ability to take control at any time and when she does so she appears to gain immediate attention of those involved. This has been observed in her interacting with Cubs when she helps her mother who at times has some difficulty gaining control of the group.

She has great aspirations – after being involved in the Scouts Showtime program last year as a cast member and will be pushing this year for a production spot. Kelly is also involved in an after school group developing programs that teach those with disabilities to play a variety of sports.



Australia Day Celebrate what's Great!

Latrobe City

Don Di Fabrizio - Citizen of the Year

Gippsland Immigration Park Inc, with Don Di Fabrizio instrumental as Chairman, was responsible for the completion of the Gippsland Immigration Wall of Recognition in 2007. Whilst not being responsible for initiating the project – this was done by the Italian Australian Co-ordinating Committee for Gippsland – Committee members did bring the project to completion.

The park has provided a place to recognise the immigrant contribution to the development of Gippsland and, just as importantly, provided a venue for celebrations of a multicultural nature. There are now over 2000 names on the wall.

Don has been Chairman since May 2008.

In 2012 the Committee published a book 'Stories from the Wall', laying out the histories of 28 immigrants whose names are listed on the wall in print. The print run of 300 sold out.

In 2015, with the assistance of the Multicultural Commission and Latrobe City Council, a covered area was constructed. This was named the Piazza and was formally opened by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs on September 12, 2015.

Over the last four years the committee, with Don as Chairman, has worked on the Gippsland Heritage Walk, a series of 72 panels on the history of Gippsland erected around the lake at Kernot Hall.

This has been a major undertaking and was launched in early November by the Minister for Regional Development.

The support and co-operation from the Gippsland community is testament to the skills, drive and positive attitude that Don brings to his community work.



Churchill Student Citizen of the Year - Lily Booth

Book worm – Her nose is always in something to read.

Lily is described by her school teachers as follows: a Grade 5 student at Churchill Primary School, well – respected member of the school community who has shown remarkable resilience throughout her six years. She is courteous, reliable and respectful at all times.

Lily consistently shows a strong desire to learn and demonstrates a growth mindset in her independent learning. Lily's attendance has always been excellent and she represented her school in the 2015 Victorian State School's Spectacular. She has been a member the Churchill Netball Club and has held a leadership role as a school House Captain in 2015.

She is shy, loves strawberries and working in the garden patch. Loves cooking Dads special "Spag Bol."

Lily was born on May 18, 2004 and lives in Churchill with her siblings Lucy, Josh and Levi.

She loves her family, loves to learn, studying history / Anzac Day/ Gallipoli just a few of her interests.

When Lily takes control she commands undivided attention be it at school or home. This fits into her role of School Captain where she steps forward taking a lead role at all times. She is first to volunteer and last to leave.

She is a Leader being involved in the School Buddy System, making herself available to help and guide new students and parents into the culture of the school - Be respectful - Be positive - Be understanding - Be your best.

Her involvement with the 2015 School Spectacular was as a backup singer and crowd support. She put her heart and soul into it.

She plays netball with Churchill Under 11's and loves it.

Lily is also involved with Destination Dance and loves dancing tap and jazz.



Churchill Student Citizen of the Year - Mitchell Berechree

Mitchell was born on May 9, 2006, attends Churchill Primary School and is a Grade 3 student who resides in Churchill.

Mitchell has an exemplary school attendance and is a positive and inspirational member of his class, who regularly demonstrates a growth mindset and is highly committed to learning.

He is an active member of the Churchill Junior Football Club and Churchill Cricket Club.

He has for the past two years, been involved in the Murdoch Children's Research Institute's Step-a-thon fundraiser which raises money for child health research. Mitchell also represented the school in the Victorian State School's Spectacular event in 2015. His hand has gone up for next year.

Mitchell is a young man who lives by culture rules of his school (Be respectful – Be positive, Be understanding, Be your best) not only at school but as his life style. Mitchell assists anyone who needs help, no matter where or why the help is needed.

At home he looks after the interests of every one first before considering his own needs. He believes that everyone has a right to a fair go. If he believes that if someone is struggling no matter why, he will offer what support he can to the person involved or attempt to resolve the persons' needs by providing them with the needs to help themselves.

Mitchell saw an ad on the TV when he was in Grade 1 about Murdoch Children's Research Institute's Step-a-thon fundraiser, which raises money for child health research. Mitchell's hand went up and he set himself a goal to raise funds for the cause by completing 70,000 steps over seven days, and he raised in excess of \$1000.

He also participated in the Milo Cricket program for three years and then started playing open age group cricket and with his first bowl took his first wicket. In football he tries hard. He refuses to give it up and if he bumps someone during the game he has been known to help the bumped person to his feet and apologise.

Mitchell also insists on attending Anzac Day Services in Yinnar and the Dawn Service.



Australia Day celebrate what's Great!



Boolarra Australia Day Celebration 2016



Cr Darrell White (Not a recipient), Gladys Hall, Dan Aveling, Delia D'Amico, Tony Giardina, Ian Blake, Denise Schiller, Sylvia Sauppe, Russell Rogers, Bruce Hall.
Other recipients unable to attend were John Lubawski and Simon Pickett.

Another great Australia Day celebration was held at Railway Park in Boolarra with around 120 people turning out to enjoy the mild weather and an egg and bacon sandwich, and a chance to have a chin wag with friends they don't run into often. It was great to meet a number of the new residents to town in such a relaxed atmosphere.

It was perfect weather, and the park looked a treat. The trees have grown now, and are very attractive shade trees that are greatly appreciated by the crowd. Latrobe City has done a great job on upgraded facilities at the park, including a new playground, post and rail fencing and relocation of fire decorations.

The kids had fun with the games organised by Dan Aveling, including sack races, and sandal throwing (it's been so long since we had any decent rain, everyone has thrown their gumboots away). The older crowd members were kept on their toes by Australiana Trivia questions. The Boolarra Football Club and other volunteers started at 7.30 to ensure the hungry masses were very well catered for.

There was a welcoming ceremony conducted by local indigenous children. Councillor Darrell White spoke movingly of the significance of Australia Day, and the values it represents, and how these are reflected in our community. Samantha Brick spoke briefly about an upcoming information session for an anti-domestic violence program being run in Boolarra. Then, after the presentation of the Boolarra Community Awards, we had the raising of the flag and singing of the anthem.

There were a large number of nominations for Community Recognition Awards this year. This reflects the enthusiasm people have for being able to have their friends' efforts formally acknowledged in front of an

audience of their peers. A number of the quiet achievers were acknowledged, along with a number of people who have been closely involved in key community activities such as the CFA and the Boolarra Folk Festival.

Congratulations to the following recipients in recognition of their significant contribution to the community:

Gladys Hall

Through her 20 plus year commitment to the Budgerie Hall committee, including nine years as Secretary, during which she has been involved in fundraising, upgrading facilities and organising community events.

