

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

Est. 1966

Distributed Free

Australia Day Awards For Outstanding Citizens

Ron Bennett and Katie Duncan



Ron Bennett and Katie Duncan with their awards

LONG time CFA volunteer Ron Bennett was awarded Lions Club of Churchill and District 2007 Churchill Citizen of the Year and 15yr old Kurnai College Student Katie Duncan was awarded 2007 Churchill Young Citizen of the Year at Gaskin Park on Australia Day 2008.

Ron has a long and distinguished service history as a member of Churchill/Jeeralang Rural and Churchill Urban Fire Brigade CFA. He has been awarded the prestigious 'National Medal for Service' and has twice won Fireman of the Year.

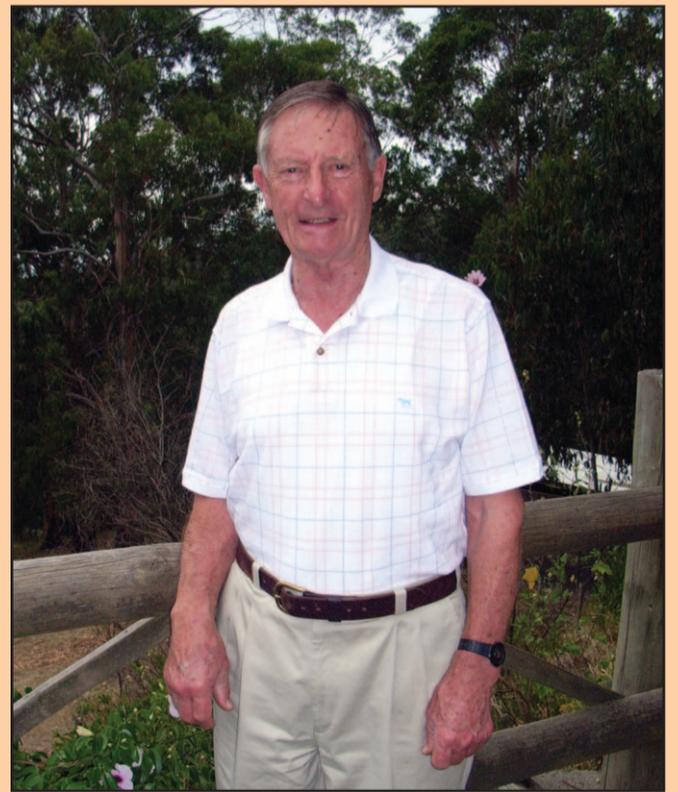
Ron joined the CFA in 1796 and has held leadership positions for more

than 9 years. He was Secretary of the Morwell Group of Fire Brigades (all brigades within the old Morwell Shire) from 1978 to 2004.

The demands being a CFA volunteer are many and varied. The CFA is seen most often in the response role when a fire or other emergency occurs. To be able to do this members have to undertake training in fire behaviour, fire suppression, communications and safety as well as the practical skills needed to effectively operate equipment. As Churchill is an urban fire brigade there is also another level of training.

Continued on Page 8

Order of Australia Medal for Neil Terrill



CHURCHILL resident, Neil Terrill, was awarded the Order of Australia Medal General for service to conservation and the environment, particularly in the Gippsland region, through chemical science, education,

water conservation and treatment and ecological sustainability.

Congratulations Neil on this well deserved award.

(Neil is featured in this month's Looking Back story on Page 10)



Ron Bennett with Tom Lawless (left) and CFA Captain Steve Barling

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Churchill & District News

Editorial

Welcome to our first edition of 2008 - a bumper edition. When I started as Editor in November 2002 we were proud to produce a 12 page paper. This Edition sets the record to date - huge 32 pages!

The paper has grown in many ways and I would like to welcome onboard three new team members, Sadie Heckenberg, Owen McKenzie and Kristen Brehaut.

The team at the News are all now focused on the upcoming Churchill Festival on March 15 at Gaskin Park. We still need some volunteers, however, to help on the day. Please contact us if you would like to get involved.

Our photographic competition is being launched this month with a new section - 'Photos from the Attic'. The idea for this came from our Looking Back series. We have been given some amazing photographs to accompany stories we have printed.

We are looking for photographs that give a glimpses of resident's past and where they have come from and their families, both locally and overseas. They can be ten years old or one hundred years old.

We understand however, that these kinds of photographs are irreplaceable so we are offering to scan and print photographs for entrants. There are more details about the competition and how to contact us on page 18.

The theme of the general section of the competition this year is 'My Gippsland' and we have a special category for children from 4-9 and 10 - 17 - 'My Favourite Place'. We are looking forward to your entries and we will be displaying them after judging.

The Churchill News Team would also like to congratulate all the winners of Australia Day Awards. There was quite a variety of awards that went to local residents and community groups.

I do know, however, that I will be in a bit of strife if I don't mention somewhere in this paper that the Churchill and District News won a Latrobe City Council recognition award for the Junior Fishing Competition 2007!

It was good that the hard work of the volunteers that organized such a successful day were recognized so congratulations to them all!

