

# WARANGA NEWS

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A community newspaper  
staffed by volunteers

Thursday 12 June 2025

## Big adventures at Colbo Bush Kinder



These little explorers are finding plenty to discover and learn about at Colbinabbin's Bush Kinder. As well as being fun, Bush Kinder is an outdoor early learning program that takes children out of the traditional classroom and into nature. They can explore, play, learn through hands-on experiences and have lots of physical activity at the same time. With guidance from their educators, children develop lots of skills while discovering the wonders of the environment around them. Turn to page 21 to see how much fun these Colbo Kinder kids are having.

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Chris Bolton **BOLTON ESTATE AGENTS** 0413 092 698







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# Opera in the Country


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# Drought support extended to whole of state

The Victorian Government has extended drought assistance packages to help all farmers across the state cope with worsening conditions.

A significant effect of this decision is that government will also pause the increase to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) for drought declared areas, meaning all primary producers will pay the same amount they did in 2024-25 when the new levy is implemented in July this year.

The extended drought assistance includes additional funding, grant increases and expanded eligibility for on-farm drought infrastructure grants. The latest package includes an additional \$37.7 million to support farmers across the state, building on the \$15.9 million package announced in mid-May for farmers in the south west.

**Support available includes:**

- On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants: Farmers in south west Victoria can access increased grant amounts (up to

\$10,000) for on-farm improvements like water infrastructure, stock containment and fodder storage. The program is also expanding to cover water carting and pasture re-establishment.

- Farm Business Support: Agriculture Victoria will provide farm business technical and decision-making support to help farmers manage the impacts of drought.
- Small Business Financial Counselling: Small businesses in impacted Local Government Areas (LGAs) will have access to support from Small Business Financial Counsellors.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing:

The government is also providing support for the mental health and wellbeing of farming families through programs like “Look Over the Farm Gate”.

## Where to for emergency services?

The temporary reprieve from the ESVF for farmers has done little to stem the criticisms of the Victorian government which has defended its original decision to expand the levy, citing it as a necessary step to fund all emergency services.

Member for Euroa Annabelle Cleeland says despite the pause the levy remains in place and if fully implemented, will place a significant burden on regional ratepayers across Victoria.

“What’s more concerning is that much of the additional revenue isn’t reaching our local brigades, many of which are still waiting for essential upgrades, vehicles and support,” Ms Cleeland said

The Victorian Coalition has committed to scrapping the levy if elected in 2026.

# Applications open for emergency services grants

The Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) is open for applications in Victoria. The program provides funding for volunteer emergency services groups to purchase equipment and make facility upgrades.

While calls for the permanent removal of the ESVF remain unresolved, the Victorian government has pushed on with an announcement that the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund will provide \$30 million for this year’s grants through VESEP, which is double last year’s amount and the most ever available in one round.

Minister for Emergency Services Vicki Ward announced that over the next four years an additional \$62 million will be provided from the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund to double the VESEP. She repeated the statement that every dollar raised by the Emergency

Services and Volunteers Fund will support emergency and disaster recovery services.

Volunteer groups associated with the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), Life Saving Victoria and Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue units can apply for a grant of up to \$250,000 – a \$100,000 increase on the previous maximum – with the Government contributing \$2 for every \$1 raised by the local volunteer group.

Groups can purchase equipment including generators, pumps, utility vehicles, tankers and rescue trucks. They can also fund minor refurbishments or



SES volunteers can apply for equipment upgrades.

amenity upgrades to their station, club or unit.

The 2025-26 VESEP applications are now open and close on 28 July 2025. For more information about VESEP and to find out how to apply for a grant visit [emv.vic.gov.au/vesep](http://emv.vic.gov.au/vesep).

## What can be funded

Equipment purchased with the grant funding can include, but is not limited to, vehicles, trucks, tankers, watercraft, trailers and can also include minor facility improvements.

Projects must begin on or after the start of the funding allocation and should be fully expended by the end of the grant’s financial year.

The types of equipment funded under the program include:

**Operational equipment such as:**

- chainsaws
- quick fill pumps
- generators
- inflatable rescue boats and engines
- rescue and safety equipment

**Vehicles and appliances such as:**

- cars/4WDs
- lighting and storm trailers
- light/medium tankers
- big fill trucks
- watercraft
- rescue trucks

**Minor facility improvements such as:**

- refurbishments
- amenities – such as: kitchens or change rooms temporary and transition facilities.



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# Happy 84th Birthday Bob Dylan



What better way to celebrate Bob Dylan’s 84<sup>th</sup> birthday than with friends and family belting out his amazing songs at the Colbo Pub. May 25 was a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon for doing just that, with numerous renditions of Dylan’s well-known songs and also a few surprises. Willing to share their talents on the day were Tom and John (Waranga Shores), Russell (Rusty) Turner from Nagambie, Maple and Murray from Shepp and Tongala, Wright On Siss plus niece (Colbo and Echuca) and Eamonn Matthews from Kyabram. A great afternoon was had by all, which finished with a glass of red, pizza, and a few more tunes around the fire! Thanks to everyone who came along.

## CFNC Volunteer Award

Colbinabbin Country Hotel’s CFNC Valued Volunteer Award: This week was awarded to none other than Stu Lowe. He’s been around the Colbinabbin Football/Netball Club for years and never *not* helping out. Whether it’s an official role or not, he’s always more than happy to lend a hand with a smile on his dial. Thanks for all you do, Stu!

# Call for feedback into Draft Transmission Plan

The Victorian government is seeking public input into its energy grid proposal, calling for responses to VicGrid’s draft 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan. The plan outlines the state’s strategy to modernize its electricity infrastructure, aiming to integrate renewable energy sources and ensure a reliable power supply as coal-fired power stations retire. It sets out how much more wind and solar energy Victoria is expected to need over the next fifteen years.

Key points of the Draft Transmission Plan:

- Renewable Energy Zones (REZs): The plan identifies seven onshore REZs and one offshore zone in Gippsland, targeting a total of 5.8 GW of onshore wind, 9 GW of offshore wind, 2.7 GW of solar, and 3.4 GW of storage capacity by 2040.
- Transmission Infrastructure: Proposals include approximately 380 km of new high-voltage lines and 430 km of upgrades, along with four major transmission projects to support these zones.

- Community Engagement: VicGrid conducted community and industry engagement in 2024 before releasing the draft plan which is now open for public feedback.

### How to participate

Victorians are encouraged to review the draft plan and provide feedback via the through the Engage Victoria platform <https://engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan>. This platform offers access to the draft plan, information sessions, and submission guidelines.[energy.vic.gov.au](https://engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan)

Once finalised, the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan will outline where and when energy infrastructure needs to be built, which the government claims will give certainty to communities and clear signals to the energy industry on where to invest.

The consultation period is part of a broader effort to ensure that the state’s energy transition is inclusive and considers the perspectives of all stakeholders.

VicGrid is the Victorian Government agency responsible for planning and developing the new infrastructure that will transport energy generated by renewables to the consumer.

## Rushworth Market

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# Coobar Solar Farm gets go-ahead despite ongoing local opposition

The Cooba Solar Project, set to become one of the largest solar farms in Victoria, has received fast-tracked approval from the State Government.

Located near Colbinabbin, the project has been the subject of concerted opposition from local land-holders and residents. Nearby wineries have been especially vocal in their criticism of the project, citing the uptake of valuable agricultural land as well as the potential effect on their tourism and cellar door business.

Developed by Venn Energy, the Cooba Solar Project will encompass approximately 1,147 hectares and is designed to generate up to 500 megawatts (MW) of electricity. This capacity is sufficient to power around 145,000 homes annually.

The project also includes a 300 MW battery energy storage system to enhance the grid stability and enable storage of excess solar energy for use during peak demand periods.

The Victorian Planning Minister, Sonja Kilkenny, approved the project under the state's fast-track planning process

introduced in 2024, which aims to expedite renewable energy developments.

The decision was made despite opposition from the Campaspe Shire Council, which raised concerns about the project's impact on agricultural land and the local microclimate, particularly as it is situated in the renowned Heathcote wine region. Council also noted concerns about incomplete soil assessments and lack of details on how the land would be restored after the project ends, as well as a lack of clarity about the economic benefit to the community.

In response to these concerns, Venn Energy states it has committed to implementing measures to mitigate environmental impact. The company claims the project will contribute to the local economy with significant employment opportunities during both its construction and operational



A number of Colbinabbin residents turned out to support local politicians when they spoke against the solar project in Parliament.

phases. It has also pledged to invest in the local community through a Community Benefit Fund, promising \$200,000 each year to fund community projects.

The Nationals' Member for Euroa, Annabelle Cleeland, has condemned the Government's decision to ignore community concerns and approve the controversial Cooba Solar Farm.

Ms Cleeland said the decision

to proceed with the project comes despite overwhelming opposition from the Colbinabbin community, local council, and regional leaders.

"We are talking about some of the most productive agricultural land in the state, a community built on farming, wine, and tourism that is now being sacrificed without justification," she added.

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Have your say !

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

### Colbo Planning Permit disappointment

Money doesn't grow on trees, but food does. It is with profound disappointment, dismay, frustration and anger that the State Government would approve these two projects as notified on 5 June 2025. Both communities have spent thousands of hours, writing objections, attending meetings, attending Council, attending Parliament and to all, no reasonable response and or explanation. No consultation, response or feedback to objections, were they read? No response to contributions made by the Opposition Government on our behalf in Parliament on 2 April this year. This government is in breach of its only planning guidelines. There were flaws in the application by the applicant, who has scrutineered this? Only 4% of land is arable in Australia and when renewable projects are permitted on prime agricultural land, everyone will suffer. This will be the greatest challenge that the current politicians will need to explain in years to come to their urban constituents, who don't get it, as their only knowledge of agriculture is what they buy from the supermarket. The catastrophic effect this will have will be for everyone.

We need political leadership to forge ahead with a nuclear policy and to have the right mix of renewables that will not impact on the nation. We are already over 30 % which is the recommended worldwide mix and other great Western countries have adopted.

This recent permit for Colbinabbin is a direct smack in the face to every citizen when you have your local Councillors, Opposition Members of Parliament, businesses and citizens so strongly objecting combined with having taken away any rights of Appeal. A 770,000 solar panel facility, one of the largest in Australia, will not augur well for agricultural sustainability and growth of small communities. To permit this in the premium strip of the Heathcote Geographical Index for world renowned shiraz and wine, is reckless. How do we encourage young families to return to the country when our city is already choked.

This government needs to be held to account at the next state election.

Mary Ann Morgan  
Publican / Lawyer  
Colbinabbin

### What do you think? Contributed by Graeme Hanigan

At the beginning of this year I challenged myself to write a series of ten letters to the Waranga New, on the topic of 'what do you think?' and I am delighted that I have achieved that target.

I hope that I may have inspired some of you to pursue the cause, it's a constant process of self-reflection and inquiry and being constantly open minded to the possibility that you could be wrong about something.

As promised here are the answers to the quiz and I would especially like to thank Neville for dropping his answers into the Waranga News Office. Neville got an excellent score of 83%.

1. Which statement best describes Critical Thinking?  
b) Analyzing, evaluating, and assessing information
2. What refutes science?  
b) Better science
3. Socrates is attributed with saying "the unexamined life is not worth living". What do you think he meant by that?  
c) To self-reflect on your thinking processes and assumptions.
4. How do we avoid Pareidolia, when our brains connect dots that make no sense:  
c) By questioning assumptions and seeking evidence-based explanations.
5. The term 'intellectually vigilant' means:  
a) Seeking out evidence to support claims.
6. Things don't happen for a reason, we find reasons in things that happen  
What does this mean?  
b) To consider different perspectives and minimize personal biases
7. How do we avoid being bamboozled by the Swiss cheese hole?  
c) To seek out multiple perspectives and ask probing questions
8. What is falsifiability?  
a) If a claim is false, the evidence will disprove it
9. Which of the following are falsifiable?  
b) Objective claims
10. Humans love to spread false information which;  
e) All of the above
11. Why is information literacy important in critical thinking?  
c) To locate, evaluate, and use information effectively from various sources
12. What is self-honesty?  
d) To acknowledge the limits of one's knowledge and be open to learning from others

If you're keen to discover more, the next step might be to learn about logical fallacies. Logical fallacies are flaws in reasoning that weaken or invalidate an argument. Whether they're used intentionally or unintentionally, they can be quite persuasive. Learning how to identify fallacies is an excellent way to avoid being fooled or manipulated by faulty arguments. It will also help you avoid making fallacious arguments yourself!