Bruce Hall

The hall is the heart of the Budgerie community, and Bruce has been a stalwart through his 20 year plus commitment to the Budgerie Hall committee, including the last 17 years as Secretary.

Delia D'Amico

Through the wonderful care and genuine affection with which she undertakes her role as Family Day Care Provider, she has provided an environment which gives many Boolarra mothers the opportunity to return to work.

Dan Aveling

As the School Council President over several years he has been a passionate advocate for the school and is committed to representing the parent body fairly and equitably.

Ian Blake

For the 42 years of service as a Member of the Boolarra Cemetery Trust. Over this time he has filled the role of President, as well as contributing countless hours of voluntary work maintaining, beautifying and

improving the cemetery.

Russell Rogers

Through his single handed efforts in cleaning up the crown land block between Billingsley's and the Little Morwell River.

John Lubawski

Through his many acts of kindness and consideration in helping out others in the community, John is actively involved in the Church and the Hall, but over and above this, he is always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Denise Schiller

As a pillar of the community, always ready to give a helping hand when required. She has a diverse range of interests, from quilting, to environment, to history and literature, and is an enthusiastic and valued member of all groups she is involved with.

Sylvia Sauppe

Sylvia has been on the Boolarra Link since 2010, first as sub-editor and now as editor. She does much of the heavy lifting of getting the paper together, including typesetting, coordinating and developing ads, coordinating proof-reading and coming up with new ideas to make the paper better. The quality of the Boolarra Link is a testament to Sylvia's commitment.

Tony Giardina

Tony has recently stepped down after a club record seven years as senior coach of the Boolarra Football Club. He took the club from the bottom of the ladder to a number of finals appearances including a premiership in 2011. He has always put the team and club first, and develops a great rapport with the players.

Colin Brick, OA Boolarra Community Development Group



Australia Day Celebrate what's Great!

Yinnar Australia Day Celebration 2016



Australia Day in Yinnar was an outstanding success with approximately 140 people attending the festivities.

The day began with a breakfast supplied by the Yinnar & District Lions Club and tea and coffee by the Historical Society.

The crowd was then entertained by the music of Destiny which was followed by the raising of the Australian flag by Yinnar scouts, Brad Wilson and Lance Townsend, ably supported by the rest of the troupe.

After the singing of the national anthem, Yinnar Primary school captains, Jess Houghton and Sam Walsh delivered a very moving

presentation of what Australia Day means to them. This was followed by a short speech from Councillor Darrell White and Melina Bath MLC.

Geoff Stolk was then presented with his award as Yinnar Citizen of the year. Geoff has lived in the town for the past 30 years and his community involvement has been tremendous:

* member of Yinnar & District Lions for 10 years as a past Secretary, Vice President and President and a key mover with most Club projects.

* member of the YDCA and currently Vice President.

* member of Yinnar CFA for over 25 years and present Captain.

* Regular blood donor.

* Participator in the Kidz Fix and Camp Quality fund raising rallies.

* YFNC supporter and trainer for many years.

* Community bus management group coordinator.

* Committee member of Yinnar & District Judo club for over 10 years.

All this has been achieved with the active help of his wife Edna and their two sons, Matthew and Mark.



Bean the clown at work at Churchill celebrations.



Lions club cooks up a storm at Churchill

Carols by Candlelight 2015



A crowd of one hundred and ten braved the wet, windy weather to attend Carols by Candlelight at the Co-Operating Churches in Churchill.

The evening began with the Churchill Lions Club cooking a barbecue for a gold coin. The proceeds of this, plus a collection during the program netted a significant amount of money to support the breakfast programs at our local schools. Thank you to our Lions Club for their generosity.

Musical accompaniment was provided by Destiny Performance and the Latrobe Community Concert Band, both groups providing entertainment prior to the commencement of the program as well as accompanying carol singing throughout the night. Thanks are extended to these two groups who willingly and freely share their talents with the community.

MC Mike Answerth kept the evening ticking along efficiently. Thanks Mike.

There were also items from Tessa Kuipjers, Allan Halliwell, his children Shallimar and Keiron, and Destiny Performance. Thank you for sharing your significant talents with us.

The program was designed to tell the Biblical story of the first Christmas - the real reason we now have Christmas. It included carols, interspersed with appropriate Bible readings and a moving message from Father Francis. Prayers to open and finish the program were also included.

Thanks are extended to CDCA for providing easily activated glow sticks, which with the lights in the church dimmed, produced a lovely atmosphere.

A selection of Christmas decorations also added to the overall effect thanks to Ian Combridge.

At the end of the program



Santa arrived on the fire truck and was escorted inside the church where the children respectfully engaged with him. Beautifully prepared trinkets by George and Barbara Cheetham were given to the eager children with a choice of

lollies from a basket.

The organising committee was thrilled with the outcome of the evening, and has already set the date for this year at December 16. You are encouraged to put it in your diaries now.

Be prepared for power outages

This summer, electricity businesses will be modifying their powerline safety settings on Total Fire Ban or Code Red days to reduce the risk of bushfires. This may result in a temporary loss of power if a fault occurs.

Households and businesses should consider the need for back-up power if they are highly reliant on electricity. Remember power outages can also affect phones, radios and water pumps.

- Have a battery-powered radio and spare batteries or a wind-up radio available to hear alerts and warnings in case power fails;
- Have a landline with a cord, a fully charged mobile phone as backup and a spare battery and;
- Have a non-electric pump available that can be operated from an alternative water supply such as a swimming pool, concrete or metal tank, or dam.

If you lose power, contact your electricity distribution business on the "Faults and Emergencies" number or website shown on your most recent electricity bill.

Be prepared.

For further information please visit
energyandresources.vic.gov.au/power-outage-guide

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday, March 6, 2016



By Leo Billington

Since this national event started in 1990, Clean Up Australia estimates Australians have donated more than 28 million hours taking to their streets, local bushland areas and waterways removing an amazing 303,213 tonnes of rubbish from over 152,000 sites across Australia. Clean Up Australia Day is Sunday March 6, 2016 and

is a simple way everyone can take action to clean up, fix up and conserve our prized Australian environment, and Churchill will also benefit as well.

According to the national organisers, in 2015 an estimated 550,300 volunteers removed 16,150 tonnes of rubbish at over 7,341 sites throughout Australia.

Community involvement

is free.

The only cost is some of your time to help clean-up a selected area.

Details:When: Sunday, March 6, 2016.

Time: 9.00 am to Midday.



Where: Eel Hole Creek area precinct, Churchill.

Volunteers to meet and register at the skateboard park car park next to the Neighbourhood Hub.

Volunteers: from

Hazelwood Rotary Club, Churchill Scout Group, Churchill Co-operating Church and anyone from the wider Churchill community.

Contact:

Leo Billington,

Hazelwood Rotary – 0458 661 848.

Peta Whelan, Group Leader - Churchill Scout Group.