ED

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

The Team:

Team Leader/Secretary : Ruth

Place

Editor/Treasurer: Val Prokopiv

Advertising: Peter Prokopiv, Owen McKenzie

Layout/Design: Val Prokopiv,

Tracey Burr

Webpage: Tracey Burr

Proof Readers: Ruth Place, Olivia

Jackson

Photography/Computer Support: Matt Prokopiv

Team Members: Wendy Brown,

Charlie Rawlinson, Sadie

Heckenberg, Kristen Brehaut.

Contributions

The deadline for the submission of articles and advertisements for the March 2008 edition is February 30 2008

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

Churchill & District News PO

Box 234, Churchill, 3842

Or Email: cdnews@dcsi.net.au

All articles must be submitted by the 30th of each month for publication in the second week of the following month.

Advertising enquires can be

addressed to:

Peter Prokopiv

Churchill & District News PO

Box 234, Churchill, 3842

Tel: 03 5122 2589 or 0402 406 376

Articles can be left in our Drop Off Boxes Located at: Cafe Le Mac's, Churchill Primary School, Churchill Library and the Co-Operating Church

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Peter on 5122 2589

Half Page: \$195.00

7cm x 6.5cm: \$32.00

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Webpage: www.cdnews.com.au

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For your next function contact the Churchill Football/Netball Club

Gaskin Park, Manning Drive, Churchill

Tel: 5122 3033

DoTS places still available at Monash University Gippsland

Due to the large number of students applying for tertiary courses, Monash University Gippsland has decided to extend the application period for the Diploma of Tertiary Studies (DoTS).

The program is available for students who have an ENTER of 50 or above, and an English study score of 25 or above, who were not able to gain entry to the degree of their choice.

DoTS is a vital university pathway program for regional students, providing them with specifically designed units of study that give the skills required to be successful at university. At the completion of the one year Diploma, students are then eligible for Undergraduate entrance at second year level which ensures that they complete their degree within a normal timeframe.

The key areas of interest for DoTS

students are traditionally education and nursing, which is why the Gippsland campus has established a pathway in cooperation with Gippsland Southern Health Service, based at the Leongatha Hospital.

Students who wish to study nursing at Leongatha through the DoTS program will gain exposure to patients in a hospital setting. The integration of the academic aspects of the program into the hospital setting will provide the students with a unique learning environment. Students at all times will be supervised by the University lecturer, and the structure of the course is believed to provide a model for teaching in hospitals in the future.

For more information on applying for DoTS please contact Carmelina Manzo on 5122 6319.

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Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program

The Small Grants for Rural Communities is now open for applications from not for profit organizations.

The fund provides around \$850,000 per year in grants of up to \$5,000 for rural communities of around 10,000 or less people.

Small, well targeted grants can be useful to small rural and remote communities and to make small grants more accessible to

communities in rural Australia the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal established this innovative funding program.

Currently, applications that support the following areas of interest will be given preference:

- * Community hardship in drought effected areas
- * Retention of young people in Rural

and Regional Australia.

* Resettlement of immigrants in rural Australia

* Community Infrastructure

There are two rounds of Small Grants per year. Closing dates are 28 March and 30 September 2008. For more information go to the website at <http://www.frrr.org.au>



Indigenous Students Graduation Celebration

By Sadie Heckenberg

The Student Lounge at Gippsland Campus of Monash was abuzz for end of year celebrations of Gippsland's Indigenous students on 13th December 2007. 80 proud graduates consisting of VCE, VCAL, Year 10, 11 and 12 students, were all extremely happy to reach significant milestones in their education.

Traveling from as far afield as Orbost in Far East Gippsland and Wonthaggi to share in the day's celebrations, students were given a tour of the Monash Campus and a sit down lunch. The students then were able to participate in a panel discus-

sion with current Indigenous Monash students and staff enabling them to gain a clearer view of university life.

The graduation ceremony followed, with Ms Michonne Van Rees, Gippsland Regional Director for the Victorian Department of Education, presenting the students with their graduations certificates. The graduates were also presented with 2GB USB/memory cards to assist them in their further study, donated by Koorie Footprints to Higher Education. Both Ms Van Rees and Auntie Vera Briggs, chair of the newly formed project team, reflect-

ed that the day was a great success for both the Indigenous and Gippsland communities.

The event was made all the more significant because it was the fifth year that such parties as GippsTafe, Wurreker, the Department of Education, leadership organizations, local Elders and parents, and now Monash university staff, have combined to celebrate Indigenous students achievements.

Upon graduation students were planning their futures. Whether it is further secondary study, employment, or university the future looks bright.

