

WARANGA NEWS

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A community newspaper staffed by volunteers

Thursday 21 November 2024

ART Depot comes to Rushworth Library



Read about the RAD display on page 13.

To all Rushworth Groups, Clubs and Organisations:

It's that time of year again! Over the next few weeks we see our calendars fill up as we all aim to wind up the year with group gatherings to celebrate the end of another year of our activities.

In 2022 a few of our organisations (Waranga News, Events Inc, Shire Hall Committee) decided to join together for our Christmas break-up celebrations. As many of us are involved in a number of groups, and it gets difficult to find enough days in December weeks, we thought one big party instead of three made sense!

It turned out to be a really enjoyable evening at the Shire Hall, where we celebrated the year's conclusion with all our friends we worked with throughout the year, but also got to catch up with others we don't see so often.

So, in 2023 we extended an invitation to a number of other local groups who contribute to the life of our Rushworth community. The aim was to bring everyone together, to celebrate with our own group, to catch up with old friends, and to meet up with others we might not have met before . . . and all without any other reason but to have a good time!

Again, it was a great success and everyone agreed that this year we should reach out with an invitation to all of the clubs and organisations that help make our community a great place to live.

We have a small Community Christmas planning group (from Waranga News, Rushworth Shire Hall Committee and Rushworth's Christmas Elves) who have chosen a date (Wednesday 18 December) and are working out the final details.

The plan is to send out invitations to all Rushworth community groups. We hope we have made a comprehensive list and have appropriate contacts for everyone - but please spread the word in case we have overlooked anyone.

There will be more details to come . . . in the meantime add the date to your calendar: WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER!

Remembrance Day in Rushworth

A peaceful morning of blue skies and balmy weather was the setting for the Rushworth gathering in the town centre to remember those who gave their lives in much darker times.

Bill Barlow was once again the Master of Ceremonies at the Remembrance Day ceremony, also giving an interesting account of the Lighthorse Brigade and their pivotal role in WW1.

Adding to the solemnity of the event, Ramon Rathjen of Colbinabbin contributed his skilled bagpipe performance, a poignant tribute to those who served.

The ceremony concluded with Rhonda Risstrom singing the national anthem, her powerful voice resonating with the assistance of the crowd, creating a moment of unity and reflection.

This year's Remembrance Day ceremony was a heartfelt tribute to the bravery and sacrifices of those who fought, and a reminder of the enduring importance of commemorating our shared history.

(For Sharon Perry's pictorial record of the day turn to page 35.)

Welcoming Sharon as the New Company Secretary



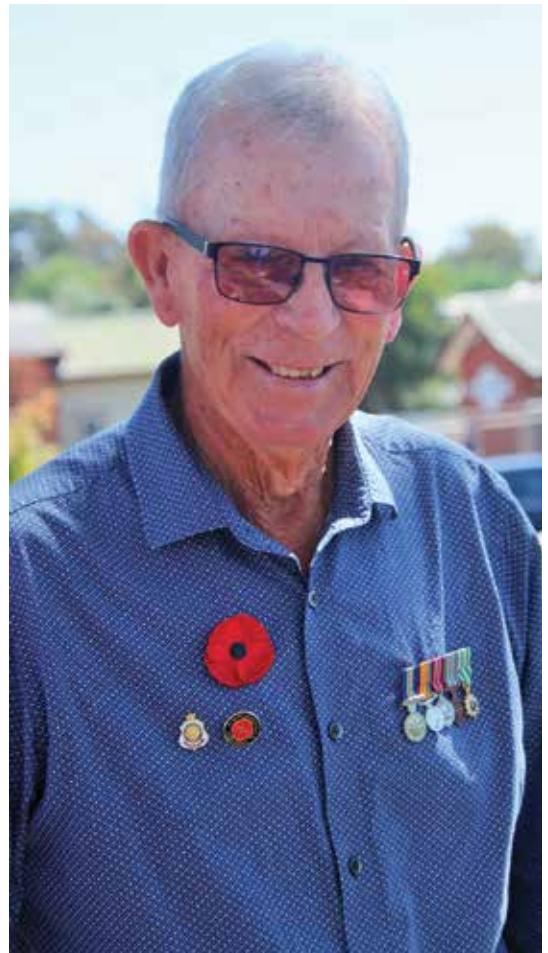
Last month, Rushworth & District Financial Services bid farewell to Michelle Baker, who has served as the Company Secretary for the past 12 years. Michelle's dedication and hard work has been greatly appreciated, and we wish her all the best in her new venture.

This month, we are excited to announce the appointment of Sharon Ebsworth as the new Company Secretary. Sharon joins us with a wealth of experience in the banking industry, having worked in the sector for over 14 years.

Throughout her career, Sharon has developed proficiency in branch operations, lending, and board governance. Her broad skill set and deep understanding of the financial services landscape will make her an asset to our team.

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MC duties and more – Rushworth Sub-branch RSL President Bill Barlow .

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Campaspe Shire councillors sworn in

Campaspe Shire has a new Council which was officially sworn in following the official declaration of results from the Victorian Electoral Commission on Wednesday 13 November, with the new Councillors electing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on Tuesday.

Nine Councillors were sworn in, including re-elected councillors, Cr Robert Amos, Cr Tony Marwood, Cr Daniel Mackrell, Cr John Zobec, Cr Paul Jarman, and Cr Adrian Weston, along with three new councillors, Cr Jessica Mitchell, Cr Luke Sharrock and Cr Zoe Cook.

Mayoral vote

On Tuesday 19 November the newly installed Council elected Cr Daniel Mackrell as Mayor for the coming year, with Cr Jessica Mitchell as Deputy Mayor.

The 2024 local government elections saw the Campaspe Shire transition from a five-ward structure (Echuca, Western, Rochester, Kyabram-Deakin and Waranga) to an unsubdivided electoral model where all nine elected members will represent the entire municipality. The reform was driven by recommendations from an Electoral Representation Advisory Panel set up to review the electoral structures of Victorian councils.

Campaspe Shire Council CEO, Pauline Gordon said the new Council is a good mix of returning councillors alongside new councillors who will bring fresh perspectives and renewed energy to council.

The updated governance framework requires mandatory training for all elected officials.

“The Councillors will go straight into an intensive induction program that we have been planning for months to ensure they are

Pools to reopen across the Campaspe Shire on 23 November

All pools across the Campaspe Shire are planned to reopen on 23 November. Again, for the third consecutive year, entry will be free. This initiative has successfully increased pool usage and fostered community interaction.

As reported in an earlier edition this decision was made at the council's final meeting before the caretaker period.

The motion was introduced by Cr Adrian Weston and seconded by Cr John Zobec, who outlined the numerous benefits that the waiver has brought to the communities.

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New Campaspe Council: (L-R) Cr Tony Marwood, Cr Adrian Weston, Cr Zoe Cook, Cr Rob Amos, Cr Paul Jarman, Cr Daniel Mackrell, Cr Jessica Mitchell, Cr John Zobec, Cr Luke Sharrock.

“Councillors will also be subject to a new Model Councillor Code of Conduct which is consistent across all local government areas in Victoria,” said Ms Gordon.

The training also requires mayors and deputy mayors to complete a Mayoral Leadership Program within one month of assuming their roles. The program is designed to enhance their ability to provide effective leadership, covering governance responsibilities, team dynamics, and public engagement.

The first meeting of the new Council will be held on Tuesday, 10 December.



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Fed Up - Regional Roads

Residents across our region are fed up with the state of the roads.

Everywhere drivers are dodging potholes, slowing down at rough surface warning signs and driving slowly through road works only to see the works washed out or broken just months later. I've heard from many locals who have spent thousands of dollars on car repairs from driving on rough surfaces.



It's not good enough and regional drivers deserve better, safer roads. I continue to demand the Federal Labor Government invest more money into the roads but also for the state Labor government to use road funding effectively and make lasting repairs.

Childcare Challenges

I've been meeting with mums and dads across our region this month along with Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education and Youth, Angie Bell, to hear directly from parents and discuss the various challenges local families are facing.



While the Albanese government has spruiked as one of its achievements being cheaper childcare for many parents, their out-of-pocket costs have increased not decreased, and this has further added to many young families' cost of living.

While the subsidies for childcare have increased, the costs of running childcare centres have gone up by more and these costs are being passed on to parents.

Another major problem is that for all the money the government has spent, they have not created one new childcare place and many areas in our region are childcare deserts, with demand exceeding supply.

In government, The Nationals want to ensure greater access to childcare for regional parents.

Contact my office if you need support with Federal government matters.

426 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630 5821 5371

sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au sambirrell.com.au [SamBirrellMP](https://www.facebook.com/SamBirrellMP)

Authorised by Sam Birrell MP, National Party of Australia, 426 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630.

Chris Doig awarded Rushworth SES Life Membership

Rushworth SES has been privileged to have one member who has been with the Unit since the beginning.



Originally a member of the Murchison Unit, Chris moved to the Rushworth unit when it was first formed. When the small wooden building from which the Rushworth SES operated was growing too small, Chris, as Controller at the time, initiated the building of a much larger shed which continues to serve as a base in Barlow Avenue today.

A surprise presentation (for Chris) saw Chris's family invited along to witness the event on Sunday 10 November.

Chris has been an inspirational member of the crew at Rushworth for over 43 years. He has seen his fair share of tragedies and worked hard to become the longest and most qualified members of the unit.

He was presented with a Life Membership of the Unit and also had the Training Room named in his honour. Congratulations to a very well deserved award-winner!



Pool Party in Rushworth to celebrate the end of the school year!

A pool party designed specifically for young people aged 10-17 will be held in Rushworth on Friday 20 December.

The party will take place at the Rushworth Pool from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm and will feature music, engaging activities, and the chance to win prizes.

The event is supported by FReeZA, a Victorian Government initiative, and aims to provide a safe and fun environment for young people to gather and celebrate their achievements as the school year ends. Every attendee will enjoy free registration, along with a complimentary ice cream, drink, and a sausage sizzle.

Council, the responsible body for the Rushworth Pool, is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all participants and the Rushworth Pool Party will be fully supervised by trained youth workers and qualified lifeguards. The event is drug, alcohol, vape,

and smoke-free. For added comfort, a chill-out space will be available.

Anglicare's Keep in Touch (KIT) Van, a mobile mental health service will also be attending to provide support to attendees if needed.

Director Communities Jo Bradshaw encourages all young people to join for an afternoon of fun, friendship, and festivities.

"We are excited to offer an event that not only celebrates the end of the school year but also fosters community spirit and connection among our young people and their families," said Ms Bradshaw.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to accompany younger attendees (under 12 years old) to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience. If your young person wishes to



Rushworth's Pool Party is just the beginning of summer fun ahead as Shire pools open for the season.

purchase extra snacks from the canteen, please ensure they bring some money.

This event is free but registration is required. To register, visit www.trybooking.com/CXDAE

Rushworth & District Financial Services Ltd holds AGM

Rushworth & District Financial Services Limited hosted its 2024 Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 12 November 2024 at the Rushworth Senior Citizens Centre.

The meeting saw attendance from shareholders, directors, and staff members, reflecting the continued commitment to local economic growth and community development.

During the meeting, key resolutions were passed, including:

- Acceptance of the 2024 Annual Report
- Colin Moore and Brett Ould were elected as new Directors
- Lynette Reade and Janice Smith, who retired by rotation, were re-elected as Directors

A highlight of the meeting

was the announcement of an 8 cent fully franked dividend for shareholders, reinforcing the company's dedication to providing value and returns to its investors.

The board expressed gratitude to shareholders and the local community for their ongoing support and reaffirmed their commitment to delivering sustainable growth and local impact.

(Right) Manager Alek Stokes, with directors Jan Smith and Christine Borger.



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Machinery Club gets Wizard back on the road

Donation to the Wizard

The Wizard has been away being repaired for four months thanks to a generous donation from the Rushworth & District Community Bank to the Rushworth Machinery Preservation Club.

The front end of the Wizard was rusted and steering was becoming unmanageable. Thanks to a Boilermaker in Echuca, the Wizard is 'nearly' as good as new!



John, Keagan, Brendan, Brett, Jahnae Parrish with Alek Stokes (Rushworth Community Bank Manager) and Lyn Reade (Bank Board member) presenting the club with a cheque for \$18,000 for the repairs of the Wizard.

Left: The front end of the Wizard which was repaired.

Life Members at the Rushworth Machinery Preservation Club

Brendan Hawking and Brett Pettersen were original members of the Machinery Preservation Club when it first started in 2010. On Saturday 16 November they were honoured with Life Memberships for their work.

Brett remembers

"Around 2010 we found out the McDonald roller in the Geyle Park was destined to be removed for safety reasons - most likely going to scrap.

