

# WARANGA NEWS

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A community newspaper staffed by volunteers

Thursday 15 May 2025

## Volunteer Week 2025 coming up – celebrating our volunteers and a call to action

Volunteer Week (May 18–24) is a national celebration recognising the dedication and impact of volunteers across our communities. It's an annual event that shines a spotlight on the countless individuals who selflessly give their time and energy to support causes that matter—whether through food banks, environmental cleanups, emergency response, fund-raising for community facilities ... or producing a newspaper for their community!

In 2025, the theme of Volunteer Week is "The Power of Compassion," emphasizing how acts of service, big and small, contribute to stronger, more connected communities.

The vital contributions of volunteers are especially important in small towns and rural communities where volunteers are often the backbone of daily life. Without their commitment, many essential services simply wouldn't exist.

As well as filling critical gaps in our communities, volunteering strengthens social bonds and creates a sense of shared purpose.

As we mark Volunteer Week 2025, celebrating the dedicated and generous people who help keep our communities ticking along, we also see the week as a call to action – to encourage **everyone** to find a way to give some of their time and skills to one of the many valuable groups in our community.

To become a volunteer means contributing acts of service, big and small, that contribute to stronger, more connected communities.



Take your pick! Just some of the many volunteer groups ready and waiting to welcome you. Read about some valuable contributions made by the volunteers in our community and the opportunities available for you to get involved on pages 4 & 5.

# Waranga Rail Trail to officially open 17 May

Following completion of the Campaspe Shire section of the Waranga Rail Trail in late March, the entire trail will be officially opened at 10am on 17 May in Rushworth.

The official opening of the trail will be the culmination of years of work from neighbouring councils Campaspe Shire and Greater Shepparton, with the support and input of local landowners and the key stakeholders invaluable in bringing the project to reality.

Funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant Program, the Campaspe Shire section of the trail connects with the eastern section developed by Greater Shepparton City Council in 2015, completing a 19km route which follows the alignment of the decommissioned railway line from Rushworth to Murchison.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell invites members of the public to come along to the official opening, which will be held in conjunction with the regular monthly Rushworth market.

"The rail trail is a fantastic addition to our shire which benefits community members, visitors and local businesses alike," Cr Mackrell said.

"Come along and join us on 17 May, bring your family and friends, your walking shoes or your bike, visit the Rushworth market and take advantage of this wonderful rail trail to explore the region's natural beauty and historic features."



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# Nicholls defies national voting pattern

by Mary Jo Fortuna

While Australia saw a landslide victory for the incumbent government in Saturday's election, the Nicholls electorate saw its own landslide, one which defied the trend of the nation in both results and expectations.

National Party sitting member Sam Birrell was re-elected with a resounding 65.5% of the vote after preferences, the closest contender being Labor's Kim Travers who clocked up 34.45%.

The result was a far cry from the 2022 election when Mr Birrell faced a prominent Independent as well as a competing Liberal candidate, resulting in a 24% swing away from the Nationals compared to the 2019 election.

The 2025 saw a shift back to 'safe seat' status for the coalition, the strong vote for the Nationals reflecting a broader trend of regional support for the party.

In keeping with the National's 'Country Party' roots, support was strongest in the Party's rural heartland of smaller towns across the electorate. In Colbinabbin, for example, the Nationals collected 71.58% of first preference votes compared with their 48% across the electorate. Similarly, the smaller farming communities of Lockington (60.36%) and Stanhope (56.77%) exceeded the Nationals overall vote average in Nicholls.

The strong result for the Nationals in regions such as Nicholls highlights the growing disconnect some of regional Australia feels with the mainstream, especially metropolitan

population. While the conservative values of the party traditionally appeal to many in rural and regional communities, its stance on climate action and opposition to renewable energy initiatives appear to have cemented the firm voting pattern in many farming communities.

Another indicator where rural voters appear to be out of step with the rest of Australia is the higher percentage of votes given to the right-wing minor parties, especially Pauline Hanson's One nation Party. While the party gained 6.25% of first preference votes nationally, it more than doubled that percentage in Murchison (14.4%) and Rushworth (13.62%). Overall support for One Nation in Nicholls stood at 11.22% of the vote.

While each of the minor parties has a slightly different agenda, a common theme involves the so-called 'culture wars'. Prominent stances in the parties' platforms include support of traditional family structures and opposition to First Nations cultural acknowledgment, equality and diversity programs, immigration levels and recognition of gender dysphoria.

Perhaps the most notable local deviation from the national first preference voting pattern was in support for the Trumpet of



Sam Birrell MP, elected for a second term to the House of Representatives for Nicholls, Victoria.

Patriots, backed by billionaire Clive Palmer who has stated that Trump-like policies are needed in Australia to secure the nation's future.

Despite an advertising spend of \$60 million and a mass 'spam' text message campaign, the Trumpet of Patriots attracted only 1.86% of the vote nationally. However in the Nicholls electorate 4.61% (4416) first preference votes went to the party, despite its local candidate appearing to be absent in action throughout the campaign.

## Youth Go! Grants now open

Campaspe Shire Council has announced the opening of applications for Youth Go! Grants.

Designed for residents aged 12 to 25, the program offers funding between \$500 and \$1500 to support youth-led events and activities that promote social connection and wellbeing.

Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell encourages young people to take the lead.

"It's a great chance for young people to step up, get involved in planning and running events and activities, and make a real difference for themselves and their peers in the place they live," Cr Mackrell said.

Funded through the Victorian

Government's Engage! initiative, the grants support a wide range of alcohol, smoke and drug-free activities such as movie nights, art shows, concerts, sporting events and excursions. All events must be inclusive, locally based within the Campaspe Shire and held before 31 December 2025.

Applications close at midnight on Sunday, 29 June 2025.

To apply, visit the "Now Open" section at [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/grants). For more information contact the Youth Community Development Officer at 1300 666 535.

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# So many choices . . come and join us!

Volunteering opportunities are everywhere in our community! Here are some of our many community volunteers who would love to welcome you in to help with their contribution.

## Red Knights

Red Knights Motorcycle club is a worldwide organisation including chapters/clubs in Australia and Victoria. It is made up of past and present members including widows of ex members of local CFA members (hence Red Knights).

There is also an affiliation with Blue Knights – Police, and White Knights – Paramedics, Orange Knights – SES and Ambulance Officers. This is to give you an idea of the Club we represent.

In 2025 we are planning a Christmas lunch for the community at the former Senior Citizens rooms. There will be four courses of traditional Christmas fare and anyone is welcome. (An alcohol-free event). If you would like to know more or to help, call me on 0497 863 878.

*Colin Consiglio*



## Rushworth SES

Whether it is extracting a person from a car accident, cutting and removing a tree over a road, a water rescue on the Basin or sandbagging in floods, the SES will be there to help. Excellent training is given to help you become competent in any of our skills. Come and join us at 4 Barlow Avenue, Rushworth on a Wednesday night at 6.30 pm and learn more about what you can do for your town.

Contact: Controller, Ray Barber on 0428 561 962



## Rushworth Community House

Rushworth Community House has been around for thirty-seven years. It was set up by our community to provide support, offer opportunity for live long learning and provide general support to our community. This includes assistance with transport, office services, access to Services Australia, Container Deposit Scheme, community garden and health and wellbeing programs, along with information sessions.

We continue to work closely with other community groups and work in partnership with a number of organisations. For further information please contact the Community House on 56 1295 speaker to our Manager, Anita Pirie or our Office Administrator, Prue Badgery.



## Australia Day Committee

The Rushworth & District Australia Day Awards committee is seeking volunteers to help run this annual local event which is held in honour of our local Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Group of the Year.

Without this group there would be no opportunity to celebrate people and groups who contribute to, and support, Rushworth's community.

Time commitment is minimal with the main tasks being to read nominations, order trophies and ensure that we have music and food on the day.

For further information, phone Peter Reade on 0491 719 461.



Annabelle CLEELAND MP  
Member for Euroa  
03 5762 1600 | annabellecleeland.com.au

Proudly supporting the local community

## Rushworth Events

Rushworth Events was established in 2016 as an incorporated association, volunteer run not for profit acting as an auspicing organisation.

So what does that mean? To 'auspice' means to provide support, sponsorship or guidance.

The group or person seeking support for a project is known as the 'auspicee' and the incorporated organisation, in this case Rushworth Events, is known as the 'auspicor'.

This means that a group or person, can carry out an activity without having to go through the process of incorporation, but gain access all the necessary benefits, such as advice on governance, banking, insurance, being able to apply for grants etc.

Activities covered under our existing insurance schedule include daily outings, organised games, play groups, noncontact sports, market stalls, picnics, dinners, film festivals, social functions with less than 100 people

Do you have an idea for a new activity? It may be a once off or a recurring activity, and you're not sure how to go about it?

Go on let your imagination run rampant, then once you have an idea and a plan, contact us at events4rushworth@gmail.com , we are here to help.

*Graeme Hanigan*

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# Volunteers make all the difference - celebrating service and impact

## Be a Friend to our health services

In a few days it's National Volunteer Week, and there is much to celebrate in Rushworth and surrounding towns with a wide variety of volunteer opportunities being taken up. Without our volunteers as their lifeblood, our communities would be so much the poorer.

We often hear - "that's the Government's job", or that's the Council's job", but governments, even with the best of intentions, can only do so much, and it is up to the communities themselves to add the icing on top if we want to thrive.

The old Waranga Memorial Hospital had an Auxiliary which worked for years providing support for the Hospital and Nursing Home, and when the Hostel was built 30 years ago, a new group, "The Friends of the Hostel" was formed to provide similar support to the hostel.

Hospital auxiliaries were traditionally dominated by women in "the Old Days", probably because they had more discretionary use of their time during school hours. These days many women are in the workforce, either employed or taking an more active role in running the farm or other business, and the old model which had value not only as a

support group and fundraiser, but also as an enjoyable social group, found many members stepping back due to age and infirmity, and not being replaced by a younger cohort.

With the co-location of the old hospital and nursing home into the new buildings at the Hostel to form "Waranga Health", there are now two volunteer groups. The "Friends" are now "The Friends of Waranga Health, (Hostel)", who perform the same function as the old auxiliaries, and the "Waranga Community Reference Group" which is an advisory committee of Goulburn Valley Health, and meets bi-monthly to provide a "Voice" to GVH on matters of particular interest and concern in the local communities on health matters.

Both these volunteer groups are always looking for new members, and the role they play in enhancing the health and aged care in our community is both beneficial to all, and rewarding to them.

Do give it some thought, and get contact details for the committees at the hospital.

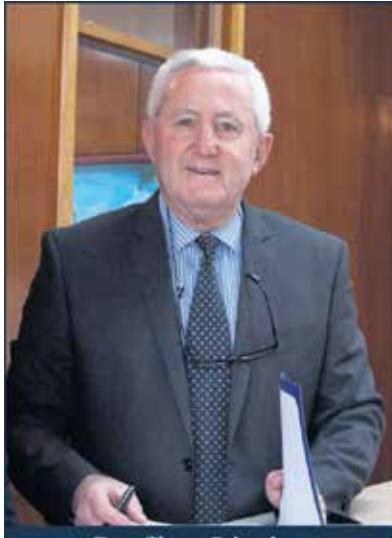
*Clem Furphy*

## Festival helpers welcome

Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival committee are responsible for the town's annual Easter Festival, the monthly markets and the occasional art and craft or antiques and collectables markets. We are a small band of volunteers who are dedicated to seeing the Easter Festival continue into the future but volunteers are needed. We would love some newcomers to join us and to bring new ideas to the group. We meet once a month on the Tuesday before each monthly market. For more information phone Peter on 0459 520 843.



*Peter Reade*



Geoffrey Lipshut

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## The rewards of volunteering - a personal story

I started volunteering as a live-in Foster Carer in Alice Springs in 1974. There were five boys in the family group home and all attended local schools. I continued in that role for two years, staying in touch with some of the boys following my move out of the foster care role. On my return to Victoria



I resumed Foster Care in 1983 in Mentone, a beach-side suburb in Melbourne. After a short time away from volunteering to have a family, I continued the foster care role when moving to Rushworth in 1986. This ceased when the young person moved to live independently. After moving to Murchison I resumed a Foster Care role through Berry Street in Shepparton, supporting full time foster carers in a respite role and becoming full time for a year before moving on.

Currently as a retiree, I volunteer at Waranga News on a fortnightly basis, proofreading articles and submissions and sometimes sourcing and contributing articles from the Murchison community.

I also volunteer as a driver mentor in the TAC sponsored L2P driver program managed by Berry Street in Shepparton. This program supports Learner drivers who do not have access to vehicles or licensed drivers to reach their 120 hours' driving experience before applying for their Probationary Licence. It is most rewarding to work with young people who are aiming to make the most of their lives and need a driver's licence to continue to increase their employability and life experiences.

Volunteering does contribute to others, but it is also a wonderful way to meet people sharing your interests and to experience the joy of giving of yourself.

*Helen Truran*

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what we do.**

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# Have your say!

## Honouring the women who shape our lives

On Mother's Day, we pause to reflect on the extraordinary role mothers and mother figures play in shaping our families, our communities, and our future.

Whether they are juggling the demands of work and family, volunteering at local events, running farms and small businesses or simply offering a warm hug at the end of a tough day - mothers lead with love, resilience, and quiet strength.

In regional communities like ours, the spirit of motherhood is everywhere.

It's in the early morning school runs, the packed lunches and patched-up knees, the hands that build and grow and give.

It's in the unwavering care of grandmothers helping to raise the next generation, in the strength of single mothers who carry so much alone, and in the kindness of neighbours who step in with meals and support when times are tough.

Mother's Day is also a time to acknowledge that love takes many forms.

Some women carry the heartbreak of wanting to be a mother.

Others feel the grief of having lost their mum, or the ache of distance, absence or strained relationships.

To them, I offer my deepest respect and compassion.

No matter the shape or story of our families, one truth holds: the care and influence of mothers and carers leaves a lifelong mark.

So to all those who nurture, protect, and teach with fierce love - thank you.

Your work doesn't always make headlines, but it builds the fabric of our lives and strengthens the backbone of our communities.

*Happy Mother's Day.  
Annabelle Cleeland MP  
Member for Euroa*

## Vision Australia thanks

On behalf of Vision Australia Radio Shepparton I am writing to express our thanks for your publication.

I am one of the readers who fortnightly presents articles on air for a 30 minute session during our Regional News Hour. I have just completed reading the latest issue, selecting and timing the articles we will read on Tuesday.