Award for Bill Mele

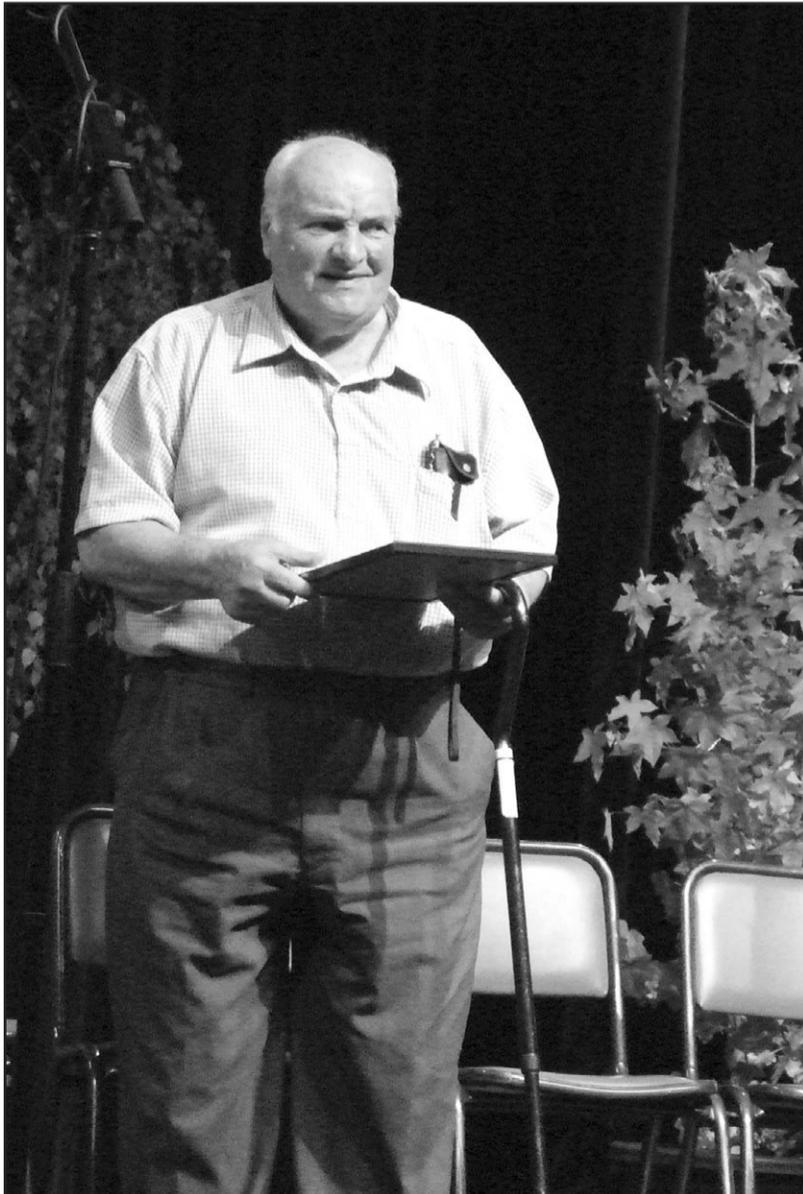
Jeeralang resident, Bill Mele received an award for his nomination for Latrobe City Citizen of the Year 2007 in a ceremony at Kernot Hall on Australia Day.

Bill Mele has given 65 years of service to the Jeeralang North and district community. He officially joined the Jeeralang North Hall Committee in 1949, but had been an active worker from 1942. When the Jeeralang North Hall was built in 1952 to replace the school destroyed by bushfire in 1944, Bill was Foreman and coordinated workers and volunteers.

He was elected President in 1952 and, except for a three-year period 1992-1995, has held that position.

Bill was MC (Master of Ceremonies) at the monthly old time dances until 1993. Now during the supper break each dance he thanks the people for their attendance and announces coming events. Bill continues to be an interested and hard working member of the Hall Committee and has helped keep the hall viable and an asset to the community.

Bill was a school teacher who taught at one teacher primary schools in the area, including Jumbuk, Jeeralang West and Jeeralang North where classes were held in the supper room of the hall.



He also served some years as a relieving teacher retiring in 1959.

Bill was a progressive dairy farmer and attended farm education/farm walk days in

Gippsland/Latrobe Valley.

His friendship, generosity and sincerity have made Bill a valued member of the community and a role model to many.

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Old Time Family Dance

Friday 22 February 2008

Jeeralang North Hall

Dancing from

8.00 pm to 11.30 pm

Music: Rhonda Richards

Admission: \$5.00

Door Prize & Novelties

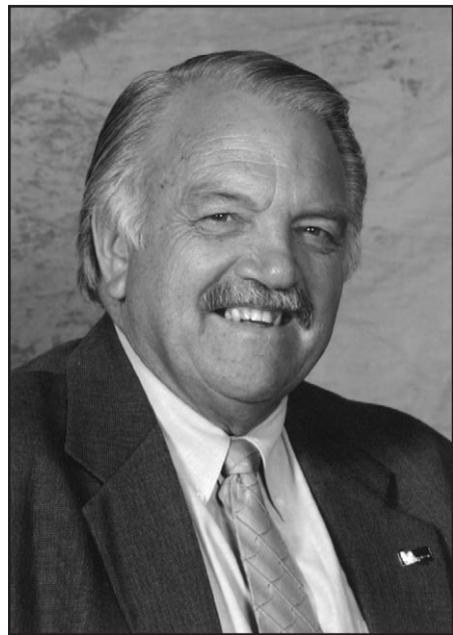
Please bring a plate



For more details please ring Zelma Mildenhall 5166 1264

Volunteering in Latrobe City

Cr Darrell White



Each day in Latrobe City many community members offer their time and commitment as volunteers. Latrobe City has a large volunteer network. Volunteers offer their time and commitment to assist community members and visitors who come to the area. They form a vital part in the integration of the City and its community.