Ruth Place – Churchill and District News.

There's a new doctor in Churchill. Call 1800 242 696

Latrobe Community Health Service welcomes Dr Lana Anderson as its new GP in Churchill.

Services at the GP clinic include:

- general health services
- vaccinations and immunisations
- health checks • women's health
- children's health • skin checks
- mental health • bulk billing

Monday to Wednesday from 8.30am to 5.00pm
20-24 Philip Parade, Churchill



BULK BILLING

Latrobe Community Health Service

Schools back, we're back to normal. !?!

Thanks to the all the emergency personnel who did a great job over the holiday season.

Valentine's Day has been and gone and Easter and ANZAC DAY are just around the corner.

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A Happy New Year to all stamp collectors. This new column is hosted by members of the Latrobe Valley Philatelic Society, a small group of dedicated collectors who meet once a month in Morwell.

At each meeting, items of interest are shown and discussed and each member has a chance to display material in the 'Letter of the Month' section. Members also have an opportunity to develop their skills in displaying their collections. Stamps are on sale through our circuit books to add to collections.

However, we do realise that Stamp Clubs are not for everybody. A lot of collectors feel out of their depth when they attend their first meeting because the depth of knowledge shown by the serious collectors can be quite daunting. Many people feel that their efforts are amateurish and so a second visit does not happen. What needs to be realised is that



STAMP MATTERS- A NEW EXPERIENCE



every one of these serious collectors were once just as amateurish themselves. Each one of the members gladly gives advice based on their experiences to help other collectors. My advice is to persevere, and develop working relationships with others and the rewards will come.

What do collectors collect? Your imagination is the only limiting factor. Some people collect the stamps of one country, usually Australia or its Dependencies since the new stamp issues are available at any Post Office. Other countries usually have a new issue service available on line. Previous issues can be had from stamp dealers, from stamp auctions or on e-bay.

Since this is your personal collection you get to set the limits of what you want to collect.

Other people collect a specific type of stamp to fit in with their specific interest. For example, my grand-daughter is mad keen on horse-riding so she collects horses on stamps. Birds on stamps are a popular choice. The choices are limitless.

What do you need to start? A good quality stock-book is a must. The pages need to be acid-free or your stamps will be damaged.

These can be purchased from a stamp dealer or sometimes from a Post Office where there is a stamp collector on the staff. They may cost a few dollars more,

but a collection with a face value of a few hundred dollars deserves a good home. A stamp magazine available at the local newsagent will give you the details of a number of accredited dealers and services for the collector.

In future months our members will provide tips for the beginner and intermediate collectors and write items of philatelic interest.

If you have a question or need help, contact the Society by mail addressed to The Secretary, Latrobe Valley Philatelic Society, 5 Tulloch Way, Traralgon, 3844, or by e-mail to czar7@outlook.com.

If you would like to attend a meeting, they are held at St Luke's Uniting Church Hall, Princes Drive, Morwell on the last Wednesday of each month except December. Meetings start at 8:p.m. We can guarantee a hearty welcome.

Performing Arts Centre development on track

A functional concept design and the development of a sound business case are two key actions currently being undertaken in the development of a new Latrobe Performing Arts Centre.

Latrobe City Council's Mayor, Councillor Michael Rossiter, said that securing funding for the project was the main aim.

"Our newly-formed Project Reference Group is working closely with representatives of the community, including the Get It Built group, and an expert consulting team comprising Williams Boag Pty Ltd Architects, arts management consultant Greg Randall and theatre production consultant Richard Stuart, to develop the

project as a viable funding proposition.

The business case and concept design will be prepared by early March, in advance of funding submissions to State and Federal governments. A three-way State, Federal and Local government funding contribution is envisaged," Councillor Rossiter said.

"The business case will build on the existing case for an arts centre in the region.

It focuses on how the facility can deliver significant economic and employment benefits to the region, as well as providing enhanced cultural experiences for the wider Latrobe community.

The concept design will demonstrate the functionality

of the facility, the uses of the various spaces and how they might relate to one another. It's an exciting part of the process but is not a detailed design.

That phase comes after funding commitments have been secured.

When we are at that detailed design point, we will seek broader input to ensure the facility is one that suits the needs and desires of the community.

This may not be until later in 2016," Councillor Rossiter said.

For more information on the development of the Performing Arts Centre, contact Michael Bloyce, Manager arts and events, on 1300 367 700.

The Latrobe Chorale



Latrobe Chorale is back with bells on in 2016

Following the success of its end of year concerts in December, the Latrobe Chorale is looking forward to a wonderful year of music - making for its thirtieth anniversary year in 2016.

The first 2016 practice was on Tuesday February 2. Their next main concert on May 21 and 22 will be of Gabriel

Fauré's 'Requiem' and John Rutter's 'Gloria'. Members of the City of Traralgon Band will join the Chorale for these performances.

Fauré's 'Requiem' dates from the 1890's, while Rutter's 'Gloria,' although written in the style of much earlier music, is by a living composer and was first performed in 1974. Recordings of these works

will be introduced to the choir over supper at the first rehearsal, when the choir will also start preparing work to perform at the Latrobe Valley Community Choir's 'Street Requiem' event in Traralgon on March 5.

The Latrobe Chorale is a Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass choir that was founded in 1985. The Chorale has been coming together ever since to

practise and perform a range of mainly classical and sacred choral works.

During the second half of the year the Chorale will again be singing Handel's 'Messiah'.

This event will be at the West Gippsland Arts Centre in Warragul, on Saturday November 19 and at Kernot Hall, Morwell, on Sunday November 20. These

performances will be with the Gippsland Symphony Orchestra.

Singers who would like to sing 'Messiah' are welcome to also join in the first half year's program. New, current and returning singers will all be welcome.

The Latrobe Chorale is also currently seeking a rehearsal pianist for its Tuesday evening practices.

Interested people should contact the Chorale's musical director, Mary Mirtschin on 5174 6659

The Latrobe Chorale meets on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 pm to 10 pm in the hall at St Andrews Church in Church Street, Morwell (Entry from James Street).

<http://www.latrobechorale.org/>

Photo by Rhonda Kemsley

Grants available for Latrobe Valley Shooting clubs

Member for Morwell Russell Northe is encouraging Latrobe Valley shooting sports clubs to apply for the latest grants round of the Shooting Sports Facilities Program.

"Shooting involves a high level of proficiency and it is important that our rural communities have good

facilities to develop skills and to support the safe and responsible use of firearms," Mr Northe said.

"Grants from the Shooting Sports Facilities Program are a great way for sporting clubs to improve their clubrooms and rifle ranges."

Mr Northe said grants of

up to \$100,000 were available for a number of categories:

- Upgrades to ageing clubrooms
- New facilities for the female participants
- Improve access for people living with disabilities
- Development of new rifle ranges, target systems

and shooting platforms

"With these grants, clubs will hopefully increase participation and be able to better accommodate members of all abilities," Mr Northe said.