Your publication has many interesting and varied articles for our listeners. We also hope that our presentations benefit your publication and the Rushworth community.

Thank you for supporting Vision Australia Radio, as we continue to support your publication.

*Meryl Goodwin  
Shepparton*

*And thanks to Vision Australia readers for helping to spread news from our region.*

*Ed.*

Readers are invited to contribute their letters, opinion pieces and ideas to these pages.

## What do you think?

I hope you're enjoying this series inspired by Melanie Trecek-King, but first let's have a quick recap.

#1 Socrates "the unexamined life is not worth living", and how strong is your epistemology?

#2 How our pattern seeking brains try to make sense of nonsense, this is called pareidolia.

#3 The foundation of science is falsifiability, introduced by the philosopher of science Karl Popper.

#4 How good are you at detecting an illusion, and are you easily bamboozled?

#5 "Quod gratis asseritur, gratis negate" or 'what is asserted without justification, may be rejected without justification'.

#6 What is science?

#7 Beware of 'Tom Collins' and the 'Furphy'

### Today - "It must be a full Moon!"

How often do we use that phrase when we encounter careless drivers on the road, unruly children or generally bizarre behaviour? It's a tradition that dates back to the first century when both Greek philosopher Aristotle and Roman historian Pliny the Elder hypothesized that a full Moon induced madness across the land it illuminated.

In fact, "lunatic" comes from the Latin lunaticus, for "of the moon" or "moonstruck".

Despite centuries of blaming the Moon for mischief, mood swings and mystical occurrences, scientific research on the subject continues to point toward mere correlation rather than causation.

*So, why do many of us hold onto this false belief?*

Indeed, the full Moon is often blamed by nurses and doctors for an increase in hospital admissions, police for an increase in crime, and educators and parents for kids' rowdy behaviour, however, decades of research has not found any good evidence that the Moon has any of these impacts.

The first factor in establishing a false belief is the False Cause Fallacy. This occurs when someone incorrectly assumes that a causal relationship exists between two things or events.

My favourite False Cause Fallacy is, every time I wash the car it rains.

The second factor in establishing a false belief is Confirmation Bias.

Here is an example of scenarios which

Contributed by Graeme Hanigan

help confirm the "It must be a full Moon" false belief:

- It's a full Moon and the kids are playing up - this results in a hit, confirming our belief.

- It's a full Moon and the kids are behaving - this is a miss and is ignored.

- It's not a full Moon and the kids are playing up - this is a miss and is ignored.

- It's not a full Moon and the kids are behaving - this results in a hit, and confirms our belief.

We have believing brains: while we like to imagine ourselves logically following evidence to a conclusion, we generally form beliefs first, and then search for supporting evidence.

The scientific method is to draw a conclusion after looking at all the data, and not just the data that confirms what you choose to believe.

So what is your favourite False Cause Fallacy? Here are just a few

The rooster crowing makes the sun rise, it's bad luck for black cat to cross your path; don't walk under a ladder; an itchy hand indicates a financial gain; don't open an umbrella inside; cover mirrors and hide the silverware during a thunder and lightning storm; knitting outside brings long winters; don't get a haircut on a Tuesday . . . the list goes on and on and on.

In short, we continue to support false beliefs through our perfectly natural irrational thinking, it's nothing to be ashamed of. We believe what people around us believe, we notice correlations and assume causation (False Cause Fallacy), and we search for and remember the hits that confirm our belief (Confirmation Bias).

The take-home message:

Despite the lack of evidence, the full Moon effect is widely believed. Yet while personal experiences may feel compelling, anecdotes aren't sufficient evidence.

The bottom line is that we can so easily fool ourselves, that learning to think like a scientist may help us recognise our false beliefs.

I hope you're enjoying these articles on improving your thinking, more of which you can find at <https://thinkingispower.com/> or wait for the next edition of Waranga News.

Melanie can be contacted at [melanie@thinkingispower.com](mailto:melanie@thinkingispower.com)



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# Dunera and Queen Mary internees remember

by Sue Schmitke

Sunday, 13 April 2024 saw past Dunera and Queen Mary internees, their families and relatives and friends of past Dunera and Queen Mary internees visit Tatura Irrigation and Wartime Camps Museum, to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the arrival in Australia of the H M T Dunera and Queen Mary ships. The two ships brought several hundred people into Australia from the United Kingdom and Palestine.

These people; men, women and children, were not here as free settlers but as internees to be put into internment camps during WW2. The men on the Dunera were German, Italian, Croatian and other European countries who had left their homelands and gone to England to escape from the war that was going on in their countries. Many had been in England for a number of years, owning businesses, having families and making a contribution to England.

The men, women and children from Palestine were the same. Escaping persecution in their home land by moving to Palestine.

When war broke out many “enemy aliens” were rounded up under Winston Churchill’s orders “Collar the Lot”. They were to be transported to Canada on the Arandora Star. However shortly after leaving the UK it was sunk by a German U boat with the loss of many lives. Those who survived went back to the UK and shortly after were put onto the H M T Dunera, again bound for Canada or so they thought.

That trip was a nightmare for all the internees on board. They were treated poorly and lost most of their belongings.

The Dunera stopped in at Fremantle, WA before heading to Melbourne. Some of the “enemy aliens” disembarked and were taken to Tatura, where they were interned in Camp 1. The remaining “enemy aliens” were taken



**Tracing their history: Internees and their families frequently visit the camp sites that have contributed much to shaping their lives.**

to Sydney, NSW and then to Hay, NSW, where a camp had been set up.

The “enemy aliens” from Palestine were rounded up with only a few possessions and sent to Australia on the Queen Mary. Disembarking in Melbourne, they were transported to Camp 3, Tatura.

Sunday’s get together saw some of the internees returning to see where they had spent their childhood years, along with other family and friends.

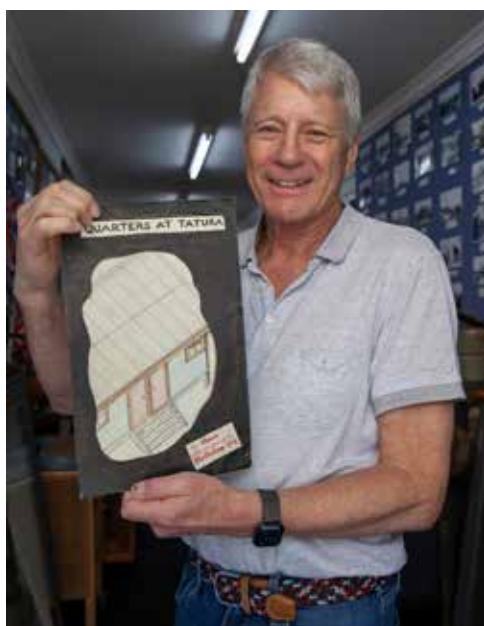
Guest speaker for the day was Nick Ross, a well-known journalist in the UK and son of one of the Dunera Boys, Hans Carl Rosenbluth (later known as John Caryl Ross). Nick and his wife Sarah, were visiting Australia to see where his father had been interned and to learn more about the Dunera Boys. He spoke patiently about his father and what he had learned. He shared some of

the stories from his dad as well as some of the documents that his father had kept from his day as hut leader. On returning to the UK after release from the camps John joined the British Army’s Pioneer Corps, where he became an officer in 1945.

A visit to Camp 3 concluded the afternoon. These remembrances are held every year at Tatura, Hay, Sydney and Melbourne.

More information can be found at the Tatura Irrigation and Wartime Camps Museum which is located on the corner of Ross and Hogan Streets, Tatura. It is open from 1 – 3 daily.

A good documentary to watch as to why every state in Australia had a camp or two and why we housed the UK’s “enemy aliens” is “Churchill’s Forgotten War” and was recently screened on SBS. It can be found on SBS on Demand or YouTube.

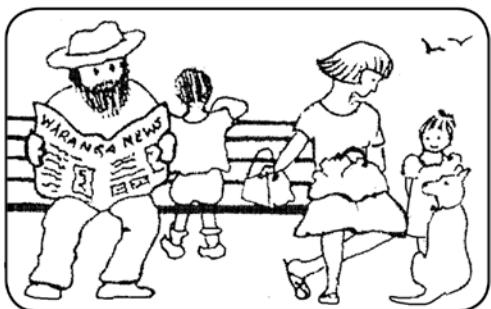


**Nick Ross holding a birthday card made for his father from fellow internees while an internee in Camp 2.**



**The Simon family- Benjamin, Joanne, Paul, Ruth (nee Gottlieb) and Michael. Ruth was a child internee in Camp 3.**

## Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns



### Around Rushworth

#### Lone Pine planting completed



The replacement Lone Pine is finally in place at the Rushworth Lions Park, after being planted and fenced over the past month. Thanks to community volunteers Bill Barlow (RSL), Matt Barlow, Josh and Mark (Arbor Dynamics), Brendan Mc Ardle (Shire), Garden Club, Jean Sprague and Jason Cashmore.

With a little TLC for the signage (possibly updating), hopefully it will be good for many years to come.

#### Catching up with the WNews in Echuca Library

Last week one of our volunteer team was spending time in the Echuca library while her car was being serviced and struck up a conversation with a gentleman who was reading the latest edition of the Waranga News. He said he always reads it while his wife is delivering books to community members.

Harry Heath said he was born in the old Rushworth Hospital and really enjoys reading the historical pages, often coming across old friends.

## Does Rushworth still want community Christmas decorations?

Over the past six Christmases Rushworth Artisries with the help of various elves have organized the Christmas decorations for Rushworth town.

Unfortunately Lyn Rumble and Heather Wellington, who set up Rushworth Artisries, can no longer organize this event for 2025 and beyond due to personal and family priorities, but are able to advise and help in small ways. It is now time for other community members to commit the time and effort to enable the Christmas Decorations to continue as they are now – or modernize the town's celebration activities to suit the time of the year as the new 'team' sees fit.

Over the past six Christmases, Rushworth Artisries with the help of various elves have organized the Christmas decorations for Rushworth town.

The idea of the Council Christmas decoration money being used by the community to make and purchase decorations came from the belief that with personal community input - the community could make the money go a lot further. If you look at the cost of commercial decorations you will see they are in the hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars to purchase. Also, if the community pitched in to put up and take down some of the decorations, that meant that contractors costs would be reduced.

Over the past six years there have been bunting workshops making many metres of flags, painting of large wooden ornaments, face/photography boards, nativity scenes, candles, making of tree frames, reindeers, a sleigh and a kissing booth. All these are safely stored away ready to use, together with lights and swags.

One of the most popular decorations are the Christmas tree frames decorated by local people and businesses, which draw many



Adrian Weston and Heather Wellington admire some of last year's trees.

people into Rushworth from other towns. This activity needs some organization of lists, communication and publicity as well as the physical movement of them i.e. coordinating pick-up and installation in the town centre and then clean-up and storage after.

Although there are a number of 'elves' willing to help in small ways, two or three people are needed to co-ordinate the event as a whole. To that end a meeting is called for **Sunday 1 June at 11am at the Rushworth Community House**.

The alternative is that Rushworth only gets the decorations Campaspe council can afford and erect. So please come along to this meeting. Remember many hands make light work so if there are a group of friends out there that would like to assist or have a go at managing the decorations, Rushworth needs you.

## The aMazing Bike Clinic

Auspiced by Rushworth Events Inc. and sponsored by the Shire of Campaspe.

The first aMazing Bike Clinic was held last Saturday and six Rushworth seniors had a fun morning as they successfully wobbled their way around the maze.

Whilst we intended to use the oval, it was an AusKick day so we relocated to the old hospital site just across the road.

As 17 May is Market Day and the Official Opening of the Waranga Rail Trail at 10am, the next aMazing Bike Clinic will be on the 24th and 31st of May, starting at 10am, runs for about an hour, then we all ride into town and have a cuppa and cake.

Contact Marie on mobile 0431 700 228 for more information.

## Friends Cuppa for Cancer

Friends of the Hostel are once again holding their Cuppa for Cancer on Monday 19 May at 10 am in the hostel dining-room. Everyone is invited to come along to enjoy the company and offer a donation to a worthy cause.

### Raffle result

The winner of the Mothers' Day raffle was Alan McLean. A big thank you to all who bought tickets or made donations.

The funds raised from the raffles are used to provide entertainment within the facility and to subsidise excursions and outings. It also funds many other requests put forward for the comfort of the residents.

**Volunteering opportunities at the Waranga News**  
**Call 5856 1120**

**Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns**

## Annabelle Cleeland discusses leadership and advocacy

**Member for Euroa, Annabelle Cleeland, was the guest speaker at Cornella Care's latest meeting in Colbinabbin – discussing her journey into politics, leadership, and the importance of empowering women in regional communities.**

After COVID restrictions had been lifted, Cornella Care created a space for local women to connect, learn, and support each other. These meetings between women in the Colbinabbin community have included inviting guest speakers to discuss a range of topics.

Ms Cleeland thanked the group for inviting her to speak and for the work they are doing for the local community.

"This incredible group of women has been coming together regularly since COVID, providing a critical space for regional women to learn and connect.

Ms Cleeland touched on the importance of supporting and empowering women, especially in regional areas, where women's voices often go unheard.

"It's through these connections and conversations that we can truly make a difference. We are told we have more opportunities than ever - more access to education, careers, and leadership. However, when you scratch beneath the surface, the reality is far more complex. We are pulled in a hundred different directions, expected to excel in the workplace, raise children, maintain households, be good friends, daughters, and partners - all while looking effortlessly put together. A study last year from the Young Women's Alliance found that young women in Australia reported worse



**Back row (L-R) Pauline Wilson, Ann Stewart, Bernice Pardy, Honorah with her Mum Nicci McEvoy, Annabelle Cleeland. (Middle row) Cate Fraser, Pat Kennedy, Pam Nihill, Glen Avard, Maree Stewart. (Front row) Judith Ryan, Taylah Jamieson with grandmother, Rosie McIntosh, Cate Furphy.**

mental health and lower life satisfaction than young men.

"The study showed that women feel unheard in school, undervalued at work, and dismissed in healthcare settings." Ms Cleeland said.

"They feel pressure to be kind, accommodating, and agreeable - even when it means sacrificing their own needs.

"And in regional areas like ours, these struggles are even greater."

Ms Cleeland said these realities were what made it so important to advocate for women in her role as MP

"In my role as MP, I am committed to advocating for everything from safer maternity services to better childcare and stronger protections for women experiencing family violence," Ms Cleeland said.