"So a few of us thought that, after it had served the Shire of Waranga from the 1920s, we should attempt to save it. After approaching the Shire we were advised that it would be possible for it to be donated to a group or club but not an individual, so we formed a small club with Brendan, Brooke, Colleen, myself along with John Keane. We were the first committee and membership has grown to sixty members I believe.

"We have regular runs every market day and a Tuesday working bee at the old Shire workshop. We have a working relationship with the Museum, keeping working displays running with the Fowler traction engine (The Wizard) being most recognised."



President Keagan Shaw presents Brendan and Brett with Life Memberships.

Preparing for emergencies

- SES and Shire join hands

Saturday 16 November Market Day saw Rushworth SES members join with Campaspe Shire staff, Liz Wells and Marcus Overman, to talk to people about preparedness in the first 72 hours of an emergency.

What would you do if faced with an emergency situation? Whether it be floods, storms or fire, it is important to make an emergency plan.

The advice given on Saturday was to make a plan, get backup information, prepare a kit and stay informed.

Members gave out information on the essentials to consider for an emergency kit - eg water, medications, radio with batteries, torch, documents, food, first aid, clothes, toiletries, cash, phone/charger, animal needs and glasses.

What else should you do? Stay informed! Listen to Vic Emergency and emergency radio broadcasts. If the situation is life threatening ring 000, or in flood and storm situations, call 132500.



Marcus engages with Heather Wellington regarding vital information.



In addition to their expert assistance offered to the community in times of emergency, Rushworth SES members are known for another skill - they cook a great sausage! (Above) their trusty bbq in operation alongside the Shire information table.



Marcus and Liz shared pamphlets and important information to market-goers on Saturday.

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Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns**Around Rushworth****Busy time for Rushworth Band**

The Rushworth and Citizens Concert Band is experiencing a period of high demand, with several performances scheduled over the next few weeks.

The group of musicians is set to bring their musical talents to various towns, bringing joy and festive cheer to the community for the Christmas season.

The Band's busy schedule kicks off on 6 December when they will perform in Merrigum. Following this, they will head to Stanhope on 13 December. They will then delight the residents of Rushworth on 16 December, when they will play in High Street at 7.30 pm.

The grand finale of their Christmas tour around local towns will be in Kyabram on 19 December.

These performances are very popular and sure to be a highlight of our festive season around the district.

Performance Schedule

- Merrigum: 6 December
- Stanhope: 13 December
- Rushworth: 16 December at 7.30 pm in High Street
- Kyabram: 19 December

Invitation to join

The band is always on the lookout for new members who share their passion for music. Whether you are an accomplished musician or just love to play an instrument, you will find a warm welcome at the Rushworth and Citizens Concert Band.

Practice sessions are on Monday evenings in the Band Room (former Senior Citizens) and are designed to cater to varying levels of ability. There is always room for more musicians!

Colourful Mosaic group view Shades of Grey

Rushworth's Mosaic group went to the 'Shades of Gray' exhibition in Castlemaine and were lucky enough to chat with Peter Gray the artist and then have a walk around his beautiful garden, viewing all his amazing creations.

(Unfortunately the exhibition is only open for two weeks in November - so maybe next year!)

Afterwards everyone went to lunch at the 'Green Folly Nursery', enjoying even more garden walks and through a wonderful display of plants for sale.

A lovely day out!



Carol's Mosaic Group : (l-r) Cate Furphy, Sandra Young, Val Barlow, Christine Hardie, Jenny Stone, Cynthia Page, Carol McMillan, Pat Wakefield.

Decorate your house to win!

This year the community Christmas Action Group have decided to hold an in-town house decoration contest – or if you live rurally you can decorate your gate (or something that can be seen from the road).



Box) you are considered 'rural'. Please let Christie Thomas know if you'd like to be in the competition or if you'd like to be on the judging panel.

This isn't about being the richest or brightest, we are looking for creativity and excitement. There will be many judges looking at the decorations with a list of criteria, but mainly wanting to bring the

If your mail is delivered by bike – you are considered 'in town'. If you have a roadside delivery, or no delivery (PO

excitement of Christmas from the main street and have it spread throughout the whole town.

Lights look amazing at night, but we'd love to see daytime features as well. Even if you don't want to compete, get involved by popping a bit of tinsel on the letterbox or something small to get into the spirit.

There will be a prize for the best house in town and best rural gate or fence, this will be judged throughout December and results will be in by Christmas Eve. So please let me know if you'd like to enter and a rough date that your display is ready to be judged.

If you have any questions, queries or even ideas please contact Christie on 0435791152 or email christieleet4@gmail.com

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Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns

Community matters – celebrations . . . and disappointment

Being part of a community provides wonderful experiences and opportunities to meet others, contribute to a worthwhile cause to enhance the community and to celebrate aspects of life with like-minded community members. Many of you as readers of this publication will be part of activities in the community where you live.

Murchison community has many opportunities to participate in the life of the town and surrounds – as many other small towns do also. Just recently the Murchison community celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Murchison Neighbourhood House with open house, official opening of the Community Garden, free BBQ provided by Murchison Men's Shed, King Billy coffee van and representation from GV Tree Group offering advice on native trees to the area and free saplings ready for planting.

Support for the event was provided by the “Resilience in Recovery” funding for the town. There was a volunteer provided dessert table with many delicious cakes and two of the original Neighbourhood House members cut the celebratory cake. Manager of the Murchison Neighbourhood House Jessie, estimated a crowd of over 100 people attended on the day. The day was an enjoyable and social event.

Sadly, however there was a break-in at the Murchison Neighbourhood House last week. When volunteers arrived on Monday morning they noticed the entire supply of meat planned for the Christmas Lunch at the Neighbourhood House was missing from the freezer.

The volunteers and Jessie had bought turkey, chicken, ham, pork and lamb to be cooked and served to the community on Wednesday 18 December to celebrate Christmas in a community environment. They were shocked to realise someone had removed the meat that was planned for the community. They noticed a television set had also been taken. It left a sad feeling around the town that someone would target a community



The good times - official opening of Murchison's community garden.

facility doing good things for others.

However in true community spirit, many community members who have heard of the theft have donated money and food during the week to support the Neighbourhood House to continue in providing the services they planned. Jessie has been very touched by the generosity of people in the town following the disappointing start to the week. The Christmas Lunch will still go ahead and Jessie has already planned the restocking of the freezer.

Let's all be grateful for our communities and the support of others in our lives – and maybe attend more community activities

over the Christmas season.

Murchison Christmas events include the Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 18 December at the Murchison Neighbourhood House at 12pm and the Christmas Market and Carols on Sunday 15 December from 4pm to 8pm in the gardens by the river.

Bookings are essential for the Christmas Lunch and can be made by phoning MNH on 5826 2373.

The Carols and Market event will include food vans, many kids' activities and of course music.

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News from the Op-Shop and Foodbank

brought to you by Rushworth Community Support Inc.

Save some money

I have pinched the first two lines of the Christmas poem for inspiration this fortnight. But just think about the whole of the original poem:

*Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat
Please put a penny in the old man's hat
If you haven't got a penny a ha'penny will do
If you haven't got a ha'penny, God Bless You*

To me that is all about kindness and helping out others however little you can afford. On the TV you see all these 'perfect' families having 'perfect' meals and wonderful gifts and all being happy, happy, happy! Let's face it we know some people are struggling financially others are estranged from family members and many of us are not in a situation we like. So don't beat yourself up about it having the 'perfect' Christmas and get stressed.

If you can afford to buy an extra little present or tin of biscuits to put in the Foodbank box that's great. If you are wondering how you are going to afford anything for the family this Christmas then don't be afraid to ask for some assistance. The Op Shop is there to raise funds for OUR Foodbank and to help OUR community.

Specials on this fortnight

From the 25 to 30 November we have the following specials:

All shoes \$2 (unless individually marked)

All books \$1 for five books both adults and children (apart from the vintage books)

\$5 for a bag of children's clothes, and a reminder that we do have school uniforms at \$2 an item.

We have been putting out some beautiful summer dresses this last week and evening dresses as well. So please check out what we have to offer before you go and pay a small fortune. We have several outfits that would be ideal for weddings or formal occasions.



Janis decorates the Op Shop Community Christmas Tree.

The Colbinabbin kinder will be making a special visit to the Op Shop on Thursday 5 December. They came last year and thoroughly enjoyed spending their small amounts of pocket money to get some special presents for family and friends. Our volunteers loved having them in the shop and helping them choose special gifts. And to see their little face beaming with joy when they left with their treasures was just wonderful.

Claire got a lovely surprise (see photo below). She was awarded Salesperson of the Month by Ross Smith who presented her with gold painted tools in appreciation of how fast she was able to sell his tools behind his back to a customer. Fortunately we were able to get them back so he could continue doing his job!

You may want to clear some space in your house at this time of year. If you think they could be donated to the Op Shop for gifts or to sell please make sure they are clean and in a reasonable condition. We do not have the facilities to wash or mend items and it is very frustrating to open a bag of items and find that only two or three items are suitable for selling.

Don't forget we have a toy section and a bed linen section that are crammed with goods. Also at the moment we have a big selection of jewellery, ornaments and pictures.

Wishing you a full belly and a happy smile until next time. **Heather**



Payton checks out the toys we have for sale.

Christmas is coming

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting

fat

And now I'm running round and round

So what do you think of that!

I need to think of presents,

I need to think of food

I need to think of where they sleep

I'm in a rotten mood!

*This year will cost a fortune and we haven't
got the money*

*If we aren't careful with our gifts we'll be
eating bread and honey.*

Aunt Nancy's coming once again

She's bringing her new man

He's got no teeth and one glass eye

And travels in a van!

My sister's twins will be here

With noise and snotty noses.

They fight and yell and run inside

With mud between their toeses!

Thank goodness for our Op Shop

With people calm and cheerful

To help with choosing presents

Which stop you feeling fearful.

Some jewelry that's brand new,

Some dresses are divine

And shoes and shirts and books and toys

And ornaments are fine.

*In the Green Shed out the back are things
to give to men*

*Like sporting stuff and camping gear and
furniture for dens.*

So let us help you with your gifts

You just stop your stressing,

Three deep breaths, a cup of tea

And life won't be so testing.



Ross Smith presents a very special award to Claire Campbell recognising her sales skills. (Just don't put anything down near her if you hope to see it again!)

OP-SHOP: Open 9 - 2 Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 - 12 Saturday

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It's official - engaged



Filly Ryan and Nathan Rogers recently announced their engagement - much to the delight of Robyn and Shane Ryan.

Cornella Care lunch

Cornella Care will be gathering with friends for their Christmas lunch at CCH 12noon on Wednesday 4 December. Ring Julie (0408 602 841) to book yourself in.

Advent blessing and Santa

The 9am Mass at Cornella on Sunday 1 December will include an Advent blessing for children and their families. There will be a cuppa after Mass while we wait for Santa to turn up to meet everyone. Please give Maree Stewart (0413 029 012) an idea of how many children might be there.

Our Store . . .

Please note the new open hours at OUR store: Mon to Fri 7am-5pm. Sat and Sun 8am-2pm. Australia Post: Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm.

Colbo Diary

- Strength & Balance 3.30pm Mondays at hall
- Coffee and Cake 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 10.15am @CCH
- Colbo Community Shed - Thursdays BYO BBQ lunch
- Colbo Pub Choir - 5pm Tuesdays at CCH

DECEMBER

Sun 1	Children's Advent blessing (Cornella)
Wed 4	Cornella Care lunch 12 noon @ CCH
Sat 21	Carols by Barrels 5pm @ CCH
Sun 22	Ecu Carol Service 8pm @ hall

Cemetery Trust

Mowing Roster (lawn section only)
 November - Laura Tuohey
 December - Carmel Turner

FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

Nov 24	Ramon Rathjen, Daryl Rathjen
Dec 1	Peter Morgan Trevor Brown

If unable to attend for duty, call Chris/Leo.

Siren, radio and test pager at 9am. Crew member should ensure the siren and radio tests are carried out. Vehicles should be checked for fuel and taken for a road test.

LIBRARY

Wed 27 November	Margery West
Wed 4 December	Janice Tait



Now that's what you call a 'Big Shed'



Our photographer was told 'at the crack of dawn' a big shed was going up on Weppner Road, so she was right on the spot for the Ellis family's all-cranes-on-deck erection of a big shed for their continued production of semi-dried tomatoes.

Colbo Pub choir keeps on singing



Valé Marg Wilson

A large crowd gathered at the Colbinabbin Hall last Friday for the funeral of Marg Wilson. It was a tribute to Marg's approximately fifty years of service given to the Colbinabbin Football and Netball Club and the Heathcote League that so many were present in the crowd that filled the hall.

Our sympathy to her sons, Neville and Darryl who spoke so warmly and affectionately of Marg and who especially noted their brother Shane's love and support for her care over the last several years.

Last week some of the members of the Colbo Pub Choir met with their sister choir Nagambie Lakeside Larks at the Murchison East Hotel, where they enjoyed lunch and a sing.