Here are just a few popular logical fallacies. Once you can recognize them, you'll see them everywhere, especially on social media!

1. The Strawman - A straw man argument misrepresents an opponent's argument to make it easier to dismiss.
2. Ad Hominem - Latin for "to the person," the ad hominem fallacy is a personal attack.
3. Cherry Picking - The cherry picking fallacy occurs when evidence is selectively chosen to support a claim instead of considering all available evidence.
4. Anecdotal fallacy - Many people think personal experience provide the best kind of evidence. "We'll believe it when we see it!" but anecdotes are infamously unreliable.
5. Burden of Proof - A person who makes a claim bears the burden of proof to provide sufficient evidence for their claim.
6. Appeal to Emotion - The appeal to emotion fallacy uses emotion to persuade, instead of evidence.
7. Appeal to Tradition - The appeal to tradition fallacy asserts that something is good or true because it's old, or because it's the way it's "always been done."
8. The Slippery Slope - The slippery slope fallacy argues that an action will lead to a chain of events, resulting in undesirable and often extreme consequences. This fallacy is also known as a non-sequitur which is Latin for "it does not follow".
9. The Red Herring - The red herring fallacy is an attempt to distract from the main issue by bringing in irrelevant information. The name of this fallacy comes from a story in which smelly fish were used to cover up the scent of hares to distract hunting hounds.
10. I'm entitled to my opinion - It is true that everyone is entitled to their opinion. However, "I'm entitled to my opinion," is often used to shield an unsupported position. Being entitled to your opinion doesn't mean you're right, or that anyone needs to take your opinion seriously.

Want more Logical Fallacies? You can find more here <https://thinkingispower.com/logical-fallacies/>

Lastly I want to acknowledge the influence that my grandfather had on me as a child, constantly asking me randomly during the day, "what do you think?" For a young kid this was quite confronting, here was an adult whom I loved and admired, not telling me what to think, but asking me "what do you think?" and providing as a result, a lifetime of self-reflection.



# Opera in the Country coming to Rushworth

Experience glistening high notes and rich bass notes in a heritage setting of Rushworth Shire Hall - Saturday 6 July.

Opera in the Country (OITC) is a project started by Kyabram born and bred Charlotte Goode. It came about after she moved to Melbourne and realised just how different the arts scene was in rural areas compared to metropolitan and regional centres.

Opera in the Country’s mission is to bring opera to rural communities that face financial and geographic barriers to experiencing the art form. The project also aims to attract new audiences by presenting accessible repertoire, including performances in English and works from classical music theatre.

Another part of Opera in the Country’s aim is to celebrate and utilise beautiful country town halls. Town halls are often at the heart of a small rural community and many small Victorian communities are so proud of theirs. Opera in the Country celebrates this by performing opera in these community centred places.

Charlotte Goode has trained and performed in Melbourne and other cities, but she brings her country girl perspective to every part of her work by prioritising performances that feel intimate and invite audiences in to simply just sit and enjoy beautiful music in each other’s company.

Living in rural areas can often feel lonely for some and sharing food and a conversation with each other after each performance is another core value of Opera in the Country, recognising the support of and value of a community.

Opera in the Country has performed eight concerts in the last two years in locations all around Victoria, including collaborations with Shepparton Festival and Fish Creek community fundraiser “Grand Hall Grand Piano”. It recently partnered with Opera Scholars Australia to provide children in rural areas a free opera workshop where children learned an opera chorus and then performed it on stage at the Tatura Victory Hall.

The project brings the finest emerging artists to country Victoria in these concerts, giving community members the opportunity to hear the rising opera artists of the future.

### About this concert

Opera in the Country will travel to Rushworth for “Cabaret Songs in the Bush”. Experience a moody, musical early evening in the beautiful bush setting and grand old hall at Rushworth.

This performance is scheduled for a relaxed early evening 5pm start and will feature a programme of operatic crossover repertoire with a focus on cabaret songs, featuring the



Double bassist Charlotte Scanlan and singer Charlotte Goode.

likes of Kurt Weill, Giovanni Bottesini and Edith Piaf.

A stunning night with four passionate emerging opera singers who have a zeal for this sort of repertoire, pianist Alex Byrne, and the expressive double bassist Charlotte Scanlan.

Tickets will be available at the door on the night, with cash or card, or book at <https://www.trybooking.com/DCIOH>

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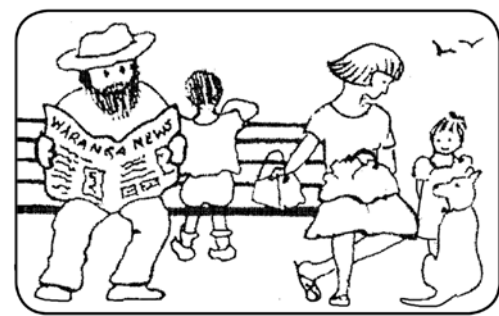
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Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns Around our towns



Around Rushworth  
Garden Lovers AGM

The next meeting for the Garden Lovers Group is their AGM which is to be held on Thursday 19 June at 1.30 pm. As a temporary venue for this month only the meeting will be held in the Shire meeting room at the Shire Office, High Street Rushworth.

Memberships are due, so could members put their \$10 in an envelope with their name on it please. Afternoon tea and competitions as usual.

New members are welcome. We have a best bloom and best vegetable competition each meeting and if you have fresh ideas, all the better.

Ethel Borger

Fred’s birthday



Fred Holm of Rushworth celebrated his 78<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Colbinabbin Country Hotel recently, with family and friends. He was treated to a birthday song by the kitchen staff after lunch, much to his delight!

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It’s official – slow down!

Parents, kids and ‘lollipop’ people are all relieved that at last the Moora Road traffic is being told to slow down at busy school start and finish times.

It’s well recognised that 40kmh speed signs near schools ensure children’s safety during busy drop-off and pick-up times. But it seems to have taken a little more convincing to obtain the same safety measures for the walkers as they get further away from the vicinity of the school and have to cross the sometimes busy main road through town.

The clearly marked times on the signs indicate when the limit is active and the reduced speed limits help drivers stay alert. Slower travelling also provides extra reaction time in the case of an unexpected stray child (which can happen despite the best-laid plans!)



Stanhope’s Biggest Morning Tea

A great morning was held in Stanhope on Thursday 29 May to raise money for cancer research.

Thanks were expressed to guest speaker Leslie Ould for sharing her cancer journey and reminding attendees that it’s always a good idea to get a second opinion.

A fun trivia quiz and a lovely morning tea was enjoyed by those attending.

Thank you to Knights Building Supplies, Hairzone and Terry White Pharmacy for the prizes in the raffle and lucky door prizes. Thanks to Rick and Brett from Robgill Homestead for the lovely centrepieces on the tables.

All money, \$604.10, went to The Cancer Council. Thank you to everyone who came along.

Guest enjoyed lots of lovely goodies for morning tea.





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

# Veteran visitors to Murchison Heritage Centre



An amazing group of veteran cars lined up in our carpark recently – beautifully cared for vehicles, all more than 110 years of age and still motoring along the highways.

The group came for morning tea and thoroughly enjoyed a look around our gallery finding out about Murchison’s unique history. Of course, the homecooked goodies for morning tea got lots of praise and comment too!

The fifty-three members of the Veteran Car Club from Melbourne were staying at Nagambie for the weekend. They travelled in their lovely old cars to our Heritage Centre for a visit on the Saturday morning. They would have loved to have been able to drive over Kirwans Bridge from Nagambie but instead drove down to have a look after leaving the Heritage Centre, found out a bit about its history, then returned to Murchison. After this they motored via Tatura to Waranga Basin for a picnic lunch, and then via Rushworth back to Murchison and returned to Nagambie. It was a delightful sight to see them on the road.

The regular Saturday morning openings at our Heritage Centre are now in recess



for winter and will re-open again mid-September. We still welcome visitors at any time by arrangement. Simply send an email to: [murch.hs@outlook.com](mailto:murch.hs@outlook.com) or ring Janet on 5826 2363 or 0438 309 275 to book for a group. Groups can enjoy morning or afternoon tea, tour of the Heritage Centre, and talk with slide show. If coming by bus, a local guide can hop on board to give commentary while touring around town, pointing out

significant places and the history of the area. Groups can book a walking tour too if desired and weather suitable. There is lots to surprise around Murchison which is rich in significant history; a visitor experience is only restricted by the time you have available.

**Kay Ball, President,  
Murchison and District  
Historical Society.**

## 2025 men’s shed grants now open

Are you part of a Victorian men’s shed?

The Victorian Government is continuing its \$1 million annual investment in men’s sheds across the state. Grants up to \$100,000 are available for organisations to:

- build new men’s sheds
- refurbish existing men’s sheds
- purchase major pieces of equipment.

For more information and to apply go to <https://www.vic.gov.au/mens-shed-funding-program>

Applications close 4.00 pm Thursday 17 July 2025.

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# NEWS FROM THE OP-SHOP AND FOODBANK

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## Big Green has lots of goodies!

Hello folks. By the time this goes to press I hope we have had some rain - we could certainly do with it. The Food Bank garden is looking a bit desperate now. What with lack of rain and our first frost the leafy greens are not coming on as hoped. If anyone with green fingers and a thriving veggie garden has some greens or other veggies in excess, perhaps you would consider donating it to the Food Bank. Any fresh produce would be gratefully received.

Meanwhile, Hugh has done a sterling job with a house clearance. Strictly speaking, the policy of the Op Shop is that people bring in and collect their own donations/purchases. However, Hugh has put in many extra volunteer hours to get eleven ute loads of items to the shop, which have then been sorted and priced by our other volunteers. So, a big thank you to Hugh.

There has therefore been heaps of furniture come into the Green Shed and many other items as well. Our community has been very generous with donations, thank you.

### Specials

FIVE BOOKS for \$1. We have so many books on our shelves and boxes of books out the back waiting for space. Cold days equal good reading time!

THREE HATS/CAPS for \$2. We have a big surplus of these so come and get some for all the family.

SUMMER SHOES \$2 a pair (unless otherwise marked)

With the colder weather having arrived winter jackets/coats are now out on the racks

## Beautifully decorated plate with gold scrolled edges



at \$10 each, unless otherwise marked, like the leather and faux fur coats. There are some beautiful colours and styles. We do have a long haired faux fur coat at the moment that is lovely and warm and makes you look like a womble.

In the photos I have featured a charming little teapot and four cups and saucers, the whole set is \$7 and is quite exquisite. The sort of thing you would bring out when the vicar comes to tea! However, if you have a Him at home who is ham fisted and fat fingered then we have loads of mugs for \$1.

Next is a beautifully decorated plate with gold scrolled edges, which would look very pretty on a kitchen dresser. Or how about a quirky egg cup or two that would brighten up the breakfast table. The kids would love them.

There are also some gift sets of soaps, lotions, etc. which would be ideal to pop into a drawer ready for birthday or Christmas gifts (if you can resist the temptation to use them yourself).

The poem this week is from a little book published in 1921 by Ada Whalan Smith. The book is called 'Thoughts' and is quite sad in parts as it relates to her getting very sick. But, apparently she was a resident of Rushworth, which is what the poem is about, and I think she must have been married to a bank manager from something mentioned in the Forward. If anyone can give me more information about her I would be very pleased.

Until next time may your bellies be full and may you have a smile on your face.

Heather Wellington

## Quirky egg cups that would brighten up the breakfast table



## A daydream

By Ada Whalan Smith

The little town of Rushworth  
Was basking in the sun,  
All around was peaceful,  
Work for that day was done.

High Street! Could this be High Street?  
With such a wealth of flowers;  
And this fine stately statue,  
"In Memory of Ours"

I read each name in silence,  
Sadness and Beauty hung  
On that pure glistening tower,  
Where the green ivy clung.

I drove to Lake Waranga  
Thro' avenue of trees;  
Wattle gold and sunshine  
Perfume on the breeze.

I watched the weeping willows  
That seemed to dip and play;  
And then the red sun setting,  
I watched him fade away.

The vision lingers with me,  
The gold of wattle trees;  
Sunset in the valley;  
The perfume on the breeze.