"While I know change is possible, I also know it won't come easy."

## Colbo women walking for wellness



On a glorious chilly morning, a group of Colbo ladies attended a Mother's Day walk on the amazing Rushworth rail trail. Donations were collected for the Bendigo Health cancer wellness centre - a total of \$743.00 was raised, followed by cuppa and more chatting.

Thank-you to those who participated and to those who donated. It was a lovely thing to do.

**Pictured (L-R) Kathy Ryan, Louise Barlow, Jackie Brown, Pauline Wilson.**

**(Front) Sadie Vale, Anne McEvoy, Maree Stewart.**

# NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSHWORTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INC.

## Thanks to our volunteers

This edition of Waranga News highlights National Volunteer Week, 19th – 25th May, so I'd like to start by thanking all our wonderful volunteers at the Op Shop and Foodbank. They are a diverse group of people from the community who give some of their time towards keeping these two organisations flowing smoothly. Some have been with us since the beginning of our operations and some have joined more recently. Others have participated and then, for various reasons, have left. However, all are greatly appreciated.

Personally, I work on a Monday morning with Margaret, Claire, Mavis, and Wendy and Hugh in the Green Shed. I really look forward to Monday mornings and am always greeted with Monday morning hugs and a catch up of our news for the week. The music goes on, the sorting starts and the laughter and chatter begins. You can guarantee something daft will happen during the morning which keeps us chuckling, so please consider volunteering for a few hours a week. To encourage extra helpers, if you come into the Op Shop to volunteer during volunteer week, after you have worked two shifts you get to choose three clothing items free (excludes specially marked clothes).

Next I'd like to remind you that the Op Shop does have gift vouchers you can purchase for any amount. These vouchers can be used over a period of time until the designated amount is reached. My granddaughter loved her voucher and has had two successful forays into the shop and still has a little bit more money to spend. Although I do realise some people wouldn't be seen dead in an Op Shop, more fool them say I!



Did you know the Op Shop has greeting cards too?

Also don't forget our \$1 racks out the front of the shop, which are constantly being replenished.

**SPECIALS** 14th to 31st providing stocks last

\$5 a bag for ADULT and CHILDRENS clothes ( jackets and coats excluded or specially marked items)

\$2 for shoes

\$3 for boots

\$1 for 5 books

\$1 a CD disc

\$1 for DVD disc

If you have been reading about the Bike Clinic in the Waranga News and would like to take part the Op Shop has a number of bikes for sale, both adults and children. There is even a tricycle for a small adult/teenager. Prices will be marked on them individually but this could be an opportunity for the family to get on a bike and ride the new Bike Trail, especially in this beautiful autumn weather that we are continuing to have. I can't believe we are in the middle of May and I have only lit our fire twice.

One of our volunteers, Janice, has been in hospital recently and even had to spend her birthday there WITHOUT CAKE – a tragedy! We all send you our best wishes for a speedy recovery Janice.

Meanwhile, I wish you all a full belly and a happy smile until next time.

*Heather Wellington*

## Volunteers

Volunteers are such a treasure

We welcome them with lots of pleasure.

Communities would fall apart

If volunteers weren't at their heart.

Our S.E.S. and C.F.A.

Are there to help us every day.

Our sporting clubs which keep us fit

Have mums and dads who do their bit.

Community and service groups

Help our town grow deep roots.

Op Shop/Foodbank people strive

To help our small community thrive

With inexpensive clothing, shoes,

Linen, toys and crockery too.

The Foodbank then will have the means

To buy rice, jam, bread and beans.

It's good to help in any way

Please consider coming in today

To volunteer. It is great fun,

And grateful thanks you will have won.

*Heather*



Basic doll's house - just \$5 (excludes contents.)



Bikes for sale - sold 'as is' and should be thoroughly checked prior to use.



Classy shoes!



Classic tureen for hot winter soup.

## Opening times

### Rushworth Food Bank:

Mon, Wed and Fri  
10am-12pm

### Little Green Shed:

Mon and Fri  
9.30am - 2pm  
Sat 9.30am to 12pm

### #9 Op-Shop:

Mon, Wed and Fri - 9am - 2pm  
Sat 9am to 12pm



# Colbo Tit Bits

Proudly Sponsored by **REID Stockfeeds** | Trusted Performance

## The Suburban Footballer in Colbo drew the crowd

Thanks to the Campaspe Shire Council Flood Resilience Grant program, the Colbinabbin Football Netball Club was delighted to host a further community event on Thursday 1 May.

The northern lawn of the netball pavilion was transformed into a mini festival site complete with icecream van, kebab truck, BBQ and children's entertainment including a balloon twister and glitter tattoo artists. After the children had been catered for, comedian Tom Siegert, aka the Suburban Footballer arrived to present two hilarious acts of comedy. Tom commented that when he arrived there were more children present than at a Wiggles concert!

The Suburban Footballer portrayed a relatable football coach, told stories, mimicked the nuances and antics of a football/netball club and loved a good ol' nickname! Thanks again to the Shire of Campaspe Council for their support of such a wonderful event!



More kids than at a Wiggles concert!

### Ordination at St Peter's

Reverend Christine McWilliams' ordination to the priesthood will be on Saturday 24 May, at St Peter's Anglican Church, Elmore at 11am.

Everyone is welcome to attend, and to bring a friend!

(See church pages for further information)

ROUND 5	17 MAY
Colbinabbin v Elmore	
Mount Pleasant v North Bendigo	
Huntry v White Hills	
Heathcote v Leitch-Gun	
BYE - LBU	

ROUND 6	24 MAY
North Bendigo v Colbinabbin	
White Hills v Mount Pleasant	
Elmore v Heathcote	
Leitch-Gun v LBU (L)	
BYE - Huntry	

### Keep Colbo in the News

pass on any Tit Bits of news  
to Shell or Natalie  
or go straight to head office  
(Vicki) [wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)



There was a great roll-up for the Colbinabbin community event on Thursday 1 May at the Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve. More than 250 children and adults enjoyed the night. Thanks to the Shire of Campaspe for their support of the event.



### Cuppa for Cancer

Cornella Care will once again host a Cuppa for Cancer - on Thursday 22 May at John and Glen Avard's, 62 Mitchell Street, Colbinabbin. Come join us for morning tea around the open fire - 10am to noon . . . such a pleasant way to spend a couple of hours having a chat while raising money for cancer research.



### Colbo Diary

Coffee and Cake - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 10.15am @CCH  
Colbo Community Shed - Thursdays BYO BBQ lunch  
Colbo Pub Choir - 5pm Tuesdays at CCH  
New Parents' Group - 9am 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays @ CCH

### MAY

Sat 17 CFNC Family Night  
Thurs 22 Cuppa for Cancer 10am @ Avards  
Sat 24 Ordination @ St Peter's, Elmore  
Sat 24 CFNC Annual Ball

### FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

May 18 Chris Ryan, Steve Tuohey  
May 25 Bill Johnson, Gerard Stewart  
*If unable to attend 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.

**Cemetery Trust**  
**Mowing Roster** (lawn section only)  
May - Emily McFadzean  
June - Carmel Turner



## Rushworth COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

67 High Street Rushworth 3612

**Phone (03) 5856 1295**

Email:

[admin@rushcomhouse.org.au](mailto:admin@rushcomhouse.org.au)

Website:

[www.rushcomhouse.org.au](http://www.rushcomhouse.org.au)

Facebook:

**Rushworth Community-House**

Office Hours:

**Mon, Tues Thurs : 9.00am to 3.00pm**

**Wed, Fri : 9.00am to 1.00pm**

**Your local access point for Medicare, Centrelink and other Australian Government services.**

## Thanks to our nurses



Last Monday was International Nurses Day, a time for people across the world to acknowledge the wonderful work done by these dedicated, specialist personnel.

Rushworth Community House regularly partners with Goulburn Valley Health's Waranga Campus, and is pleased to acknowledge the excellent service provided by their nursing staff to us and to the wider community. Thank you one and all.

## Hone your photographic knowledge and skills

Community House President Cass Alexander is a highly experienced photographer who is equally at home using dedicated professional cameras or the amazing cameras embedded in modern mobile phones.

Several people have asked if Cass could run a photography course to help people get the most out of their mobile devices and a range of course formats is being explored.

If you'd like to participate in a future photography course - one that may also include both mobile phone cameras and conventional cameras - please call the House on 58561295 and register your interest.

## Recycling makes even greater cents

Rushworth's Container Deposit Scheme has been outstandingly successful since it started last year, with tens of thousands of containers being returned to the Horne Street Community Hub for recycling.

Readers will probably be aware that people returning containers for recycling earn ten cents per eligible bottle or can. Ten cents may not sound like much, but it soon adds up!

Now, there's an even greater incentive to jump on the container recycling bandwagon and earn even more cash.

Until 15 June, anyone who deposits fifty or more eligible containers at the Community Hub can participate in a statewide competition that is offering five prizes of one million cents (that's ten thousand dollars in plain language).

To enter, just return 50 or more eligible drink containers in one transaction at the Community Hub. Retain your receipt and go online to [winamillioncents.com.au](http://winamillioncents.com.au).

Complete the online form, upload a photo or screenshot of your proof of return and accept the competition Terms & Conditions.

It's as easy as 48, 49, 50, so good luck!



## 2025 Neighbourhood House Week



This week is Neighbourhood House Week, held each year to celebrate the activities of more than a thousand Neighbourhood and Community Houses across Australia.

Rushworth Community House began the week with a scrumptious morning tea for some of the residents and staff from Goulburn Valley Health's Waranga Campus.

Some famous Rushworth faces were among the visitors to the Community House, including Marj Morgan, who was the House's very first Coordinator back in the 1980s.

On Friday, 16 May, weaver-par-excellence Tony Ford will be conducting a basket weaving session at the House, starting at 10.00am. The free session is "back by popular demand", having wowed its participants at a session last year.

If you would like to attend the session with Tony, please call the House on 5856 1295.

## Local Centrelink and Medicare facilities

Some readers may not be aware that it is possible to access some Australian Government services locally, avoiding the need to travel to a major regional population centre.

For many years, Rushworth Community House has included a dedicated federal government Access Point immediately adjacent to the House's Reception Desk.

The Access Point includes computer equipment, multiple screens, telephones and a fax machine. There is also an extensive range of pamphlets and other printed guides.

The facility allows people having business with Centrelink, Medicare or the Australian Taxation Office to interact with Australian specialist operators and websites.

There is no charge for using the Access Point, which is available whenever the Community House is open for business.

All Access Point transactions are private.

# Arts & Tourism

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

This page is proudly sponsored by:



## Connected through Creativity and Kindness exhibition

A community art exhibition brought together by Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project is being held at the Milestone Cafe at Emerald Bank, Shepparton, this year. Each year as part of Shepparton Festival, Lighthouse supports student groups, parents & carers and community members to participate in artist-led art workshops. The exhibition can be seen until 30 May 10-3.00 daily.

“The theme ‘Connected through Creativity and Kindness’ grew from our reflections on the wonderful connections formed between people who participate in and have contributed to our annual community art exhibition.” Lighthouse manager of early years and primary team Sarah Pain said.

“This year’s exhibition also aligns with our ‘Be Kind’ campaign, reminding us that even the smallest act of kindness can have a big impact.” Sarah said.

“At Lighthouse we’re deeply committed to creating opportunities for our community to share their stories, especially the voices of children and young people through their creativity.”

“The community hubs played a vital role by offering safe, inclusive spaces where people could come together to paint, talk and connect. Each of their artworks reflects the unique identity of their hub and the contributions of the communities they support.” Sarah said.

Artists worked with students from seven schools throughout Greater Shepparton, with hubs at various locations.

### Participating artists

Lisa Lynch-Johnston is a proud Yorta Yorta woman, born and raised in Shepparton. Lisa is passionate about her land, culture and the beautiful people in the community. Lisa shares this passion through creating art and sharing her culture at Gowrie St Primary.

Melinda Solomon is an Aboriginal woman of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji and Girramay people's of Far North Queensland.

Melinda is inspired and influenced by family stories, the Australian landscapes of rainforests and river and native animals.

Joan Erikson is a lover of books and is a librarian at Greater Shepparton Secondary College. Her spare time is all about her family and her art.

## ‘Wrapped For Winter’ Exhibition returns in 2025

Once again Campaspe Libraries invites community members to enter their handiwork into the annual ‘Wrapped for Winter’ community exhibition.

The exhibition to be held from June to July across all libraries, will feature handmade shawls and scarves - wearable items to wrap around for winter warmth - using yarn or textiles that can be crocheted, knitted, sewn or embellished or using any other crafty technique.

Campaspe Shire Mayor Daniel Mackrell said it was a fantastic opportunity for talented Campaspe residents to showcase their craft.

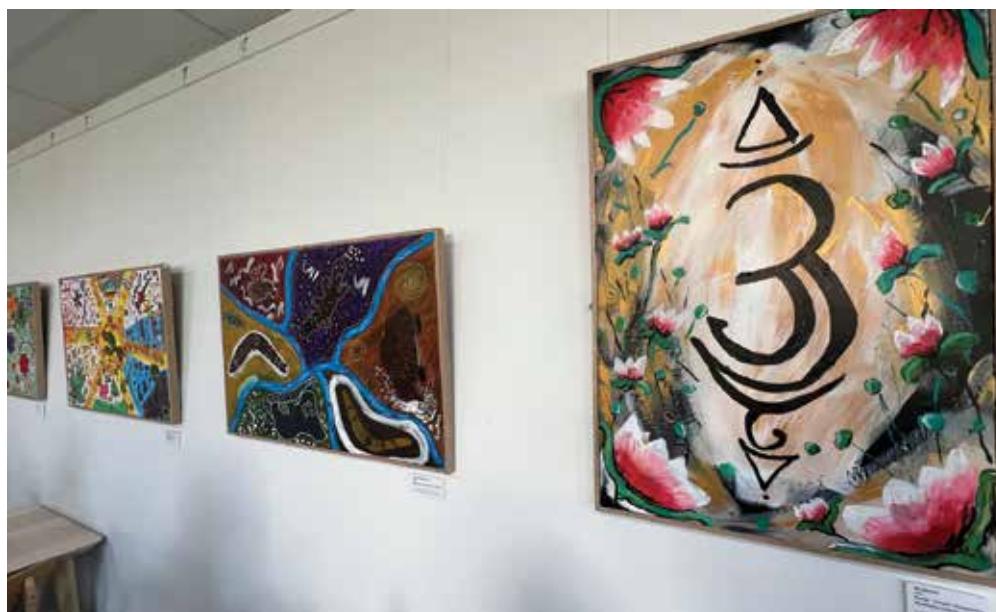
“There have been some truly amazing and intricate pieces submitted over the past two years since this exhibition began so we are really excited to see what local craftspeople produce this year.