(L-R) Gerard Stewart, Lindy Stewart, Jessica Hind Jimmy Stewart and Julie Price. The group meet Tuesdays at 5pm in Colbo.

More Colbo Bits on page 31

For the latest updates & nutritional advice go to Reidstockfeeds.com.au/news





Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

Phone (03) 5856 1295

Email:

admin@rushcomhouse.org.au

Website:

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Facebook:

Rushworth Community-House

Office Hours:

Mon, Tues Thurs : 9.00am to 3.00pm

Wed, Fri : 9.00am to 1.00pm

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Community Garden is really worth a visit

Rushworth Community Garden is very busy at the moment, as spring gives way to summer, and seasonal plants and plantings emerge throughout the garden

As we noted in the last edition of the Waranga News, students from both St Mary's School and Rushworth P-12 College have been enjoying the garden, gaining hands-on experience with planting, composting, watering, weeding and mowing.

The garden is run by an enthusiastic team of Community House volunteers, whose time and efforts are rewarded with healthy plant growth throughout the year.

The garden currently has plantings of strawberries, beans, potatoes, garlic, lettuce, cucumbers and more. It really is worth a visit, so why not drop in and check it out!



**The Community House needs extra volunteers to help us support the local community.
Transport drivers, Community Garden, RCH Reception, Container Deposit Scheme.
Please call the Community House (5956 12955) if you can spare a few hours per week.**

Come in for a free health check that could save your life



FREE Health Screenings and Treats

Max's Maze High Street Rushworth
Tuesday 10 December 9am - 5pm

Christmas can be a tough time for many. Come visit the Rushworth Maxes Maze, High Street on Tuesday 10 December as part of 'Healthy Ky' where La Trobe Nursing Students will be offering free health screenings to support you during the silly season while gaining real-world experience in rural healthcare.

Come for a health screening - stay for a treat!



All participants go into the draw to win one of three \$50 gift cards for a local business

Initiative proudly supported by Rushworth Community House



The Community House urges people from Rushworth and surrounds to undertake a free health check in town on Tuesday, 10 December between 9am and 5pm. The checks are being conducted by La Trobe University students and are part of the University's Community Placement initiative.

The program aims to help students refine their skills and make a meaningful impact on the communities in which the checks are conducted..

In partnership with Kyabram Community Learning Centre and Kyabram District Health Service, the program tackles the challenge of preparing university students for rural healthcare, where hands-on experience and community connections are often limited.

It offers a unique opportunity for students to learn in real-world settings while helping improve healthcare access for residents of towns such as Rushworth.

To encourage participation, everyone who takes a health screening at Max's Maze (at the northern end of High Street) will go into the draw to win one of several vouchers being offered by The Cottage Ice Cream Shoppe and Rushworth Bakery.

Improve your online safety and skills

Rushworth Community House is partnering with the Good Things Foundation and Rushworth and District Community Bank to deliver an important new program that will help people avoid the many dangers present in the online world. Called *Building Digital Communities*, it is designed to equip people with the knowledge and skills to use the internet safely

The online world is an amazing place, offering almost every kind of product, service and information source imaginable, and people are naturally drawn to explore its scope and offerings.

However, with something as vast as the Internet, there are inevitable - often hidden - traps for the unwary or the uninformed, and these traps can have devastating impacts on the lives and financial status of people caught in them.

Online safety is not a "natural" thing - each of us has to learn about it and how to practise it in our day-to-day use of modern connected technologies.

The Community House's new Building Digital Communities program offers people over 18 an opportunity to learn about online safety in a relaxed, supportive environment.

Best of all, thanks to Rushworth Community Bank and the Good Things Foundation, the program is free of charge to participants.

The program runs each Tuesday between 11am and 1pm at the Community House. Call 5856 1295 to book a session.

If the Tuesday time slot does not suit you, please call Anita at the Community House to see if an alternate time can be arranged.

This is really worthwhile initiative, so please join us and learn about online safety.

2025 Garage Super Sale planning starts

Rushworth Community House has had a number of inquiries regarding its annual garage sale, with several people already hoping to participate if one was to be held next year.

Previous Garage Super Sales have been hugely popular with both sellers and buyers, and community interest is growing for one to be held in 2025. If you are interested in

becoming a seller next year, please call the Community House and register your interest.

If enough interest is shown, a Garage Super Sale will be organised early in 2025.

Arts & Tourism

Places to stay, things to do and see in our district

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Library showcasing local ART Depot creations

Rushworth Library is currently collaborating with Rushworth ART Depot for an exhibition at the library. The exhibition showcases the creations of talented local artists within the library space. Artworks of various mediums are on display to bring colour and community spirit to the library. Members of the public are invited to view the exhibition which will run into December.

Special thanks to Louise Costa and Roseanne Mayer for collaboration in facilitating the exhibition.

Renee George, Librarian



Art works framing the vista through the window. (Below left) detail of 'Making Faces @ Rushworth ART Depot (RAD)

Visiting Nillumbik Open Studies

Rushworth local Eloise Mitchell is spending 2024 doing an artists residency at Dunmoochin Foundation artists' colony in a lovely bush setting not far from Hurstbridge.

Her art practice is certainly benefiting from the experience as Roseanne and Johann Meyer discovered when they visited her during the Nillumbik Open Studios event last weekend.

Dunmoochin was founded by artist Clifton Pugh in 1989 for emerging and established artists and researchers and has six residential properties and three studios for artists to develop their skills in the tranquil natural bushland.



Roseanne Mayer visited Eloise Mitchell at Dunmoochin where she is doing an artists' residency.

'Chrysalis' at The Foundry Art Space, Echuca until 1 December



Pesto 5 ways

Don't you just LERV pesto? Well, here's a treat for you: Pesto in five versions! Great with chicken, steak, pasta, risotto or on toast. Blend, chop finely or use a mortar and pestle.

1. Basil

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup of toasted pine nuts
2 tbspn fresh lemon juice
a small garlic clove
2 cups of basil leaves
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup parmesan cheese
salt and pepper

2. Mint

2 cups mint leaves
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cashews or almonds
1 garlic clove
4 tbspn olive oil
2 tbspn lemon juice
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup parmesan cheese
zest of $\frac{1}{3}$ lemon
salt and pepper to taste

3. Rocket

4 cups rocket
1 cup toasted walnuts
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup parmesan cheese
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil
 $\frac{1}{2}$ large lemon zested and juiced
2 cloves garlic
Cold water to thin out - if needed
salt and pepper to taste

4. Spinach

3 cups spinach
1 cup basil
3 cloves garlic
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup walnuts
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tspn salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup olive oil
2 tbspn lemon juice
2 tbspn parmesan cheese
black cracked pepper to taste

5. Coriander

2 cups coriander
2 cloves garlic
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup toasted pine nuts
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup olive oil
 $\frac{1}{2}$ a lemon, juiced
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tspn salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tspn pepper
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of parmesan cheese

Seasonal Kitchen



Summer gardening tips

'They say' it's going to be a hot one - and going by these pre-summer above average temps 'they' may be right.

Summer gardening can be a rewarding and colourful time of year, but it can also be stressful with challenges of intense heat and dry spells. It's not pleasant to see our careful caring rewarded by fried tomatoes and lettuces or wilting blooms. So here are a few tips for keeping your garden healthy and thriving through the summer months:

Watering: Early morning or late evening is the best time to water your plants. Watering during the cooler parts of the day reduces evaporation and ensures the plants absorb moisture. Aim for deep watering to encourage roots to grow deeper, helping plants withstand the heat. Be mindful not to over-water, as this can lead to root rot.

Mulching: Apply a thick layer of mulch around your plants to retain moisture, regulate soil temperature, and prevent weed growth. Organic mulches like straw, wood chips, or compost work well and break down to enrich the soil over time.

Pruning and deadheading: Remove spent flowers and dead growth regularly. This not only keeps plants looking tidy but

also encourages new growth and better air circulation, reducing the risk of disease. Light pruning of shrubs and trees can also help them cope with the heat.

Pest Control: Summer can bring an increase in pests. Use natural remedies like neem oil or insecticidal soap to manage insects. You can also attract beneficial insects, such as ladybugs, to help control pests organically.

Fertilisation: With the active growing season in full swing, your plants may need extra nutrients. Use a balanced fertiliser to promote healthy growth. However, avoid over-fertilising, as this can lead to lush, weak growth that's more susceptible to pests and disease.

Shade Protection: If your garden is in a particularly hot area, consider providing shade for delicate plants during the hottest part of the day. You can use shade cloth, garden umbrellas, or even larger plants to offer relief from direct sun.

By keeping these tips in mind, you can help your garden stay productive and beautiful throughout the summer months.

Good luck!

Handy Hints - from Lyn Rumble

Hi there,

Recycling, Repurposing and Reusing is big on my list to try to do my bit for the environment. In turn that usually means I can save some money in my weekly budget, which is wonderful. Of course, along the way we can find heaps of things to use for the most unusual reasons if we think outside the box a bit, so I really hope that some of these tips can help you too! - Here's the 1st set of Christmas Hints & Tips, and hopefully will assist you for an easier Christmastime! Have a great week and stay safe, Lyn Rumble

* **Christmas - 1 - Food shopping** - Beware - do not leave your major food shopping until the last minute! Over the last twelve months grocery shopping has changed, costs have skyrocketed on many items and supplies are not necessarily consistent! Buy your major items early (Hams, chicken, turkey etc.) and order things like fish and seafood from a reputable supplier. All these items can be frozen or vacuum packed and/or stored in the fridge until needed if necessary and save yourself headaches if supplies dry up!

* **Christmas-2-Gift Wrapping** - Paper and Cardboard are recyclable in your rubbish bins - but Foil and Plastics are not - they must go into landfill. Please think of that when you are purchasing your gift-wrapping for the upcoming holiday season.

* **Christmas-3 - Old Christmas tree lights** - I had some old Christmas lights that did not work anymore when sorting through last year's supplies - so what do I do with them? According to the Choice website - old sets of Fairy Lights cannot go in the recycling bin because they are electronic - But they can be recycled as e-waste.

* **Christmas - 4 - Easy food planning** - Christmas time is renowned as usually having excesses of everything especially food - but how about planning to have leftovers (and make your chores in the kitchen a bit easier) Try cooking extras of the protein and veggies, then using the leftovers for the next day in easy healthy dishes such as salads, wraps and frittatas! Cuts down on meal planning, cooking, washing dishes and you can enjoy the extra time doing something for you!

* **Christmas - 5 - Summer ceiling fan direction** - at the start of winter I gave you instructions on how to change the direction of your ceiling fans - to make sure they rotate in the right direction to assist with your home heating conditions. Well summer is here, so now it is to go in reverse - so here is the diagram again - but you need to set for SUMMER this time!



Health and Wellbeing

FREE Health Screenings for Rushworth residents by La Trobe University nursing students

Tuesday 10 December in Max's maze

La Trobe University students are giving the gift of good health this Christmas – so come along on Tuesday 10 December to Max's Maze, High St to get your free Health screening and a delightful treat from the Bakery or The Cottage Ice Cream Shoppe.

The health screenings are part of the La Trobe University Community Placement initiative 'Healthy Ky'. The program aims to help students refine their skills and make a meaningful impact on the community.

In partnership with Kyabram Community Learning Centre and Kyabram District Health Service, the initiative tackles the challenge of preparing university students for rural healthcare, where hands-on experience and community connections are often limited.

It also offers a unique opportunity for students to learn in real-world settings while helping improve healthcare access for residents of Kyabram and surrounding towns.

To encourage participation, everyone who takes a health screening at any one of the Healthy Ky pop-ups will go into the draw to win one of three \$50 gift vouchers (terms and conditions apply).

For more information visit healthyky.com or email c.winder@latrobe.edu.au



FREE Health Screenings & Treats
Maxes Maze, High Street
Tuesday 10 December, 9am-5pm

myhealthyky.com

Christmas can be a tough time for many. Come visit the Rushworth Maxes Maze, High Street on Tuesday 10 December as part of 'Healthy Ky' where La Trobe Nursing Students will be offering free health screenings to support you during the silly season while gaining real-world experience in rural healthcare.

Come for a health screening, stay for a treat!

All participants go in the draw to win 1 of 3 \$50 gift cards for a local business
Ts&Cs apply

Other locations:

- KYABRAM - Pop-up clinic, 152 Allan St - 2-20 December
- LOCKINGTON - Health Scean & Sausage Sizzle, Plumbers SHed - 3 December
- KYABRAM - CDS, Mens Shed - 4 December, 11 December & 18 December
- KYABRAM - KCLC, 5 December, 12 December & 19 December
- ROCHESTER - Rochester Shire Hall, Christmas Tree Expo, 17 December

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
Rushworth
KYABRAM HEALTH

Raising awareness of high cholesterol - the 'silent disease'

The first ever Cholesterol Awareness Week was launched last week (11-17 November) to raise awareness of high cholesterol - a condition that affects approximately 2.1 million Australians.