Latrobe City along with a number of Project Partners has embarked on an exciting new program "Look After Your Neighbour, Look After Yourself

"Those involved are:

- *Latrobe City Council
- *Lifeline
- *Latrobe Regional Hospital
- *Latrobe Community Health Service
- *Gippsland Accommodation & Rehabilitation Support Service
- *Gippsland Multicultural Services
- *GippsTafe Employment and Transitional Training Centre

The above groups are representative of the many different ways you can become involved as a volunteer in your community. Each is committed to ensuring that your experience as a volunteer is a fulfilling one.

If you would like to learn more about each group and how you may be able to become involved click on the name link to additional information on our website at www.latrobe.vic.gov.au

Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community and learn some new skills.

If you are interested in volunteering please either register online or fill in the appropriate form available from any of the City Libraries or from the above groups and return to the address on the sheet.

Regular information sessions will be held.

Latrobe City Council has had a

strong focus on the delivery, training and supporting of volunteers for a number of years to members of the Latrobe City Community. A number of volunteer programs are operating within Council:

- *Meals on Wheels
- *"We Care" Programs
- *Latrobe Visitor Information Centre
- *Events Latrobe
- *Latrobe City Library
- *Latrobe Regional Gallery.

There is a list of Volunteering opportunities at Latrobe City Libraries for anyone interested in getting involved.



More Walking Tracks for Churchill

By Margaret Guthrie, President

The Eel Hole Creek Walking Track may be extended from Philip Parade to Glendonald Road. Late last year an on-site meeting between representatives of CDCA and Latrobe City Council was held to investigate the likely route.

The proposed extension forms part of the Latrobe Bicycle Plan. Funding for the works is part of the budgeted implementation of Council's strategy to enhance the City's recreational bicycle paths.

CDCA was involved in the 2006 Review of Latrobe City's Bicycle Plan and was pleased to receive a copy of the new 'Draft Bicycle Plan 2007-2010' last year. The content was discussed at our November 2007 meeting.

Meantime, we were advised by our Monash University representative in December that further works on the Monash pathway loop are expected to commence during the 2008 University construction season.

Progress is also being made on the new section of pathway at Mathison Park around the eastern side of Lake Hyland. Volunteers have been putting in hours of hard work to complete this task and we understand that there is likely to be a 'grand launch' later this year.

Another 'new' undertaking in Churchill is the establishment of the Churchill Bowling Club. Formed last year, the Club has obtained suitable

mats for indoor bowls and hopes to begin an Indoor Bowling Competition this year.

The Club's favoured site for a proposed outdoor facility is the Gaskin Park Hockey Pitch with the use of the adjacent stadium included. The surface would be artificial and similar to that used at Mirboo North. Further investigations into the feasibility of this project are under way.

We are expecting news this month from Council of further developments regarding the construction of the Churchill Community Hub in Phillip Parade and the relocation of the Churchill Skate Park.

Council is also conducting a review of the City's BMX and skate park facilities in order to plan a strategy to develop these recreational assets over the next few years.

These matters will form part of CDCA's agenda over forthcoming months, along with proposed projects under Council's 'East-West Link' plans for our town.

CDCA meetings this year will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Our first meeting for 2008 is on Wednesday 27 February, commencing at 7pm, at the Churchill Football Club. All residents of Churchill and district are welcome to attend.

CDCA can be contacted at P O Box 191, Churchill, or call the Secretary, Rob Whelan, on 5122 3602 or email wc-bs@net-tech.com.au



Opportunity for three-year-old prekinders at Watson Park

Parents of three-year-old children are being urged to consider registering their interest in having their child attend prekinders sessions for 3-year-olds at Watson Park Preschool in Churchill on Friday mornings.

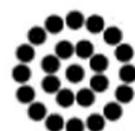
Children who turn three years of age before 30 April 2008 are eligible for prekinders enrolment.

Latrobe City's children's services coordinator, Ronda Bruerton, said the social skills learned at this age can equip children with the necessary confidence to cope with the many challenges they may face during their future school career.

"Prekinders helps children to build confidence and social skills while providing an opportunity for each child to develop in a safe and nurturing environment.

"We would particularly encourage parents of children living in the Churchill and surrounding area to consider enrolling their children," Ms Bruerton said.

For further information on enrolment contact the Latrobe City's family services administration team, telephone 1300 367 700.

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(next to the Medical Centre).

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Hazelwood Pondage

Camp Qulity Great Day Out

With Christmas just finished and the summer holidays in full swing the Churchill and District Lions are still busy working within the community.

A successful fund raising barbecue was held at Bunnings on Saturday 13th of January.

A great day out in the Latrobe Valley was organised for 14 Camp Quality children, parents and Camp Quality Workers. The children had a terrific day touring the brown coal mines and power stations and later sailing at Hazelwood Pondage.

They also enjoyed a barbecue lunch and tea. Our thanks go to Lion and Lioness Bob and Sue Lowick, our generous sponsor, PowerWorks, Ian Southall, his team at PowerWorks and Hazelwood Yacht Club. They gave the children a great day out and allowed them to put their worries aside. All involved had a great time

For several years now the Lions Club of Churchill and District has been responsible for organising and running the Australia Day community event, sponsored by the Latrobe City. As in previous years the 2008

celebration was again well attended. The Churchill Guides and Scouts did a terrific job raising the Australian Flag and leading the singing of the Australian Anthem.