“This year the exhibition will also include ‘novelty knits’ and ‘creative crochet’ items which will add a bit of fun into the display,” he added.



*Buzz by Greater Shep. Secondary College students*

(Below) Examples of the many artworks to be seen at the Milestone Cafe during May.



Entry is free and open now until Monday, 26 May. Submissions can be delivered to your closest Campaspe library branch or depot. The exhibition will be open to the public at the various library locations during June and July.

Exhibition visitors will be invited to vote for People’s Choice awards. The lucky creator of the most popular item will receive a gift voucher to spend on more yarn and accessories.

Once the exhibition is closed, entrants will have the option to donate their submission to the Echuca Moama Community Project’s ‘Coat and Blanket Drive’.

“It is heartwarming to see the impact that passion and community spirit can have and is a wonderful chance to assist those in need while engaging in activities you enjoy,” said Cr Mackrell.”

Contact Campaspe Libraries on 03 5481 2400 or visit <https://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/library>.

## Kyabram Town Hall Gallery Exhibitions

### WHAT'S ON IN MAY

- MICHAEL HAMMER Art Quilts
- LIZ JAWORSKI - Artist's Journey
- GLENDA CORNELL - Decades of a Wet Palette
- VOICE OF THE PEOPLE Historic Exhibition
- BREAKING THE SURFACE- Splinter Contemporary artists.  
Open 10-4 daily except Sunday  
5852 1546 or 0490 371 641  
[www.kyabramtownhall.com.au](http://www.kyabramtownhall.com.au)



## Moroccan spiced lamb

for your slow cooker

### Ingredients

1 brown onion, chopped  
2 garlic cloves finely diced  
500gm lamb (mince or chops)  
1 tspn cumin powder  
1tspn coriander powder  
1tspn ground cloves  
1 cinnamon stick.  
1 x 400grm tin diced tomatoes, plus a can of water.  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
200 gm assorted vegetables (your faves)

### Method

I used lamb chops in this recipe so will give instructions for chops only.

Put flour and powdered spices in a plastic bag - shake to mix. Then pop in the chops and shake to coat the meat in spice mixture.

In a heavy base frypan heat enough olive oil and fry the chops until browned about 5-8 minutes. Place in slow cooker. Add onions and garlic to the pan cook until just wilting, add to pan along with the cinnamon stick. Add the chopped vegetables plus the tin tomatoes plus one can of water.

Set the cooker on high and cook for two hours, check, then lower heat and cook extra hour or until tender.

Serve with fluffy rice, couscous or quinoa and warm flat bread. Top with a dollop of yoghurt and chopped mint.

If using lamb mince this would suit making meatballs, mix the spices into the mince and cook in the slow cooker but adjusting the time.

Bon appetit

Pauline



## Handy Hints

- from Lyn Rumble

*Hi there,*

*Repurposing or re-using everyday items - or quick and easy solutions to general household issues that maybe you hadn't thought of is what I like to do. This issue is mostly saving sometime in the kitchen - or getting a better result! Hope these hints come in handy for you in your everyday quest to save money, repurpose things or perhaps just think outside the box a bit!*

\* **Is there any chance of leftover beer after a drinking session?** Well just in case there is - flat beer makes terrific conditioner for your hair. Just wash and rinse hair as normal, then pour the flat beer over your hair, leave for a few minutes then rinse out.

\* **Do you still have laces in your shoes - and are they always coming undone?** Here is a trick I saw on one of the media sites - when you do the first loop of tying your laces together, instead of a single wrap around - do a double one, and then do the finishing knot. I have been doing mine for more than a week and it works perfectly - no loose laces!

\* **Did you know eggs are good for your dog - in moderation?** 1 egg - medium sized dog. Dog smaller than that maybe 1/4 or 1/2 per day, but please check with your vet for your dog's requirements. I have found a real timesaver for me and my dog, I'll make up a small batch of scrambled eggs - say two eggs, and I'll have my scrambled eggs on toast for breakfast, and my dog can have the balance with her dry food. Good protein for her and for me!

\* **Tubes of toiletries are convenient - but there is always stuff inside I cannot get at when getting near the end!** - Answer is to cut off the bottom end of the tube, and use the remainder ingredients! Sometimes it can amount to quite a bit if the design of the tube is complex! If there are several uses left, seal off the bottom again with masking tape or a couple of bulldog clips until completely used up!

\* **Cleaning the bath can be a chore if bath is a low-lying one (hip bath I think they are called)** - Solution is to leave a little water in the bath after using, then sprinkle cleaner in it, gently scrub the sides and bottom of bath walls with a fairly clean soft broom. Rinse and let dry - both the bath and the broom, and you have saved your back in the process!

## Garden Hints & Tips

### Gardening needn't be back breaking!

Do you want a raised garden bed for veggies and plants but don't have the time to build or the money to buy one? I have bought some black Geofelt planters and I love them! These bags are 55cm wide and 40cm tall. You can even grow root crops, like carrots in them. I am actually growing a feijoa tree in one.

They are super tough, UV stable with UV stable double stitching. The felt, although really thick allows excess water to pass through and there isn't any soil spillage because there are no drainage holes. They can be used for many years, even in full sun and the snails and slugs don't like the fabric, which is an added bonus.

The bag takes 100 litres of potting mix and I advise that you use a really good quality mix as you can use it for several crops.

Just give the normal feeding during the growing season. The manufacturer emphasises that you do not use garden soil as this is too heavy.

The bags have two strong handles which make them portable by two people (although I still found them a little heavy but have a strong hubby to assist me!) You can always use a trolley. You can move them into the shade in summer if too hot or follow the sun in cooler months.

These planters are deep and require a good watering at planting time. They can be placed on many surfaces, such as grass, pavers and mulch. A bit of protection, such as a circle of black plastic is strongly advised if bags are on your timber deck. I have found these bags such a bonus in areas of really bad soil which is hard to dig and invaded by tree surface roots here in Rushy. Several brands of bags are available but I have bought mine



from Aussie Gardener online.

I hope that you and your loved ones had a lovely Mother's Day. Did you consider gardening apparel, tools or supplies as a gift for the keen gardener in your life? My friends and family know me well, and I was delighted to receive for my birthday and following Mother's Day some excellent gardening gloves, knee pads and secateurs. The 'piece de resistance' was a magnificent 'dream hose' from Aussie Gardener online.

The blurb says that this hose is "built with hybrid polymer technology to be tough and durable, UV stable for Aussie conditions". But the magic words are "It doesn't kink, and fittings stay put!" Music to my ears and yes, it is true. I can drag my 30 metre hose around the garden without stop/starting for kinks.

Perhaps not the most romantic present from Hubbie but wow, exactly what I wanted! (the ten years warranty is a bonus too! - for the hose, not the Hubbie).

Baby Boomer Bloomer

# Health and Wellbeing

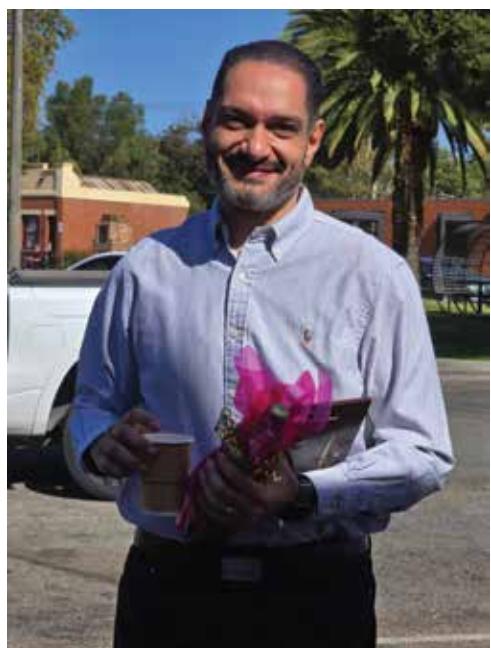
## Gratitude overflows at heartfelt celebration

The Waranga Medical Centre has celebrated the wonderful milestone of ten years of unwavering service by Dr. Joe Swiss to the community of Rushworth.

The celebration on 24 April was a joyous celebration, with Dr Joe joined by his family, his patients, Waranga Medical Centre staff, Matt, Donna and Trish from Goulburn Valley Health and Waranga Health.

To commemorate the occasion Dr. Joe was presented with a plaque and gift while everyone enjoyed a delicious BBQ lunch followed by cupcakes.

Speeches by Dee Walker, Practice Manager Waranga Medical Centre, and Matt Sharp, CEO of Goulburn Valley Health, congratulating Dr. Joe on his achievement and thanking him for his dedication and loyalty to his patients, the practice, hospital and community.



Dr Joe Swiss spoke of how he really enjoys our community and is excited for the future with many more years to come.



CEO of Goulburn Valley Health Matt Sharp congratulates Dr Swiss.

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211 Nine Mile Road (PO Box 240), Rushworth Victoria 3612

**ABN: 56 112 042 138**

**Mob: 0400 920 850**

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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.**

## Beware before burning off

It's time to don my beanie on these crisp mornings! The bushland is so busy. It's as though everyone is foraging and feeding as much as they can to get through the impeding winter. It's very dry for this time of year and the landscape could do with a decent drink. The moonlit nights have seen us busy with kangaroos, possums and tawny frogmouths hit on roads. We have also attended a few more entanglement cases. A grey-headed flying fox caught in barbed wire at Hunters Rural and Hardware in Shepparton and a poor little corella who was well and truly bound tight to a branch, high up in a tree overhanging the creek in Cohuna. Both critters were lucky to survive their injuries and are recovering at Bohollow. It's the time of year that many people are burning off. Not just stubble paddocks but many people burn those piles of branches, etc that they've been waiting for the cooler weather to provide a safe burning time. If you are doing any work or cleaning up around the place, please be vigilant for any wildlife who may have taken up residence in a pile intended for burning. The cooler weather means that reptiles in particular are seeking refuge spots to stay safe and protected from the cold and predators while they ride out the periods of which they are in winter torpor. Microbats, lizards, snakes, antechinus and other critters can all use these burn piles to set up home in and each year many critters are burnt when they are set alight. The safest way to burn a pile which has been sitting there for awhile is to pull it apart bit by bit and burn in a new pile off to

the side. This way, you ensure critters have more possibility of being found or moving on themselves before their home is suddenly an inferno. I had a call yesterday for a wombat who had decided to build its den underneath a large burn pile. The advice we gave was that mentioned above. Break the pile up and burn to the side. This gives the wombat the choice to decide to move on and dig another den elsewhere if the disturbance is too much..... or it may even stay, but the end result is that the wombat won't risk getting burnt or injured in the process. We cannot move a healthy wombat to another area as that could also be a death sentence due to wombats being territorial. There are always ways we can do things with less or minimal impact on our wildlife and surrounding environment. If you have some areas in your garden where you can place some logs or landscape rocks, these are great habitat additions for your garden to give reptiles, frogs, insects and other critters a safe place to over winter. Think about the plants in your garden. It's a great idea to plant indigenous species such as acacia (wattle) which flower in the colder months and provide much needed energy for species such as our gliders and possums. Plants like these are a bonus for us also as a bit of winter colour cheers us all. One last thing, keep an eye out for our slithering friends. This time of years snakes are no exception to our other reptiles and are now choosing their winter abodes. These can be a hole in the ground, under timber or under a dwelling slab or building. During the cold weather our snakes,

like all of our reptiles, will still venture out to soak up some sun and even feed on a warmer day right in the middle of winter. As they are much colder and slower due to the temperature drop, they tend to not roam far from their chosen place of shelter. They may be a lot more slower to move out of your way. If you spot a snake in your yard or around your home at this time of year, it means its winter home is in the very close vicinity. If you wish for it to be removed, please call us and we can get a snake catcher out there. Let's all cross our fingers for rain while we enjoy this fresh autumn weather.



### And finally

Thank you to all of the wonderful people who attended the GM Landcare and GV Tree Group event in Tatura. It was a pleasure to speak with so many enthusiast people who have genuine interest in our wildlife and native plants. It was a great day for all involved.

## Landcare 'Backyard Biodiversity Day' at GV Tree Group's Native Nursery

Animals, insects and plants all play an important role in our lives and some of these were represented at Goulburn Valley Tree Group's Native Nursery on Saturday morning 3 May .

The crowd was astounded by Clancy Lester, the native bee man who gave a very informative presentation on the important part these little bees play in our gardens, paddocks and bushland. Clancy is a passionate young man with endless enthusiasm to educate us.

Kirsty Ramadan from Bohollow Wildlife Rescue discussed the importance of retaining and replanting our spaces with native vegetation to improve biodiversity for the survival of our declining numbers of precious native animals. Even a simple ground level water feature with a branch entry will help our wildlife in dry times.

She showed us a range of pythons, lizards and a very cute betong.



Clancy Lester talked about native bees.

John Laing showed us his spiders, stick insects and many other creatures that rely on a range of native habitat for their survival.

Kylie Hoskin from COGS discussed the importance of retaining and planting our own indigenous species in our environment as these plants are the best providers of food and homes for our birds and other creatures. Our own local species are adapted to cope with our soils and weather as they are the original plants growing here before white settlement.

Many browsed, purchased plants, learnt from our visiting experts and enjoyed free morning tea as well as a sausage sizzle on a glorious sunny morning.

Don't miss our very popular Backyard Biodiversity Day next year.

Remember we are currently open for native plant sales every Saturday and Tuesday mornings at 6 Kerferd Street Tatura.

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

## ON THE BRINK by Neil Lawrie

Looking at endangered or extinct flora and fauna.

### Tenuous lives

This morning, I was sitting having my morning cuppa on the veranda when a butcher bird landed in a nearby tree. I knew there were butcher birds about - I had been hearing their powerful calls and the small wrens and silvereyes that frequent my garden had made themselves scarce. I found myself musing on how tenuous survival is for wildlife. Life is usually hard and a constant battle and only the strongest survive (until they get older).

Butcher birds need to eat several times a day. Mostly they eat insects but they also prey on small birds and reptiles. For predators, life is a constant hunt for prey and starvation is only one too many failed hunts away. If you are a small predator you may in turn be prey for something bigger. Herbivores do not fare much better. They often need to eat large amounts of grass or leaves to get sufficient nutrients to survive. At certain times of the year or during droughts this can become very difficult. Most herbivores are prey for predators. They must constantly be on guard and ready to flee at all times. The weak, the injured and the old are quickly picked-off.