Leading heart charities united to help raise awareness of the condition known as the 'silent disease' as it often presents with no symptoms.

Some facts

- Approximately 2.1 million Australians are diagnosed with high cholesterol.
- High cholesterol is a critical risk factor to atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD), which can lead to heart attack or stroke and accounts for nearly a quarter of all deaths in Australia.
- High cholesterol is referred to as the 'silent disease', often presenting with little to no symptoms.

symptoms.

- Leading charities, Hearts4heart, Heart Support Australia and Heartbeat of Sport are hosting free screening events at the VAILO Adelaide 500 as part of Australia's inaugural Cholesterol Awareness Week.

Cholesterol Awareness Week 2024 was launched to raise awareness of high cholesterol and highlight the role of patients, healthcare professionals and policy makers in effectively

managing the condition to improve outcomes at a personal and national level.

Effective management of high cholesterol and ASCVD often requires changes to lifestyle behaviours, including diet and physical activity, and may involve adherence to medication. As such, regular consultations and open communication between patients and healthcare practitioners are essential for effective management of the condition.

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All about wildlife

Kirsty Ramadan from BoHollow Wildlife is a wildlife rescue expert. Here she shares some of her knowledge about our very familiar wildlife neighbours.

Pelican on the lure

Life has been very busy at Bohollow, we are amidst the calls of various baby birds resonating throughout the household. Numbers coming through the shelter at this time of year are high and the recent winds and storms added to the number of patients.

Although it's a time we see amazing little critter grow before our eyes, it's also a time of high demand for our resources, time and energy, the days are long and the fatigue is real.

It can sometimes be tough not to have a love/hate relationship with our busiest time of the year.

What keeps me going, what drives me to attend the next rescue, is always the thought of an animal in trouble who needs our help. Rescues can take up a lot of my time. Precious time away from the many patients at the shelter who need special care and attention. Without the help of my family, I could not spend so much time out on the road, going from rescue to rescue, pick up to pick up. They hold down the fort while I am out in the field. It's still quite the juggling act though, especially when more than one of us is needed for a rescue.

If you call us for help and I sound tired, it's likely that I am. If we cannot get to you straight away, we will, when we are able. If you are able to transport to one of our shelters, or even meet us halfway if an animal is already contained, that helps us out a lot.

I was called to a pelican last week who had become snared on a fishing lure and line at the Acardia Fish Hatchery. Poor Peli had the tip of his big bill hooked on a large lure which had four barbed hooks at each end. When a bird gets a lure stuck in its bill this causes all sorts of damage, particularly when the lure has hooks on both ends. When the bird preens itself, the barbed hooks then get snared on wings and/or body. The bird may rip them out in the attempt to free itself but even so, they will continue to get hooked and often they cannot get free at all.

In this case, the pelican had the other end of the lure stuck fast in his body, just under his wing. This caused his head and neck to be stuck at a peculiar angle and when we arrived, he was struggling to keep his head above the water, for a moment I thought he had already drowned...until I saw movement.

The lure was attached to a line of about five or six metres which was stuck fast to the bottom of the dam and the bird was out in deeper water, not reachable by shore.

At least it was not a bitterly cold winter's day as a swim was necessary.



Taking the plunge, I swam out to the bird, who still had enough energy to attempt to flee from me, flapping those huge wings frantically to power away. We played a short game of cat and mouse until I was able to get close enough to grab him. I took him back to water which was just within my depth to give me a breather before I decided how to retrieve the line. I did not want to cut the line just yet and lose it in the water for something else to get stuck in. As I only possess one pair of hands, I was contemplating swimming with the pelican back to the source of the stuck line, somehow reaching down and cutting it as short as I could to the bottom of the dam without drowning both myself and the pelican, then head back to shore with the bird to remove the lure and line.

To my surprise, suddenly there was someone beside me in the water! One of the construction workers who had been standing on shore watching the rescue had decided to take the plunge to lend me a hand, boots and all! Asking what he could do to help, I transferred the bird to his hands which left me free to follow the line back into deeper water and cut it as low as I could get to the muddy bottom. I swam back, took the bird off his hands and made our way back to shore.

Once on dry land, I was able to remove each hook, eight in total, from the bill and body without doing any more damage. We always cut the hooks below the barb so the rest of the hook can be pulled out without harm. The pelican was taken back to Bohollow where his wounds are healing nicely and I hope to release him in the next few days if all continues to go well.

I would like to give a massive shout out to the construction crew who rang for help and who also went above and beyond to assist where they could in the rescue. They knew the poor pelican needed help, knew he was in very real danger of drowning and they refused to accept the reaction of the manager of the fishery when they reported it to him. They were promptly told that it was not the fishery's responsibility and all they would do was put the bird out of its misery if they were to do anything at all.

The men working as contractors on site took it upon themselves to call us for help, kept everyone away from the distressed bird to reduce its panic and helped make the entire rescue, including the removal of the lure and line, go as smoothly as possible.

They helped save a life and all it took was having compassion and a heart, one thing all our native critters deserve.

**Bohollow Calendars 2025 underway.
This happens to be the March pin-up boy below.**



For injured wildlife contact Kirsty at Bohollow on: 0447 636 953

ON THE BRINK *by Neil Laurie*

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

Solar and wind myths and falsehoods

(part1)

Everything changes -nothing is static. The way we have lived upon this planet has changed, especially over the past 250 years during what we call the Industrial Revolution. Before this time, power was largely derived from our own physical exertions and from animals. Wind and water were used to power basic machinery. These gave way to steam power, fueled by coal and wood which were in turn replaced by internal combustion engines using oil-derived fuels and electrical power largely generated by burning fossil fuels. The down-side to this is that each stage of the Industrial Revolution saw more greenhouse gasses being produced. It has reached the point where it is affecting the climates around the planet. Some countries adopted nuclear power. As we have seen, when nuclear power goes wrong either through human error (as with Chernobyl) or natural disasters (as with Fukushima), it goes horribly wrong. The difficulties with the disposal of nuclear waste and the decommissioning of the power stations remain major problems. It has become clear that we need to find new ways to generate electricity that do not harm the environment.

At present solar panels and wind turbines are leading the way in making our electricity 'green'. No doubt this is partly due to these technologies already being in small scale use. This is not to say that they will not in turn be replaced by new, more efficient technologies that may be developed in the future, making them stop-gaps. Whatever happens, at present solar and wind are what the world is running with.

The proliferation of wind and solar farms have created some debate. As with most things, there are pros and cons. There are also arguments being put about that really don't stack up or are simply not true.

Birds flying into wind turbines is a common argument against wind turbines. Indeed, some birds are killed in this way, but it is a small number (four to six per turbine annually, or 0.3-0.4 fatalities per GWh) when compared to the number of birds killed by cats, cars or plate glass windows. Fossil fueled power stations cause 5.2 bird deaths per GWh, far higher than wind turbines. Climate change is a far greater threat to wildlife. Turbine blades spin relatively slowly. Most birds simply dodge them.

Turbine noise damaging health is false. Newer turbines usually produce no generator or gearbox noise, but the spinning blades can produce a "whooshing" noise which is harmless to humans and animals. The study linking whale deaths to off-shore wind farms is fake.

That wind turbines only last three to four years is another piece of false information. They actually last 20-30 years. The claim may have originated from when an American wind farm needed to replace the gearboxes of some of its turbines because of a manufacturing fault. Turbine blades are regularly inspected and replaced if necessary.

Solar farms alter the climate. Solar farms do affect the weather of their immediate location as the solar radiation not absorbed by the panels to produce electricity is reflected back into the atmosphere. It is about the same as a medium density town or a ploughed-up paddock. Solar farms can create thermals in the same way as a ploughed paddock. The cooling towers and airborne particulates of coal-fired power stations can have a bigger climatic effect.

Solar farms are not compatible with agriculture or wildlife conservation. The way that solar farms are laid out does mean that the land can no longer be used for growing crops. However, they can still be used for grazing, especially for sheep. It has been found that with appropriate management and revegetation they make good wildlife reserves.

We will be continuing to look into solar panels and wind turbines in the next edition.

Going batty in an upside-down life

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is celebrating birds and bats in 2024 with the Year of the Wing community awareness campaign. In November the focus is on the semi-permanent little red flying-fox of northern Victoria.

As with all species of flying fox, the little red flying-fox roosts by hanging upside down," Goulburn Broken CMA project officer, Janice Mentiplay-Smith said.

"Bats can't launch into flight from the ground like a bird does, because their wings cannot generate enough lift, so they must do this 'mid-drop' as they release their grip from a tall tree. As well, hanging high up in a tree keeps them safe from predators.

"For us, holding on to a branch for any length of time would be excruciating, however the tendons in a bat's feet have a locking mechanism that is kept taut by the bat's body weight.

"This is an ingenious adaptation, as the bat does not need to expend precious energy to maintain a grip. The 'self-locking' tendons enable the bat to sleep and hang comfortably without risk of falling."

Ms Mentiplay-Smith said interestingly, bats knees, which are located high up on the leg close to the body, flex in the opposite direction to those of a human. As their legs are integrated into their wing structure, the ability to rotate their legs allows for better control and manoeuvrability

A bat's circulatory system is designed for an upside-down life," she said. "Their heart and circulatory system are modified to avoid a 'head rush' that we humans experience.

"Not that it's something many people may have considered, but when it comes to going to the toilet while hanging upside down, bats simply flip themselves upwards to 'go', and once finished, revert to hanging upside down again. This is important as it keeps the bat clean, but for the young bat pup clinging to its mother's chest, it's a necessity!"

Watching wildlife live and seeing them interact in their natural habitat can be a rare gift, especially the more difficult-to-spot animals such as flying foxes. NSW National Parks offer a glimpse into the world of flying foxes with their live stream of a colony of threatened grey-headed flying-foxes (close cousins of the little red flying-fox). The 'bat cam' live stream can be viewed at [Grey-headed flying-fox live cam | NSW National Parks](https://www.nswnp.nsw.gov.au/bat-cam)



You can also read more about megabats and their tiny microbat cousins in *The Mammal Book*, a 58-page booklet featuring beautiful photographs and informative text: *The Mammal Book - GB CMA - Goulburn Broken CMA*.

Fifty years ago in our district....

Looking through the pages of past 'Rushworth Chronicles'
.....compiled by former district resident Alan McLean



Thin local papers and body found, November 1974

The Chronicle was not travelling well, one November edition reduced to just four pages! One large sheet, folded in half, printed on four sides. How am I supposed to find interesting stuff out of that now? The reason given was paper shortages, but there may have been other factors as regular contributors on topics like sport fell away.

Young Adrian Weston was travelling to school on the bus along Middle Road when he saw a body floating in the Waranga-Mallee channel. He told teacher Mr Don Fartch, who reported it to Sergeant Durston. A check recovered the body of retired Kyabram farmer, Robert Wood, who had been missing for over a week.

Shire of Waranga

A big rise in Shire rates for town properties was agreed by the Council, after a valuation conducted by Mr Peter Hann. Worse still were the projected rate rises of 20% for some farm properties. Similar rises were happening in nearby shires, but that was no consolation.

Crime

A young Rushworth man was given a stern warning in Rushworth Court House, after being found guilty of carrying a weapon, assault with an offensive weapon, riding a motorbike on a footpath, and carrying a pillion passenger, these events taking place at Murchison.

He was given a twelve-month good behaviour bond, fined \$25 on each traffic offence, and his licence was cancelled. The weapons charge attracted a \$40 fine, and court costs of \$24.50 for the victim's representation were also payable.

The magistrate imposed a series of fines for a long list of local and visiting motorists. Arms protruding from motor vehicles, unlicensed tractor driving, speeding in restricted zones, overweight trucks, and driving over .05. Constable Kevin Foley, formerly of Rushworth, had been stationed at Murchison at this time and had apprehended most of the offenders. Constable Peter Hromenko, stationed at Rushworth, also put a few in the dock after a road safety traffic blitz.

Community

An annual meeting of the W.S.C.P. was to be held at Colbinabbin in November. I will guess at Women's Section of the Country Party (now the National Party). It was to be followed later the same evening by a meeting of the S.A.E.D.C. (*and your guess will be better than mine. Perhaps the two meetings were needed prior to the busy harvest season.*) An unnamed guest speaker was intended. Plus the mandatory supper.

Raising funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Rushworth - Colbinabbin Apex Club ran a pool (8-ball) competition at the two Rushworth hotels. Getting through to the final round were Criterion Hotel publican's son Brian Harradence, Ian "Abid" Cruz and Ken "Yogi" Miller. Harradence was the winner of the prize, a book of photos of Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida! (*A politically-doubtful collector's item today!*) The Rushworth Hotel publican at this time was Jack Hartney.