The highlight was the presentation of the Citizen of the year award to Ronald Bennett and the Young Citizen of the year Award to Katie Duncan for their outstanding contributions to the community in 2007.

Of course no Australia Day is complete without the traditional barbecue which was served up by Lions Club members.



Australia Day at Gaskin Park







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Church Times

Lumen Christi Catholic Church
35 Walker Parade, Churchill
Tel: 5122 2226
Father Hugh Brown
Saturday: Mass: 6.00pm
Sunday: Mass: 9.00am
1st and 3rd Sundays: Yinnar:
Mass: 10.30 am
2nd and 4th Sundays: Boolarra:
Mass: 10.30am
5th Sunday: Lumen Christi:
Mass: 9.00am
Reconciliation (Confessions)
Churchill Saturday 5.15am -
5.45am
Sunday 8.15pm - 8.45pm

**Co-operating
Churches of Churchill**
Rev. Dr. Bob Brown
Williams Avenue,
Churchill.
Tel: 5122 1480
Glenda and Ian
Combridge
Tel: 5166 1819
Sunday Service:
9.30am.
Choruses: 9.20am



**Churchill Christian
Fellowship**
Maple Crescent, Churchill.
Sunday: 10.00am
Enquiries: Linda Whitney
(Church Leader) 5122 2777

Co-Operating Churches Snippets

By RUTH PLACE

The church had a wonderful time of Christmas celebrations, which seem so long ago now. It was good to remember that God loved us all so much that he sent His Son Jesus as a baby to grow up among us, to teach us to love one another to eventually become our Saviour.

The Crib Service was well attended with many families coming to hear about Jesus' birthday. The Halliwell family was our Holy Family, with Cathie as Mary, Allan as Joseph, and baby Shallimar as Jesus. They stole the show as the saying goes. It was a very special addition to the service. The services at 11pm Christmas Eve and 9:30am on Christmas day were quieter, more reflective services with special messages

from Rev Bob urging us to be active in our Christian walk.

World Leprosy Day was noted at the church, with a small presentation showing the huge extent to which leprosy, now known as Hanson's Disease, affects many thousands of people. The loss of fingers and toes and whole limbs makes life very difficult for those who contract the disease. However with research, medications have been developed, and through the Leprosy Mission, artificial limbs can be supplied and people taken care of in hospitals and a clinics.

Cathie Halliwell showed us how important the Wise Men are to the Christmas story, when she told us that Jesus birth and life, and its message, is for all people. We have a lot for which to be thankful.



Lumen Christi Parish World Youth Day Preparations

Planning for Lumen Christi's involvement in the World Youth Day to be held in Sydney in July is well underway.

The Journey of the Cross and the Icon will precede the World Youth Day and will visit Churchill on 20 April.

The celebration of this special occasion will be an opportunity for friends, family and guests to come together in faith and prayer. Young people in particular are encouraged to join with their families to celebrate this occasion.

Tentative plans to mark the day include, mass, lunch and entertainment

at the Lumen Christi Parish Centre and grounds. The Cross and Icon which will be on a world wide journey, will be carried in procession prior to the celebration of mass.

Young people from the parish are preparing to make the pilgrimage to Sydney where the Pope will celebrate a special mass for a crowd expected to reach one million. Young people from all parts of the globe will journey to Sydney to take part.

For further information contact Joanie Smith on 51691 620.

Saturday Breakfast

The first Saturday Breakfast for 2008 will be held at the Co-Operating Churches, 1 Williams Avenue on Saturday 23 February starting at 7.30 am.

The guest Speaker will be Ken Thompson who will talk about community radio, its beginnings, the local station and its operations and his involvement.

Come along and enjoy an interesting talk and the company of friendly people.

Please let Keith Enders know by THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY if you are attending.

Phone: 5122 1148; e-mail: kben-
ders@net-tech.com.au

Christian Religious Education (CRE)

On behalf of the two CRE teachers who have worked in Churchill Primary School, Churchill North Primary School and Hazelwood North Primary School during 2007, thanks are extended to the schools, their principals, teachers and children for their willing help and support.

To finish the year's activities, The OAC Ministries provided two people who presented a show for the children which included singing, quizzes, and the story of Jesus' birth told with pictures and words, and ventriloquism.



Carols by Candlelight 2007

Despite the last minute change of venue from the Monash Amphitheatre to the Gippsland Education Precinct over 250 people enjoyed a night of singing and fun. Once again Darrel Whitney, of Churchill Christian fellowship, was MC for the night and kept all entertained between carols.

We would like to thank the members of the Latrobe Concert band for giving of their time to provide live music on the night. Also a special thanks to Ross DeVent, band member for his solo trumpet performance and his inspiring vocal performance of Away in the Manger.

Other local talented performances included Joanie Smith with her rendition of Mary's Boy Child, Lumen Christi's Men in Black who did two brackets of songs and helped with the community singing. We also had Mark Puurunen share his childhood memories of Christmas in Finland.