For more details or to apply online, visit www.sport.vic.gov.au

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The heart of our community



Churchill Neighbourhood Centre

Term 1 2016 classes & activities

Health & Creativity

Photography

Learn to take better photos, framing & composition and how to use light as well as how to use all those buttons on your camera. Suitable for digital SLR & point & shoot cameras.

Saturday March 5th 9.30 - 12.30
\$25 or \$20 concession

Knitting & Crochet

For beginners and the more advanced. Learn to knit and crotchet, share your skills and swap ideas. Work on your own projects or knit for a cause.

Wednesdays 10am - 12.30pm \$6 per session

Country Kitchen Cooking

Learn basic principles of cooking country style using fresh produce. For beginners and the more advanced cooks. Contact us for weekly menus.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10am-12pm
\$105 for 8 weeks or \$90 concession
Casual \$15 or \$12 concession

Grow Lightly Veggie Bags

Veggie bags of locally grown vegetables, fruits and nuts delivered fortnightly to the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre.

Life & Study Skills

Study Skills

Are you thinking of doing some accredited study, but worried about your study skills? This course will give you good practical advice that will help you work towards getting a qualification.

Classes starting soon, register your interest
Wednesdays 9.30am - 12pm
\$80 for 8 weeks or \$60 concession

English Conversation

Practise pronunciation, improve comprehension, understand Australian slang, bring your children! Improve your English in a child friendly environment. Any level of English welcome.

Wednesdays 12.30pm - 2.30pm
\$70 for 8 weeks or \$60 concession Casual \$8 or \$7 concession
\$60 concession or \$80 non concession for 8 weeks

Coffee, Cake & Conversation

Swap ideas, recipes, discuss social and health issues, watch documentaries, anything goes! You can bring along your knitting or craft projects to work on. (This group doesn't meet on the last Friday of the month) **Fridays 10am - 12pm** \$6 a week

Computer Courses

In most classes you can bring your own laptop or ipad/ tablet, check with us first.

Intel® Easy Steps Basic Computer Skills

If you've never used a computer, or are unsure about the online world, the idea can be daunting. But it doesn't have to be. Intel® Learn Easy Steps is designed to give you the help you need.

Fridays 10am - 12pm \$60 for 10 weeks

Intermediate Computers & Computers for Employment

This class covers ipads, tablets, mobile phones, internet, genealogy, email, skype, social media. It also covers Microsoft Office 2010 programs: Word, Excel, Publisher, Access, Power Point, Outlook, Windows 8.

Mondays 12.30pm - 2.30pm, Tuesdays 12.30pm - 2.30pm or Wednesdays 1pm - 3pm \$60 for 10 weeks

Photo Editing & Digital Scrapbooking

Using ACDSee photo editor learn how to edit and enhance photos. Create calendars, photo books, greeting cards, and photo DVDs.

Mondays 10am - 12pm or 12.30pm - 2.30pm
\$60 for 10 weeks, materials extra

Visit www.churchill.org.au for our full program and find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChurchillNeighbourhoodCentre

Located at the Churchill Community Hub,
9 - 11 Philip Parade, Churchill

Churchill Neighbourhood Centre
acknowledges the support of the Victorian
Government and Latrobe City Council.



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Hazelwood Rotary Club

By Leo Billington
The Hazelwood Rotary has taken a lead role in two projects since late last year. **2015 Christmas Wrap – Mid Valley Shopping Centre**

Long serving Hazelwood Rotarian Mac Wood was once again the key co-ordinator involving a wide range of community groups who willingly helped through until Christmas Eve. The Christmas Wrap service began on November 30, and payment was by donation. A “four-figure dollar amount” was raised – another record for this community service. Congratulations to everyone.

The club extends its thanks to Mid Valley Management for willingly providing on-going support, encouragement and floor space for the four weeks.

Churchill Festival – March 2016

The club will co-ordinate a race meeting involving VICMOW members and their racing ride-on-mowers. These machines basically



use the body of old mowers, combined with a motor bike engine and therefore become very competitive. Such a race event has been proposed as part of Churchill celebrations since last year.

There is a separate item about this exciting event in this issue of the Churchill & District News.

ANZAC Day 2016 – Churchill service

For this occasion,

Hazelwood Rotary Club has been asked to take over coordination and management following last year’s successful inaugural memorial service. The Morwell RSL will assist on the day and there will be a need for a small group to do the planning and facilitate the day.

Hazelwood Rotary Club members wish everyone best wishes for an enjoyable,

prosperous New Year in and throughout 2016.

For more information and photographs about what our club has been involved in, please have a look at our Facebook page.

Club meetings have now commenced for 2016 and to learn more details about Rotary, please contact President, Reg Kemp on 0427 353 887.

Al-Anon

Al-Anon meetings as often as possible.

He told me my worries about my will were easy to handle but my wife’s drinking problem was different.

But his talk gave me help. When I went to my first Al-Anon meeting it gave me hope.

It convinced me I was in

the right place. I heard bits of my story from each person who spoke. The great part was I could just sit and listen.

They had no rules so it’s up to us to feel comfortable. They make you feel so at home.

You can find Al-Anon family groups or phone 1300 Al-Anon (1300 252 666).

Meetings in the Latrobe Valley:

Traralgon: Monday 10.00am at Learning House, Breed Street.

Newborough: Tuesday 8.00pm or Wednesday 1pm at the Uniting Church.

Or Phone: 1300 Al-Anon (1300 252 666) or 0419 864 377.

Pop-up Park for Tarwin Street

Tarwin pop-up park began to take shape on February 9, 2016.

A community working bee was held on Saturday February 13, for the community to get involved in the activation of the space.

One of five pop-up spaces across Victoria funded by VicHealth, the project will deliver a short-term, low-cost, rapid makeover converting part of Tarwin Street into a vibrant, safe and accessible place that inspires people to meet up, move their bodies and have fun.

The park, located at the Commercial Road end of Tarwin Street in Morwell, will be in place from February to June 13, 2016.

The space is free for the community to use and is aimed to be an easy and fun way for people to be more active on a daily basis.

Tarwin pop-up park will convert the corner of Tarwin Street and Commercial Road into a public plaza with synthetic grass, temporary landscaping, tables and seating, wi-fi, and a space for fun physical activity opportunities for all ages.

Latrobe City Mayor, Councillor Michael Rossiter said, “This is an exciting project for Latrobe City and the working bee was an opportunity for our community to come down to the site and be part of the transformation.

Over the four months the pop-up park will be in place a number of sensational major events will take place, with interactive performances planned by Circus Oz, Australian Ballet and the Arts Centre Melbourne - and it’s all free.

The major events and other planned activities are for all ages and interests and will include sport, dance, circus, walking and any other

form of active recreation.

I encourage all residents of Latrobe City to check out the event schedule, and plan to come down to experience the space and enjoy whatever’s happening”.