Most species need a territory to support them. In Nature there are no vacant niches; all territories are taken. Animals need to fight to gain and keep a territory. The losers in these battles have little chance of survival. Territories must also provide shelter. With relatively few mature trees with hollows in our local forest, wildlife boxes are very important. Live trapping problem wildlife such as brushtail possums and releasing them in another area often results in unseen failure. Inevitably a possum is released into another possum's territory and one of them will lose the territorial

battle.

While simply staying alive is a struggle, breeding makes it much harder. Nesting sites and hollows may need to be fought for. In some species the males must fight for the right to mate with the females. It is particularly hard for male kangaroos. The young males are ejected from the mob to fend for themselves. They tend to group together in small 'boy mobs'. Often young males stray far from the bush and end up being hit by cars in open country. If they survive to adulthood, and if they grow to be big and strong, they can challenge a resident male for his mob of females. Deposed male kangaroos are solitary, big, strong, full of testosterone and very unhappy. They can be quite dangerous and without a territory, they too can stray into open country.

Pregnancy or laying eggs are big investments of nutrients for wildlife struggling to survive, as are the milk or prey required to feed ravenous young. One way or another reproduction is a huge investment in nutrients for most wildlife.

This struggle for existence has always existed and has been a major driver of evolution. It really is the survival of the fittest. The most vulnerable die off, either as individuals or as whole species. What is staggering is that between 1970 and 2020 wildlife populations have dropped by 73% and the number of species that are critically endangered or have become extinct has increased rapidly. When you add habitat loss and degradation, over exploitation, introduced species, and climate change to the tenuous lives of wildlife it is no wonder many species are being pushed to the brink.



## Birds of a Feather

The recent influx of pied currawongs in Rushworth is a harbinger that winter is coming. Locally there are two species of currawong but it is the pied which occurs in larger numbers and is seen and heard around town. This species is a bird of higher elevations where it breeds in the summer but with cold weather coming many of them leave the hills and spend the winter lower down, particularly in towns. In Rushworth they usually arrive in April and leave in September with larger numbers in mid-winter. They are a little bigger than a magpie, quite noisy, particularly in the morning and often range in groups. Pied currawongs have adapted well to human habitation and increased in numbers - but are they really welcome?

Being omnivorous the pied currawong feeds on a wide range of animals and plants. Feeding mostly in trees it eats insects, small vertebrates, lizards, rodents, frogs, berries and fruit and so has a wide range of diet. However they also eat other birds' eggs and nestlings and will attack and eat other birds, sometimes quite large ones such as pigeons. Where they are more common and occur all year round they have been implicated in the decline of some species such as the yellow robin. As the pied currawong has become more adapted to settlements they have now become year round residents in cities and many of the larger towns. Fortunately they are only in Rushworth and other local towns for the winter months and so probably are not a major concern to local wildlife.

The other local currawong is the slightly larger grey currawong. It is rarely seen in Rushworth and lives in the surrounding bush. They are resident all year round but are much fewer in number so not often seen. Unlike its pied relative it will often feed on the ground but also has a varied omnivorous diet. They have declined in number and while not threatened they have not adapted to town living.

Both species of currawong have yellow eyes, large beaks, and although they don't swoop on people like magpies they do look aggressive. Each has a distinctive call, the grey with a "clink clink" heard in the bush, while the pied's call has been described as loud and rollicking, and is the sound of winter in Rushworth.

*The Rushy Birder*



Grey currawong



Pied currawong

# Fifty years ago in our district....

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



## Eagles and electric car make news in May 1975!

The debate about eagles attacking ewes and their lambs was heating up, farmers pointing to recent serious loss of stock, and Phil Dalziel of the Forests Commission explaining that dry forest conditions and few rabbits had created unfortunate eagle activity on farmland.

Editor Peter Davidson wrote "Residents of the Rushworth district will be able to see an amazing little car which is noiseless, pollution free and uses no petrol! It is one of five Enfield 8000 two-passenger cars brought to Australia by Chloride Batteries Australia Limited..... The little car costs less than one cent a mile to run." (A battery-powered car, fifty years ago! Who would have guessed that in a quiz question today?)

## Shire of Waranga

The new Senior Citizens Club building was well under construction, shown in a grainy photo. A full-time manager was sought to prepare meals-on-wheels from the clubrooms. A paid driver was also to deliver the meals.

The Council supported a request by Stanhope's Ibis Milk Products to defer payment of Shire rates. Also endorsed was a proposal to create a large regional saleyard serving the Shires of Goulburn and Waranga at Murchison East.

## Crime

Sergeant Geoff Durston from Rushworth and Senior Constable Kevin Foley of Murchison joined the chase for a car and trailer following a burglary in Numurkah. During the hunt the car was found to have crashed into the bridge over the Cattanach canal south of Murchison, submerging the trailer. The driver was placed under police guard at Mooroopna Hospital.

## Schools

May school holidays brought a lull in reports. Mrs Mary Beck had provided dancing lessons for students of grades 5 and 6 at Rushworth Primary, as an end-of-term evening treat, ahead of supper provided by the Mothers' Club.

From grades 2 and 3 came news that "Anthony split his head on the railway line", while grades prep and 1 had a cuckoo clock, with the cuckoo appearing every half hour. (Just thought you might like to know.)

## Community

Max Richards of the Apex Club presented a cheque for \$300 for Guide and Scout activity, received by leaders Heather Hawking and Keith Taylor in their uniforms.

Alma Jackson thanked people who had

assisted after the home she shared with her sons had been destroyed by fire.

## Business

Colour television was new. Criterion Hotel installed a 17-inch model but licensee Arthur Harradence quickly ordered a 21-inch replacement. Jack Hartney at the Bottom Pub had already fitted his 21-inch giant television in the bar. (Yes, about half as big again as your laptop screen!)

Arthur donated his old black and white TV to the Football Club to watch World of Sport on Channel Seven over the Sunday lunch period, while washing the dust off the back of throats.

## Personal

Robert Betson married Kaye Francis ahead of informal celebrations in the Shire Hall. Both had been raised and educated at Rushworth, Robbie a player and coach of the local football team.

Mrs Dora Nolan, formerly joint licensee with late husband Syd of Murchison's Caledonia Hotel, died. Their children had included Marj (Mrs Sweet of Shepparton), Lorna (Mrs Gosling, St. Kilda) and Sydney Nolan, the famous artist.

## Football and netball

John Orr starred at centre half-back as Murchison 21-9 easily beat Girgarre 14-8. Captain-coach Sloper kicked six goals. Girgarre supporters were accused of knocking the ball out of the umpire's hands after the game. Eddie Lee was best for Murch Seconds in a 12-7 to 3-1 victory, but the Thirds only managed one goal. The Girgarre lads were too big.

The following week Murchison kicked 17-19, belting Ardmona 8-7, as young Ron Burls kicked three goals.

Rushworth's 19-19 was too much for Mt Pleasant's 10-16. Best for the Tigers were Alan McLean (the other one), David Perry, Noel Lloyd, Alec Horne (only four goals and just one spectacular mark), Trevor Hawking, Maurice Clarke and David Roberts. For Mounts, Barney Tuohey, Mickey Gee, T. Frawley, C. White and D. Shawyer.

Rushworth Seconds 10-13 beat Mounts 5-3, with Neville Clarke, Chip Hageman (3 goals), Charlie Potter, Barry Thompson and Geoff Hawking named best. Mentioned for Mounts were J. and B. Nihill, J. Tuohey, L. Kennedy, G. Mulcair and B. Griffen.

A tomato-picking day on Mick Barlow's property raised \$66 for the football club after six bins were filled. Only six men showed up, and Ray Hilder was the leading picker.

"Colbinabbin and Elmore staged a very dull and crowded game at Colbo on Saturday. The first half was a combination of dropped

marks, and bad kicking." Things must have improved for Colbo to finish on 20-11 and Elmore 12-8. Kicking goals were Pinniger, McCubbery, Rodda, Brown, McCormick, Alan Hammond, Brian Ellis, Brendan Tuohey and Ken Wilson. Newly-wed Ian Micheal got three for the Bloods.

Some editions had netball scores, but no details. Colbinabbin A and B-grades had wins over Elmore. Then Colbo 30 goals beat Heathcote 22 in A-grade, while Mounts threw 42 against Rushworth's 22.

## Other sport

Pennant golf was in full swing (Ho! Ho!), with David Heily, Mal McLeod, Peter Meagher, Les Muir and Wes Risstrom selected to play Kialla. Reg and Amy McIntosh won on a countback from Sam and Jean Jessup, in an event called a Mixed Canadian, which sounds confusing. Reg, who started golf at Rushworth in 1954, and with a handicap of 15 in 1975, scored his first hole-in-one after 21 years. This was on the fifth hole.

Mal McLeod could play a bit of golf. He won an A-Grade event 6 up, Aub Geisler taking B-Grade 9 up and C-grade going to Ross Coyle on 3-up, on a countback from Ivan Jell and Bill Barlow.

Recruiting new members for the Homing Pigeon Club were Arthur Barber (president), Aub Geisler (vice-president) and H. Fleming of Harston (secretary).

Auto Club elected Arthur Garvey as President, with Senior V-P George Colliver. Junior V-P was P. Linke, secretary Ray Lloyd, treasurer Peter Draper and the track committee was George Colliver, George Jones and John McGillivray.

## Rushing to Whroo,

1853 to 1880



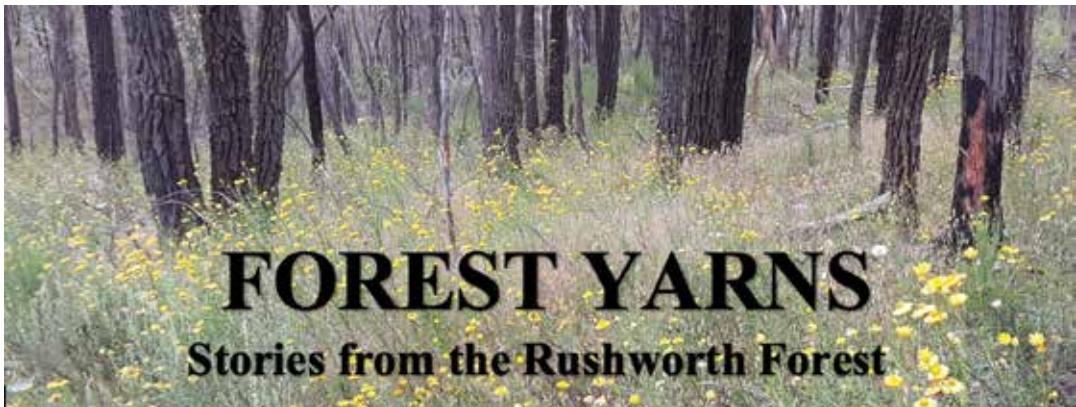
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## Henry Campbell's firewood mill

Henry Campbell was one of the first sawmillers to set up a firewood mill at the Rushworth station. He paid rates on the site from 1892 to 1902,<sup>1</sup> when he sold the mill and moved to Wangaratta with his wife.

Apparently unrelated to other Campbells who came to the Waranga area, Henry was born in Sydney in 1850. His father Archibald had come out to Australia from Scotland as a 21-year-old in 1830. On Christmas Eve in 1849, Archie married Martha Healy, an Englishwoman from Middlesex. Henry was the first of their ten children born between 1850 and 1877. By the time Henry came to live in Rushworth in the early 1890s, the Campbell family was well established in the Axedale area.

It appears that he was the only one of the family who came to Rushworth. At the time of his arrival, Henry was a bachelor in his early 40s, but married Matilda Smith soon afterwards. They did not have any children.

### Mill at the station

When Henry set up his mill at the Rushworth station, there was no separate siding available for mill owners. That improvement was not made until 1899. The exact location of the Campbell mill on the Victorian Railways property is not known.

Like the other millers mentioned in the previous story, Henry would have employed men out in the forest cutting timber into billets. The billets were cut and split, often into seven-foot (2.4m) lengths so that they were more manageable. Other workers would transport the billets to the station by means of a single horse and dray, horse teams with wagons or steam traction engines and wagons. Finally, there was a team working at the mill itself cutting the billets into the desired size. For household firewood, this was generally one-foot lengths; various industries required other lengths e.g. bakers' ovens often used two feet and four inch firewood (0.7m).<sup>2</sup>

### Sale of mill

For reasons unknown, Henry decided to sell the wood mill in 1902, after over 10 years of operation. Perhaps he had made enough money to move on to another business venture of his choice – a pub. Fortunately for posterity, he advertised the sale of his mill in the Melbourne papers. In so doing, he outlined the sort of equipment needed to run a firewood milling operation of the type run at the Rushworth station, viz. - "FOR SALE BY TENDER – A FIREWOOD MILL, situate (sic) in the Rushworth railway yard,

in the centre of a good grey box district. The plant consists of 1 (one) 7-horsepower engine, by Hornsby and Co., 2 circular saws, 1 gulleting machine, 1 vice, 1 200-gallon iron tank. Water laid on. The whole in good working order, doing 70 (railway) trucks per month. Tenders to be sent in to the undersigned by Friday 29th August. For further particulars apply HENRY CAMPBELL, Rushworth."<sup>3</sup>

The nature of most of the equipment is obvious, except perhaps for the gulleting machine. The gullet is "the space in front of each tooth that moves the sawdust away from the blade, is not just a random size cut-out in the saw. While the distance between the top of the tooth to the bottom (lowest point of gullet) is the gullet depth, the area of space in the gullet will determine how much sawdust or chip load the gullet can handle."<sup>4</sup>

The Hornsby engine was steam-powered as electricity did not come to the town until 1914. Hornsby engines were made by an innovative engineering company in Lincolnshire, England.

### After Rushworth

When Henry and Matilda left Rushworth, they moved up to Wangaratta where they were hotelkeepers at the Sydney Hotel until his death in 1913, aged 63. The death notice placed in *The Argus* noted that he was "late of Rushworth and Bendigo," i.e. he had lived in both places prior to his death. Siblings mentioned on the notice were brothers George, James, Archie, Charles, William and Robert, and sisters "Mesdames Whittaker, Powell and Rosewarne."<sup>5</sup> At the time, Henry was described as "an enthusiastic Caledonian" (Scotsman).<sup>6</sup> He had been a member of the local Caledonian Society. His estate, which was left to Matilda, was valued at over 7000 pounds, including the hotel buildings valued at 5000 pounds.<sup>7</sup> In today's dollars, he was a millionaire. Matilda married again the following year.