## Charming little teapot and four cups and saucers



## Opening times

**Rushworth Food Bank:**  
Mon, Wed and Fri  
10am-12pm

**#9 Op-Shop:**  
Mon, Wed and Fri - 9am -  
2pm

Sat 9am to 12pm

**Little Green Shed:**  
Mon and Fri  
9.30am - 2pm  
Sat 9.30am to 12pm





Colbo Tit Bits

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## Bon Voyage, Antoine



It's not very often a Frenchman comes to Colbo and quickly becomes one of the community! Antoine (at the end of table) came to work for Pat and John Kennedy a few months ago and seemed to fit in very well. He even donned a Grasshopper jersey and played a game of local footy, as well as immersing himself in the local social scene. As much as Antoine will be missed, he was very happy to be returning to France to be reunited with loved ones.

## Birthday celebrations



Kathy Ryan (far right) lured her mother, Lenore (centre) to Colbo to celebrate her birthday. Also along for the celebrations were (L-R) Lenore's sister Gwen, a granddaughter, Caitlin, and Kathy's sister, Jenny. A weekend of family celebrations venues included Silver Spoon Estate and Colbinabbin Country Hotel.

## War on waste @ CCH



There are many easy ways to reduce waste and the staff at the Colbo pub are doing their best! They compost serviettes, paper straws, paper towel and paper bags.

It's amazing what people in the community re-use too! Occasionally you'll see on social media 'Anyone want buckets? Stock for soup? Extra salad? Chook scraps? Coffee grinds for the garden?'

None of these things seem to last long before people come and grab them, which is great. All the cardboard goes into a trailer which is emptied into the recycling at the local tip. The soft plastics are collected and put in the orange bins at the local school. Anything that can be saved from landfill is saved! Next on the list is to encourage the use of reusable coffee cups. It would be ideal to see everyone arrive with coffee cups, but we do understand

sometimes it's impossible for many reasons. The pub has also started making their own carry trays out of Almond/Soy milk tetra packs, which is working a treat! **Pictured is Nadine Wright**, a regular coffee collector for Browns Stockfeeds. Nadine is proudly modelling one of the homemade carriers, which she will even return the next trip! She's also busy spreading the word at Browns: re-use, re-cycle, reduce! It's a good thing to do.

Cemetery Trust

Mowing Roster (lawn section only)

June - Carmel Turner

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 - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 9am @ CCH

JUNE

Sat 14 Ladies Day - Colbo Pub dinner

Sat 28 Flight Night

SEPTEMBER

Sat 13 Grand final

FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

June 15 Graeme Reid, Bill West

June 22 Ramon Rathjen, Darryl Rathjen

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

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

ROUND 9

14 JUNE

Colbinabbin v Mount Pleasant

Heathcote v Huntly

LBU v White Hills

Leitch-Gun v North Bendigo (L)

BYE v Elmore

ROUND 10

21 JUNE

Heathcote v Mount Pleasant

Huntly v LBU

Leitch-Gun v White Hills (G)

Elmore v North Bendigo

BYE - Colbinabbin





## 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**



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point for Medicare,  
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Government services.**

## First Aid Training at RCH is available in August

On Saturday, 9 August, Rich River First Aid will be delivering an important series of First Aid modules to members of the public at Rushworth Community House.

The modules to be delivered are:

- Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Provide First Aid
- Provide First Aid (Continuous Learning) P3
- Provide First Aid in an Education and Care Setting
- Provide First Aid in an Education and Care Setting (Continuous Learning) P3

To participate in any of these course, go to

<https://richriverfirstaid.com.au/>

then select **Training Dates**. Scroll down to 9 August and click on the **enrol** button to select your preferred module.

Costs for each module are included in the course listing.

Book early to ensure a place.



(Photo credit - Rich River First Aid)

## P12 students demo culinary skills

Students from Rushworth P-12 College recently demonstrated their newly acquired culinary skills by presenting a morning tea for Community members at the Community House. Chocolate chip cookies and pumpkin scones adorned their platters and lively chat passed to and from between the students, other visitors and RCH members of staff.



Students Phillip, Michael, Jack, Bella, Ella and Grace had previously cooked the biscuits and scones at the College, then served them with tea and coffee at the Community House.

Together with their teacher Daniel, the students brought a welcome ambience into the House's Multipurpose Room.

They discussed their time spent observing protective burning practices with Forest Fire

Management Victoria, learned how fires may impact our community and the measures that could be taken to minimise the damage to lives, families, properties and communities.

After the session, several of the other visitors expressed their delight at the way the students handled the novel situation, and praised both their level of knowledge and maturity.

(Photo of students used with permission)

## Elder Rights session being planned

For more than thirty years Elder Rights Australia has promoted the human rights of all older Victorians to receive safe, quality aged care. The organisation provides information, advocacy, and social support to people seeking access to or using residential or in-home aged care services.

The Australian Government's Charter of Aged Care Rights dictates that everyone receiving aged care services has fundamental rights that include:

- safe and high-quality care and services
- dignity and respect
- access to information
- have one's identity, culture and diversity valued and supported
- make a complaint, free of reprisals.

Problems can occur both for people living in their own homes and in aged care facilities. When problems do arise, many older folk find themselves at a loss about what they can do to remedy the situation, or how to engage assistance if external help is required.

### Mastering PCs and Mobiles

If you have a PC, tablet or smart phone, and would love to know how to get the best use out of it, then the Community House's Digital Literacy course sounds perfect for you.

The House conducts its Digital Literacy classes each Tuesday morning over a ten week period. Classes run for three hours with a break for morning tea. Topics covered include navigating the internet, using SMS, and email, mastering social media, choosing the best software to meet your home-office needs, exploring available technologies, registering accounts and staying safe online.

Call the House on 5956 1295 for details.

Rushworth Community House is working with Elder Rights Australia to provide an information session that explores the ways in which ERA could provide future support to seniors living in and around Rushy.

If you are interested in attending an information session about the rights of elderly folk - or if you know someone who would benefit from attending a session, please contact Anita at the Community House on (03) 5856 1295 and register your interest.

This is a great opportunity for seniors and their families to acquaint themselves with the correct ways in which aged care services must be delivered. The date, time and venue will be announced in due course.

### Free online safety class

In response to queries from several Rushworth residents, the Community House is planning to hold a free session called "Staying Safe Online" on Saturday 5 July.

The session will run from 10am until 12 noon and will be conducted by House Manager Anita Pirie and House President Cass Alexander.

Both Anita and Cass have extensive on-line experience, and each is keen to try and help people avoid the many traps that can occur through social media, online product purchasing and importantly, internet banking.

Call the House on 5956 1295 to register.



# Arts & Tourism

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

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## Breaking the Surface - direct from Dookie

The Splinter Contemporary Artists have installed a new exhibition at the Kyabram Town Hall Gallery in Allan street.

The exhibition is the culmination of a field

excursion to the Dookie quarry and several workshops. The focus is on what lies beneath our feet in the Goulburn Valley. Works vary between paintings, clay sculptures and 3D

textile creations.

The exhibition was part of the Shepparton Festival and was seen at the Dookie quarry.



Childrens art classes  
Saturday mornings.  
New art group- at  
Kyabram Town Hall  
- information at 0490  
371 641

(Left) **Microlife 2**  
- **Pseudomonas** by  
**Kay Poulton**

(Below left)  
**Erosion** by  
**Amanda Hocking**

### Kyabram Town Hall Gallery Exhibitions

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

- MARGARET MCDONALD - Connected But Different
- RAYMOND HILL- Plein Air Artist
- LEE & DELLA NELSON - Contemporary Art
- BREAKING THE SURFACE- Splinter Contemporary artists.

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Kennedy Shiraz 2019, Kennedy Cambria (Reserve) 2014, Kennedy Pink Hills Rosé 2021, Henrietta Shiraz 2020  
Henrietta Rose 2022 available online and being served at Colbinabbin Country Hotel.



# Cooks Corner

## Pumpkin hummus

Hummus means ‘chickpea’ in Arabic, and while different countries have their own take on this yummy dip, the one thing they all have in common is the use of chickpeas – either cooked or tinned.

### Ingredients

- 500g pumpkin, skin and seeds removed, chopped into chunks (save the seeds)
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 2 teaspoons of cummin seeds
- 2 tins chickpeas, drained and washed
- ½ teaspoon salt and pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely chopped
- Juice of one lemon
- Handful of parsley
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika.

(After scooping out your pumpkin, clean and dry the seeds. Toss them with olive oil and a pinch of salt. Spread out on a baking tray and roast at 160°C for 10-15 minutes. Sprinkle the crunchy seeds on your finished hummus!)

### Method

Roast the pumpkin chunks with the olive oil until soft. Remove from the baking tray and place it into a bowl to mash.

Roast the cumin seeds in a small frypan until aromatic and grind them in a mortar and pestle or blender. Add into a blender, the cumin seeds, the chickpeas, salt and pepper and process for thirty seconds.

Add the mashed pumpkin, garlic, lemon juice and olive oil to make a soft puree.

Spoon the pumpkin hummus into a serving plate/bowl, adding torn parsley, smoked paprika and toasted pumpkin seeds for garnish. Serves six as a dip.

Seasonal Kitchen



Pumpkin Hummus

# Garden Hints & Tips

## Bringing colour to your winter garden

Winter has crept up on us this year after an exceptionally sunny and mild autumn prolonging the pleasure of our outdoor activities. But it’s time now for the weather gods to get back on track and bring on some proper winter weather – especially the rains (but not the chilly frosts thank you).

When it does get dull and gloomy, it can encourage us to hide away inside, hibernating until the spring bulbs start to flower and the garden gets colourful and cheery again. But winter doesn’t have to mean a dull garden in Australia. With the right plant choices, we can enjoy lots of colour and interest even in the cooler months. Many Australian natives especially come into their own in winter, flowering and providing beauty when

much of the garden is resting.

There are many to choose from – Correas, Hakeas, Croweas, Hardenbergia and, of course, many wattles will soon be in their full golden glory. But I think Grevilleas are one of the best choices for adding vibrant colour to Australian gardens during winter.

These hardy native plants not only thrive in a wide range of climates—from coastal to inland regions—but many species and hybrids bloom generously during the cooler months, bringing life and colour when little else is flowering.

With blooms ranging from loud reds and oranges to soft pinks and yellows, grevilleas create a stunning visual display. Popular winter-flowering varieties include Grevillea ‘Robyn Gordon’, ‘Superb’, and ‘Peaches and Cream’, known for their long flowering periods and compact growth.

Beyond their beauty, grevilleas are also excellent for supporting local wildlife. Their nectar-rich flowers attract honeyeaters, bees, and other pollinators, making your garden not only colourful but full of life



during winter.

Grevilleas are low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, and thrive in well-drained soils with full sun exposure. Light pruning after flowering will help maintain shape and encourage more blooms.

There’s one bonus that hasn’t paid off yet though – I’m told kangaroos don’t like them, but I’m afraid my extensive grevillea planting has done nothing to deter the roo parties in my yard each night!



## 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 laundry issues and winter issues. 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!*

- **Your child’s Barbie Doll’s hair all tangled.** Just soak the hair in fabric softener for ten minutes or so and then gently tease the knots out.
- **A cheap household cleaner for cents** - When you eat an orange save the peel and put it in a mason jar. When the jar is full, fill with white vinegar. Leave for two weeks and then pour the liquid into a spray bottle. This spray is great for cleaning or a bug spray and is good for deterring ants!
- **Cough – cold – definitely can recommend this one** – Make up a mug of a heaped teaspoon of raw honey and a tablespoon of freshly squeezed lemon juice and top up with warm to hottish water. Stir until combined in the liquid. Gently sip this mixture after going to bed and this definitely helps with a more restful night’s sleep!
- **Boiled rice turned out gluggy!** - Make sure your rice saucepan has a tight fitting lid and while rice is still very hot put a slice of bread on the top of the rice and put the lid back on. Heat the rice for a good two minutes then lift the lid and (hopefully) most of the gluggyness has now been absorbed by the bread so you can discard the soggy bread and fluff up the remaining rice.
- **White socks a problem.** Some people just love white socks but boy can they be difficult to keep stain free! Try soaking the white socks in salted water the night before if possible. Then when you come to wash them the next day, stains should remove much easier.



# Health and Wellbeing

## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) - 15 June

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 15 June as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD).

WEAAD is a global initiative to raise awareness about the mistreatment of older adults. It is celebrated around the world each year, providing an opportunity for communities to stand together against the abuse, mistreatment and neglect of older people.

Elder abuse can take many forms, including physical, emotional, financial and neglect. It often goes unnoticed and unreported, leaving victims isolated and vulnerable.