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter said: “Latrobe City Council has been working closely with VicHealth to help get local residents more physically active over the last few years.

Our Be Active program focused on addressing the barriers restricting people’s ability to participate in physical activity, and now we’re creating new, fun spaces for the Latrobe community, particularly families, to get out and active in their local area.

Arts activities such as dance, circus skills and

walking are all fun ways of getting your body moving. It’s great news for your physical health and mental wellbeing.

We really hope the Latrobe community gets on board.”

Although the current tenure of the park is limited to four months, VicHealth and Latrobe City Council have an aspiration to create a permanent change within the local community.

As well as creating a new vibrant and active space, there will be an opportunity to learn how initiatives implemented as part of this project can be integrated into council’s policy and planning mechanisms for the future.

For general enquiries, contact Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700.

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Hazelwood Rotary

Contact:
Reg Kemp, President - 0427 353 887

MEETINGS:
Mondays 6.30pm - 8.00pm

ITALIAN AUSTRALIAN SPORTING AND SOCIAL CLUB MORWELL

“Hazelwood Rotary raised over \$8000 from the December 2015 Christmas Wrap held at Mid Valley Shopping Centre”

Rolling Stones

T-shirts \$10

While stocks last!

Nook and Cranny
97 Buckley Street, Morwell

baseball

Come 'n' Try Day

Churchill



Braves

Registrations will commence at 10.00 am and activities will start at 11.00 am

BBQ lunch provided.

* Exercise and Fresh Air

* Friendship

* Fun

*Teamwork

*Individual accomplishment

*You can always make a comeback

Sunday, March 6, 2016

Andrews Park, Birch Drive, Churchill

Everyone welcome

Andrew Franks - Hobby Photographer



'Andrew Franks - Sharing Gippsland'



I have always had an interest in photography and used to photograph using film cameras of the trips and adventures that I had done. These days with the improvements in digital photography, the ability to easily extend photography techniques and blend with artistic traits can bring a whole new dimension to photos. I enjoy the process of planning, capturing and editing photographs. I have experimented with photographing birds and made it a challenge to continually capture new species and improve the photographic result through honing technique. Sharp photos of bird's feather and eye details are my main aim.

I have been extensively photographing Gippsland landscapes and water ways. Places of interest to me are the South Gippsland coastline, Gippsland Lakes, Thorpdale, Sale and the wetlands, Wilsons Promontory, local rivers and waterfalls. I have also been experimenting with sunsets, sunrises, stars and Southern Aurora.

Photographic techniques that I have been experimenting with include, HDR (High Dynamic

Range), Long Exposure using filters, Time Lapse and Macro. These techniques are not new but way more accessible with digital photography.

I usually share my photos on Facebook with friends and other photographic groups. It's a great way to get feedback on how your techniques are going.

After encouragement from friends I decided I would enter two photos into the Darren Chester's 2016 'Love Gippsland' Calendar competition. During the entrance process I could see many of the photos already entered, they were spectacular which got me thinking that mine were not good enough.

To my surprise I received an email to let me know that one of my photos had been selected for the calendar. I was surprised and happy to have made it in. Over the next thirteen days, each winner was announced for the month their photo would represent and who the grand winner is to have their photo on the cover. This was publicised on Darren Chester's Facebook page.

I was awarded the November page with my photo of Tidal River

at Wilsons Promontory.

All entries into the photo competition may be viewed on Darren Chester's website. There were 20,000 copies of the 'I Love Gippsland' calendar printed and distributed free throughout Gippsland.

Prior to this competition the only other one I've entered was at the Thorpdale Photo Festival last year, where I was awarded a second place with my photo that I like to call 'patchwork'.

As I have extensively photographed Gippsland I had an idea to promote the region through a new Facebook page, 'Andrew Franks - Sharing Gippsland'. Here I have uploaded many photos of our region and continually update the photos as I take more.

I have never had any professional training and pretty much are self-taught on the techniques I use to photograph. The internet is jam packed with plenty of helpful tutorials to assist with getting good photos.

It's all about getting out there and capturing an image as how you see it.



Friends of Morwell National Park

There are more Green Walks scheduled over the next few months. Each 60 minute guided walk has a meeting time of 10.00am with the walks departing at 10.10 am. The next Green Walks planned in Morwell National Park are:

Friday February 26

Billys Creek Weir

Meet at the Braniff's Road car park.

Wednesday March 23

Foster's Gully Walk

Meet at Kerry Road picnic area.

Thursday April 21

Billys Creek Weir

Meet at the Braniff's Road car park.

Registration at www.walking.heartfoundation.org.au/events/event or call the Heart Foundation's Health Information Service on 1300 362 787

John's Jottings

This snippet on the formation of the Friends of Morwell National Park was sourced in part from early Minutes files.

"Newsletter June 1986

Dear Friends

The inaugural meeting of the Friends Group of the Morwell National Park was held at the Fosters Gully Picnic area on May 10th at 2.30 pm.

Eight people attended plus representatives of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists. Apologies were received from Mrs Ellen Lyndon and the Brewster family (both instrumental in the proclamation of the park initially).

The aims and objectives were put to the meeting by Ian Roche (Ranger), Yvonne Aplin and Gail Roche. After much discussion a decision was made by all in attendance to proceed with the formation of a Group with an attempt to interest more people via detailed publicity.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday June 1st commencing at 11.30 am in the park picnic area. Plans and maps detailing the proposed land purchases will be available for viewing and discussion over lunch.



After lunch it is proposed to conduct a walk along some of the park boundaries to gain a perspective of the park and its relationship to its surroundings.

Looking forward to your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Yvonne Aplin"

By 1988 there were 45 registered members, some of whom are current members. They are Mary Austin, Eulalie

Brewster, Ken Harris and Wendy Steenbergen. There was a lot to do and sort out in the early days, and some of the members joined, not only due to a real interest and concern for the formation of the group, but because they had the expertise to get things done.

This was particularly relevant to the Park being extended to include Billys Creek valley.

January Activity Report

At this activity we had Matt, Peter, John, Mike, Cathy, Beryl, Tamara, Ken and Darren. We had apologies from Margaret and Wendy S.

The group met in the car park and caught up on the happenings from over Christmas and New Year.

The group travelled to the Reidy's Road entrance in four vehicles. At the entrance the group was greeted by a koala sitting high above us.

The day's activity was to clear some trees which had grown in the entrance, restricting access. Upon investigation it was found that these trees had been previously removed.

The plans for the day were changed with the group splitting to clear the Blue Gum Hill and spur tracks. The vehicles were driven to Billy's Weir while the rest of the group walked to the top of Blue Gum Hill.

Ken left from Reidy's Road. It was good to get out and have a walk in the Park. With the weather being cool

and dry it was perfect walking conditions.