The editor's father, Mr Ewan Davidson, M.B.E., a retired physical education teacher from Scotch College, was guest speaker at Rushworth - Colbinabbin Apex Club's meeting at the Criterion Hotel. Mr Davidson had been Australian high jump champion in his youth, and played cricket for Hawthorn - East Melbourne in district cricket, and football for Old Scotch Collegians in the Victorian Amateur Football Association.

Schools

Lunches available at schools were still the work of some of the mothers, a roster being posted for St Mary's School. (As more mothers joined the paid workforce, that roster system came under pressure.) December mums listed included G. Barlow, G. Avard, P. Stewart, P. Barlow, M. Barlow, J. Ryan, E. Weppner, W. Barlow, J. Bourke, L. Newton, P. Casey and G. Cheatley. (*There were many mistakes in the Chronicle. Some of the initials may be wrong!*)

Needed at St Mary's were three wall clocks, two extra second-hand sewing machines, and a cricket set. (*Watch out for the windows in a relatively small playground!*)

Personal

Vin and Georgie Hare, long-time operators of a mixed business at Murchison, retired to New Zealand. At a farewell they were presented with a silver embossed tray, a crystal decanter and six crystal glasses. (*Good luck getting those safely to New Zealand!*)

Marilyn Cruz of Rushworth was photographed on the arm of her father Tony, outside Rushworth Presbyterian church, prior to her marriage to Bill Porter.

Gail Sherman, of Stanhope, who had been a Kyabram Rotary Club exchange student in Japan during her secondary school days, was returning to Japan to teach English language to the staff of the New Otani Hotel in Tokyo.

John Maello, a migrant from Estonia with his mother and sister in 1950, had been educated at Rushworth High School while living with Mr and Mrs Jack Le Deux. He had been appointed as manager of Pattersons Pty. Ltd. in Footscray, heading a staff of 24 in the retail furniture business. John, 35 in 1974, had married and had four daughters,

and the Chronicle told how his story was of a disadvantaged migrant lad who had "made good".

Bowls

Stanhope A-grade bowlers defeated Mooroopna, thanks to the rinks skippered by Merv Emmett and Norm Hadfield. B-grade finished a poor second to Murchison, with only the rink of W. Adams finishing ahead.

Rushworth A-grade pennant team had two rinks well down, 16-34 (skipper George Kolenaty) and 9-31 (Norm Geisler), so the two winning rinks had too much green ground to make up against Mooroopna Golf. Rushworth's team included Charlie Jackson of Colbo and Alan McMurtrie of Wanalta, as no bowls club existed at Colbinabbin in 1974.

Dick Duke's B-grade rink had a massive 46-10 victory as the team had a 34-shot win overall against Hill Top.

Cricket

Rushworth Under-15s bowler Paul Gleeson took 4 wickets for 14 runs, helping dismiss Kyabram Methodists for 90 runs, in reply to Rushworth's 175. Danny Forte took 3/14 off ten overs.

Rushworth B-graders had also made 175 against Kyabram Fire Brigade, who could only manage 59 in reply. Ted Shanks sent down seven overs for his 4/23, Stephen Teasdale 4/18 from eight overs.

In A-grade, Rushworth's batsmen fell for 90, after Methodists had only made 125. John Raglus (3/42) and Alan Mee (2/17) did best with the ball. Season subscription fees were due; \$5 for senior players, \$2 for juniors.

Rushing to Whroo,

1853 to 1880



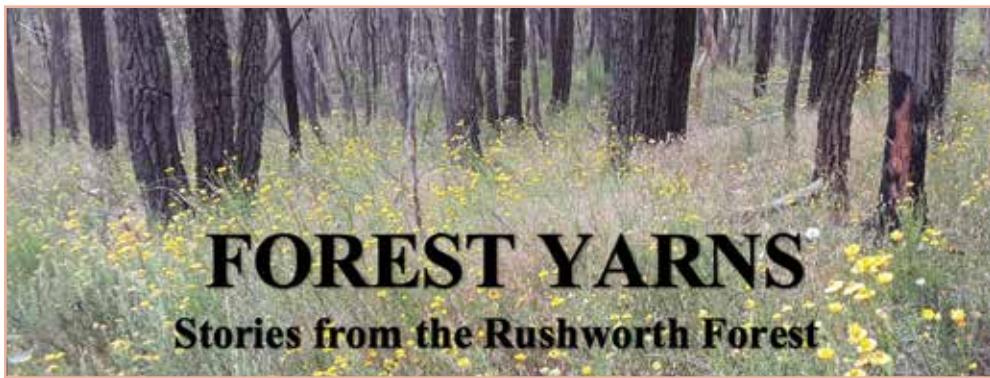
\$25

Alan McLean

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Waranga News office and General Store Rushworth



FOREST YARNS

Stories from the Rushworth Forest

Eucalyptus oil industry – present day operations

Harvesting the leaves

Originally, the blue and green mallee trees were cut down, leaving the stumps protruding from the ground. The timber was burned, then when the mallees re-sprouted to the required height, they were cut down by hand with a sickle. This was back-breaking work. The cutters also had to bend over to pick up the leaves to load them onto horse drawn wagons, and later wagons drawn by traction engines. Apparently, you could pick out the old eucy cutters around town by their permanent stoop.

When Kevin Jones introduced mechanical harvesting, all the stumps were cut off at ground level so as not to interfere with the operation of the harvester. Loading of the leaves was also mechanised. The leaves are now collected in bins which each hold about a tonne of leaves. In good conditions, 28 bins (i.e. 28 tonnes) of leaves will produce a 44 gallon drum of oil.

Oil production

The leaves are packed tightly into round brick-lined in-ground vats, then sealed with metal lids. About two tonnes of leaves can be packed into each vat. There are two vats at Parramatta Gully, and their dimensions are approximately two and a half metres in diameter and four metres in depth.

The use of in-ground vats was the traditional way to extract oil. Most existing eucalyptus oil distilleries have developed other methods e.g. truck mounted mobile vats. However, the Jones family distillery is unique in that it has stayed with the traditional method, increasing the heritage value of the site.

A boiler in the shed near the pits produces steam, which is forced into the bottom of the pits. Steam is pushed through the lower layers of the leaves so that they soften. More leaves can then be added so that the leaves can be more tightly packed.

After the metal lid has been closed, it is sealed off with clay to stop the steam escaping. Once it passes through the leaves, the steam is piped into a condenser. At Parramatta Gully, the condenser is in the form of a brick bath, to cool the steam and allow the oil to be extracted. As the process of distilling is nearing completion, the water/oil mix coming out of the condenser can be tested to see if there is any oil left in the leaves still in the pits.

The water must be replaced periodically to keep it cool. This water comes from the nearby dam. Past operators have been known to use the condenser as their own bath. Lovely warm water heated by steam – an opportunity too good to miss!

Recycling

Once the oil has been extracted, the leaves are removed from the pits. When dried out, they make excellent garden mulch, free from any contamination as they have effectively been sterilised. As a result, nothing from the process is wasted: everything is used or recycled.

Boiler

The current boiler is wood-fired. It is a 1954 English made Trevor Multi-tube boiler, which was acquired from the Scoresby Steam Museum when it was surplus to their needs. Jim Jones donated some money to the museum and arranged to transport the boiler to Rushworth. It is subject to regular inspections.



A Name from the past Johannes Weppner - settled near Colbinabbin in 1861

In the previous edition we reviewed the death by over-eating of the young Swiss man, Gustave Spoerri, a farm worker on the lands of Mr Johannes Weppner, in 1883.

Sixteen years later, it was Mr Weppner's turn to depart, reported in Rushworth Chronicle of 29 September 1898.

"It is with regret that we have to record the death, on Sunday last, of Mr. J. Weppner, well-known in the Colbinabbin district during the last 37 years.

The deceased, who was very fortunate in many of his speculations, amassed a considerable amount of property, which is now said to be worth from £15,000 to £20,000. This he has divided between his widow and children, we understand, in equal parts.

The remains were interred in the Colbinabbin cemetery, on Wednesday, the following being a large one."

This is a disappointingly short obituary for one of the German farmers who crossed the Colbinabbin range when travelling from Bendigo and thought they had found paradise. They immediately selected land, and Mr Weppner's productive and successful life could have been reported with more interesting details. The initial settlers have descendants with names like Weppner and Rathjen still noted in the district. The marriage of a Toeteberg to a Hill continues that lineage, with successive generations of Hills, one married to an Ayson, another married to a Tuohay.

The Weppner and Rathjen families continue to farm rather more than the 640 acres (one square mile), or 320 acres (half a square mile) which their respective ancestors selected in 1861.

Alan McLean

Dam

The Parramatta Gully dam dates back to 1892, when William Begg set up the first eucalyptus oil distillery on the site. Water from the dam is essential to be pumped into the boiler to be turned into steam and used in the condenser to cool the steam as it comes from the pits.

The dam fills from natural flows down Parramatta Gully. Below the dam, and across to the Whroo road, there is evidence of extensive alluvial gold mining from the mid-19th century.

References: A shout out to Jim and Karen Jones and their family for the above information, and for keeping this historic industry alive in the Rushworth area over many years.

Doing it the old way – handcutting eucy for oil production. Photo courtesy of Eucalyptus Distillery Museum, Inglewood

Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our

We will remember them . . .

Stanhope Primary commemorates 11 November

On Monday 11 November, students at Stanhope Primary School were given the opportunity to honour and remember members of our armed forces who died in the line of duty. The Stanhope RSL Sub Branch invited members of the community to meet at the memorial gates of the school to join with students and staff in the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

After the laying of the wreaths and poppies at the gates, there were performances by our students and Claire Roberts and Glenn Bowker. They also generously donated their time in the preceding weeks to help our students prepare their songs. A barbecue lunch was provided by the Stanhope Men's Shed following the formalities.



Staff and students join with the RSL members and community to remember the fallen.



Students Xyla and Tyler laying the wreath.

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Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools

Getting ready for 2025

– next year's crop of Preps for Colbo Primary School



Colbo Pre-Preps have been visiting Colbinabbin PS and getting very ready for next year's exciting move to their next education stage.

(l-r) are Marlowe Costa, Ava Hayes, Clancy McEvoy, Freya Ellis, Sam Johnson and Max Barlow.

Colbinabbin Pre-school a part of Goulburn Region cluster

Submitted by Colbinabbin Pre-school

Goulburn Region Preschool Association (GRPSA) is a not for profit Early Years approved provider for seventeen early childhood services across Moira, Strathbogie, Greater Shepparton and Campaspe Shires. GRPSA has been serving the community since 1988, with the goal of creating a safe, exciting, engaging environment for children, families and educators. Part of GRPSA is Colbinabbin Preschool rated as an Exceeding Service under the National Quality Framework. This distinguished rating highlights the service's exceptional quality in early childhood education and care.

As Colbinabbin Preschool Teacher Cindy Smith says "Colbinabbin Preschool is located in a quiet corner of Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve, surrounded by gum trees, wallabies and all manner of birds. The program is child-led, with a strong focus on nature play and sustainability. We are attentive to each child's rhythm, pace and interests. We celebrate the changing seasons

and create opportunities for children to deep dive into their own learning, using natural resources and found objects whenever possible. In the cooler months we attend Bush Kinder. As the children climb trees and hunt for tadpoles in Cornella Creek, they learn many new skills, such as problem-solving, resilience and teamwork".

Early Childhood Manager, Corina McLeod says "We are proud of our Colbinabbin team who are dedicated to high quality education and care for the children of Colbinabbin and district. The children learn the nature of the farm community and the bush kinder program is outstanding."

GRPSA and Colbinabbin Preschool would like to thank the Department of Education and the Colbinabbin community for their continued support.

If you would like your child to experience the quality education, care and Bush Kinder program at Colbinabbin Preschool we offer free three and four year old kindergarten for fifteen hours



per week. Enrolments: Goulburn Region Preschool Association (grpsa.com.au) For more information on GRPSA

and Colbinabbin contact Corina McLeod, Early Childhood Manager, 0429 197 414 or email corina@grpsa.com.au.

Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools

Transition continues for 2025 Foundation students at St Mary's

Transition sessions continue this week at St Mary's as future students are welcomed back for Investigations & STEAM on Friday 22 November.

The children will enjoy a fun-filled morning exploring STEAM activities with their favorite teddy bear!

Don't forget to bring your bear, a school bag, a jumper, lunch, fruit, a drink bottle, a hat, and, of course, a happy smile!

Everyone is looking forward to seeing these future students ready for a day of learning, creativity, and cuddly fun!



Kinder kids are getting ready to be big school kids with transition sessions throughout the final months of the year.



With the sun coming out the staff have really enjoyed seeing students playing well together at each break time. Some of our favourite games at the moment are basketball, cricket and sandpit play.

St Mary's School Fete coming up on Friday

Everyone is invited to come along to the popular St Mary's School Fete to be held this Friday (22 November). The event commences at 4 pm and runs through to 7.30 pm. The location is 5-7 Southam St, Rushworth.