Before the Christmas message given by Father Hugh of Lumen Christi parish, Ruth Place (Co-operating Churches in Churchill)

gave a lively interpretation of the Christmas story. A big thankyou to all the children who helped Ruth bring the story of life. All children were encouraged to provide cheers of joy and groans of disappointment.

Prior to the last bracket of songs Darrel invited all the children to come to the front and help lead with the singing of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

Kurnai chaplain, Liz Sulley who was present at the night, thanks everyone who made a donation toward the Breakie programs at Churchill Primary School and Kurnai College. The \$210 raised will help to provide breakfast for students in 2008.

Our final thanks go to Churchill Christian fellowship, The Co-Operating Churches of Churchill and Lumen Christi for organising and presenting this night to the Churchill community.

We look forward to seeing you all once again at carols by Candlelight in December.

Noah's Ark Comes to Churchill

*What did Noah's ark really
look like?*

*Could all the animals
have fitted on the ark?*

**Come along and hear Rod Walsh of the
'Ark Van' answer these and many other
questions on:**

Wednesday 20th February at 7.30PM

**Churchill Christian Fellowship
Maple Crescent Churchill**

Admission free. Donations accepted
Enquiries: Linda Whitney 5122 2777



Boolarra Folk Festival wins Latrobe City Community Event of the Year

By Colin Brick

It was a great Australia Day present for the hundreds of Boolarra and Gippsland people who contribute to the staging of the Boolarra Folk Festival, when their efforts were recognised at the Latrobe City Australia Day Awards.

The Folk Festival commenced in 2003, and has gone from strength to strength, and is now one of the pre-eminent events in the Gippsland calendar. As Chairman, Ray Stewart said in his acceptance speech for the award the organizers of the Folk Festival have stayed true to their initial vision, and thereby avoided the pitfalls that face events such as the Folk Festival.

The initial vision was for a free festival showcasing top quality local music from a variety of genres, and a market featuring local crafts and merchandise. Add a magnificent setting in one of the most scenic villages in Gippsland, and you have an almost surefire winner.

However to remain a winner involves juggling a lot of balls at once:

*You have to organise infrastructure to cope with the large crowds,

*You have to arrange funding streams to enable the continuation of a free event,

*You have to ensure a turnover of musical talent to keep it fresh, and to provide opportunities to as many local artists as possible,

*You have to obtain the support and a massive degree of involvement from the local community,

*You have to listen to the feedback from the people who attend the event, and respond to their concerns,

*And most of all you have to resist the sweet temptress that says "bigger is better".

Boolarra aims to be the best small festival in Victoria. I think it succeeds because it has managed to keep all those balls spinning in the air. The thousands who attend each year are voting with their feet (and ears) in agreement.

However it would not have been able to do so without ongoing financial and other support from the City of Latrobe, International

Power Hazelwood, International Power Mitsui and MECU. I also believe that anyone involved with the festival would agree it would not have been able to continue to do so without the fantastic contribution from the Stewart and Teychenne families.

The sixth annual Boolarra Folk Festival is on Saturday, 1st March. The markets start at 10.00am and the music goes from 12.00am to 9.00pm. There is a great musical program organised including The Counterfeit Gypsies (back by popular demand), The Go Set, and many local bands including Adagio, The Grenadines, Barry Callister, The Molly Maguires, Celtic Rhythm Method, Grand Junction, Henry's Men, Jack, Daniel and Phoebe, Southern Collection, Taylor, Cupples and Boothman and The Brody Young Band.

If you would like more information on the bands performing, go to the website at <http://boolarra.gippsland.com/Folkfestival/>

It will be a great day; hope you can make it. Just remember to wear your smile.

Letter to the Editor

Country Music Nights

The following correspondence is being sent to you on behalf of the fundraising group at the Churchill Cricket Club, providing Country and Western music and creating opportunities for Churchill Charities.

We have been fortunate to have been provided not only with a great venue but with support from all aspects of the media, the Churchill & District News, the Latrobe Valley Express, radio stations and television.

The country music nights were started with a view to providing somewhere for people to go in Churchill on Friday nights to fill the void with the Saloon Bar not being operational.

However, there was never any intention to compete with existing venues.

With the return of the Saloon Bar we feel that we have done what we set out to do and have stopped holding our evenings.

We wish the proprietors of the Saloon Bar every success in the future.

We would like to publicly thank all the artists who have supported this venture, and wish them all luck in the future.

To everyone who attended, the Churchill Community have benefited from your support with a total of \$1,782.05 collected and donated.

The recipients of this money have been Combined Churches, Hazelwood House bus appeal, Kurnai College breakfast Club,

Churchill Primary School breakfast Club, the Wattle Club, Friends of Mathison Park, Churchill and Hazelwood Guides, Churchill Cricket Club, Churchill & District News and Relay for Life, Churchill Group, for cancer research.

We are still running a venue at the KC Wombats Club, Crinigan Road Morwell every second Friday night from February 1st. Everyone is welcome.

Entry is by gold coin. There is country and associated music for all. If you are interested in finding out more please ring 51221135 or 51749227.