References: 1 Cerchi, Samantha, summary of *Waranga Rate Books 1891-1904*; 2 Spiby, Tracey, report prep for government inquiry into box-ironbark forests; 3 *The Age* 26.8.1902; 4 [woodbusiness.ca/saw-filing-101](http://woodbusiness.ca/saw-filing-101); 5 *The Argus* 30.7.1913; 6 *The North Eastern Ensign* 8.8.1913; 7 *The North Eastern Despatch* 27.9.13

### Forest Nature Note

You may have noticed that Pied (black and white) Currawongs are back in the district, after spending summer up in the Victorian high country. They often appear in large numbers and their calls are quite distinctive. The lesser known Grey Currawongs are in the bush all year round, but unlike their cousins, they usually only appear singly or in pairs.

## A Name from the Past

### *Mystery death of Joachim Wendel of Cornella*

Among the early selectors of land near Colbinabbin and Cornella was one of the German families, the Wendels. The life of Joachim Wendel ended dramatically in the early hours one October morning, almost 153 years ago. The Waranga Chronicle of 31 October, 1872, told part of the story.

"On Tuesday last, an inquest was held by the deputy coroner on the body of Joachim Wendel, who was found drowned on that morning in a dam on his own property, at Cornella.

Mrs Wendel, the wife of the deceased, stated that on Monday night she gave her husband, who suffered from dyspepsia, some medicine, and about twelve p.m. she gave him some brandy, after which he said he felt better, and told her to go to bed, which she did in an adjoining room. About two o'clock a.m., she saw someone pass through the room in which she was resting, and go out into the garden; she then got up and looked into her husband's room, but could not see him; she then went outside and called, but not receiving any answer she then made a search for him.

George Wendel, son of the deceased, said he was called about three o'clock to look for his father; he searched for him amongst the crop, and not being able to find him, got a rake and dragged the dam, when they found the body, but life was extinct.

The deceased was a native of Germany, and 71 years of age.

A verdict was returned that deceased was found drowned in the dam on his own farm."

What prompted George to examine the dam with a rake? Might Joachim have slipped in, without swimming skills? Did he have more serious health issues than just heartburn? Did he commit suicide? The report suggests the deputy coroner may not have offered a view.

The deputy coroner was certainly quick to hold the same-day hearing, and this was common at that time. Burial needed to be finalised smartly, for obvious reasons. Joachim Wendel was buried in the Colbinabbin cemetery.

*Alan McLean*

*Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our schools Around our*

# Melbourne Museum comes to Kinder

On Wednesday the 30 April, the Melbourne Museum paid a visit to the children at the Rushworth Kindergarten and bought along their dinosaur show, including fossils and dinosaur bones.

During the show Madeline from the Museum taught the children about herbivores and carnivores and how to recognise which dinosaurs ate plants and which dinosaurs ate meat. She also explained to the children how dinosaurs became fossils and how the fossils were later discovered.

Following the education discussions the children got to become paleontologists and explore the bones and fossils that she had bought along. She had bought along the skull and some leg bones of a Muttaburrasaurus, a dinosaur that was from Queensland.

The children really enjoyed exploring the bones and discovering that a muttaburrasaurus would not fit in our kinder. The children thought that the skull was really interesting especially the size of its nostrils, which the children thought was a great size for picking; they could dig their whole hand in. The children also thought the Copralite was very cool to play with until they found out that Copralite is actually fossilised dinosaur poo.

The children also discovered that it took three children to be the same size as the dinosaur's leg.



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Hudson Marsland checking out the dinosaur bones



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# Decision time for Rushy Kinder and Childcare Centre

Rushworth Kindergarten and Childcare Centre has been an important part of the local landscape for several decades and occupies a key role in the daily lives of many families that live in and around the town.

Most kindergartens in Victoria began as small, locally run entities with or without associated childcare services. Run from church halls or community facilities, their operations were organised by parents and administered by committees that changed from year to year. Though rudimentary, these early centres generally performed well.

However, times have changed.

Many aspects of kindergarten and childcare centre operation are now highly regulated to ensure compliance with complex state and federal legislation and workplace agreements and administration of these rules has evolved into a demanding, specialised role.

Traditional Committees of Management can no longer "run" kindergartens and childcare centres. The job is now too great and there are embedded legal consequences for committee members should significant breaches of administration arise.

This is the current situation in Rushworth, and indicates the need for important changes to the management of the facility if it is to remain in operation.

## Management changes

The current Committee of Management of the Rushworth Kindergarten and Childcare Centre is actively exploring how to ensure the future of these high-demand family-friendly services in the town.

Under the guidance of the Victorian Department of Education and the Early Learning Association Australia, the Committee has opened talks with Goulburn Region Preschool Association (GRPSA) to explore options for future management of the Rushworth Centre.

GRPSA runs numerous early childhood service centres in the Goulburn Region, including Colbinabbin Preschool, Murchison Kindergarten and Early Childhood Service, and Toolamba Kindergarten and Children's Association.

It's centres offer a variety of traditional kindergarten programs and long daycare. Some also provide occasional and short daycare, an important requirement of future Rushworth facility management.

GRPSA is thus a natural partner for Rushworth Kindergarten and Childcare.

Dedicated professional management of the Rushworth facility has many advantages and options for both families and Centre staff.

In addition to its Kindergarten activities, the Rushworth centre currently offers only short-stay and occasional childcare; there is no formal long day care program. Depending on future childcare requirements, long day care may be introduced in addition to the shorter formats.

Staff would benefit from greater training and mentoring opportunities that are provided by organisations such as GRPSA.



Leave relief would also be simplified, and extra staff may also be made available to assist if a Rushworth staff member required days off for training or due to illness.

## Managing the change

In order to progress negotiations between the Rushworth Committee and GRPSA, the Committee has called a **Special General Meeting** so that families and other members of the Community can canvas the issues associated with the proposed reassignment of management rights to the specialist organisation and seek approval to proceed with the change.

The Special General Meeting will be held at **Rushworth Community House** on Monday, 16 June starting at 7.00pm.

This is an extremely important event for future early learning and childcare services in Rushworth, and anyone with an interest in these topics is urged to attend.

An online survey (*above*) is also available.

The meeting will also seek approval of an updated constitution for Centre operations.

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# Focus on the legalities - 19–25 May

Law Week, running from 19 to 25 May, is a national celebration that shines a spotlight on the importance of the law and the role it plays in our daily lives. It's a time to promote public understanding of the legal system, encourage access to justice, and highlight the work of legal professionals across the country.

Throughout the week, events and activities are presented, including free legal information sessions, community forums, and school programs.

In Rushworth there will be a free information session presented by Rachael Alamaras from Dawes and Vary Riordan. It will be held at the Rushworth Library on Thursday 22 May and offers an opportunity to learn more about your rights and responsibilities under the law.

This year's theme focuses on improving community connections and understanding through legal education. It's a great chance to engage with the justice system and explore how the law works to support and protect everyone in society.

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# Changes afoot for rates and waste services – have your say

Campaspe Shire Council recently held a community roundtable to engage local residents on key issues relating to rates and waste services. Held on Friday, 2 May 2025, the session provided an opportunity for open dialogue and input to inform future Council decisions.

The roundtable focused on two priority areas: how rates are levied under Council's Revenue and Rating Plan, and the funding structure for waste services. Thirteen participants from across the Shire took part, aiming for a broad geographic representation and community perspectives.

Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell said the roundtable was a valuable part of Council's decision-making process.

"This kind of targeted engagement not only helps build understanding of how Council's rating and waste systems work, but also ensures we're listening to community views," Cr Mackrell said.

Participants discussed rate classifications, including rural farm, residential and commercial properties, as well as potential changes to rate differentials. The group also explored how to achieve full cost recovery for waste services and whether concessions should apply to waste charges.

A key outcome was strong support for the introduction of a Waste Facilities Levy. This levy would help ensure that the cost

of shared waste services—such as maintaining closed landfills, public bin collection, and litter cleanup—is fairly distributed across all ratepayers.

The group endorsed a hybrid funding model: user-pays charges would apply to individual household services (like kerbside collection), while shared community services would be funded collectively. This approach aims to increase fairness, reduce cross-subsidisation, and make waste charges more transparent.

While the proposed levy would reduce the cost of kerbside services for residents who use them, overall waste charges are expected to rise—driven in part by the State Government's 30% increase to the EPA waste levy.

The session was structured into four key sections: decision-making principles, understanding rates and revenue, building a sustainable waste system, and ideas for broader community education. Detailed information was provided to participants to ensure informed discussion over the four-hour facilitated workshop.



Community feedback gathered at the roundtable will help shape the updated Revenue and Rating Plan 2025–2029 and the 2025/2026 Budget Fees and Charges, which will be released for broader public consultation from 9 May to 2 June 2025 via Council's website.

"This is your opportunity to have your say on the proposed Waste Facilities Levy, resource recovery centre fees, and bin service charges—as well as how we share rates across our municipality," said Mayor

Mackrell.

Council will consider both roundtable input and broader community feedback before adopting the final plans at its meeting on Tuesday, 17 June 2025.

To view the documents and provide feedback on the draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025–29 or the 2025–26 Fees and Charges, visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/nowopen](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/nowopen)

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## Justice and compassion

**Mark Gaetani, National President of the St Vincent de Paul Society, says he is encouraged by the Prime Minister's vow that under this government no one will be left behind and the disadvantaged and vulnerable will be looked after.**

In an opinion piece published in the Canberra Times following the election, Mr Gaetani expressed concern at the lack of a supportive safety net for the most vulnerable, and a low base pay rate that leaves many individuals and families experiencing significant hardship. He highlighted a Foodbank Australia study showing that 3.4 million households ran out of food in the past year and 1.3 million people are living below the poverty line.

Mr Gaetani acknowledged some positive measures in the recent Federal Budget but noted that they fell short of addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and the current economic safety net is insufficient to prevent people from falling through the cracks.

One of the Society's key policy areas of concern is housing. While this was a campaign topic of both parties, Mr Gaetani made the point that the focus was on enabling

home buyers easier access to the market rather than enabling everyone, including the homeless and renters, to have affordable and secure living conditions.

He noted the 'one-off' or short-term promises of the election campaign rather than meaningful change ensuring targeted assistance over a period of time.

"With the election over, it is time to focus less on votes and more on improving the lives of disadvantaged households and the common good of our community."

Notable for not meeting the vote-winning criteria were other concerns mentioned in the Society's Justice and Compassion document circulated before the election. These included the goals of Closing the Gap for First Nations people and fairer processes for asylum seekers and refugees.

While Vinnies is well-known for its charity work offering material and social support to the community's most vulnerable people, Mr Gaetani's statements also reflect the 'social justice and advocacy' arm of the Society's mission, which calls for systemic change to ensure that no one is left behind in Australian society.

## Ordination at St Peter's, Elmore

Soon after answering God's call to the Anglican Parish of Elmore, Christine McWilliams wrote: "Most of my career has been spent teaching Music, some German and a mix of other subjects, in primary schools. For the past twelve years, I have been Chaplain and at times, teacher, at Skene Street Specialist School in Stawell, a job I have loved.

I have also published a children's picture story book – I love both music and writing. I have a cat, Snoopy – his name reflects his nature!"

My hope for the Elmore Parish is that, through prayer, we can discern where God is leading us. I hope that together we grow to know and love God more deeply and that in doing so, the Kingdom of God is ultimately expanded as our lives express faith that exudes joy, peace and love for others."

She finds immense joy in playing Christian music, through which she expresses the joy that faith brings into her life.

Christine's longing is that others find the love, forgiveness, joy, peace and hope that comes with faith in our Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Christine has shown her dedication to the Parish and



**Christine McWilliams.**

communities within. She has had a busy start to her ministry at Elmore and has received a warm, welcoming attitude from all she encounters.

As she prepares for her ordination as Priest, we pray she will continue to strengthen his kingdom with joy and excited anticipation.

**Reverend Christine McWilliams' ordination to the priesthood will be on Saturday 24 May, at St Peter's Anglican Church, Elmore at 11am.**

**Everyone is welcome to attend, and bring a friend!**

## District Church Times and Contacts

### Anglican

- St Paul's, Rushworth: 0419 512 632  
- 9.30am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month - Communion
- 9.30am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month - Lay led service
- Christ Church, Murchison: Rev Richard Pennington: 0405879554  
- 11am service every Sunday
- St Matthews, Stanhope: 0419 855 964 (Church Warden)
- St John's, Colbinabbin: 0428 329 344 (Mick Clayton)

### Shine Church, Stanhope

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

### Catholic

St Mary's Parish. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays: Cornella 9am; Stanhope 10.30am. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays: Rushworth 9am; Murchison 10.30am. 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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)

### 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 for all his blessings.



### GRACE BEFORE MEALS

God is great and God is good; Let us thank him for our food; By His blessings, we are fed, Give us Lord, our daily bread. AMEN.

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# living the **GOOD LIFE**

## **Making the familiar strange**

There's a phrase I've heard more than once in small country towns: "You're not really a local unless your grandparents are buried in the local cemetery."

It's usually said with a wry smile, a bit of cheek. But like many offhand remarks, it reveals something deeper; about belonging, identity and the quiet ways we sometimes keep others at arm's length.

In rural communities we often value connection, loyalty and shared history. These are good things. But those same values can become walls—subtle barriers that leave newcomers feeling like permanent outsiders, even after years of living among us. I've heard stories from people who've raised their children in a small town, volunteered at the footy club, worked at the school or hospital; and still been seen as "not quite local."

It's not just a rural issue, of course. The same dynamic can be found in small churches, community groups, and even among families. When people feel left out, not because of malice, but because they just don't know the customs, the stories, or the "way things are done"—the result is the same: exclusion, even if unintended.

That's why I've been thinking about an old story from the Bible, one where a man named Peter, a Jewish follower of Jesus, has a vision that changes everything. Up until that point, Peter believed God's promises were meant only for his own people. But in this vision, God tells him not to call anyone 'unclean'—not to exclude those he had previously considered outside the circle.

Peter's vision didn't just change his theology. It changed his behaviour.

He enters the home of a Gentile; a cultural outsider. He eats with them. Stays with them. Listens to their story. And when challenged by his peers, he replied simply: "Who was I to stand in God's way?"