Most often, elder abuse is carried out by someone known to the older person, with two thirds of abusers being an adult child according to research by Seniors Rights Victoria (SRV). Abusers can also be other family members, relatives or friends.

Elder abuse affects people of all genders and all walks of life. The abuse, however, disproportionately affects women – two-thirds of people seeking help from SRV are women.

This day encourages communities, caregivers and individuals to recognise the signs of abuse and take action to protect elders’ rights, dignity and safety.

Everyone deserves to age with respect and security. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day encourages everyone to stand together to support our seniors, promote awareness and ensure that all older adults live free from abuse and exploitation.

### Speak up, protect, respect.

- If you or someone you know is in an emergency, call 000.
- Help is available if you are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, elder abuse.
- Call Seniors Rights Victoria’s free helpline on 1300 368 821 from 10 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday.



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## 2025 Active Living Census launches in Campaspe

The 2025 Active Living Census (ALC) is now open and Loddon Campaspe residents are being asked participate.

The region-wide survey, conducted by Healthy Loddon Campaspe, aims to gather insights into the health, wellbeing and daily activities of local residents. The data collected will inform community planning, health programs and infrastructure development across the region.

Campaspe Shire Council Director Communities Jo Bradshaw said the insights from this year’s ALC will guide planning and funding for programs, facilities and services that meet community needs.

“Each response helps guide improvements that matter such as upgraded community spaces and more opportunities to stay healthy,” Ms Bradshaw said.

The ALC is a comprehensive survey that covers topics such as

- Frequency of physical activity and sport participation
- Dietary habits, including fruit, vegetable, and sugary drink consumption
- Smoking and gambling behaviours
- Life satisfaction and overall happiness
- Barriers to maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle

Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Daniel Mackrell urged all residents to take part by completing the online census.

“The Active Living Census provides vital insights into the health and wellbeing priorities of our community.

“The more people who participate, the clearer the picture we get. We strongly encourage everyone, young or old, active or not to fill it out. It’s your health, your community, your say,” Cr Mackrell said.

Completing the census online is easy, anonymous and takes around fifteen minutes. Everyone who completes the census online

will have the chance to be in the draw to win their share of \$10,000 in prizes in the early bird and weekly prize draws.

Healthy Loddon Campaspe, a Victorian State Government-funded initiative aimed at improving health outcomes in the region, is delivering the 2025 Active Living Census (ALC) in partnership with the six local government areas of Greater Bendigo, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Loddon, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander Shires.

### Survey Details

- **Duration:** The survey is open for a four-week period, starting from May 26, 2025.
- **Format:** The survey is available online and is anonymous.
- **Time Commitment:** Completing the survey takes approximately 15 minutes.
- **Eligibility:** Open to all residents of Campaspe

To complete the Active Living Census visit [go.healthyloddoncampaspe.au/alc](https://go.healthyloddoncampaspe.au/alc), and for more information visit [www.healthyloddoncampaspe.au/alc](https://www.healthyloddoncampaspe.au/alc).



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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.*

## Brush-tailed Bettongs

We are so accustomed to what we consider our 'common' species of wildlife in this area; flocks of corellas, cockatoos, galahs and rosellas, lorikeets and swallows, mobs of kangaroos feeding in paddocks and along roadsides. It is difficult for many people to imagine they may be initially in trouble when these critters are commonly seen as we traverse the countryside.

It's even more difficult to believe that in another few decades, some of them may become rare, not common. This is not a new thing that humans have witnessed both here and in every other corner of the globe.

We recently acquired a very special critter on our education licence. His name is Bobby and he is a brush-tailed bettong. He made his first public appearance recently in Tatura at the Goulburn Valley Tree Group Nursery alongside Goulburn Murray Landcare Group for an open day promoting wildlife and habitat awareness in our own backyards. Bobby is a confident little macropod and was quite happy meeting people and is a great representative of a species which was once prevalent and considerably widespread on Australia's mainland.

Sadly, these small kangaroo-like critters have faced nothing but catastrophic population crashes since Europeans first set foot on Australian soil. By 1920, they were already extinct in the state of Victoria where they once thrived. Bettongs once roamed in over sixty percent of the mainland country and are now one of the most highly endangered species in Australia with only three remnant populations in south western South Australia and they now occupy only one percent of their original range. Conservation efforts since the 1970's entailing fox and feral cat eradication using baiting in the areas where remaining populations existed and reintroducing brush-tailed bettongs to at least forty-six sites in South Australia, Western Australia and NSW, has seen populations rise from the dismal numbers they'd plummeted to after European settlement. Reintroductions to the wild has seen mixed results though with some being successful while others have not.

The drivers of the bettong's destruction have been habitat loss due to land clearing and burning practices as well as introduced predators like the red fox and cats. The brush-tailed bettong is believed to have two subspecies, an eastern subspecies which is

now considered extinct and the western form which is also known as the woylie. Bettongs are a macropod in the same family as potoroos and are also known as rat-kangaroos. They sport a long, prehensile tail with a black, bushy tip. They forage on fungi, seeds, leaf material, seasonal roots, tubers, berries and invertebrates. They have been observed caching food, usually seeds, by burying them for later consumption and carrying nesting material with their prehensile tail.

Woylies are predominantly nocturnal, resting in constructed nests during the day, coming out to forage at dawn, dusk and during the night. These nests are made from leaves, grasses and bark, are dome shaped and are usually well camouflaged inside hollow logs, in dense vegetation, abandoned burrows or under fallen trees in shallow scrapes. They can breed all year round but only have one young at a time with twins being rare. They can have up to three young per year. Being a marsupial, they carry their young in a pouch, then as the babe grows, it will follow mum at foot. Most of the places where reintroduction has worked are fenced wildlife sanctuary areas where introduced predators are eradicated or kept at a low level as well as the habitat being protected and intact.

I think the historical records of the conservation efforts of a critter who almost became extinct is both an example and warning of how fenced wildlife protection zones maybe a short stop for propping up a species on the threshold of extinction which is invaluable as a first step to build up 'wild' populations but they are just that, a short stop.

Research initially showed positive results for the woylie populations which were reintroduced into predator free fenced areas but after a boom in numbers over roughly a thirty year period, populations have been steadily crashing, even within these fenced areas. This suggests that the carrying capacity of fenced areas was reached then declined due to the amount of resources present.

Just like many of our Australian species, woylies appear to be naturally cyclical in their boom- and-bust population dynamics. They need to build up populations quite quickly so the numbers are there to survive as a species when times are less plentiful.

Influencing factors in species like this can be largely influenced by periods of drought or wet, which in turn drive the habitat conditions around them. Fenced areas are managed



**Bobby the brush-tailed bettong.**

by humans. As an example, Western grey kangaroos built up to high numbers in one fenced area so had to be culled so as not to out-compete the woylies for resources.

The problem with predator proof fenced areas is that not only are native animals who cannot get through, over or under the fence are blocked from entering, they are also trapped inside. This alters the entire dynamics of wild populations when they are in effect land locked in or excluded, this can include natural predators.

While predator proof fencing is holding up species from disappearing altogether, we really need to be doing more work on the ground in preserving, enhancing and creating more natural habitat everywhere if we don't want to have to visit a fenced area just to see these endangered species in the wild. We need to be doing more eradication of introduced predators such as cats and foxes in the form of both trapping and shooting.

Our wild landscapes were never managed before First Nations people and Europeans began to call Australia home. We are attempting to manage nature in an effort to slow the decline of many plants and animals. Nature in itself is dynamic, ever shifting, a ceaseless battle of balance between all flora and fauna species. While doing what we can to protect a dwindling species we must also see some of these efforts as a stop-gap while we continue to do conservation work in our own backyards - or I fear it will all be in vain.

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.

## Hard times

With poor spring rains, not much rain over summer and then the autumn rains failing it has been an increasingly tough time for the plants and animals of our forest. Much of this has gone unnoticed; only noticed when it becomes blatantly obvious.

Most days I go for a walk in the bush. I have done this for about thirty years and walk the same tracks. I do not get bored; there is always something new to see. Over the last few months, I have been seeing signs that the drought conditions are causing a great deal of stress on the forest. Here are some observations.

The forest canopy is very sparse. It is almost transparent. Eucalyptus trees shed leaves over summer to conserve moisture. Over last summer and autumn, they have shed more leaves than normal and the leaf-litter on the forest floor is deeper.

While most trees are surviving, shrubs are doing it harder. In some places approximately 10% of shrubs have died. The gorse bitter pea (egg and bacon) seems to be particularly affected. The dead shrubs foliage turns an orange colour which is easily seen.

The cherry ballart trees (wild cherries) are turning brown. They appear to be dying. This is strange because they are parasitic (they latch a root onto a neighbouring eucalypt's root). Perhaps with the eucalypts in 'survival mode' there is little moisture or nutrients in their root systems for the cherry ballarts to steal.

The autumn greenhoods have not flowered. They did not even send up leaves. Hopefully their tubers are ok and we will see them again next autumn. Clumps of mosquito orchids are being decimated by the white-winged choughs. Choughs turn over leaf-litter searching for food, helping it to break down. In times of drought they resort to eating the tubers of the mosquito orchids. The choughs themselves seem to be surviving and are still in their larger extended family groups rather than breaking up into small groups to make better use of limited food sources.

The kangaroos are also struggling. I have noticed that the young males have been ejected from their mobs have formed small 'boy mobs'. Many of these young males appear to be younger than normal and look quite poorly. Kangaroos are leaving the forest in search of feed. Most approaches to Rushworth are littered with the rotting corpses of kangaroos that have been hit by vehicles. The 'village green' is covered with kangaroo poo. There is often a little on the grassy green but at present it is so bad it could be raked up.

Kangaroos are a boom-and-bust species. When times are tough, they die off and then breed up quickly once things improve.

Pied currawongs are a favourite bird of mine. They have recently arrived back after spending the summer in the mountains. Sadly, I saw two separate currawongs who were in very bad shape. It was when they should have first arrived. Perhaps the lack of food during their migration (and little to eat once they arrived) was just too much for them.



The recent rain may be a reprieve for the forest and its creatures, and hopefully there will be follow up rains to keep things ticking over. Regardless, it is now winter and for most it is a case of surviving until the spring.

The present climatic conditions are just as climate modelling is predicting with climate change and may be a sign of things to come.



Pied currawong

## Birds of a Feather

### Magpie-lark

The magpie-lark is called by a number of common names depending on where you are in Australia. Locally it is usually called the mudlark because it builds a nest of mud and straw which is lined with feathers and fur. Other names include peewee, peewit and Murray magpie, however the official English name is the Magpie-lark. It is widespread throughout Australia, except for Tasmania, as it is well adapted to a range of habitats. It is a carnivorous species, feeding on small prey on the ground and has adapted well to human habitation as it has benefited from tree clearing and the increase of grasslands.

The magpie-lark is non-migratory so the local birds will have been raised here and can be seen all year round. Usually the birds are seen in pairs, a male and a female, which, if you look carefully, are quite easy to tell apart. The male has a black throat and a white eyebrow whereas the female has a white throat. Each pair is faithful and strongly bonded and will defend their territory and nest quite aggressively from other magpie-larks, other much larger birds and even from humans.

The magpie-lark is one of the species in which the pair will sing in duet. It may sound like a single call because when one bird calls, their partner will call about a half second later and this duet call may be repeated several times. Duet singing is common in birds where the pair bond is strong and a pair of magpie-larks will sing together to defend their territory. Magpie-larks also engage in pseudo-duets when nesting where one individual mimics the contribution of a missing partner, giving the impression to other birds that two are present.

Next time you see a pair of magpie-larks look for the difference in the pied patterns of the males and females. If you are lucky enough to hear them duet you may be able to detect the split second difference between each one calling.

*The Rushy Birder*



(Above) female magpie-lark  
(Below) male magpie-lark





# Fifty years ago in our district....

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



## Major printing mishap in early June 1975

One June edition of the Chronicle had a very large blank space where a photo was supposed to have been placed. The editor tried again the next week and there was Kerry Barlow of Rushworth – Colbinabbin Apex Club presenting a cheque for \$450 to Norm Wright of the Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve committee.

## Shire of Waranga

More successfully photographed welcoming State Member for Bendigo John Bouchier were Shire President Bill Jacobson, and Crs Gerard Tuohey, Ron Hickson and Bill Ayson.