The groups cleared sticks, bark and undergrowth from the two tracks. Two groups worked from the top and bottom of the Blue Gum Hill track clearing the many sticks which had fallen across the track.

One branch remains across this track. These groups met in the middle and then worked back to Billy's Weir. A third group of Mike, Matt and Peter worked down the spur track, encountering lots of slippery bark and three sizable trees/branches across the track.

Next month we will need to return to remove these. The spur track also had heavy undergrowth near the creek, which Matt slashed.

The bottom of Blue Gum track had been slashed so similar problems were not encountered there.

All of the group met at Billy's Weir and had lunch. We left after lunch to see Australia perform well again in the cricket.

Jury Duty – part 1

By Hannah Billington

Jury service is a crucial part of Victoria's justice system and juries are made up of citizens randomly selected from the Victorian Electoral Roll. Every year, many Victorians give their time to attend jury service. Anyone aged between 18 and 75 years from across the State can receive a summons for such duty.

When summoned, the number of days you'll need to attend after that depends on whether you're selected as juror. The trial usually begins on the same day you are selected. You will be informed at the start of the trial how long it is expected to take.

If this length of time is a problem, you may ask to be excused, and the judge will decide whether to do so or not.

It is recommended that you arrive at the jury pool room by 9.15am on your first day, unless you have been given different instructions. You will usually have to stay until about 4.15pm.

If you are selected to be a juror, you will usually have to attend court each weekday between 10am and 4.15pm.

The judge will tell you when you are needed. It is important not to be late. A one hour lunch break occurs at either 12.30pm or 1.00pm each day. Lunch will not be provided except during jury deliberations.

You are allowed to go home each night during the trial. However, if the jury is

deliberating on a verdict, you may be required to stay later than 4.15pm and maybe even overnight. The judge will tell you the specifics of these arrangements.

If you do not attend court when summoned to be a juror, you may need to appear before a judge yourself to explain your absence. Additionally you may be fined. Being too busy or forgetting the dates are not acceptable excuses.

You must inform your employer that you have been summoned for jury service. You will be given the estimated length of the trial should you be selected as a juror; tell this to your employer too.

If any changes are made to the length of the trial, tell your employer immediately. Employers must release you for jury service. If your employer asks you to apply to be excused from jury duty, and you believe this to be reasonable, you can apply to be excused.

An employer who discriminates against an employee due to jury service is liable to severe penalties. Employers should not expect you to work late at night whilst you are on jury service. You may work after hours if you wish, however jury service is tiring and any work you do must not interfere with your ability to serve as a juror.

At the end of your jury service you will be paid a cheque and given a certificate stating the number of days you attended court.

Even if you do not serve

as a juror, you will still be paid and given a certificate of attendance.

In general, your employer is required to pay you the difference between the amount you receive in jury fees and the amount you would have received had you not been serving as a juror.

Most courts have a jury "pool room" where you will wait until you are considered for a role as juror.

If the court does not have such a room, you will be told where to wait.

You are allowed to bring items with which to entertain yourself while you wait – such as a laptop.

You will not be reimbursed for any travel or parking costs related to your jury service.

In Melbourne for instance, the Supreme and County courts are on bus and tram routes, and most regional courts have designated car parks for the public.

Your summons will detail where to go and what to bring. Items you must bring along to your service include your summons and photo identification.



Morwell Courthouse

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Happy Easter

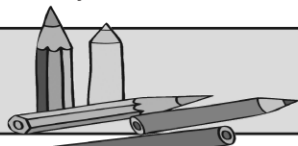
Easter cards, eggs and bags.

FREE lollypop for the children. (During the month of March)

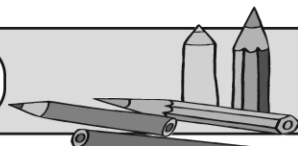
ALL AT A GOOD PRICE

Shop 3, Hazelwood Village Shopping Centre, Churchill

School News



Churchill North Primary School



Welcome Back from Churchill North!

Churchill North Primary School has welcomed back all their students from 2015 and has enjoyed seeing many new faces already. We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful break and are ready for another year full of fun and challenging learning activities.

A big welcome to our new Preps. The first day of school can be an exciting and stressful time but we have been lucky enough to have smiles all round, thanks to an excellent transition program throughout the school year, which will be back in place for 2017 Preps.

With our 2015 Grade 6's off to high school, there are many new positions to fill including Junior School Council positions, and school and house captains. 2016 has needed a whopping eight classes giving us two 5/6, two 3/4, two 1/2, and two Prep/1 classes, which has been great news.

School started off with a lovely morning tea for all the parents and it was wonderful to welcome some new faces to our Churchill North family. At Churchill North Primary School we are family - that means no student, parent, teacher or staff member gets left behind or forgotten! Ohana!

Teachers Learn Too!

Staff at Churchill North Primary School have started school early this year. The teachers have become the students during the pupil free days filled with professional development. They have worked cooperatively in revisiting the whole school improvement model; this model aims to support teacher development and student outcomes. The key features of our whole school Improvement model include -
-Building a strong and united leadership team.
-Having a shared purpose



and direction around teaching and learning.

-Embedding a reflective practice.

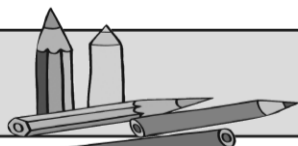
-Implementing and monitoring an instructional model.

-Monitoring the impact of teaching on student growth.

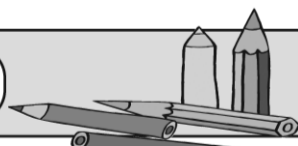
The professional development presented during the pupil free days enabled staff to refine a whole school data analysis tool, essential skills in numeracy and refocus the school professional learning community which includes; data analysis, planning and explicit teaching.



School News



Churchill Preschools



Latrobe City Council runs two well established preschools here to cater for our growing community.

They are the Churchill Preschool run at the Churchill Hub and the other is Glendonald Preschool on Mariana Drive in the Glendonald estate.

Each is managed by capable and well qualified staff experienced in creating programs that are tailored to meet the child's individual needs.

The lessons and play activities are designed to help develop both the social and

academic needs of the child in an interactive, creative and positive surrounding.

Play based learning both inside and outside,

provides ample opportunity for the children to explore and experiment while they are interacting with one another.

The children enjoy taking

home samples of their work to display.

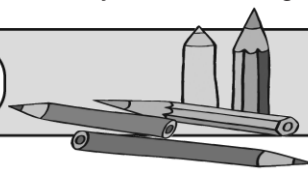
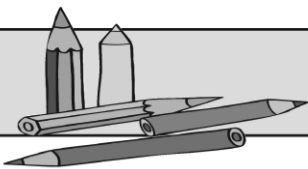
Have you enrolled your child for Preschool yet? Don't wait, contact the Latrobe City

offices for an information pack, or collect one from one of the Preschools.

Visit <http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Preschool> The

preschool year has already begun.