Get ready for an evening filled with family fun! Enjoy a variety of activities including:

- Bake Stall
- Face Painting
- Go Karts
- Colour Run
- Chocolate Coin Toss
- Jumping Castle
- ... and so much more!

Don't miss the Spinning Wheel with amazing prizes, and grab a delicious BBQ and salad for tea. Invite friends and family—there's something for everyone!

See you there!

'The Lightning Express' comes to Rushworth

Families, grandparents, siblings, relations and friends are all welcome to attend St Mary's School 2024 production of "The Lightning Express".

So lock the date, 26 November, into your calendar and come along and enjoy the performance.

There will be a matinee/dress rehearsal at 11.45 am and the main evening performance at 6 pm. (Doors open at 5:30 pm.)

There will be no cost to attend the production and St Mary's Parents & Friends will be selling snacks, soft drinks and water before the show begins, as there will be no intermission during the show (cash only for purchases).

St Mary's Fete - Friday 22 November 4 pm - 7.30 pm

Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns

Services and things to do at Tat Community House

Greater Shepparton City Council

Customer Service Outreach

Council's Customer Service Team is partnering with Tatura Community House to visit Tatura on a monthly basis.

If you'd like to contact council in person, but can't get to Shepparton or just prefer to do it in Tatura, you can now reach the service team once a month to ask questions, find out what's happening or make payments (non-cash only). They do pretty much everything that the customer desk in the Council building in Shepparton do.

In addition the Community Development Office is attending so if you have any ideas or questions regarding the Action Plan, or Council maintenance, come and have a chat on Wednesday 11 December from 9am to 3pm.

Housing for the Aged Action Group

This group offers free and confidential advice, support and advocacy to older people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or are wanting to plan their housing future.

They are available to any person aged 50 years and older in Victoria on a low income with low assets and can provide one-to-one assistance. See them at the Community House

every second Tuesday.

Harvest Table

Bring your excess fruit to our harvest table in the foyer of the community house, just out the front of the Library. Then people in need can access some yummy, locally grown produce. It's a fantastic and healthy way to reduce food waste, help people and give back to your local community.

Community Market Saturday 30 November

Tatura Community House will have a stall at the community market on Saturday, 30th November! Come visit us to browse and buy our delicious Chop & Chat products, along with Tatura-themed merchandise, including tea towels featuring beautiful flowers or iconic Tatura buildings, "I Love Tatura" and "150th Celebrations" baseball caps, fridge magnets, badges, and our popular boomerang bags. It's a great chance to support local while picking up unique gifts! Also an opportunity to chat about the many programs, activities, volunteer opportunities, and adult education options. Drop by and say hello—you will be very welcome!

Looking for unique Christmas gifts that celebrate Tatura?

Our Tatura-themed merchandise is a perfect

choice! Beautifully crafted tea towels, featuring either charming floral designs or iconic Tatura buildings, are lovingly made by Tatura Community House staff and volunteers. Our "I Love Tatura" and "150th Celebrations" baseball caps, along with matching fridge magnets and badges, make wonderful mementos for friends and family near and far.

These heartfelt gifts capture the spirit of Tatura and are sure to bring a smile to anyone's face this holiday season.

You're welcome to the annual Christmas BBQ on Thursday, 12 December, at 6pm

It's a fantastic way to wrap up the year, enjoying delicious food and celebrating with the wonderful people of our community. We'll be serving up sausages, burgers, bread, and drinks—all you need to bring is a salad to share and complement the meal. This festive gathering is a chance to relax, connect, and spread holiday cheer in the warm company of friends and neighbours.

Community House offers a range of different services – check out the website, give a call on 5824 1315 or send an email to manager@tatcom.com.au.

Cubby News for November

It has been another great month at the Cubby.

It's been an exciting month at the Cubby Childcare Centre, filled with hands-on activities, seasonal fun, and delicious treats!

Our little gardeners are starting to see the fruits (and veggies) of their hard work as they tend to our thriving garden. We've planted a variety of produce, including strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchinis, spinach, peas, sweet corn, and an assortment of fresh herbs. Already, the children have enjoyed harvesting and tasting their very own strawberries and even used their home-grown spinach to make spinach naan, a tasty treat that everyone loved!

Our Cubby library continues to be a favourite spot for quiet time, with children excitedly exploring new books and revisiting old favourites. It's wonderful to see their love for stories grow each week.

Of course, Halloween brought a spooky twist to our activities this month! The children had a blast dressing up in costumes and added a dash of mystery by digging up "bones" in the sandpit. The kids delighted in these creepy discoveries, making Halloween a fun and memorable event for everyone.

With so many exciting activities, it's been a month full of learning, laughter, and wonderful memories at the Cubby!

As these are the last Cubby news for the year, we wish our community, families, children, staff and volunteers a happy holiday season and all the best for the New Year!

Our license to operate covers child care for fifteen children-per-day which gives us the opportunity to care for our families in

a very individual and personal way – you become part of The Cubby family.

We are here to support our parents beyond the regular services of child care centres. We can help you with your Child Care Subsidy application with Centrelink, connect you to support services or just have an open ear for the days where it all seems a bit much.

We still have a few spots left. Give us a call to inquire about vacancies, have a chat and book a time to get to know The Cubby and our staff. Children up to age 6 can attend and Childcare Subsidy applies.

The Cubby is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 8:30am – 4:00pm in the orange building on Kerferd Street. The Cubby is a Childcare Subsidy provider, making it an affordable choice for families. Give us a call on 5824 1315 or 0490 117 030 to have a chat with one of our friendly staff.

Submitted by The Cubby Childcare staff



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New appointment for Fr Rene Ramirez



Fr Rene Ramirez who has been the supervising priest for St Mary's Parish, Rushworth, has been appointed by Pope Francis as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Fr Rene has been serving as Parish Priest of St Mel's, Shepparton South and Nagambie as well supervising St Mary's parish.

His Episcopal Ordination will take place on 1 February 2025 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, along with fellow Bishop-elect Fr Thin Nguyen who has also been appointed as an Auxiliary Bishop for Melbourne.

Bishop-elect Ramirez is from Gapan in the Philippines and was ordained a priest in June 1998.

Archbishop Costeloe, President ACBC said, 'These appointments reflect the multicultural face of the Church in Australia, which is witnessing signs of growth and renewal. We are confident they will bring their unique experience and talents to the work of the Church at a national level.'

MacKillop Art Exhibition - Bendigo

An exhibition of works by students from Catholic schools has opened at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.



The exhibition includes works such as St Mary's Rushworth's whole school collaborative – art-thinking and art-making wrapped up in a collaborative practice.

The exhibition can be viewed at Sacred Heart Cathedral (Wednesday to Saturday 10am. to 4pm) until 30 November and will be available online from 18 November 2024 at: ceosand.catholic.edu.au/

The exhibition will officially open with an awards ceremony at 6pm on Friday 15 December. Register to attend this free event or you can watch the livestream at: links.powerav.com.au/9zn.

Combined choirs carols concert

On Sunday 8 December, members of Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir and St Paul's Cathedral Choir will combine for the annual Christmas carols concert in Bendigo.

The concert which is an ecumenical form of prayer will start at 3pm and is free.

Christmas gift ideas for love of both people and planet

There are only two more editions of the Warang News before Christmas - yes, it's that close and possibly you're well into getting ready cooking your Christmas cake and puddings - and wondering what to buy for presents.

An article in a recent edition of Uniting World gave some suggestions for gift ideas that will show love for the person AND love for the planet.

A recent poll found that over six million Australians expected to receive gifts they would never use or wear. Nearly half of adults wish people would stop buying them presents altogether!

Here are some suggestions:

Give a gift that fights poverty. There are a number of charities who offer gifts that go to a person or community who really need help. You can buy a card that will be a gift of a goat or a chicken or go towards building a well etc (see www.everythingincommon.au or Caritas).

Give an experience. Why not generate some great memories: a voucher for a favourite local restaurant or a sauna or massage (COVID has left many small businesses in need of support).

Give time and attention. Giving your time, energy and attention might be the best gift you can give: babysitting so a couple can have a night out, gardening help for an elderly family member ..

More suggestions in next edition of the News.

District Church Times and Contacts

Anglican

- St Paul's, Rushworth: 0419 512 632
- 9.30am 2nd Sunday of month - lay led service
- 9.30am 4th Sunday of month - Communion
- Christ Church, Murchison: Rev Andre du Plooy 0458 155 930
-10.30 am Thursdays Holy Eucharist
-11am service every Sunday
- St Matthews, Stanhope: 0419 855 964 (Church Warden)
- St John's, Colbinabbin: 0428 329 344 (Mick Clayton)

Presbyterian

- St Andrew's, Rushworth: Sunday 9am: Minister Kalpan Vasa 0477 241 042 or Elder Gary Dunstan 5856 1332.
- St Andrew's, Stanhope: 5831 6494 (Rev Kyung Rae Ee)

Catholic

St Mary's Parish. 1st and 3rd Sundays: Cornella 9am; Stanhope 10.30am. 2nd and 4th Sundays: Rushworth 9am; Murchison 10.30am.
5th Sunday: One Parish Mass - Rushworth. Contact a team member on the parish mobile phone: 0459 898 925. Sunday Mass continues online from St Kilian's Sundays 10am.

Shine Church, Stanhope

Sunday services at 10am at the Stanhope Community Hall. All COVID restrictions abided by. Kids church running as well during service. More info call Wal Sinapius 0408 393 398.

Living Waters Rushworth:

Sunday 3.30pm coffee: 4pm service 0428 323 631 (Pastor Peter Guerra)

Generations Church, Tatura

5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

Salvation Army: 5852 3875

Uniting Church

Waranga Uniting Churches – Rushworth, Colbinabbin, Murchison and Tatura. Service Times: Weekly at 9.30am (with the 'room' open for a chat at 9am)

Every congregation is open for services which will be streamed each week into all four of our church buildings.

Each week one congregation will host the service with people in other congregations participating in leading the readings, sharing news and fellowship via the magic of Zoom.

You are welcome to join us in person or from your lounge room via Zoom.

The link for the Zoom service can be found on our website warangaunitingchurches.net.au or can be emailed to you each week.

As you gather around the dinner table, join hands to give thanks to God.



Lord, thank You for the food before us, the family and friends beside us and the love between us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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living the **GOOD LIFE**

Beginnings that many mistake for endings.

When I was a child, growing up in a conservative church during the Cold War the spectre of nuclear annihilation loomed large in the imaginations of members of my community.

I remember listening to sermons that painted vivid pictures of the end of the world, forecasting wars, famines, and a great 'Final Reckoning'.

The fear of global destruction was evident everywhere - in the evening news, in the whispered conversations of adults, and in the 'End-of-the-world' movies that were popular at the time. Back then it seemed the world was teetering on the edge of disaster.

But the doomsayers were wrong!

I often think back to those days when I hear people speak about the times we live in now. Wars rage, natural disasters seem more frequent, and we face challenges like climate change and political unrest. For many it feels like the world is falling apart. Some even wonder if we're nearing the end of everything.

But is it really the end? Could it be the beginning of something new?

Towards the end of Jesus' life (Mark 13), he spoke to his disciples about troubling times to come. He described wars, earthquakes, and famines, all events that sound terrifyingly familiar.

But then he said something surprising: 'These are the beginnings of birth pains.' (Mark 13:8) Jesus re-framed the chaos not as the final chapter, but as the labour pains of something new being born.

Jesus' perspective is defiantly hopeful. He invites us to look at the world's challenges with fresh eyes, not as proof of God's absence, but as evidence that God is still at work bringing about renewal and transformation.

Pope urges the Church, governments and organisations to help the poor

Last Sunday on the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis called on Christians to practice a faith that inspires action, urging the Church, governments and organisations to assist the poor and marginalised.

"Christian hope, fulfilled in Jesus and realised in his kingdom, needs us and our commitment, needs our faith expressed in works of charity, needs Christians who do not look the other way," the Pope said during a Mass for the World Day of the Poor in St Peter's Basilica.

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Jesus' teaching here is especially relevant for the church today. As our congregations grow smaller and our traditions feel fragile it is tempting to believe that the church is in its final days.

But what if God is preparing us for a new way of being?

What if the struggles we face are birth pains for a church that will serve the world in ways we can't yet imagine?

The same can be said for our individual lives. When we face loss, change, or uncertainty it often feels like the end.



Yet again and again God shows us that endings can lead to beginnings. Through grief new relationships form. Through challenges, we grow stronger and wiser. Through change new opportunities emerge.

As we prepare for Christmas the theme of birth takes on an even deeper meaning. Consider the baby in the manger, Jesus, God's Son, entering into a world full of conflict, division, and darkness. From the perspective of that dark world Jesus' birth might have seemed small and insignificant, just another child born into poverty and struggle.