Federal MP Bruce Lloyd was also in town, presenting an Australian flag to the High School headmaster Ernest Jones. *(Must have been elections coming up!)*

## Schools

Big news at Rushworth Primary when Mr Ross brought along an egg containing a dead chicken. Michael Leggett took his budgie to school. Vivienne Taylor brought along some bamboo, sourced from a trip to Queensland by her father Keith (a High School teacher).

Grades 4 and 5 learned to play nine chords on their guitars thanks to Miss Perrin. Some students could play both the guitar and the recorder. *(Just thought you would like to know.)*

Grades 5 and 6 had made kites after viewing a television programme, and one made by Ian Raglus flew the highest. They did breaking strain experiments to see which type of string was best for kite-flying. String was tied to the back of a chair and an ice-cream container suspended then filled with weights until the string broke. *(Very creative.)* Wendy and Donna took their wind chimes to school, Donna now being Donna Pearce of Nagambie.

St Mary's Mothers' Club had a very long debate about whether the sandwiches sold at the school should be replaced by pies and hot dogs. So serious was this matter that a sub-committee was finally appointed to conduct further investigations. Sandwiches remained for the present and the big issue remained unresolved. Mrs Quinn commended contributors to the Mothers' Day gift stall, which raised \$28.81. In a political move the club decided to send \$10 to an organisation known as the Festival of Right. *(That was how Peter Davidson printed it, but could it have been the Festival of Light, headed by Rev. Fred Nile?)*

Rushworth High School teachers were planning a mock debutante ball. Tickets \$5 a double. 340 American teachers had

been recruited to fill vacancies in Australia, and Bradley Fahrney of Ohio arrived to teach English. Home-grown teacher Tony Ford announced the planned opening of a community Youth Coffee Shop.

## Community

Bill Barlow of the very generous Rushworth – Colbinabbin Apex Club presented Moora Fire Brigade captain Ron Wootton with a cheque for \$150. Ron said funds were low and a \$3 levy on brigade members had raised \$12.

The Apex Club and the Lions Club met together and heard Les Garraway, Regional Tourist Officer, say that towns in the area should form tourist committees. *(Good idea.)*

## Personal

Jenny Lorenz of Stanhope became engaged to Peter Bermingham. Carmel Tuohey of Toolleen and Robert Miller of Rushworth thanked family and friends for gifts given at their kitchen tea.

Mrs Violet Marks, mother of local mechanic George Marks, died, but her age was not given. Ethel Horne, mother of Irene Jones and Alec Horne, also died. She was the grandmother of the Horne boys, Rodney Jones, Sharon Perry and Denise Snelling.

John Lambden gave stern but fair warning: "Would the persons seen taking the chain and other items from the slaughter yard paddock please return before action is taken." *(Did you get them back Lout?)*

## Football

The same young John Lambden ran onto the ground through a guard of honour of Seconds and Senior players to mark his hundredth game for the Tigers. He had started in the Seconds when aged 15.

His day was spoilt when Colbo kicked 17-13 to Rushworth's 6-6, Hammond with five goals for Colbo and O'Sullivan just two for the Tigers. Amid the ongoing debate about paid players from distant places, Colbo locals Bill Johnson, John McEvoy, Hammond and Ken McMurtrie did best, Lambden shown as best for the opposition.

Colbo Seconds inflicted the Tigers with a 7-4 to 6-7 defeat, Ian Marrett booting three goals and best players Bryon (good spelling) McIntosh, Les McMurtrie, Danny McArdle, Brett Cheatley, Matt Ryan and G. Maddern. Usual suspects for Rushworth were Barry Thompson, Ray and Ian Cruz, Dungey Hageman, Ken Risstrom, and new player Robert Bull.

Colbo then beat Elmore 16-11 to 8-8, with star ex-radius player Wayne Egan kicking seven goals, and the Macs doing well: McCormick, McEvoy and K. McMurtrie.

Boyle, Wall and Bell were good players

for Murchison and John Orr kicked a 70-metre goal but Merrigum's 11-13 was too much for 6-14. The Seconds reversed that result with D. O'Mahoney named as best.

Stanhope footballers were still seeking their first win in GVL footy.

## Other sport

Reaching semi-finals in Rushworth Golf's Crosgrave Cup were pairs Ron Risstrom – Doug Poulson, Les Muir – Alan Curnick, Peter Home – Rob Draper, Reg McIntosh and Graham Spence. Excitement was building. Then young David Heily broke the course record with a par round of 68. Rob Borger won an award for best first-year golfer.

For the Associates, Norma Bolden and Nan Jessup just edged past Beryl Home and Kath Heath. Jean Branson birdied the ninth hole in three successive rounds. Lorraine Barlow won an award for new players.

At Murchison, John Hammond took out the Graham Campbell Trophy. Another trophy at Murchison was named for Doc Rogers, who had the ideal initials of J. A. B.

Winners in three grades of Associates at Murchison were Elaine Clarke, Jan Bourke and Isobel Seymour. Therese Bourke won the club raffle for the second week in succession.

Officials elected by Stanhope Bowls Club members included Barney Maidment, Syd Linford, Norm Hadfield, Arch Currie, Neville Hepples, Wal Adams, Merv and Bruce Emmett.

Travelling bowlers Don and Florence Perry (Rushworth) and Ron and Jean Roulston (Stanhope) won a big tournament at Eden on the south coast of NSW.

## Rushing to Whroo, 1853 to 1880



**\$25**

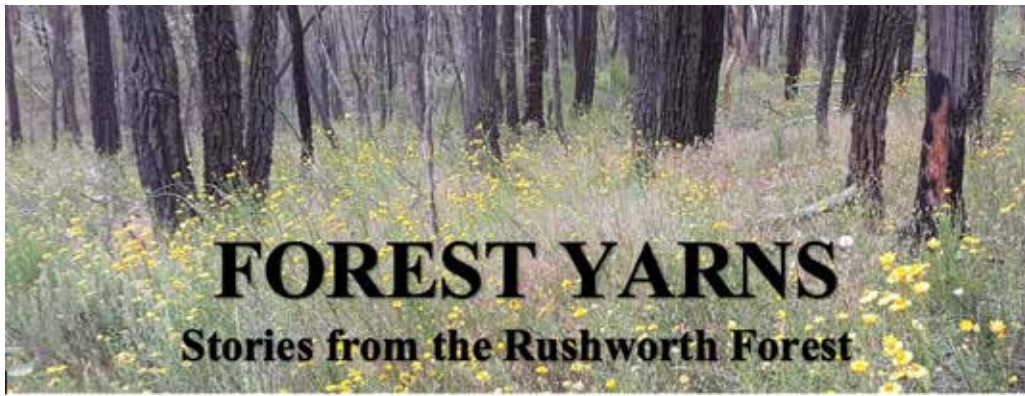
**Alan McLean**

**0412 143 660**

**Books available:**

Waranga News office and General Store Rushworth





## Later wood mills at the station

In the early part of the 20th century, there were typically about half a dozen wood mills at the Rushworth station, with others at stations along the Murchison to Colbinabbin railway line.

These mills “were driven by steam portable engines of around seven to eight horsepower capacity. In two of these mills, these were coupled to an ordinary push bench which needed a “benchman” and a “lumper” for their operation. In the remaining four mills, “patent” benches were used which eliminated the need for a “benchman” through the use of automatic clutches and couplings.

All benches were coupled to the engine with a 150 mm (6 inch) flat belt of leather, or composition fabric. Saw blades were generally of 1.07 m (42 inches) diameter of 9-gauge steel.”<sup>1</sup>

## Buildings

The buildings erected to protect the equipment were pretty basic. They were “simple structures and consisted of a timber frame sheeted with corrugated galvanised iron and roof and on the sides of the engine area.”<sup>1</sup>

There was not much protection from the prevailing weather conditions and the work was hard. It is hardly surprising that the men who worked in the timber industry were physically tough. Many of them went on to form the basis of the great Rushworth footy teams of the 1930s, which won five premierships in a major league – the golden era of the Rushworth Football Club.

Spare a thought for those who took the billets off the vehicles that had conveyed them to the station, stacking them vertically as close as possible to the mill. Also, those who loaded the empty rail wagons, known as “stackers”. They “took sawn blocks and stacked them directly into the rail wagons beside each mill.”

## Sites of the mills

Post World War 1, two mills were located “adjacent to the line servicing the (existing) goods shed. The mill at the eastern end next to the platform had only one owner in Jack Perry and Sons...It was one of the last mills to set up.”

“The second mill was located on a spur off the goods shed line at the western end, and adjacent to the livestock trucking yards. It was operated by various proprietors such as Anderson and Colliver and later Jim Poulson.

This was the last mill in operation.

“The other mills were located on the branch line running to the north of the goods shed” and included the mill “close to the junction with the branch line of the goods shed.” This mill was owned by Bill Curtis and his family. The next mill to the west was started by Mick Wall and sons and later owners included George Ristrom and Sons. Still further west was the mill operated by Mr Curtis Snr and son Walter. This mill was later operated by George Ristrom and sons and Peter Kenny. The last of these mills was just west of the access road to the goods shed, with the owners including Jones Bros and Leo Armstead.”<sup>1</sup>

## Seasonal nature

Getting billets of wood out of the forest was seasonal. Roads and tracks were often impassable during the winter months, especially with the potential for traction engines to churn them up. Consequently, the mills used to stockpile billets before winter to ensure they had enough to be able to provide a steady supply of firewood. When it was time for the billets to be moved from the stockpile to the mill, a low horsedrawn trolley was used.

Horse drawn vehicles carting timber used to come in from the Whroo Road along High Street then turn down Wigg Street to avoid the centre of town. They would use the former bridge across the railway tracks that linked Murchison Road to Moora Road before Station Street was constructed. Traction engines would avoid High Street because of the potential to upset horses and damage the road surface.

The former reason was also behind the famous Rushworth whistle post signs, two of which used to be on the Whroo Road. On hearing the whistle, horse owners had time to secure their animals as the traction engines entered the town precinct.

Reference: Spiby, Tracey, notes on historic “Firewood Milling Operations” at Rushworth, per favour Ted Jones.

## Forest nature note

You might have noticed quite a few under-storey plants that are dead or dying in the forest now. These are plants that prospered over the last few years with the wetter conditions but cannot sustain themselves in this year’s extended dry period. One of the local species that seems to fare the worst is *Acacia paradoxa*, which has a variety of common names – Kangaroo Thorn, Kangaroo Acacia, Prickly or Hedge Wattle. This is despite the plant being regarded as drought and frost tolerant.

## A name from the past

### ***Mrs Flora McLarty lived to “a ripe old age”***

The name McLarty has been associated with this district since at least the 1850s, based on the name reviewed today.

Mrs Flora McLarty, of Girgarre East, lived a very long life, after having come close to losing her life during the voyage to Australia. Her extraordinary story was told in the Rushworth Chronicle of 29 September, 1916.

“On Friday last there was laid to rest in the Rushworth cemetery the remains of Mrs Flora McLarty, relict of the late Mr Neil McLarty, one of the oldest residents of Girgarre East, and also a colonist of 67 years.

Deceased, with her late husband (who predeceased her by eighteen years), together with her infant daughter (now Mrs Johnstone) came from Argyleshire, Scotland, in the “Mahomet Pasha”, in 1849. The ship was dismasted in a storm, eight of the crew finding a watery grave, and in the melee Mr McLarty had the misfortune to sustain a broken arm.

The vessel was in grave danger for some time until a ship was met with conveying convicts to what was then known as Van Dieman’s Land, from which spars [timbers] were obtained that enabled the crippled vessel to reach its destination, the passage occupying something like five months.

In those days Melbourne was mostly composed of what the Scottish immigrants called “cloot hooses,” and the aborigines formed a considerable portion of the population.

Mrs McLarty, whose maiden name was McPhail, had a sister and two brothers who came out about the same time, all of whom predeceased her, the sister passing away at Frankston only three weeks ago.

Deceased had enjoyed the best of health until recent years, and had reached the ripe old age of 91 years at the time of her demise. She leaves behind her, living, three daughters, five sons, thirty-three grandchildren and twenty-four great-grandchildren.”

Mrs McLarty’s funeral must have been quite a gathering if all those descendants were present. I don’t know whether any descendants still live in the district. Perhaps a sharp-eyed reader can let me know.

*Alan McLean*



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

# History adventure for St Mary's Grade 5/6 Camp

What a brilliant few days St Mary's Grade 5/6 students had on their camp to Sovereign Hill, Ballarat!