At Yinnar South Primary we started our year by welcoming ten new students to our small community.

This meant that we have almost tripled in size in the last four years.

We have moved into our

new learning spaces and we were very excited when our new furniture arrived this week.

The students had helped choose the style and colour of our main piece, a wonderful oval couch.

Our overarching theme this term is Citizenship. Our Callistemon students have been researching and running mock court cases, and also an election as they are immersed in this topic before beginning their individual Education

Research Projects (ERP's).

Our Fantastic Friday (Science) sessions saw the Wattle (Junior) students investigating solids and liquids and the seniors looking at engineering strategies to build bridges out of straws.

Wattle Students worked on Number order during their Maths sessions.

Our new playgroup Yinnar South 'Wise Little Owls' was launched on Wednesday mornings, <https://www.facebook.com/>

YinnarSouthPlaygroup/ Visitors are welcome to come and see how we can bring 'Learning to Life' for your child. School tours can be arranged by calling Principal Katy Grandin on 5169 1540.

Russell Northe proudly servicing the Churchill and District Community.



Russell Northe MLA

Member for Morwell
russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au www.russellnorthe.com.au
66 George Street, Morwell VIC 3840 PO Box 214, Morwell VIC 3840
ph 03 5133 9088 fax 03 5133 9388

Authorised by Russell Northe, 66 George St, Morwell VIC 3840
Funded from the Parliament Electorate Office and Communication Budget

Churchill Braves Baseball Club



The Churchill Baseball Club has already started looking into the 2016 season.

With roles appointed at the end of last year, the Braves are doing a lot of promotion during their off-season looking into April. The Braves will be hosting their Come and Try Day on Sunday, March 6, with registrations starting at 10am and a free BBQ at lunchtime.

Leading into this the Braves will be out and about at public events and running barbecues.

All funds raised will go to the upgrade of Tony Dickenson Junior Diamond.

Upgrades to the Tony Dickenson Junior Diamond, located at Andrews Park West, will allow the junior players to be safer.

The fence will be extended to protect juniors from foul balls and concrete slabs with benches will be placed to keep both teams out of the mud and weather.

Senior training will start on Wednesday February 24 at 5pm with junior training to follow in the weeks after.

An early start in February will see the club ready to go at the Gippsland Championships on April 2 and 3, as well as

the season commencing the weekend after.

Shane Gill has stepped back into the role of Club Coach after the Club saw the structural change and the implementation of a Selection Committee. The change will see Tim Bellerby the Manager for A-Grade, James Armstrong the B-Grade Manager and Sam Gillett the C-Grade Manager.

Brad Jones has taken on the Presidency for the second year after the club saw growth in numbers in 2015.

Tim Bellerby was appointed as his Vice President moving on from the Secretary role which was filled by Sam Gillett.

Ross Coen has once again taken on the role of Treasurer.

For more information on baseball or the Baseball Club contact Sam Gillett on 0429 393 418.

The Churchill United Soccer Club is on a quest to return its once vaunted junior division back to the top of the Gippsland Soccer League participation numbers table by 2020.

Like most sports clubs the Rams have gone through peaks and troughs over its 46 year history, and 2015 junior numbers bottomed out at just over 40 players from a peak of 150 in 2010.

"Sometimes you need to bottom out to force a refocus and regeneration and that's certainly where we've been with a steady decline in numbers over the last five years" said new Vice President and Junior Steering Group Chair, Stephen Breheny.

"We have some very good and experienced people in place to take the club forward along with some very robust organisation structures and value statements to guide us."

Breheny believes the decline can be put down to losing some excellent organisers at the club whose kids have moved through the system and away from the game.

"You can become complacent as a club that the good times will just continue to roll without driving it, but the fact is if there's no structure, volunteers and people willing to help may not feel empowered to do their bit. With our new structure we

Junior Rams revival



are aiming to get everyone to do a little bit here and there which will result in a well oiled machine."

The club has set a target to get junior numbers back to the 150 mark by 2020. The immediate aim is to rebuild the younger brigade from kids turning four in 2016 through to twelve year olds.

To assist in the rebuild, the club has engaged some long term sponsors for a special junior focused effort to reduce registration costs from \$130 in 2015 to \$99 in 2016, plus every player will also get a junior rams division T-shirt.

"Without great local businesses like the Gippsland Motor Group, Cheney Plumbing Services and Gippsland Trade Printers we simply couldn't afford to break through the price barriers we have, and improve our offering by fifty odd

dollars per child in 2015.

The club was also very happy to gain the services of Kim and Michael Pyke as Junior Coordinator and club Treasurer respectively.

"Kim was the Junior Coordinator with Newborough club Monash for eight years and helped lift their number over that time significantly, and her husband Michael also had a stint as Treasurer at the Wolves so we are rapt to have them on board. Kim's son Matt is also the Rams club Secretary so it's a real family affair with them.

The club embarked on a significant call to action information campaign in January to ensure everyone in the Churchill and District knows about the improvements made at the Rams.

I have no doubt with what

we have put into place that we will be a force again in the not too distant future and that more kids will be engaged in and loving the sport," Breheny concluded.

2016 Junior Rams team

Vice President, Junior steering group chair; Stephen Breheny

Junior Coordinator: Kim Pyke

Under 7's coaching team: Trish Clowes, Laurie Marks, Dale Paterson, Mark Bianconi, Stephen Breheny

Under 9's coach: Peter Ceoney

Under 11's and 12's Coach: Michael Pyke

Under 13 Girls coach: Tom Sands

School Clinics: Paul Riess and Tom Sands

For more information contact Stephen Breheny 0448 996 453 or Kim Pyke 0417 547 746.

Churchill parkrun

Churchill parkrun commenced with a successful launch on Saturday January 23, with 162 people completing the course.

It is a 5 km free timed run/walk/community event run by volunteers each Saturday. It starts with a run briefing at 7:45 am, before getting underway at 8 am.

People of all ages and various abilities are welcome.

An important part of parkrun is to make friends and meet people while getting fitter and taking on new personal challenges. We will be going to the local cafes in Churchill afterward for a catch up for coffee and breakfast. They are very supportive and providing vouchers to be awarded to volunteer of the month.

The event has been strongly supported by parkrun Australia and Latrobe City Council, which provided \$5,000 in funding through the Healthy Together Latrobe initiative.

Latrobe City Council also undertook maintenance works to ensure the course is appropriate and safe for users.

The event is also supported by the Churchill Hub Committee which has provided access to the building each Saturday morning for toilet access and bar code scanning.

There is a committee of about ten people who worked together for over six months to get the run off the ground, assisted by parkrun Australia Territory Director, Tony O'Connell. Churchill parkrun is number 151 in Australia, and one of six parkruns now operating in Gippsland, with others being planned for Bairnsdale and Moe.