It's a story about boundaries—how we draw them, and how they can be transformed. And it's echoed elsewhere in the Bible: in the prophet Isaiah's vision of a 'house of prayer for all people', and in Jesus' own words: "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also."

These are ancient words, but they speak to something very real and current: the human need to belong, and the calling to make that belonging easier for others.

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## **When the familiar needs reimagining**

There's a saying I once heard about the role of good teaching:

"To make the strange familiar, and the familiar strange."

It reminds us that growth often requires two things: learning new things, and re-seeing the things we thought we already understood.

That came home to us, quite literally, at church this week.

After reflecting on inclusion and unspoken assumptions during Sunday worship, someone raised the issue of the toilets at our Colbinabbin church. It turns out the two outdoor toilets have no signage at all. No 'men' or 'women' symbols. No helpful hints. Nothing. Just two plain doors.

We all chuckled; until we realised what that meant.



Visitors, and even some regulars, had been unknowingly using the female toilet for ages—simply because the male one was tucked around a corner. There was nothing to indicate one should look for it.

It was a light moment, but it revealed something more serious: how easily we assume everyone knows what we know.

How often we forget that being part of the 'inside' gives us knowledge and comfort others don't yet have.

And how easily a small oversight can create discomfort or embarrassment for someone new.

Inclusion isn't just about saying "all are welcome."

It's about seeing our spaces, our language, and our habits through the eyes of someone who's never been here before.

It's about asking: "What are we taking for granted? And how can we make grace more visible?"

## **Beyond the familiar**

At a recent planning meeting in our church network, we talked about these kinds of things—signage, hospitality, worship spaces, and how our church buildings aren't just practical structures. They're part of the

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welcome. Part of the message. And if they feel closed, cluttered, or confusing, then so does our invitation.

We began to imagine our churches as 'third places'; not just sacred spaces for insiders, but open, hospitable environments where faith meets community and strangers can become friends.

That same imagination could transform our towns. What would it mean to truly welcome people, not just in theory, but in practice? How do we move from saying "all are welcome" to showing "you already belong"?

Perhaps the first step is simply noticing the ways we make things harder for others. The assumptions we don't question. The jokes that sting. The routines that exclude. And then, bit by bit, making changes that open the circle just a little wider.

Because in the end, the good life isn't found in keeping things familiar and safe.

It's found in risking connection.

In crossing boundaries.

In building a community where everyone gets a seat at the table; no matter whose name is on the gravestone.

As we do this, we faithfully follow Jesus, who did this so much that the religious authorities criticised him saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners, and eats with them.' (Luke 15:2)

This is the gospel, and it's good news.

*Brian Spencer, Minister,  
Waranga Uniting Churches*

## **Pope Leo XIV**



Pope Leo XIV appeared on the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on 8 May 2025, following his election during the conclave. He is the first Augustinian and American Pope in history.

## **Kyabram & District Funeral Services**

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119 Albion Street, Kyabram 3620

Phone: 5852 1061 Mobile: 0409 935 375

# WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

## DEATHS

**HAWKING, Ron:**  
29/12/1928-7/5/25

Passed away peacefully on 7 May 2025.  
Aged 96 years.  
Surrounded by love.  
Beloved Husband of Heather (dec).  
Loving father of Roe, Lea and Jane.  
Father-in-law to Brian, Tony and Andrew.  
Adored Grandfather and Great-Grandfather.  
Now in God's care with Mum.  
Forever in our hearts.

**JACKSON, Yvonne (nee Milne)**

**11/04/1949 - 11/05/2025**

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Yvonne, who passed away peacefully at GV Health, aged 76 years.

Dearly loved wife of Ken, and loving mother and mother-in-law of Adrian and Kym, Nathan and Karen. Much loved Nan to Matthew, Taylan, Bailey and Kayla.

*"Remember the good times we shared and I shall live on in your heart."*

## FUNERALS

**HAWKING, Ron.**

A Graveside service to celebrate the life of Ron Hawking will be held at the Rushworth Cemetery, Heily Street, on Thursday 15 May, 2025, commencing at 11.30am.

**JACKSON, Yvonne (nee Milne)**

Family and Friends are invited to join us in celebrating Yvonne's life with a Graveside Funeral Service at the Kyabram Lawn Cemetery on Thursday 22 May at 2pm.

## FOR RENT

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Rushworth Kindergarten & Childcare Centre**  
ABN 13 231 252 680

### Special General Meeting

1. To Determine Future Management of the Centre
2. To Approve a New Constitution for Center Governance.

**7.00pm - Mon 16 June**

*Note : Meeting will be held at Rushworth Community House 67 High St, Rushworth*

**Families and other members of the local Community are cordially invited.**

*Please complete our online survey of local requirements:*



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### Rushworth Christmas Decorations

To discuss the future of the Rushworth Christmas decorations (see page 8)

a PUBLIC MEETING will be held

**Sunday 1 JUNE 11am**

at the Rushworth Community House, High Street, Rushworth.

All welcome.

### Colbinabbin Bowls Club

**Annual Meeting**

**Monday 19 May**

**6.30pm**

**All welcome**

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### Kids Trivia answers

1. Cheetah 2. Lizard 3. SpongeBob SquarePants 4. Purple 5. Bamboo 6. Octagon 7. Photosynthesis 8. V.

5	9	4	2	6	3	7	8	1
8	6	2	1	7	5	4	9	3
7	3	1	4	8	9	2	5	6
4	8	6	5	9	2	1	3	7
3	1	7	6	4	8	9	2	5
9	2	5	3	1	7	8	6	4
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6	7	8	9	5	1	3	4	2
1	4	3	8	2	6	5	7	9

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# DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

## WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

### MAY

<b>Sat 17</b>	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
<b>Sat 17</b>	Waranga Rail trail opening 10am
<b>Thu 22</b>	Law Week - Rushworth Library 10.30am
<b>Thu 22</b>	Rushworth Kinder Open Day 32 Esmonde Street, 9.30am - 11am
<b>Sat 24</b>	Rushworth Speedway, Nine Mile Road from 4pm - 11:59pm
<b>Mon 26</b>	Campaspe Immunisations 11.30am -12 noon at Rushworth Service Centre to book: <a href="http://Campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations">Campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations</a>

<b>Sun 1</b>	<b>Stanhope Town Garage Sale from 9am</b>
<b>Thu 5</b>	Coffee with a cop - Rushworth Library 10.30am
<b>Sat 21</b>	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
<b>Sat 21</b>	RAD workshop for Landcare Rushworth Community Space

### 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, Fri 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 9.30am at McEwen Place
- Stanhope Community Garden: Wednesdays 8.30 to 9.30am
- 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: Wednesdays 9am - 11am
- Rushworth Museum: every Saturday 10am-12 noon, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11am - 1pm
- Rushworth & District Community Bank Board: meets 1st Tuesday monthly, at 6pm
- Rushworth Events Inc: meets bi-monthly, third Wednesday at 7pm
- Rushworth 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 st, Rushworth, Thursdays 7pm
- Stanhope: Chris's exercises at Seniors: Mondays 10.45am
- Rushworth: Chris's exercises at Rushworth Community House Mondays 1 - 2pm
- Colbinabbin: Chris's exercises at Colbinabbin Hall Mondays 3.30 - 4.30pm

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.

### LOCAL SERVICE PHONE NUMBERS

<b>POLICE or FIRE.....Emergency.....000</b>	Non-emergency 13 1444
<b>AMBULANCE.....Emergency.....000</b>	Non-emergency...13 3009
SES: (storm & flood).....13 2500	
<b>DOCTORS:</b>	
Murchison Medical Centre.....5826 2575	
Rushworth Medical Centre..... 5856 1329	
Stanhope Telecare Medical Centre.....4800 5291	
Waranga Medical Centre..... 5851 8400	
<b>HEALTH:</b>	
Stanhope Health.....5857 0451	
Waranga Health .....5851 8000	
Nurse on call..... 1300 606 024	
<b>HELP:</b>	
Lifeline.....13 1114	
Kids Helpline.....1800 551 800	
<b>POLICE:</b>	
Rushworth.....5856 1000	
Murchison.....5826 2222	
Colbinabbin.....5856 1000	
<b>SUPPORT SERVICE:</b>	
St Vincent de Paul.....0417 597 468	
<b>WARANGA NEWS OFFICE.....5856 1120</b>	

### ADVERTISING DEADLINES

**FOR NEXT EDITION - 29 MAY**

**Display Ads: Friday, 24 May**

**Classified: Monday, 26 May**

[wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)

### Waranga News



**A Voluntary Community Newspaper**

Printed by Maxam Printing, Shepparton

Published by Mary Jo Fortuna OAM,  
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**Waranga News Incorporated**

(ABN 45 086 403 564)

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# Your Council News

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**P:** 1300 666 535 | 03 5481 2200  
**E:** shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au  
**www.campaspe.vic.gov.au**



**Coming Up** **Council meeting** | 6pm Tuesday, 20 May 2025 | Echuca Civic Centre  
Meetings can be streamed live: [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming)

## Waranga Rail Trail to be officially opened on Saturday

The Waranga Rail Trail will be officially opened at 10am on 17 May in Rushworth. The official opening of the trail will be the culmination of years of work from neighbouring councils Campaspe Shire and Greater Shepparton, with the support and input of local landowners and the key stakeholders invaluable in

bringing the project to reality. Funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant Program, the Campaspe Shire section of the trail connects with the eastern section developed by Greater Shepparton City Council in 2015, completing a 19km route which follows the alignment of the decommissioned railway line from Rushworth to

Murchison. Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell invites members of the public to come along to the official opening, which will be held in conjunction with the regular monthly Rushworth market. "Come along and join us on 17 May, bring your family and friends, your walking shoes or your bike, visit the Rushworth market and take advantage of this wonderful rail trail to explore the region's natural beauty and historic features."

## Now Open

For all open projects and applications, visit: [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/)



### Got a great business idea?

Council, in partnership with StartUp Central Victoria, wants to help you on your way and is offering a business networking event on Thursday, 22 May, from 5pm at Bar Lee, 555 High Street, Echuca. Cost is \$20 per person which includes a welcome drink and light refreshments. Visit the Now Open page to book your spot!

### Business Boost Grants Program

Designed to support local businesses to enhance their operations, marketing strategies and overall efficiency, grants up to \$1000 are available for developing business plans, undertaking targeted marketing activities, or purchasing new equipment to improve processes. Visit our website for more information about the grants, the conditions, and to apply. Applications close 9 June.

### Youth GO! Grants

This program is open to schools, community groups, and organisations to host youth-focused events or activities that promote social connection, positive well-being, and youth empowerment for residents aged 12- 25 years. Grants up to

\$1500 area on offer. Applications close 29 June.

### 2025-26 Budget Fees and Charges

The community is invited to provide feedback on the proposed fees and charges for the 2025-26 Council budget. Complete a submission online or visit our Service Centres or call our Customer Service Team on 1300 666 535 for a hard copy of the Fees and Charges submission form.

### Waste Education Survey

Got 5 minutes? Take our waste education survey by 26 May; Enter for your chance to win a \$100 prepaid voucher!

### Rating & Revenue Plan 2025-2029

The community is invited to provide feedback on the draft Rating & Revenue Plan 2025-2029. Complete a submission online or visit our Service Centres or call our Customer Service Team on 1300 666 535 for a hard copy of the submission form.

### Kindergarten Open Day

Rushworth Kindergarten and Childcare will have an open day on Thursday, 22 May 2025 from 9:30am to 11am.

## Immunisation Sessions

**By appointment only.** Register at [campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations](http://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.

### Monday, 26 May

- 9.00 – 10.00am | Tongala Service Centre
- 11.30 – 12 noon | Rushworth Service Centre

### Tuesday, 3 June

- 5.30 – 6:30pm | Rochester Service Centre

### Thursday, 5 June

- 9.00 – 10.30am | Echuca Library

**Need help making an appointment? Please call Council on 1300 666 535.**

## Flu vaccinations

Council is also running flu vaccination sessions. To book an appointment online, visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/immunisations)

## Business workshop opportunities to assist small business owners:

Are you looking to enhance your business skills and network with other local entrepreneurs?

Campaspe Shire Council offers a variety of business workshops designed to support and grow your business. Our workshops cover a range of topics, including marketing, social media and digital content. Upcoming workshops include:

### Social Media for Business

Join Briana from Mingle Media for an advanced workshop during which you will gain insights and skills to elevate your social media game.



Learn to conquer algorithms and stand out in your customers' news feeds.

**When:** Thursday, 5 June from 6:30-8pm.

**Where:** Kyabram Club. **Cost:** \$20 per business.

### Creating Live Video for Business

Join Briana from Mingle Media and learn the techniques, camera angles, equipment, and themes to engage your audience.

**When:** Tuesday, 17 June from 12:30-2pm.

**Where:** Echuca Library. **Cost:** \$20 per business.

**Bookings:** [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/businessworkshops](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/businessworkshops)



# Support for nest box project

by Graeme Wall

Rushworth Field and Game through their nest box manufacture and erection program are finding support from other organisations.

Tallygaroopna Men's shed manufacture and sell nest boxes and have been following the Rushworth Field and Game Facebook page and requested to be involved in some way.

They visited Rushworth on the 7 May and were able to donate ten various boxes and an Indian Minor trap that the Rushworth Branch will loan out to residents to deal with Indian Minors. Indian minor is the fox of the air taking over native bird breeding areas and destroying eggs and chicks.

Greater Shepparton Council have donated 35 boxes for various native species to be erected in suitable locations along the Rail Trail. Rushworth has a crew of locals who on a Wednesday meet at their recently refurbished rooms where they work together in a friendly environment repairing boxes and hen houses and then erecting them in various locations.

Tallygaroopna Men's shed Secretary Lindsay Muston said their members have been impressed with what Rushworth has achieved and will be watching the success of their contribution and may find opportunities in the future to assist further if the occasion arises. While in town Lindsay took the opportunity to look at some of the nest boxes and hen houses in a local wetland. Although it was dry he is eager to return when it has water to see the many different species using the wetlands safe breeding sites.

Rushworth has received support from Shepparton Conservation Officer David Cox and the Lighthouse project from Shepparton who have also made boxes for Field and Game.

Through Rushworth running a Facebook page and being vigilant in sharing articles in



**Geoff Hawking, Neville Barker, Lindsay Muston, Graeme Wall and Alan Perry admire the nest box collection. (Photo by Sharon Perry)**

district papers the conservation efforts of this small branch is being recognised.