From Wednesday 27 to Friday 30 May, students stepped back in time to the 1850s gold rush era — and what an adventure it was!

The days were jam-packed with exciting activities. Students tried their luck gold panning, with some lucky prospectors finding real specks of gold!

They watched a fascinating candle-dipping demonstration and toured the dark depths of the Red Hill Mine. The Eureka Story and Goldfields STEM (programs promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education sessions brought history and science to life, while the spectacular Gold Pour Demo left everyone wide-eyed.

At night, the Aura Night Show 'Light Changes Everything' took everyone on an immersive storytelling journey through light and sound. Between movies, bowling, the confectionery demo and exploring the labyrinth of old-time shops and streets, there was never a dull moment.

Students had a fantastic time learning about Australia's history in a fun, hands-on way. Everyone returned a little tired, a little dusty, but with big smiles and golden memories that will last a lifetime!



(Above) Grade 5/6 students all ready for a fun few days.

(Right) Students experience a cheap and reliable mode of transport - never runs out of petrol!



## FIRE carrier ceremony

A beautiful commissioning of our 2025 FIRE carriers (Friends Igniting Reconciliation though Education) took place on Tuesday 27 May. Students in Year 5 had sent letters to Mr Ryan expressing their passion for becoming a FIRE carrier. Themes of advocacy, voice, learning and role-modelling were strong. Our 2024 FIRE carriers presented the newly-commissioned their badges. Thanks to Mrs Brook and Michael Chisholm for facilitating the ceremony. Congratulations and well done everyone.

Katherine Jamieson



Newly commissioned FIRE carriers with Michael Chisholm (Aboriginal Education Lead , Catholic Education Sandhurst.)

## MiniLit School Visit

Last Wednesday 4 June, the school welcomed Alicia from MultiLit (a reading and early literature support program) and Kylie from CESL (Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited) to St Mary's. They spent time observing our F/1/2 class during an InitialLit (three year literacy program for Year 2s) session and it was wonderful to have them see learning in action. A big thank you to Mrs. Fiske Kealy and Laura for their preparation and efforts in making the visit a success.

## Enrolments now OPEN

Any families who would like to enrol students for 2026, we ask that you please return your enrolment forms asap so that we can begin the process of planning for 2026 and beyond. If you require an enrolment pack, please contact Peta or Georgia in our office.



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# Bush Kinder at Colbo - a winter special

At Colbinabbin Kinder we always look forward to the cooler months, as it's time to start our Bush Kinder program. Our intrepid explorers thrive on the freedom to engage in unstructured play outdoors using natural elements. Every log, tree and stick is a play provocation, as the children's imagination is endless. Children lead their own play, choose how they want to play and what they want to play with.

Bush Kinder is a time of curiosity, creativity and learning. The group discover first hand how important the local environment is to all sorts of flora and fauna and how connected we all are.

We love watching our Kinder kids become more competent and confident as they challenge themselves to climb higher and investigate new challenges together.

*Cindy Smith  
Early Childhood Teacher  
Colbinabbin Kindergarten*



Colbinabbin Kinder kids enjoy a day of adventure at Bush Kinder.



Photos clockwise (from above):

Exploring the creek.

Carefully balancing on a log to cross over Cornella Creek.

Maeve is determined to climb the tree.

Tommy looks on in awe. 'Bessie how did you get up there?'

June shouts 'I did it!'





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# Stanhope Primary learns: What bin does this go in?

On Monday, the school had a special visit from the Campaspe Shire Council and took part in a fun and educational activity run by their WickED Program (Waste In Campaspe – Know, Educate, Do)!

Through the interactive activity “What bin does this go in?”, our students learned how to sort everyday waste items into the correct kerbside bins – helping us all become better recyclers and reduce landfill.

The WickED Program is all about encouraging positive environmental behaviours and empowering our community to make smarter waste choices. A big thank you to Campaspe Shire for helping us take another step toward a cleaner, greener future!

#Sustainability                      #WickEDProgram  
#WasteWise                          #CampaspeShire  
#WhatBinDoesThisGoIn        #EcoEducation  
#ReduceReuseRecycle



Students enjoyed participating in the interactive session.

Alice from the Shire delivered an informative and visually stimulating activity.

# P-12 students’ conservation and building work

Rushworth Field and Game and students from the Rushworth P12 erected some parrot nesting boxes on school land north of the cemetery on Wednesday.

The boxes were made and painted by the students over the past few Wednesdays at the Field and Game club rooms. It is hoped that there will be a good uptake of these boxes over the next few months to build on the student’s enthusiasm. We will be continuing to build and repair boxes over the next few months with another major installation site to be confirmed shortly.

The next few Wednesdays will be enclosing the previous barbecue area so it can be utilised to store hen houses and nest boxes that are changed over for restoration and repair.

The work on the club rooms continues and the club is grateful to Mark Piltz for volunteering himself and his mini digger to remove the old barbecue and broken seating around the clubhouse.

A sign has now been erected on the building and with the work being done each Wednesday it has become a real community asset instead of a vandalised building.

Anyone who wants to volunteer to help on conservation projects you will be made welcome. Our working bees are usually at 9am on Wednesday mornings. Coffee and banter are free to enjoy.

If you are interested check on our Rushworth Field and Game Facebook page where we list confirmation of the working bee.



Members of Rushworth Field and Game with students and supervisor.



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# Planning jobs in National Careers Week at P-12

It was National Careers Week recently and the College has held a range of careers related activities through the month of May to highlight the different pathways available to young people.

Congratulations to Year 7/8B who won the morning advisory quiz competition. Students were encouraged to brainstorm some collective answers on a career-related quiz question each morning.

Our favourite activity though is what seems to be our now ‘annual’ dress up day – “What I want to be when I grow up”. It was great to see all the possibilities the young, (and maybe not so young) dreamed up – because a career is more than just a job, it’s a culmination of that work role you do all your life, or change as you need, as well as your hobbies and interests too.



Year 7/8 students with chef, Mr Rix.

It was good to see that some staff followed their dreams from a young age, and others have made massive changes in their careers, proving that learning is indeed lifelong for us all.

*Kerrie Raglus  
Career Pathways*

(Left) Foundation - Year 3 students dress up to express their future dreams. We wonder whether that Spiderman ambition will be fulfilled!



## La Trobe unveils Regional Growth Strategy

La Trobe University recently announced a new five-year Regional Growth and Innovation Strategy to build on the University’s commitment to driving economic and social impact in the regions.

The strategy covers education, research and industry partnerships and plans for continued investment in campuses at Bendigo, Shepparton, Albury-Wodonga and Mildura.

As part of its focus on expanding what the University offers to regional students, the new strategy aims to grow enrolments in on-campus, hybrid and online courses by four times the growth rate of the domestic student population in regional Victoria by 2030.

Achieving this goal will narrow the gap between metropolitan and regional higher education participation across the campus network by a third.

La Trobe’s Chancellor, the Hon. John Brumby AO, said the new Regional Growth and Innovation Strategy 2030 would greatly improve higher education access as well as create a skilled workforce for regional Victoria’s economic and social prosperity.



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## Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)

Sandhurst Diocese is preparing to send 200 young pilgrims to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), a three-day celebration of faith, community and encounter that will gather over 10,000 young people from across the country in Melbourne, from 30 November to 2 December 2025.

Year 10 and 11 students from Catholic schools and parishes, young adults under the age of twenty-five, and young teachers from Sandhurst Catholic Schools are invited to join the Sandhurst Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Shane.

Sandhurst Youth Ministry Team Leader, Claire Spinelli will be co-ordinating the Sandhurst pilgrimage. Claire says the journey will start well before they head to Melbourne, with formation opportunities in the lead-up to the pilgrimage and afterwards, as the journey of faith is continued together. “The Festival offers young people a place at the table, ways to participate meaningfully and explore their faith with others. It’s a great opportunity to foster a sense of belonging and community for young people in our vast Diocese.”



Geoff Gowdie, Assistant Director of Mission and Pastoral Life with Claire Spinelli, Youth Ministry Team Leader and Fr Adi Indra.

## A baptism at St Lawrence’s, Stanhope



Fr Michael Grace, former parish priest of St Mary’s parish, has been currently filling in for Fr Jinjo Solis who has gone home to the Phillipines for a holiday. So, Fr Grace was only too happy to baptise the latest addition to the Fitzpatrick clan at Stanhope. (L–R) Tahnee and Zac Fitzpatrick with their daughter, Quinn, and godfather, Dwayne Fitzpatrick. Fr Michael had brought his accordion with him and so added an extra touch to the service and an add-on just for entertainment afterwards. Quinn is the granddaughter of Greg and Bernadette Fitzpatrick.

### District Church Times and Contacts

#### Anglican

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

#### Presbyterian

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

#### Catholic

St Mary’s Parish. 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 10.30am followed by a cuppa in the parish house. Contact a team member on the parish mobile phone: 0459 898 925. .

#### Shine Church, Stanhope

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

#### Living Waters Rushworth:

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

#### Generations Church, Tatura

5824 3240 (Pastor Jeremy Burr)

#### Salvation Army: 5852 3875

#### Uniting Church

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

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

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

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

The link for the Zoom service can be found on our website [warangaunitingchurches.net.au](http://warangaunitingchurches.net.au) or can be emailed to you each week.



**Catherine Fraser**  
Civil Celebrant

Celebrating Marriages and Funerals

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GOOD LIFE

Open to wonder; open to change

Like many people of a certain age, I hold two contradictory beliefs.

Firstly: ‘You can’t teach an old dog new tricks.’ I’m too old to change. What you see is what you get.

Secondly: I can slow down the aging process, maybe even reverse it, by doing Wordle, Quordle, and Waffle each morning in the firm belief that I’m creating new synapses in my brain.

Somewhere between those two beliefs sits a small but powerful idea: neuroplasticity, which is the scientific term for the brain’s ability to change and grow throughout life, not just during childhood, not just after a trauma, but even in our later years.

The concept of neuroplasticity means the old adage, ‘you can’t teach an old dog new tricks.’ might not be entirely true, although you may need a few extra treats!

- And, the fact is, we’ve all seen it:
- People who re-invent themselves when they are well past what society once thought of as ‘retirement age.’
  - The woman who learns Italian at 70 then travels solo to Florence.
  - The man who picks up a paintbrush for the first time since school and discovers he has a knack for landscapes.
  - The retired farmer who joins a Zoom book club.
  - The widower who, after losing his life companion, begins to write poetry and finds a new way to love the world.

I recently read about Masako Wakamiya,

an 81-year-old Japanese woman who became a first-time app. developer. Her grandson taught her how to code, and she created a game that helps older users sharpen their memory and co-ordination. She said, “I want to see what I can still become.”

It’s easy to imagine that ageing means we are nearing the end of the road, but sometimes it’s the beginning of an unexpected journey.

This reminds me of a story from the Bible known as ‘Pentecost’. You don’t have to be religious to appreciate the story. It is a story about change, courage, and the winds of change ushering in something new.

It begins with a group of Jesus’ followers shut away behind closed doors. They’d seen their leader executed, then risen from the dead, and finally taken up into heaven. Before leaving them, he promised them a helper would come to them, the Holy Spirit, but didn’t tell them when, or how, or what the Spirit would look like.

So, they waited. Unsure. They’re not planning anything. They’re waiting. Possibly fearing. Their movement seems to have stalled. Their road has run out.

And then, in the middle of their waiting, the Spirit comes to them, like a rushing wind. Suddenly, the room is filled with fire and voices, and those once-hesitant disciples are out in the streets, speaking with courage, fluency, and joy about their experience of God.

What’s even more extraordinary is how they’re understood by others.

There are people from all over the Roman Empire gathered in Jerusalem for a festival. They speak many languages, but they each hear the words in their own language, their mother tongue. The language that they comprehend with their ears, and that connects them to their heart and heritage.

What happened was a miracle of understanding beyond boundaries and across diversity.

This is something very much needed today, not just in our churches, but also in politics, in community, in everyday life. Too often we expect others to become like us before we will listen to them, but Pentecost shows us a different way with a Spirit who translates, who adapts, who opens doors rather than shutting them.

That opening isn’t just linguistic or cultural. It’s deeply personal. One line from that Pentecost story has always stuck with me: ‘Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.’ (Acts 2:17)

‘Your old men shall dream dreams.’ That’s not usually how we talk about aging. We expect younger people to dream, to imagine, to push the boundaries but Pentecost insists that the capacity for wonder, for vision, for fresh dreams, does not stop with age. It might even deepen with age. And that’s the gift of neuroplasticity, not just in our brains, but with our spirits.