The Churchill parkrun course is attractive and picturesque, being an out and back and repeat course along Eel Hole Creek and starting and finishing at the Hub, on compacted sand with four small bridges attached. This gives an opportunity for people to cross paths and encourage one another. People need to register on the parkrun Australia website and print off a bar code to bring along with them so they can get their personal time recorded and emailed to them.

This enables them to monitor their progress and set goals if they wish. We look forward to people coming along and bringing family members and friends – it's a great way to start your weekend and to get fit or stay fit – some football and netball clubs as well as soccer clubs and tri-clubs use it as part of their pre-season program, and others participate all year round just for fun and the comradery.

There is a Churchill parkrun Facebook page where you can see all the photos from the events and also a Churchill parkrun webpage that provides weekly run reports, news and course details as well as an opportunity for people to tell us they are keen to volunteer for one of the roles – these are simple, easy roles that people can learn quickly on the spot eg time keeper, marshal, photographer, bar code scanner, tail runner/walker.

Please see the web page and face book for more details, weekly event reports and the Facebook page where you can choose to use any of the hundreds of great photos.

Churchill Bowls Club

Progress on Churchill's lawn bowls green is developing with A.B. Berry being awarded the contract for the synthetic green installation.

Procurement of the synthetic bowls carpet will be of 12 weeks duration taking place between January and March 2016. The contractor envisages a construction period commencing in April of seven to eight weeks, with a completion date early June 2016.

These dates are only tentative at this stage due to the contractors work itinerary, however it is anticipated the Churchill Bowls Club will have its lawn bowls green ready for competition once the green is completed by June 2016.

With the advent of our bowls green, the club is seeking new, past and current players interested in joining and playing for the Churchill Bowls Club. Being a Gippsport welcoming inclusive club, we offer the opportunity for all diverse members and cultures

in our society, the chance to participate and be involved in the sport of lawn bowls. This also applies to people with disabilities who are encouraged to be a part of our organisation as a player, or part of our governance team.

The procurement of a lawn bowls green in Churchill is a significant achievement in the town's 50 year history, providing an alternative recreational activity for those in our community who don't, or can no longer participate in, the more robust sporting codes.

We now join the other sporting clubs in Churchill that offer the opportunity for its community members to represent their town in their chosen sport.

In preparation for our entry into the West Gippsland Bowls Division, the club has embarked on an extensive clubroom refurbishment campaign over the past 18 months, to provide modern



up to date air conditioned facilities for the enjoyment of members and guests using our venue. This includes wheelchair access to all areas of the clubrooms, new toilet facilities and a modern up to date kitchen.

Thursday night indoor bowls restarted on February 11, 2016 which is open to the general public. Anyone wishing to play is welcome to turn up on a Thursday night by 7.20pm, games start at 7.30pm sharp. Cost for the night is \$4.00, which includes a light supper. So come along and enjoy a fun and sociable night out

Winner of the Churchill Bowls Club Christmas Hamper drawn on December 11, 2015 was the Skinner family from Maple Crescent Churchill. Our thanks to all who supported our raffle.

Any enquiries, ring W. Brown on 5122 1860 between 9 am and 5pm.

SPORT

Churchill Junior Basketball

Churchill Junior Basketball hosted their home tournament on December 5 and 6, 2015.

The tournament was sponsored by The Churchill Hotel. It was great to get a local business involved and contributing to junior sport.

The tournament attracted

63 teams from 13 associations, from Orbost to Wonthaggi. It was a great success and it wrapped up the squad season for 2015.

Many other local businesses were involved and sponsored the event, and the Association appreciates their support.

Churchill Blue Devils had a successful weekend with Under 10 boys A grade, Under 14 boys and Under 16 girls B grade winning their Grand Finals.

Under 10 boys won a close Grand Final against Warragul 17-16, Under 14 boys defeated Moe Yellow

62-29, and Under 16 girls defeated Chalkies (Warragul) 28-21. The Blue Devils Under 12 girls B grade, Under 12 boys A grade and Under 14 girls A grade all made the semi - finals and lost close games.

Churchill Blue Devils next squad tournament was

hosted by Warragul on February 13 and 14, to be followed by Traralgon tournament on Labour Day weekend.

The photos are of Churchill Blue Devils Grand Final winning teams.



Churchill & Monash Golf Club

Men's Stableford Saturday 2/1/16

0-18 A Grade J. Woodbridge (18) 40 Points, 19-24 B Grade G. Spowart (23) 42 Points, 25-36 C Grade A. Casey (26) 39 Points. Dtl R. Hills 39 - J. Mc Cafferty 38 - B. Barnes 38 - D. Byers 38 - R. Welsh 36. Ntp 3rd.M. Soppe 5th K. Hills, 12th J. Woodbridge - 14th K. Hills. Target Hole P. Williams.

Ladies Stableford Tuesday 5/1/16

Winner L. Peake (41) 39 Points. Dtl V. Rowley (41) 37 Points. C/B S. Jeffery (37) 37 Points, Ntp 3rd V. Rowley. 5th A. Hibbert. 0-35 5th J. Blizzard. 14th A. Hibbert, 36-45 5th M. McQuillen. 14th M. McQuillen,

Birdies L. Casey 3rd, A Hibbert 12th,

Mens Par Saturday 9/1/16

0-17 K. Hills (12) +2, 18-23 J. Barnes (18) +5, 24-36 J. Ambrosini (29) +3, Dtl G. Spowart +4, H. Martin +2, D. Byers +1. Ntp 3rd B. Kilday, 12th A. Casey, 14th K. Hills. Pro Pin 3rd B. Kilday - Target Hole J. Sanders.

Ladies Par Tuesday 12/1/16

Winner M. Dear (16) +6, Dtl L. Casey (36) +5, Ntp 5th M. Dear . 0-35 5th M. Dear - 14th J. Blizzard. 36-45 5th J. Armstrong, 14th M. McQuillen. Birdie - M. Dear.

Mens Stableford 4bbb 16/1/16

Winners D. Taylor (20) and J. Ambrosini(29) 45 Points. Runners Up R.

Scurlock (8) and D. Byers (16) 45

Points. C/B Dtl H. Martin and G. Spowart 44 Pts D. Ellwood and K. Hills 43 Pts. M. Johnson and J. Woodbridge 43 Pts B. Barnes and P. Junker 42 C/B. Ntp 3rd G. Beyer 12th J. Ambrosini, 14th V. Monument. Pro Pin 12th J. Ambrosini- Target Hole M. Sanders. Birdies 12th J. Ambrosini 12th V. Monument.

Ladies Stableford Tuesday 19/1/16

Winner D. Stait (39) 48 Points, Dtl A. Hibbert 43 Pts - H. Croft 41 Pts. Ntp 12th J. Beck, 5th J. Blizzard and V. Rowley. 0-35 14th A. Hibbert, 36-45 14th D. Stait, Birdie D. Stait.



AS

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Churchill Community

Festival

19th March 2016

Churchill Community Hub

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