Dawn O'Connell



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Katie Duncan Young Citizen of the Year

15 year old Kurnai College student Katie Duncan was awarded 2007 Lions Club of Churchill and District Young Citizen of the Year. Nominated by Cristy Russell from Kurnai College Katie has shown outstanding commitment and leadership skills

Katie attended Hazelwood North primary school where she was a member of the HPV team and assisted with sponsorship. She served on the Student Representative Council and was registered, interviewed and academically tested for Accelerated Learning Program in year 7

Years 7 and 8 at Kurnai saw Katie gain High Achiever Awards and in Year 8 a Work Ethics Award. This award is presented to only one person from each year level so it is quite an achievement. Katie was also selected for the Alpine School.

Katie is also involved with a range of activities including

*Peer Support - mentoring and role modeling, assisting with activities and sports

*Action Squad - attended Lumen Christi Primary School to interact with year 6 students, teach social skills, talk about Secondary School, discuss problems with transition

*Student Representative Council - as one of around 10 students in the College she assists with fund-raising, fun days, tree planting.

Katie has also been a keen sportsperson, playing netball from the age of 7 to the under 13s. She was on the committee and assisted with publicity and sponsorship and organised uniforms with assistance from the coach. She formed her own team and was chosen as a squad member representing Churchill

2006.

As part of the Churchill Swimming Club, Katie won the coach's award in 2006.

Katie also visits Hazelwood House, talking, walking in the gardens, assisting residents as and when required. She also assisted in the Hazelwood North Primary School swimming program in 2006 and 2007 and has volunteered time to teach primary students.

On the home front Katie loves cooking, especially deserts, music and a good argument. This, according to Dad, may explain why she aims to be a lawyer!

Congratulations Katie, we wish you all the best for your future!

Pictured above: Katie and her proud family.

St John's Ambulance Honor for Ian Johnston



Ian Johnston, Officer in the Order of St. John

Local resident Ian Johnston was awarded the Officer in the Order of St. John medal, a high honour, at Government House on February 2nd.

It was presented to Ian for 32 years of dedicated service to St John's Ambulance Australia, by the Governor of Victoria, Prof. David de Kretser AC (Australian Cross) and KStJ (Knight of St. John).

In that time Ian has held the position of Divisional Officer, and currently serves as Communications Manager at Morwell.

When asked the question "How many duties have you attended over the years?" Ian could only shake his head and say "Hundreds!"

In his citation, Ian was commended for his dedication and dependability.



Ron Bennett

Continued from page 1

Specialist skills associated with hazardous materials, structural fires and the urban environment are needed. Ron has been a keen participant and organizer for the brigade's many training activities. Along with the frontline response and training there is other work which must be carried out. Equipment maintenance, community education, fire extinguisher servicing, fundraising and administration are other areas in which Ron has been involved.

Ron is also a foundation member of the Churchill Baseball Club and Churchill Marching Girls Association. Ron works at International Power Hazelwood as a Technical Information Drafter and is soon to retire after 43 years of service.

Ron and his wife of 38 years, Brenda, have lived in the town for 36 of these years. They have two children, Linda who lives in Churchill and Diane who lives in Cranbourne, and three grandchildren.

Sadly, Ron's mother died in December 2007 and did not see him receive the

award. "It's a pity that my mother and my Legatee are not around to see me receive this award," said Ron. "My first legatee, Ken Robson, always impressed on me as a youngster the need to put something back into the community and not be one of those that take all the time."

Ron's father died on 14 July 1958 as a result of a logging accident near Stawell, leaving his mother at the age of 30 to raise 5 young children aged between 5 and 12 years.

"My Mother always worried that she may not have brought us 5 kids up right," said Ron, "But we have all done well in life and all achieved many things in our own way. Along the way we gave Mum 14 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren and not one of them have been in trouble with drugs or the law. A very rare achievement for any family so Mum must have done something right."

Our congratulations and thanks go to Ron for so many years of dedicated service.



Ron Bennett's Service History

- | | |
|--|--|
| 9.08.1976: Registered with the CFA Office Held - Churchill/Jeeralang Rural Fire Brigade | ber of Churchill Fire Brigade |
| 7.09.76: Elected Brigade Delegate to Morwell Group and to Region 10 VRFBA | 5.05.78: Fireman of the Year (inaugural) |
| 3.07.79: Elected 4th Lieutenant | 4.05.79: Award of Merit |
| 8.04.86: Elected 4th Lieutenant | 26.03.81: Award of Merit |
| 19.04.88: Elected 3rd Lieutenant Office Held - Churchill Urban Fire Brigade | 26.03.81: 5 Year Brigade Service Award |
| 20.04.98: Elected Brigade President (continues to hold this position) Elected 4th Lieutenant | 12.04.85: Most Consistent Member |
| 8.05.00: Elected 4th Lieutenant | 9.05.86: Fireman of the Year (plus perpetual trophy) |
| 9.06.02: Elected 2nd Lieutenant | 1.05.86: 10 Year Brigade Service Award |
| 1.05.04: Elected 4th Lieutenant CFA Awards whilst a member of Churchill Fire Brigade | 1.05.87: Most Consistent Member |
| 26.08.88: Country Fire Authority 12 Year Service Badge | 26.08.88: Officer of the Year (plus perpetual trophy) |
| 13.07.95: First Aid Badge | 31.08.91: Captains Trophy Office Held - Morwell & District Group of Fire Brigades |
| 2.11.96: Country Fire Authority 20 Year Service Clasp | 31.05.78: Elected Group Delegate to Region 10 VRFBA |
| 19.09.97: National Medal for Service | 31.05.78: Elected to Executive of Region 10 Council of VRFBA as Morwell Group Delegate |
| 13.10.01: Country Fire Authority 25 Year Service Clasp | 01.06.78: Elected Group Secretary |
| 26.10.02: Awarded BAR to National Medal for Service | 18.05.04: Elected Assistant Group Secretary |
| 24.07.04: Awarded CFA Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of outstanding service as Group Secretary to the Morwell Group for 26 Years | 20.07.04: Elected Life Member of Morwell & District Group of Fire Brigades in recognition of being Group Secretary for 26 years. |
| 21.10.06: Country Fire Authority 30 Year Service Clasp | Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association - Region 10 |
| Brigade Awards won whilst a mem- | 1.06.78: Elected as Morwell Group Representative on Executive of Region 10 Council of VRFBA. |