No matter how old we are, we are not finished yet. We have not shut down. The good life isn’t about coasting to the end. It’s about staying open: to people, to change, to possibility.

So maybe the question for us is not, ‘What do I still have to offer?’”

- But: ‘What could I still become?’  
 ‘What might God still do in me?’  
 ‘What dreams might still awaken?’  
 The wind is still blowing.  
 The road is still open.  
 And life, it seems, is still unfolding.  
 This is the gospel, and it’s good news.

**Brian Spencer, Minister**  
**Waranga Uniting Churches**

**World Refugee Day** is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe.

It falls each year on 20 June and honours the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. This year, World Refugee Day focuses on solidarity with refugees. Solidarity means honouring refugees not just with words but with actions. It means listening to them and making space for their stories.

Each year the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) holds a World Refugee Day Telethon to honour the strength and resilience of refugees and people seeking



asylum and to raise funds for their support. This live-streamed telethon features a day of storytelling, music, interviews, and performances, bringing together celebrities, advocates, and the community to raise awareness as well as much needed funds.

In 2024, the telethon successfully raised over \$1.4 million, surpassing its

fundraising goal. The funds support the ASRC’s essential services, including food, housing, healthcare, and legal assistance for individuals who are often excluded from any form of government aid.

The 2025 telethon is scheduled for Friday, June 20, and will be broadcast live from the ASRC’s ‘Home of Hope’ in Footscray, Melbourne. Viewers can participate by donating online, bidding in the auction, or tuning in via the ASRC’s social media channels. The event aims to amplify the voices of refugees and inspire collective action for a more compassionate and inclusive Australia.

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**Phone: 5852 1061 Mobile: 0409 935 375**



# WARANGA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

## DEATH

**DOUGHERTY, (Bohn) Suzanne**  
**4/10/43 – 26/5/25**  
Dearly loved wife to Brian.  
Dearly loved mother to Anne, Gay, Tony and families.  
Dearly loved eldest daughter of Rob and Jose (formerly of Stanhope)  
Dearly loved sister to Frances, Robyn, Marjorie (dec) Lyndon, Elwyn, John, Andrew and Peter.

*Forever in our Hearts.*

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The deadline for display advertising copy is the Friday before publication.  
The deadline for classified line ads is the Monday before publication.

*Early booking of colour ads is strongly advised as space is limited.*

Phone: 5856 1120  
or email [wnews@iinet.net.au](mailto:wnews@iinet.net.au)

## PUBLIC NOTICES



**TELSTRA PROPOSAL TO  
UPGRADE A MOBILE PHONE  
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- The proposal on the existing 50m lattice tower consists of:
  - Installation of (9) Panel Antennas on a new headframe on the monopole
  - Installation of (1) Equipment Shelter at ground level
  - Installing ancillary equipment
  - There will be no increase in height to the facility
- In accordance with Section 7 of C564: 2025 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal.
- Please direct comments to: Emily Wardlaw on behalf of Telstra, 0422685472, PO BOX 586, Elsternwick VIC 3185, [consultation@acquirecomm.com.au](mailto:consultation@acquirecomm.com.au) by **Tuesday 1st July 2025.**

Further information can also be obtained from  
[www.rfnsa.com.au/3558006](http://www.rfnsa.com.au/3558006)

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DISTRICT INFORMATION BOARD

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TOWNS

JUNE

Sat 21	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
Sat - Sun 21 - 22	Nissan 'Nightmoves' Car Rally - Redcastle/Rushworth
Mon 23	Immunisation Session Stanhope 11.30am - 12 noon
Tue 24	Australian Poetry Slam Echuca Library

JULY

Sat 5	Opera in the Country - Shire Hall 5pm
Sun 6	Stanhope Town Garage Sale from 9am
Sat 12	RFNC Annual Ball 6pm Shire Hall
Sat 19	Rushworth Market, High Street - 8.30am to 1pm
Sun 20	RAD Felting workshop for Landcare 10am - 2pm

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

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

ADVERTISING DEADLINES  
FOR NEXT EDITION - 26 JUNE  
Display Ads: Friday, 20 June  
Classified: Monday, 23 June  
wnews@iinet.net.au



**Waranga News**

A Voluntary Community Newspaper

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# Your Council News

**f** @CampaspeShireCouncil  
**ig** #campaspeshire  
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**E:** [shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au)  
[www.campaspe.vic.gov.au](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au)

**Participate, don't wait!**  
Complete the Active Living Census online today!



**Coming Up** **Council meeting** | 6pm Tuesday, 17 June 2025 | Echuca Civic Centre  
Meetings can be streamed live: [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming)

Love driving?

Join our amazing team of volunteer drivers in Kyabram and help locals get to vital medical appointments.

With demand growing, we need more friendly faces behind the wheel! You'll be a trusted link to health services—and a real community hero. Ready to roll? Call Narelle Betts, Community Transport Officer, on 1300 666 535 to learn more and express your interest.



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.

Wednesday, 18 June

- 9.00 – 10:30am | Kyabram Senior Citizens' Centre

Thursday, 19 June

- 5.30 – 6:30pm | Echuca Library

Monday, 23 June

- 9.00 – 10:30am | Tongala Shire Hall
- 11.30am – 12 noon | Stanhope Community Health Centre

Tuesday, 1 July

- 5.30 – 6:30pm | Kyabram Senior Citizens' Centre

Thursday, 3 July

- 9.00 – 10:30am | Echuca Library
- 11.30am – 12 noon | Rochester Service Centre

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

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

Active Living Census

The Active Living Census is a region-wide survey conducted by Healthy Loddon Campaspe that asks residents in our region about their health, wellbeing and daily activities.

This information helps schools, sporting clubs, community groups, government, and local leaders make better decisions about health programs, new recreation spaces, and services.

It also helps the community get funding

to make the region a healthier place for everyone. Survey closes at midnight on 22 June 2025. Take the survey today!

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 are on offer. Applications close 29 June.

Australian Poetry SLAM Regional Heat at Echuca

Echuca Library is hosting Word Travels for the Campaspe heat of the 2025 Australian Poetry SLAM on 24 June.

Poets can pre-register and find more information at [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/library](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/library) under "what's on", or on the night from 6pm. Performances



run from 6:30pm and can go for up to two minutes; paper prompts are allowed, props are not. There are no barriers to entry – this event is essentially a poetry open mic night. Audience members are not required to register their attendance. Just come along and enjoy a great evening!

Expressions of Interest – Audit and Risk Committee

Expressions of Interest are sought for a suitably qualified person to participate as an independent member of Campaspe Shire Council's Audit & Risk Committee. The Audit & Risk Committee is a committee of Council that provides independent and objective advice on matters relating to financial and performance reporting, governance, risk, internal controls and accounting disclosures. The Committee meets a maximum of five times per annum.

Criteria for appointment is experience and/or qualifications in at least one of the following areas: accounting, auditing, risk management, governance or public sector executive management. Independent members are appointed to the committee

for a term of up to 4 years (however can be a shorter period of time) and receive an allowance for their services.

Expressions of Interest should detail the background of the applicant and must be in writing, addressed to Chief Executive Officer, Campaspe Shire Council, PO Box 35, Echuca Vic 3564, or alternatively emailed to [cs@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:cs@campaspe.vic.gov.au) by 5pm Friday 4 July 2025. A selection panel will interview applicants prior to making any recommendation for appointment to Council.

Copies of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and answers to inquiries may be obtained by contacting Matthew McPherson, Director Corporate on 5481 2200 during office hours.

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. Coming up next is:

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/businessworkshop](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/businessworkshop)





# Readers' Corner

- interesting things to know  
and do!

**BOOK IT IN**  
**Annette Kellerman, Australian Mermaid**  
 by Grantlee Kieza, (Published 2025. ABC Books.)

This is the story of Annette Kellerman, described as champion swimmer, trial blazer, film idol and Australia's first Hollywood super star but sadly another woman who has vanished into the mists of history.

Born in Darlington in 1886, she was diagnosed with rickets at the age of two and her legs were strapped into painful iron braces. It was suggested that swimming would straighten her deformed legs so everyday she swam at the Cavill Baths where she was coached by Fred Cavill and his son Percy and strongly supported by her father.

As her legs grew straighter and stronger, she began to outpace every girl at the pool and swimming, ballet and long walks made her strong and fearless and able to dive from higher and higher heights. She adopted the 'trudgen' stroke which evolved from sidestroke with the swimmer's head above water and with all her exercise, developed tremendous strength in her shoulders, arms and legs as well as astounding lung capacity. She won every long distance race she entered and afterwards gave stunning exhibitions of high diving to thrill the crowds. By the age of fifteen she was a major personality in the Australian sports scene and her father suggested that she become a diving and swimming professional entertainer and so she did, diving into a stage flooded with water at the Theatre Royal in Melbourne. She also accomplished record-breaking swims in the Yarra, the Bremer River in Ipswich, and after moving to London with her father, the Thames, the Seine in Paris and eventually the English Channel although an icy current and bad seasickness foiled her attempt.

Then, in 1907, her dream of becoming a swimming star in Hollywood came true. Invited to appear at the White City Park in Chicago, she gave daily shows of death-defying dives to huge acclaim and became one of the leading performers in America. She danced with Anna Pavlova, met President Woodrow Wilson and became friends with some of the most famous Hollywood stars of the time – Buster Keton, Gloria Swanson, Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks and his wife Mary Pickford among others.

In 1916 she reached the zenith of her fame when she starred in a mermaid extravaganza ‘A Daughter of the Gods’ in a dazzling mermaid tail, which played to capacity houses all around the world and included diving into a tank of live crocodiles! However, as Hitler began to flex his muscles and Al Jolson’s ‘The Jazz Singer’ killed off the silent movies, she and her husband and manager Jimmie returned to Australia and eventually retired to the Gold Coast where she worked tirelessly for many charities. It is to Annette Kellerman that we owe the evolution of the figure- hugging swimming costume for women which freed them from the voluminous costumes of the Victorian era and the promotion of healthy eating and exercises for women everywhere. She was introduced to cheering crowds by Robert Menzies at the 1956 Olympics and died at the age of ninety as supple as ever, in 1975. A fabulous woman with a fabulous career about whom little seems known today. Hopefully this book will reintroduce the story of the ‘Australian Mermaid’.

### *The Bookster*

## KIDS' QUIZ

1. What type of animal is a Komodo dragon?
2. What gas do we breathe in that keeps us alive?
3. What is the name of Mickey Mouse's pet dog?
4. What's the name of the ship that sank after hitting an iceberg?
5. What's the biggest organ in your body?

***Did you know?*** ... Australia is the lowest, flattest, and second-driest continent in the world!

## Sudoku and Crossword puzzle

## HOW TO PLAY

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in:

Each of the nine vertical columns

Each of the nine horizontal rows

Each of the nine  
3 x 3 boxes

Remember no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.

### Across

1. Lampoons (5,2)
4. Approval (3-2)
7. Ousted
8. Eagle's nest
9. Endures
12. In any place
15. Lucky escape (4,4)
17. Up ahead
18. The Shroud of ...
21. Circled (globe)
22. Highest ranking peers
23. Tinned fish

## Down

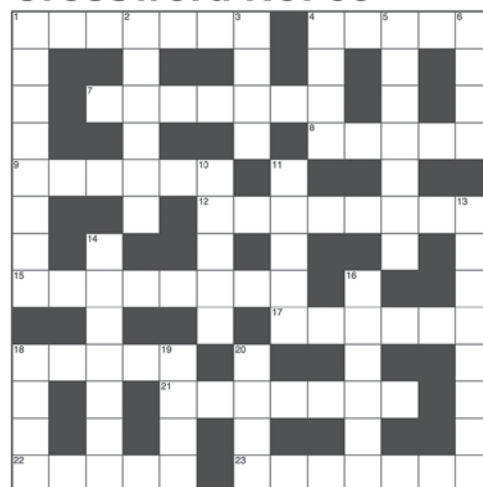
1. Obstinate
2. Happened-before feeling (4,2)
3. Kitchen pans
4. Sports team
5. Pined (for)
6. Stare lustfully at
10. Glossy fabric
11. Nomad
13. Do aerobics
14. Irish patron saint
16. Mean (to)
18. Warty creature
19. Shows agreement
20. Curved-bill bird

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Rating: ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

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

## Crossword No: 53



*Solutions will appear in the next edition.*

## J is for jet

Although I've never seen a jet plane close up, I know they are very noisy. . . but I have been close to a jet engine when it started up.