Yet his arrival was the beginning of something unimaginably new, the bringing of a light that would change the course of history.

In the same way think of a baby being born today. For a baby, everything is ending. The warm familiar womb they enjoyed for months has gone. Their journey into a new and unknown world is disorienting and frightening.

Yet what feels to a newborn baby like an ending is actually the beginning of life in a larger, brighter and more beautiful world.

I'm not seeking to dismiss the pain of endings. That pain is real and hard.

But faith calls us to trust that endings are not the whole story. God is always at work creating new life where we see only loss.

So how do we live with this kind of hope? The words of Wilfred Peterson can help us, inspire us:

'Walk with the dreamers, the believers, the courageous, the cheerful, the planners, the doers, the prayerful people with their minds on heaven and their feet on the ground. Let the Spirit ignite a fire within you to leave this world better than when you found it.'

Living the good life means being one of the people Wilfred described. It means walking forward with courage, trusting that every ending is the seed of a new beginning. It means looking for the glimpses of God's renewal in the world around us. It means doing what we can to work with God to usher in renewal and new beginnings.

The world is not falling apart, it's being remade. And that is a story worth living into.

This is the gospel and it's good news.

*Brian Spencer, Minister,
Waranga Uniting Churches*

the idolatry of money and consumption, it so happens that the poor and marginalised have no choice but to continue to wait," he said.

The Pope joined some 1300 people invited to the Vatican audience hall to share lunch.

As part of the World Day of the Poor, the Vatican last week extended the hours of its free medical clinic in St Peter's Square with the help of volunteer doctors, nurses and medical technicians.

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WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

DEATH

BATT, Ruth Elizabeth

Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 12 November 2024, at Mooroopna Place Aged Care. Aged 85 years.

Dearly loved Wife of Ronald.

Much loved Mother and Mother-in-law of Robert and Faye, Vicki and Darren(dec.), David and Sharon, Keith (dec) and Allan (dec).

Cherished Nan of 9 Grandchildren and 8 Great-grandchildren and their families.

Forever in our hearts.

Her funeral service was held on the 20 November.

WILSON, Marg.

The Colbinabbin CFA send their heartfelt condolences to the Wilson Family on the recent passing of their Mum Margaret. The Wilson Family were, until recently, long time residents of Colbinabbin with Keith (dec), Marg and Shane all heavily involved in the local CFA, Keith and Shane as active Firefighters and Marg working tirelessly behind the scenes on the Ladies Auxiliary of which she was President for 10 years.

Marg was a tireless worker for the community and will be missed by all in Colbinabbin.

She is now at peace, back home in Colbo with Keith (dec) and daughter Elizabeth (dec).



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Campaspe Shire Council election

Declaration of results



The following candidates were elected to Campaspe Shire Council at the general election held in October 2024:

- AMOS, Rob (1st elected)
- MITCHELL, Jessica (2nd elected)
- JARMAN, Paul (3rd elected)
- ZOBEC, John (4th elected)
- SHARROCK, Luke (5th elected)
- MARWOOD, Tony (6th elected)
- WESTON, Adrian (7th elected)
- MACKRELL, Daniel (8th elected)
- COOK, Zoe (9th elected)

Further details about the results are available at vec.vic.gov.au

Kate O'Connor

Election Manager

13 November 2024

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832 | @electionsvic
Authorised by S. Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.



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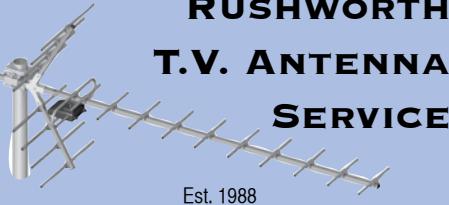
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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

NOVEMBER

Fri 22	St Mary's School Fete - 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Sat 23	Campaspe Shire's Rushworth Pool Opening
Tue 26	St Mary's School Production - 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Sat 30	Rushworth Art & Craft Market Shire Hall 8.30am - 1pm

DECEMBER

Sat 7	Opera in the country, Girgarre Town Hall 7.30pm - 9.30 pm.
Sun 8	Kyabram & District Bush Verse Group Christmas Party at Kyvalley Hall at 12 Noon
Sun 8	Stanhope Town Garage Sale from 9am
Tue 10	Free Health Screenings Max's Maze - 9am - 5pm
Fri 20	Rushworth Pool Party 3.30pm- 5.30pm
Sat 21	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm

Meetings & Activities - around the district

- Rushworth SES training: Wednesday evenings at 7pm
- Rushworth CFA: Tuesday nights
- Rushworth Food bank: Mon 10am -12pm, Wed 10am-12pm, Frid 10am-12pm
- #9 Op-Shop: Mon, Wed and Fri - 9am - 2pm Saturday 9am to 12pm
- Rushworth Community Garden every Wednesday
- Rushworth Community House - Genealogy, every Friday from 9.30 to 12.30pm
- Colbinabbin Library: Wednesdays
- Colbinabbin Community Shed: most Thursdays (old Shire Depot), 10am
- Rushworth Band practice: 7.30pm every Monday night
- Stanhope Walking Group: Tuesdays at 10am at McEwen Place
- Rushworth Market: 3rd Saturday of month - 8.30am to 1pm
- Rushworth ART Depot (RAD) - every Market day - Sat 10am -1pm
- Murchison CFA: Meeting 1st Monday 8pm - training on 3rd Monday 6.30pm
- Murchison Community Garden: Tuesdays 9am - 11am
- Rushworth Museum: every Saturday 10am-12 noon, 1st and 4th Sunday 11am - 1pm
- Rushworth & District Community Bank Board: meets 1st Tuesday monthly, at 6pm
- Rushworth Events Inc: meets bi-monthly, third Wednesday at 7pm
- Community Walking Group: Thurs 8 - 9am meet at front of Waranga Health
- Stanhope Mens Shed: Mon - Wed - Fri 9am - 12 noon
- Murchison Mens Shed: Wednesdays 10am – 3pm
- Rushworth Garden Lovers Club meet 3rd Thursday Month 1.30pm at old Senior Citizen's building
- Friends of the Hostel: Third Monday 1.30pm monthly
- Alcoholics Anonymous(AA) meetings, 14 High street , Rushworth, Thursdays 7pm

Local clubs or groups who would like to display their event, occasion, community service, entertainment, meeting or opening times, give Waranga News a call or email to be included in our events calendar.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

POLICE or FIRE.....Emergency.....000
Non-emergency 13 1444

AMBULANCE.....Emergency.....000
Non-emergency...13 3009
SES: (storm & flood).....13 2500

DOCTORS:

Rushworth Medical Centre..... 5856 1329
Waranga Medical Centre..... 5851 8400
Stanhope 5857 0452
West Goulburn Comm Health....5857 2400
Murchison Medical Centre.....5826 2575

HOSPITAL:

Waranga Health5851 8000

POLICE:

Rushworth.....5856 1000
Murchison.....5826 2222
Stanhope Telecare
Medical Centre5857 2507
Colbinabbin.....5856 1000

SUPPORT SERVICE:

St Vincent de Paul.....0417 597 468

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Your Council News

Coming Up

Council meeting | 6pm Tuesday, 10 December | Echuca Civic Centre
Meetings can be streamed live: www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming

f [@CampaspeShireCouncil](#)
o [#campaspeshire](#)
P: 1300 666 535 | 03 5481 2200
E: shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au
www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

Project Update

An aboveground diesel fuel tank has been installed to replace the underground fuel tank at the Tongala Depot for fuelling Council's road maintenance vehicles and equipment.



Immunisation Sessions

By appointment only. Register at campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations

If you are feeling unwell or have any cold or flu like symptoms, you must cancel or reschedule your appointment.

Wednesday, 20 November

9 – 10am | Kyabram Senior Citizens Centre
11.30 – 12noon | Rushworth Service Centre

Thursday, 21 November

5.30-6.30pm | Echuca Library

Monday, 25 November

9:30 – 10am | Tongala Service Centre
11:30am – 12:30pm | Lockington Bush Nursing Centre

Tuesday, 3 December

5.30-6.30pm | Rochester Service Centre

Thursday, 5 December

9:30 – 10am | Echuca Library
11.30-12noon | Stanhope Community Health Centre

Having difficulty making an appointment?
Please call Council on 1300 666 535.



Tenders

Request for Quote 24036 – Aquatic Facilities – Vegetation Control.

Council requires a suitably experienced contractor to complete the above works. Request for Quote submissions must be uploaded to the eProcure tender portal on Council's website no later than 2pm on Friday, 6 December 2024. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Tender 24052 - Supply and deliver one 4 x 2 Cab Over Engine Patching Truck and trade offer for one Hino 500 Flocon Truck.

Council requires a suitable supplier to supply and above-mentioned truck. Trade viewing appointments for existing truck may be arranged by location and time during the tender open period. Tender submissions must be uploaded to the eProcure tender portal on Council's website no later than 2pm pm on Wednesday, 4 December 2024. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Now Open

For all projects and applications open, visit campaspe.vic.gov.au/nowopen



Citizen of the Year Awards

The Citizen of the Year Awards celebrate the achievements and contributions of individuals and community organisations or groups in our region. These prestigious awards are some of the highest honours Council can bestow to publicly acknowledge local heroes. Nominate today for any of the three award categories including Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Community Group of the Year. Visit Council's Now Open webpage for more details on eligibility, selection criteria and the nomination process. Nominations close Sunday, 1 December at 11.59pm.

provide actionable tips, tools and strategies to enhance your understanding of customers, competitors, branding, and your unique selling proposition. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 19 March, from 10am – 1pm at the Echuca Library.



Community Flood Recovery & Resilience Grants

The Community Flood Recovery and Resilience Grants aim to support individuals, families, and organisations affected by the October 2022 flood event and plan for a flood-resilient future. The grants provide funding of up to \$10,000 to eligible not-for-profit community organisations, groups, social enterprises, and creative organisations. Each eligible applicant can submit one application per project or event, with a maximum of five applications per organisation. Activities must be completed by April 30, 2025.

Free social media and content marketing workshop

In collaboration with Business Victoria and the Monarch Institute, Council is offering this free three-hour workshop to give small businesses guidance on how to improve their social media and content marketing skills. It will

Community Vision Survey

With the newly elected Council, we're renewing the community vision. We have a few quick questions to understand your views on the current Community Vision. Visit Now Open for more details.

Chance to Win \$100 with Community Grants Survey

Council's Community Partnerships Team is currently conducting a survey about our various community grants programs and is seeking community feedback. By completing the survey you could win a \$100 gift card

Stanhope Fire Brigade presentation and awards

Stanhope Fire Brigade recently held an awards and presentation night after a six year hiatus, awarding over 500 years of combined service, bestowing life memberships, recognising efforts during the 2019/2020 Black Summer bushfires and recognising diligent service in hazardous conditions.

The night was MC'd by the Brigade's 3rd Lieutenant Tanner Stokes and attended by CFA invitees CMDR Luke Waterson, BASO Abi Sergienko, Waranga GO Rob Brown and VFBV D20 President and State Councillor Greg Murphy as well as other dignitaries including Federal Member for Nicholls Sam Birrell, Shire of Campaspe Councillor Adrian Weston and Stanhope Vic Police SNR Constable Frank Scopelliti.

Captain Chris Dent reflected over past years and the vast achievements of the Brigade including new equipment, new members, community events, FEM and support to the Group and neighbouring brigades, all this without factoring in emergency response calls, a fantastic effort for a brigade which operates with less than thirty members, approximately fifteen of these being active firefighters.

Passionately, Chris spent time thanking the families who constantly support and cherish their loved ones who dedicate their time in volunteering to protect their communities.

Our families and loved ones are the backbone to CFA; they are the ones that miss out on family time and pick up the extra load around homes when their partners are away, as do our work colleagues. When we speak to community members about volunteering to help we always hear that they don't have the time. Our current members don't necessarily have the time either but they make the time because they care for others' safety and wellbeing and want to help others in times of need.

Life membership

Along with the many service awards that were presented to brigade members, including further service to current CFA Life Members Rob Armstrong, Bruce Spencer and Norm Cheong, was the honour of Captain Chris Dent bestowing a Brigade and CFA Life Membership to Ex-Captain (and father)



Peter Dent.

Peter led the Brigade as Captain over twelve years, leading the Brigade to support Victorians and communities in other states over many campaign fires, notably the Brigade's response and support during the 2009 Black Saturday Fires.

Peter was at the helm when the Brigade received its first crew cab 2.4c Tanker and Light Pumper and advocated strongly for the current Medium Tanker. His ability to lead through change and adapt was solidified during the boundary realignment which saw the Brigade shift from District 22 into District 20, bringing many new challenges and forging new relationships.