Wednesday working bee's are proving successful. We are getting not just retired people from town; we are starting to see interest from other like people who are turning up to help and some are joining Rushworth Field and Game as members.

Rushworth certainly isn't the only Field and Game Branch doing conservation work but their efforts in publicising it across different formats is bringing an interest from a wider group of people not just hunters. This becomes an education process across the community of our organization.



**Alan Perry with one of the latest acquisitions. (Photo by Sharon Perry)**

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# Rushy Tigers Seniors on the board with a win

## Netball

### 11/U - Rushworth 11 Def Undera 6

Best on went to Hunter for his constant intercepts, 2nd to Indi for her amazing adjustment to being put in any position, and 3rd to Taylah for her efforts in the goal ring

### 13/U - Rushworth 13 Def Undera 11

We worked hard for a 2 goal win over Undera. 1st went to Mia for trying a new position and absolutely smashing it. 2nd went to our vice captain Sofia for her tireless effort in the midcourt. 3rd went to our captain Pippa for another fabulous game in goals.

### 15/U - Rushworth 56 Def Undera 10

A much improved all round effort from the team, with less turnovers and a higher work rate, still room for improvement so its exciting to see how much better we can get. Best went to Lailah, 2nd Kade, 3rd Jorja

### 17/U - Rushworth 56 Def Undera 21

The girls started off with a slow quarter, but eventually found their rhythm and pushed it out to a 30 plus win over Undera. 1st incentive went to Emily for changing the dynamic of the defence, 2nd went to Keileigh who was always on her player, was always an option. 3rd incentive went to Tyra who was always on her attacker getting some lovely intercepts and rebounds. Millie got the lollies for always being an option, stuck to her player throughout the game.

### C Res - Rushworth 25 Def By Undera 40

Another tough and warm game on the court for C Res. Despite the end result all players put in a great effort with some good passages of play. Thanks to the three U17 players, they all proved themselves to be great versatile netballers. Incentives went to Keileigh (first C res game), Jess and Matilda (also 1st C res game).

### C Grade - Rushworth 37 Def By Undera 47

Despite a tough loss, the C grade showed real grit on the court. The opposition brought a strong game, but our players matched their intensity, fighting for every possession. First incentive went to Ella, whose defence kept us in the game. Second to Anita for her Zahley Francis who played her first A grade game.



shooting under pressure and third to an under 17s player who filled in Tyra, her mid-court intercepts were game changers, creating crucial turnover opportunities. While the scoreboard didn't reflect the effort, the team's determination was clear.

### B Grade - Rushworth 38 Def Undera 30

### A Grade - Rushworth 56 Def Undera 36

Best Janelle, 2nd Maya, 3rd Zahley. It was good to get back on the winners list, Our goalers played a great game combining much better this week and our defence was solid, congratulations to Zahley on playing her first A Grade game.

## Football

### 10/U

Friday night we travelled to Shepparton to take on Shepp East in our first game under lights. We had a great game. Bryce had a big game down forward kicking 3 goals also Seth kicking 2. A great team effort.

### 18/U - Rushworth 61 Def Undera 53

We started well with a narrow lead into the first break, only to lapse and trail at half time by 9pts. The boys came out in the third quarter playing good football, defending well, while being more efficient in attack kicking 6 goals to 2. They really stuck at the task and defended well as a team to get their first win of the season. Best players. H.Charles, Z.Charlies, J.Edwards, M.Padual, F.Clarke, T.Clarke

### Reserves - Rushworth 85 Def Undera 20

The reserves looking for the first win came out flying, with ruckmen Josh giving first use at all opportunities. Surrounded by a plethora of talent in the midfield the reserves never looked back. With several passages of play that clubs would envy, the lads came out winners. Better players J.Newton, W Robertshaw, J.Hargreaves, P.Lumsden, D.Kelsey.

### Seniors - Rushworth 122 Def Undera 46

The boys were keen to get away to a good start this week, and they brought the intensity from the opening bounce by kicking 7 first quarter goals. The defensive pressure when the opposition had the ball was fantastic in the first half enabling Rushworth a 10 goal lead. The second half the intensity dropped, however, a pleasing factor was the spread of contributors, with 13 individual goal kickers, we were able to register our first win of the year with a 76 point win. Best players Dylan Arnold, Jacko McRae, Liam Francis, Paul Vavlitis, Ethan Arnold, Tommy Stevens. Next week we head to Tally, where we need to bring that same intensity we had today, Also thanks to the Undera folk for sticking around for a drink and chat after the game, even though they had a club ball to get to, as a club, we appreciated that, thank you. Go Tigies!

Photos Crystal Pateman and Alek Stokes



# Rushy Tigers another win on the board

**Netball 11/U - Rushworth 3 Def By Tally 28**

**13/U - Rushworth 24 Def Tallygaroopna 19**

The Under 13s had a fabulous come from behind win, showing true determination and team work through all four quarters. As it was impossible to pick best players, incentives went to the whole team!

**15/U Rushworth 28 Def By Tally 39**

Best Sophia Perry, 2nd Billie Johnstone, 3rd Emily Walker. Unfortunately team made a lot of basic mistakes and didn't play anywhere near their best. Multiple injuries meant Sophia from u13s came to fill in. She was amazing.

**17/U Rushworth 32 Def Tally 26**

The game against Tally had a very slow start, with the score staying very close. The girls worked hard in the last quarter and came away with a 6-goal win. First incentive went to Emma, second incentive to Tyra, and third incentive to Emily. The lolly this week went to Keleigh

**C Res - Rushworth 19 Def By Tally 71**

Another tough and warm game on the court for C res. Despite the end result all players put in a great effort with some good passages of play. Unfortunately our Coach went down and didn't get back on but will hopefully make a speedy recovery and be back on the court better and stronger soon. Thanks to the U17 players, they all proved themselves to be great versatile netballers. Incentives went to H for getting those goals in. 2nd to Ella Johnstone for her great attacking game & Keeley for her great one percenters.

**C Grade - Rushworth 22 Def By Tally 39**

**B Grade - Rushworth 27 Def By Tally 52**

B grade had a hotly contested game, unfortunately not coming away with the win but giving 120% the whole way through.

First incentive went to Katta who led the



attack end well and gave confidence to the younger girls. Second incentive went to Beth who played with such a high level of intensity we were all a bit scared of her. Third incentive went to Ella who adapted to multiple positions with ease and keep her defensive pressure up all game.

**A Grade Rushworth 31 Def Tally 20**

Best Maya Barlow, 2nd Lilly Waasdorp, 3rd Kasey Barlow. We started strong and worked hard all game. Still so much we can improve on. Maya had another great game in attack and Birthday girl Lilly rebounded like a champ. Our defence worked well and we need to convert more from their work. Let's keep enjoying our netball and step up again next week.

## Football

**18/U - No Game**

**Reserves - Rushy 5 Def By Tally 186**

**Seniors - Rushworth 122 Def Tally 45**

It was a pretty fast paced game that started well, but so did Tally. Some patches of ball movement from both teams were hard to defend. Rushworth went into the quarter time break four points down. Drew and Beale providing good targets up forward. Our mids, Lemon, Train, Ethan and Lukey started to get some ascendancy. Rushworth went into the main break leading by fifteen points. The third quarter really saw the team start to change gears. Kicking 6 or 7 goals with Paul Vavlitis and Tommy Stevens causing havoc for the opposition. At three quarter time they went in with a 31 point lead. The challenge was put to the group around finishing strongly.

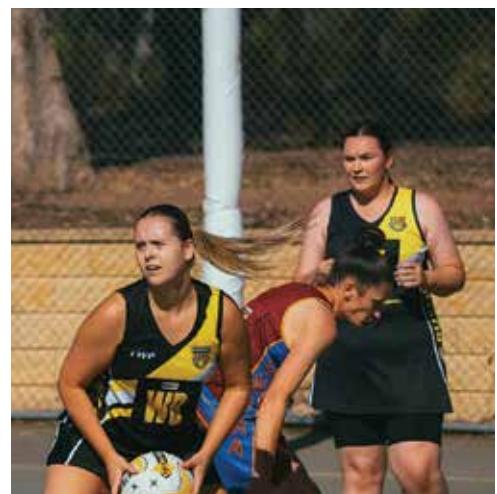
Our backline was outstanding led by Rags, Jac, Nico and co. Playing his first senior

game as a sixteen year old, Tighe Clarke didn't miss out on having an impact. After some special moments he got what everyone wanted, kicking his first goal. The celebrations surrounding this involving the whole team was a proud moment. A strong team performance, running out winners by eighty points. This game doesn't get any easier when we take on the reigning premiers at home.

*Photos Crystal Pateman and Alek Stokes*



Colbo Auskickers played the half-time game during the Western Bulldogs vs St Kilda on Easter Sunday night. Kickers L-R: Clem Knight, Pat Weppner, Story Weeks and Eddie Hill with their fathers, Nick, Jake, Grant and Tim.



# Colbo Sports Report

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## Colbinabbin Bowls presentation night

Colbinabbin Bowls presentation night was held at the Colbinabbin Hotel on Friday 2 May.

The ladies club champion is Rose McIntosh and runner up Belinda West. The winner of 100 up is Darlene Goodear and runner- up is Barb Cheatley.

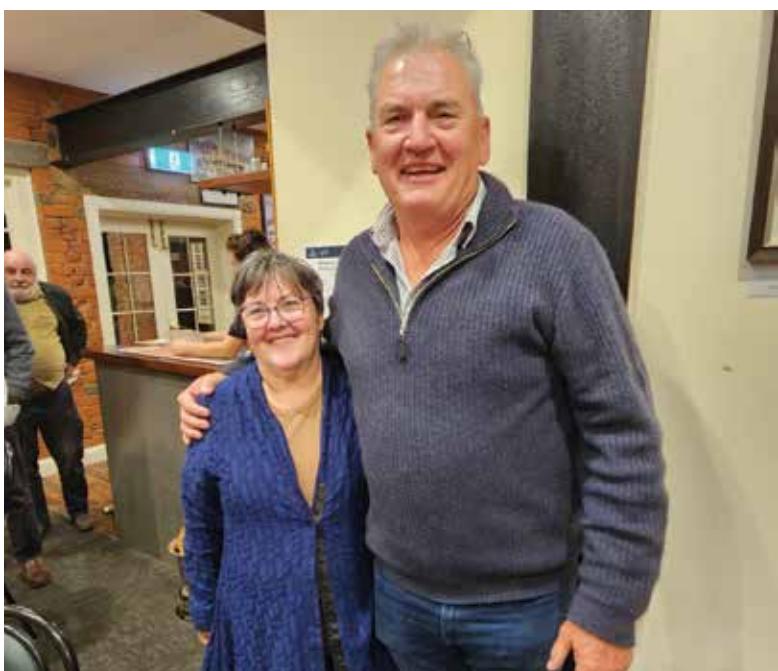
Mens Club Champion is Raymond Rathjen and runner up is John Vale. Club pairs was won by Pat Stewart and Ray McEvoy. Runners up were Rob Ryan and Arms McArdle.

Winner of 100 up is Brian Spencer and runner up Ray McEvoy.



Above: John Vale and Raymond Rathjen.

Below: Cythia Page representing Brian Spencer, with Ray McEvoy.



L-R: Rose McIntosh, Barb Cheatley and Darlene Goodear.

Below: Jackie Wallace representing Pat Stewart with Ray McEvoy.



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# Rushworth Golf Club season begins

Preparations for our 114th consecutive season are almost complete, and we look forward to another great season of competitive fun.

A little bit of history - the current nine hole sand green layout is the second course upgrade since the original layout, which was part situated on the now school oval over a century ago.

The unique and well-regarded course set around the ironstone hills of Rushworth presents an excellent test of one's skills along with the joy of walking or carting through our wonderful iron bark bush.

During late winter and early spring, the wildflower show is spectacular. Our clubs playing season generally starts in May and finishes in early September. Most of our members play at other district courses in the off season.

Becoming a club member gives you full membership, practice and playing rights with an official handicap that can be used at any club.

Annual membership fees are affordable and offer great value. Competitions are played each Sunday at noon with both nine and eighteen hole events, followed by presentations.

Our club, like most sporting clubs in small communities operates on a modest

budget and relies on volunteers and sponsors to remain viable and provide opportunities for all to enjoy outdoor sport and fellowship.

The club member base, though small is solid. This is an area that we are seeking to grow to ensure our clubs fairways remain open for all to enjoy.

If you live in our district and have hung up the boots, netball, racquet, bat or other and miss your sport why not get a mate or two and try the game of golf, you will be made welcome and you will have fun.

Not being a team sport means you play whenever it suits you.

During June, July and August the club will be trailing a Friday afternoon ten-hole event. This will be an easy walk, approximately two hours and an ideal opportunity for learners and intending golfers to hone their skills. All are welcome men, ladies, boys, girls, juniors etc.

The course is open to the public every day, green fees apply for non-members.

Come along any Sunday, check us out, find out about our club and golf in general.

3.8 million Australians engage in golf and all can't be wrong. All welcome.

Enquires: Phone 0427120811 or email [rushygolfclub@gmail.com](mailto:rushygolfclub@gmail.com).

## Start of the season

We are currently dealing with the driest



Back when the fog was out and beautiful green grass, now we just wait for the rain.

start to a season in living memory, possibly ever, but the show goes on. Best performer on day one of season 2025 was Dean Pontin with Max Jenkins showing some early form on the second week.

The next few weeks will see more serious competition kicking off. Sundays at around noon is our main competition day, all welcome. Meanwhile we all continue with the rain dance.

It was lovely to see all the usual faces and a few new ones as well. Judging by the comments and laughter, the players enjoyed the day.

At the end of play there were six ,two game winners and only one, three game winner.

The runners up were Graeme Wheelhouse's team from Hill Top.

Winners for the first week were Kevin McTaggart, Wayne Goodear and Rob Ryan from Colbo. Well done.

There were five contributors to the fines tin for wrong bias bowls. It was interesting to note that all bar one were bowlers from Stanhope. Just saying!

These fines go towards the end of year charity day.

**Right: Kevin McTaggart, Wayne Goodear and Rob Ryan, winners.**

## First winter bowls day

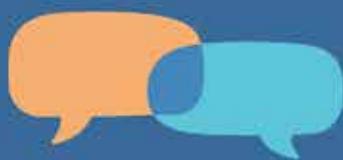
A beautiful sunny day greeted the 42 bowlers for this year's first winter bowls day.





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