I was at Peter Hamilton's farm on the night when he first started up the jet engine in his tractor 'Black Velvet' (that's the tractor on one of the silos at Colbinabbin).

The first tractor pull event held in Colbo was in 1982 - so that was more than 40 years ago, but I can still clearly remember the roar that made everyone turn and run faster than they knew they could . . . and the sheet of flames that shot up into the night sky!

J is also for jelly and you can use jellies to make some very easy desserts. One that's easy and delicious to try is Strawberry Flummery (or as my family call it: 'Strawberry Fluffy Stuff').

All you need is a packet of strawberry jelly, a tin of evaporated milk and some fresh strawberries. Make up the jelly using only 1 cup of hot

water; allow to cool. Chill the evaporated milk then whip it until it doubles in size. Wash and cut up the strawberries. Stir the milk, cooled jelly and strawberries together and put in the fridge to set. That's it!



## Jump



**Juice in a jug**



# RFNC - Rushworth give their opposition a good challenge

**U10** - The U10s team played at Rushy on Saturday 31 May taking on the Euroa Magpies. It was a great team effort by the boys, dominating the opposition in an impressive performance. Goals: Bryce 3, Conor 2 . Best players: Isaac and Liam played a great game in the midfield. Thanks for the big turnout from the fans.

## Sun 1 June - Round 8

### Netball

**11/U** - No Game

### 13/U

#### Rushworth 25 def Lancaster 23

The Under 13s had a hard fought win against Lancaster. There were lots of great defensive efforts and encouragement the whole game.

**1st incentive:** Pippa

**2nd incentive:** Gypsy

**3rd incentive:** Sophie

### 15/U

#### Rushworth 47 def Lancaster 11

The girls played a more consistent game for most quarters. Kade, Jorja and Caitlin stepped up and worked through the middle. Willow again shot well and as always our defenders Billie and Byron were great.

**Best on court:** Caitlin Garvey

**2nd incentive:** Byron Chapman

**3rd incentive:** Billie Johnstone.

### 17/U

#### Rushworth 33 def Lancaster 29

The girls came away with a win.

**Incentives:** Emily and Makayla. The lolly this week went to Keileigh.

### C Res

#### Rushworth 26 lt Lancaster 38



This was a competitive and enjoyable game against Lancaster. We appreciate the U17's who have been helping each week. They are a brilliant contribution to the flow of the game. Thanks girls.

**Incentives:** Emily McLean, Keileigh and Mikayla.

### C Grade

#### Rushworth 25 lt Lancaster 48

C Grade had the majority of players back on the court. It was a tough game that tested the girls ability.

**Incentives:** Madeline Knight, Bella Odwyer and Ella's Johnstone

### B Grade

#### Rushworth 27 lt Lancaster 41

The girls had a tough day at the office but played well and continue to grow as a team.

**Best on court:** Katta, Beth and Ell

### A Grade

#### Rushworth 37 def Lancaster 36

It was going to be a tough game and it certainly was. It was fast and physical and defensive pressure was great from both teams. The girls were lucky to fall across the line but certainly have a lot to work on.

**Best on court:** Lilly Waasdorp

**2nd incentive:** Montana Mylon

**3rd incentive:** Kasey Barlow



### Football

### 18/U

#### Rushworth 113 def Lancaster 25

The midfield gave the forwards plenty of opportunities to hit the scoreboard and led by 33 points at quarter time. As the game progressed, the boys really linked up well, while working hard defensively.

**Best players:** Riley Knight, Jimmy Edwards (5 goals) Shannon Scorse, Flynn Clarke and Aiden Porter.

### Reserves

#### Rushworth 56 lt Lancaster 63

Twelve months ago was a forfeit against Lanky due to lack of numbers. So today was a good day. To be proud of the boys is an understatement. They came out firing and played an aggressive four quarter game, battling hard. The boys were so close to the win but just fell away at the end.

**Best players:** 'Sticka' Kirby, Josh (skipper) Newton, Jacob Hargreaves, Kade Dearing and even the coach went alright.

### Seniors

#### Rushworth 80 lt Lancaster 101



The first quarter didn't go as planned, with the boys turning the ball over, which you can't do against a quality side like Lancaster. The boys trailed by 27 points at the first break. The second quarter the boys slowly worked back into the contest and started to get the game back on their terms through contested work of Liam Francis and Ethan Arnold. Riley Edwards was able to kick two goals when the team trailed by 26 points at the main break.

In the third Liam Adlington lifted in the ruck and the midfield started to get on top in the middle.



Nico McKinley and Jackson McCrae repelled Lancaster attacks, while Andrew Clarke kicked two goals, including a goal after the siren. First goal in the last quarter was crucial, but Lanky's class saw them hitting the scoreboard. The Rushy boys kept trying with Paul Vavlitis and Tommy Stevens still providing a contest forward of the ball, however the Tigers went down by 21 points. Against the top sides a four quarter effort is needed and that was the difference in the end.

**Best players:** Ethan Arnold, Liam Francis, Nico McKinley, Jackson McCrae, Liam Adlington and Paul Vavlitis.

*Photos courteous of Alek Stokes*



# RFNC Junior night - kids have a ball!

On 24 May the Rushworth Football Netball Club held a night for the up and coming juniors of the club. It was a night to dress up or just enjoy nibbles and each others company.



## Calling on local clubs to tackle road safety

Grassroots football and netball clubs have been asked to promote road safety in their communities for a share of \$700,000 thanks to the Transport Accident Commission's (TAC) Club Rewards Program.

The launch comes as 133 people have lost their lives on Victorian roads, with more than sixty percent of deaths happening on the same regional roads that footballers/netballers travel on for games every week.

This year's program aims to empower clubs to develop a culture where all players and members

consider road safety before getting behind the wheel.

The TAC Club Rewards Program allows AFL Victoria-affiliated football/netball clubs to apply for rewards of up to \$10,000 to spend on club initiatives like club transport, new equipment and uniforms or facility upgrades.

A further \$100,000 has been added to this year's funding pool.

Many clubs were motivated to take place last year after being affected by road tragedy. Clubs are asked to start conversations and be part of the campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding, with the tagline, "Be the difference".



# Future fire-fighters in training at Murchison Junior Fire Brigade

Murchison Junior Fire Brigade meets frequently on Sunday afternoons during the year and provides an interest for children between the ages of 11 and 16.

With emphasis on teamwork, character building and just plain fun they could be involved in activities such as camping, canoeing, fire hose laying and fire equipment use at a level designed especially for the age group. The Juniors are constantly supervised by members of the Senior Brigade holding the necessary qualifications for working with children.

Should you be interested in chatting about the program please don't hesitate to contact our coordinators Bec Catania on 0408 262 339 or Sharon Reilly on 0438262 172.

In the case of emergency please do not ring the station. Volunteers do not live there and it is unmanned. Dial 000 and the operator will take your details. Speak slowly and distinctly giving your details and the type of emergency. Help will be dispatched as early as possible.



## Boat and Jet Ski Licence course offered at boat club

The Waranga Boat Club would like the community to know they offer a Boat and Jetski Licence Course at their clubrooms and welcome locals and the surrounding communities to enrol. Anyone is welcome.

**When:** The course is on Sunday 22 June 9am-1pm

**Where:** Waranga Boat Club Clubrooms (off Tatura Road)

**Conducted by:** Peninsula Boat Training

Book your spot now via this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/DBKQCQ>

Any questions, please contact John Hardy, WBC Boating Manager at: [boating@warangaboatclub.com.au](mailto:boating@warangaboatclub.com.au)

## Victory so close at Colbinabbin vs Huntly match!

Round 8 saw Colbinabbin Football Club play Huntly. In a hard fought game the Senior Grasshoppers missed out by one point! When it's so close that every point counts, every umpire's decision is under scrutiny! (Match report on page 34)



You have to keep a close eye on the ball as Huntly stretches out - was it touched?



Bill Ogden signals: No . . . it's a goal for Colbo!



# Colbo Sports Report

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## KANANGRA ACCOMMODATION

# CFNC - Colbo seniors second on ladder

## Results Round 8

### Colbo vs Huntly 7 June

#### Football - Seniors

Colbo 64 lt Huntly 65

**Best Players:** Nathan Basile, Isaac Carracher, Charles Ryan, Alex Carr, Sam Ryan and Angus Martin

#### Reserves

Colbo 23 lt Huntly 103

**Best Players:** Xavier Sonnally, Thomas Hill, Ned Morgan, Hadleigh Sirett, Tyler Howlett and Joseph Fiske-Kealy

#### U18

Colbo 81 def Huntly 6

**Best players:** Charlie McLean, Jackson Morgan, Zade Charles, Elliot Ryan, Mannix Grieve and Henry O’Callaghan

#### Netball - A Grade

Colbo 69 def Huntly 36

**Best players:** Ella Kerlin and Olivia McEvoy

#### A Reserve

Colbo 42 lt Huntly 57

**Best players:** Mardi Ryan and Dominique Palmer

#### B Grade

Colbo 41 def Huntly 34

**Best player:** Emma Milne

#### B Reserve

Colbo 43 lt Huntly 65

**Best player:** Jasmine Moroney

Colbo 35 lt Huntly 50

**Best player:** Lynette Mountjoy

Colbo 28 def Huntly 16

**Best player:** Macey Ryan



## Future Rounds

### Round 9

Saturday, 14 June

Colbinabbin vs Mount Pleasant

### Round 10

Saturday 21 June

Colbinabbin Seniors BYE

### Round 11

Saturday 28 June

Colbinabbin vs Heathcote

### Round 12

Saturday, 05 July

Colbinabbin vs Lock/Bam/Utd

### Round 13

Saturday, 12 July

Colbinabbin vs Leitch/Gunbower

### Round 14

Saturday, 19 July

Elmore vs Colbinabbin Seniors

### Round 15

Saturday, 26 July

Colbinabbin vs North Bendigo

### Round 16

Saturday, 02 August

White Hills vs Colbinabbin

### Round 17

Saturday, 09 August

Colbinabbin vs Huntley

### Round 18

Saturday 16 August

Mount Pleasant vs Colbinabbin

## Round 8 ladder

### Seniors

	P	PTS	%	W	L	D
1 North Bendigo	7	28	256.82	7	0	0
2 Colbinabbin	7	20	195.56	5	2	0
3 Mount Pleasant	7	20	171.53	5	2	0
4 Huntly	7	20	95.21	5	2	0
5 Leitch/Gunbower	7	14	100.90	3	3	1
6 Elmore Seniors	8	12	76.51	3	5	0
7 Lock/Bamawm Utd	7	8	68.19	2	5	0
8 White Hills	7	4	41.83	1	6	0
9 Heathcote	7	2	57.37	0	6	1

### Reserves

1 North Bendigo	7	28	554.55	7	0	0
2 Huntly	7	24	308.93	6	1	0
3 Mount Pleasant	7	16	134.53	4	3	0
4 Leitch/Gunbower	7	16	126.89	4	3	0
5 Lock/Bamawm Utd	7	6	124.94	4	3	0
6 Colbinabbin	7	16	82.54	4	3	0
7 White Hills	7	8	57.30	2	5	0
8 Elmore	8	4	28.59	1	7	0
9 Heathcote	7	0	22.75	0	7	0

### Under 18's

1 North Bendigo	7	28	593.80	7	0	0
2 White Hills	7	24	693.46	6	1	0
3 Heathcote	7	20	171.99	5	2	0
4 Lock/Bamawm Utd	7	16	303.48	4	3	0
5 Mount Pleasant	7	16	163.19	4	3	0
6 Elmore	8	12	82.81	2	6	0
7 Colbinabbin	7	8	22.56	2	5	0
8 Leitch/Gunbower	7	4	19.17	2	5	0
9 Huntly	7	0	2.93	0	7	0

### Future Event

#### Ladies Day 2025

#### Saturday 14 June

#### Round 9

#### Colbo v Mount Pleasant FNC

#### 3pm

We invite all the women of the Colbinabbin and Mount Pleasant communities to join us for an afternoon of champagne, nibbles and good company.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Donations to be raffled on the day are encouraged and welcomed.

Please message the club if you would like to donate .

\$20 entry, profits from the day will be donated to the Cancer Wellness Centre.



# A night for Rushworth juniors



On 24 May the RFNC held a night for junior members to dress-up. It was a very colourful event. More photos on page 32.



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