The Brigade opened a new Fire Station in 2014 which Peter advocated strongly for many adjustments and to suit the growing needs of the Brigade. Peter was also Secretary of the Brigade and held ranks as Lieutenant before and after his Captaincy and still remains a respected mentor, leader and friend.

Medals and clasps

National Emergency medals for the 2019/2020 Fires were awarded to 1st Lieutenant Belinda Braithwaite and 2nd Lieutenant Trystan Harris for the efforts during these fires, notably the Strike Team Deployments to both Queensland and New South Wales that they attended.

National Medals for diligent service in hazardous condition and respected clasps were presented to Captain Chris Dent (National medal), Norm Cheong (National Medal and 1st, 2nd and 3rd clasp) Rob Armstrong (2nd Clasp) and Bruce Spencer (2nd & 3rd Clasp), Malcolm Douglas being awarded National Medal 1st and 2nd Clasp at the Brigade Monthly meeting due to missing the presentation night.

The Stanhope Brigade would like to extend a huge thank you to Fiona and Wayne from the Wallenjoe (Stanhope Pub) for their support and providing a fantastic venue and feed, as well as being able to host when they could.



Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns

Solar developments

- community session at the Colbo hall coming up

The Colbinabbin Renewable Action Group has now been advised that a planning application has been lodged by the Solar Developer to the State Government Planning Minister.

The community is able to lodge their objections by 15 December.

More information will be forthcoming in next two weeks with a newsletter and template to assist the community.

There will be a community session on Saturday morning 30 November 10 am at the Colbinabbin Hall to inform the community and assist with letters. For any further information contact John on 0418 172 345 or Claire on 0418 586 838.

More Colbo bits ...

- The Colbinabbin pool will open with free admission this summer from Saturday 23 November. Bookings for VicSwim are now open, running from Monday 6 January to Friday 20 January 2024. To book or for more information <https://vicswim.com.au>
- Ecumenical Advent group - 1st meeting Monday 25 November at 1.30 pm at Avards'. All welcome.

Silo Art continues to draw admirers



National Volvo Car Club (above) and the MG Club of Geelong (below) have been just two of the car clubs visiting the Colbinabbin Silo Art recently.



Campaspe 16 Days of Activism event celebrating women and empowering the community

Campaspe Shire Council and Echuca Regional Health announce the Movers and Shakers Market event as part of the 16 Days of Activism, a global campaign to challenge violence against women and girls which takes place annually between 25 November and 10 December.

The event is set to take place on Thursday, 28 November, from 4pm to 7pm and will be held at Echuca Arts Precinct, located at 13-17 Murray Esplanade.

Attendees will enjoy live acoustic music performed by a local artist Amelia May, while exploring various stalls showcasing talents from local women and girls. The event will also feature health and wellbeing stalls offering free women's checks, including blood pressure and risk screening. Additionally, there will be food stalls and craft stalls from local artisans.

Director Communities, Jo Bradshaw said that the event will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the incredible contributions of women in our community, but more importantly to raise awareness around the

epidemic of gender-based violence.

“By participating in this event, we hope to raise awareness and encourage active bystander intervention to create a safer and more supportive community for everyone.

“During the 16 Days of Activism, the community will also notice the Council building illuminated orange in the evenings as a way of showing our support for the campaign,” she said.

“Violence of any kind impacts the person experiencing it, the impacts on children however, are not as a witness, rather as a victim. For 16 days every year we campaign for gender equity to end gender-based violence. We urge everyone to also remember our children,” said Cynthia Robins, Executive Director Community Services at Echuca

Regional Health.

“Early childhood adversity can lead to toxic stress that directly affects growth and development. Recovery is possible, yet, prevention makes our community a better place. Please join us, as we join hands for a world free from violence,” she requests.

Support services in the region will also host stalls, offering local information and wellbeing supports. This event aims to celebrate the achievements of women and unite the community, whilst igniting conversations and raising awareness, calling for an end to violence against women and girls.

“We hope to see many community members come together to support this important cause,” said Ms Bradshaw.

Rushworth Field and Game aid in rehoming

Rushworth Field and Game were only too happy to assist with the re-homing of a Sugar glider that had been under the care of Don and Rosemary at the Rushworth Wildlife Shelter.

To achieve this there has been a joint effort going on between several organizations. The parrot box was one gifted to us by Shepparton Field and Game from one of the boxes made at Pitstop in Shepparton. Rushworth Field and Game have been busy building boxes with their own members and other community members at their refurbished Clubhouse.

Members have been giving some boxes an extra coat of paint and putting climbing structures inside the boxes before they are erected.

The sugar glider was found by Tracey Marshall and was looked after by Don and Rosemary until it was fit enough to be released in the Rushworth Golf Course. It went from a poor condition to the stage where it could be released with a diet of meal worms and wet lorikeet mix.

Rushworth Field and Game are pleased to assist with this conservation project and thank everyone who have partnered with them on this and other projects in and around Rushworth.

Photos courtesy of Sharon Perry



The sugar glider rehomed in the parrot box at the Rushworth Golf Club.



Glider in the care of Rosemary Tait.



The bird box goes up at the golf course and the glider is rehomed into the box.



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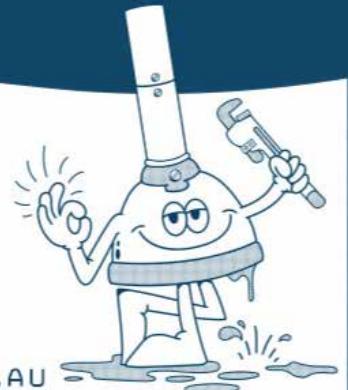
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Sports Report

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Rushworth Cricket - Under 13s enjoy new shirts

Under 13 team played for the first time this week in the Rushworth Cricket Club shirts that were donated by Newton Transport, Jak McMillan Electrical, Arbor Dynamics and Fuzztrans. The juniors really appreciated the donation and they looked very smart. Thank you to all our sponsors or businesses who donated money.

Wednesday - 6 November

Under 13s

Under 13's played Tongala at Brose Reserve Tongala. Rushworth lost the toss and was asked to bat. Rushworth were 7/75(cc) and Tongala won the game making 0/76.

Best batman was Archie Chillingsworth who had to retire after facing 20 ball limits on 12.

Thomas Ogden received the Award for the match. It was a great game, played in good cricketing spirit from both teams that played.

Wednesday 13 November

Under 13s

Rushworth Under 13's played Echuca South Cricket Club (ESCC) at Ironbark Stadium Rushworth. Rushworth won the toss and decided to bowl. ESCC were 5/71(cc) winning the game as Rushworth were 8/50(cc).

Thomas Ogden retiring after making 13 from 20 balls along with Heath Ogden were the top scorers.

Josh Hawking was the best bowler for the day being involved with 3 wickets, one as a bowler, one that he caught and the other in the run out.

Josh Hawking received the Award for the match.

It was a great game, played in good cricketing spirit from both teams that played.

Right: Team wearing their new shirts.



Award winner 6 November, Thomas Ogden.



Award winner 13 November, Josh Hawking.



Rushworth cricketers have close games

Saturday - 9 November

B Grade

Rushworth played Echuca at Ironbark Stadium Rushworth. Rushworth lost the game making 10/108 while Echuca made 5/109.

Rushworth won the toss and elected to bat. Michael Enrico made 31, followed by Dan Newton on 26.

Tommy Stevens and Regan Hanson getting two wickets each.

D Grade

Rushworth hosted by Echuca and played at Echuca Primary School. Rushworth won the game making 6/142 while Echuca were

8/141(cc). Rushworth lost the toss and were asked to bowl.

Dean Sheppard was the best bowler with 3/20 from 6 overs, followed by Charlie McLean with 2/21 from his 6 overs.

The best batsmen on the day were Zach Dearing with 40 and Brett Pateman making 30 runs.

Saturday - 16 November

B Grade

B Grade hosted by Bamawm/Lockington United (BLU) at Bamawm Reserve. Rushworth won the game all out for 118 while BLU were all out for 104.

BLU won the toss and elected to bowl. Best batmen for the day were Liam

Francis making 30 and Tommy Stevens on 26. Tommy Stevens took 4 wickets for 17 runs from his 8 overs and Shannon Jarret taking 2 for 14 from 3.3 overs. Josh Newton took 4 catches for the game.

D Grade

Rushworth hosted Moama at Ironbark Stadium, Rushworth. Rushworth 9/124 lost the game by one run to Moama 9/125.

Moama won the toss and elected to bowl. Brett Pateman was the star with the bat making 51(no). With the ball Brodie Shepherd took 3 wickets for 18 runs from 6 overs and Bradie Chillingsworth also took 3 wickets for 22 from 6 overs.

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Rushworth Pairs Final

The Ladies Drawn Pairs Final was held on Monday 4 November.

Jean Sprague and Glenis Ray played Kay Quirk and Karren Cruz. It was a fantastic day and great to see so many supporters attending to cheer them on.



Congratulations to Kay and Karren for the win on the day. L-R Kay, Karren, Glenis and Jean.

Murchison Bowls at home

Bowls is on again at home at Murchison this Saturday 23 November.

Division 5 play Tatura Hilltop from 11am. A nice warm day might see some interesting action. Games last until about 4:45pm so come down and get a nice cold drink or tea/coffee while you take in the game.

Division 7 take on Merrigum at Merrigum. Play starts there at 11am to try to lessen the heat. Good move! Good luck to Murchison on the day.

Kyabram Little Athletics taps into GVW sponsorship

GVW season-long sponsorship of Kyabram Little Athletics Centre is a partnership that will allow more than 150 athletes from the centre along with spectators, volunteers, and parents, to access a portable hydration station at its Wednesday evening events from October through until March.

The club is based at the Kyabram P-12 College and has been using difficult to access bubblers to fill water bottles prior to the arrival of the hydration station. They have also been given 100 water bottles to gift to athletes and reinforce the Choose Tap message during the season.



The Little Athletes water fillers are now easily accessible for their days hydration.

RFNC - A Grade coach

The RFNC is excited to announce Sheree Starling is returning to the Tigers as the A-Grade and head netball coach for 2025.

No stranger to the Ironbark Stadium, Sheree is a Life Member of the RFNC first playing with the club in 1993 when her brother Jeff signed to play football.

Since then, Sheree has had a decorated career. She is a member of the 2005 and 2013 A-Grade Premiership teams at Rushworth and also this seasons A-Grade Premiership with Girgarre. She is a multiple times Best and Fairest winner with other top two finishes at both club and league level.

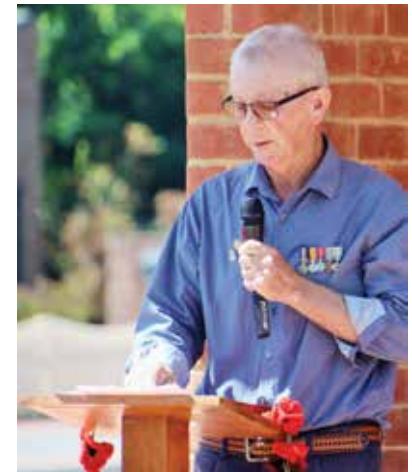
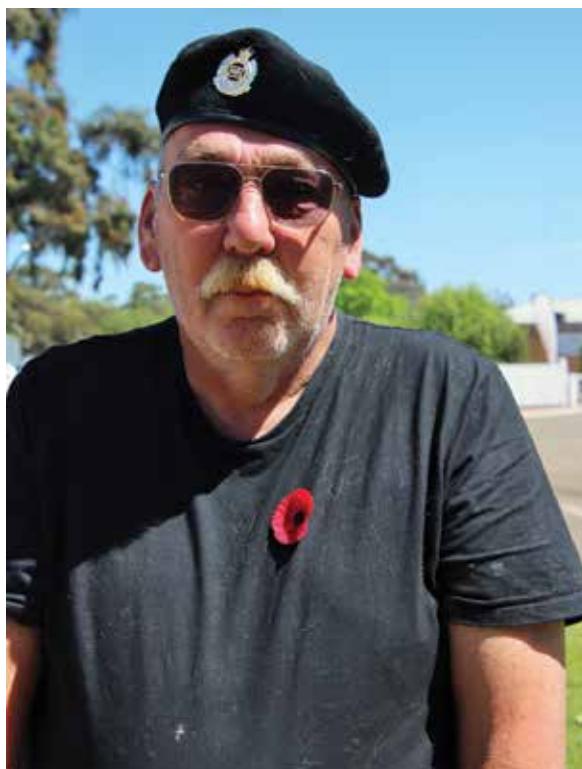
To go with her playing career Sheree also boasts an impressive coaching resume at multiple levels from juniors through to senior netball, with teams appearing in the finals more often than not.

The club looks forward to seeing Sheree back in the black and gold and the positive and competitive influence she will bring to the club.

Please join the club in welcoming home Sheree along with David, Kade & Taylah to Rushworth for Season 2025.



Rushworth Remembers on 11 November



Remembrance Day photos by Sharon Perry



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