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Neil Terrill

By Ruth Place

Neil Terrill was born in 1930 in Bairnsdale. Neil's father Rupert was born in 1905 in Blackwood in Victoria. Rupert was the eldest son of Thomas Nicholas Terrill, one of two sons of John Terrill and Anne Fine of Camborne, Cornwall.

Rupert was educated at the Bendigo School of Mines and Industries graduating in 1927.

The School of Mines was established approximately in the 1870s. The School provided professional training in engineering, metallurgy, and mining engineering to support growing industries throughout Australia and beyond. Although his family had moved to Bendigo in the early 1900s, Rupert retained his love for his home at Simmon's Reef in Blackwood.

While still single, Rupert commenced a teaching career at the School of Mines in Beechworth in Northern Victoria transferring to Bairnsdale in 1929, following his marriage to Laura Pascoe. Laura came from Bendigo, her grandparents having emigrated from Cornwall in the latter part of the 19th century.

Rupert and Laura were boyfriend and girlfriend from teenage years. Both were raised in the Methodist tradition and attended the quite famous Long Gully Methodist Church in Bendigo which had a strong musical culture with large junior and senior Choirs.

At Beechworth there were craft workshops where the skills of working with copper, painting and tooled and stencilled leatherwork were taught. Rupert enjoyed these activities in his spare time and many examples, especially copperware, can be found in the homes of Neil and family today.

It was at Bairnsdale that Rupert developed his lifelong passion for horticulture. He wrote a series of articles for various newspapers during his working life, including the Live Wire while a resident of Yallourn.

Rupert and Laura, with sons Neil and Ian, moved from Bairnsdale to No 2 Hillside, Yallourn in 1936. Rupert had established a reputation as one of the finest teachers of Mathematics and Science in the State. Yallourn Technical School offered advanced engineering Diploma courses, and became the basis for the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, which subsequently became Monash University Gippsland in the 1990s. The Yallourn Technical School was founded at the instigation of Sir John Monash in 1928, with emphasis on engineering training to provide the necessary skills to support the fledgling power industry.

Principal of the School of Mines

Rupert and family returned to Bairnsdale in 1948 when Rupert was appointed Principal of the School of Mines, (incorporating Bairnsdale Technical School). This institution is now the East Gippsland TAFE. He was then, at 43 years, the youngest Principal in the State. He was much in demand to give talks to other garden lovers, as well as being involved in educational and other community interests. Rupert decided that the Bairnsdale area was to be his home for always, thus declining further opportunities of promotion. He established a small market garden on Raymond Island, across the Straits from Paynesville.

Rupert died in 1959. Sir Albert Lind, writing a tribute in the Bairnsdale Advertiser, said that Mr Terrill had made an outstanding contribution to education and horticultural developments in East Gippsland. Laura frequently accompanied Rupert to district flower shows and whilst he judged the quality of blooms, Laura was much in demand in judging flower arrangements. This

skill was a carry-over of many years of decorating Churches for weddings, funerals, baptisms and other community celebrations. Laura was an outstanding soprano, who loved singing in the church choir both in Bairnsdale and Yallourn where the great oratorios were staged. She and close friend, contralto Ella Trainor, were much in demand as entertainers at fundraising and other functions in the Yallourn years. Laura instilled in Neil a life-long love of good music.

Laura was the youngest of a large family of six girls and one boy. Her father died when she was four years old. One of her older sisters, Emily, was an outstanding scholar and won the prestigious Waverly Prize at Bendigo High School in 1913.

Emily went on to become a highly respected teacher of French and English at University High school in Melbourne. She was partly crippled with polio and did not marry. She became a much loved mentor to her many nieces and nephews. Emily was a frequent visitor in the Terrill home at Yallourn where her gentle nature was much in evidence, making a strong impression on Neil.

Laura, on leaving school, trained at the Bendigo Business College. She then worked for JB Edwards, a well known Bendigo Jeweller. Laura and Rupert were married in the Long Gully Methodist Church and the young couple travelled to Bairnsdale by motorbike and sidecar, a journey which in 1929 was quite an adventure.

Neil was named Neil Warren after his maternal grandmother Mary Warren. Neil's brother Ian was named Ian James after his maternal grandfather James Pascoe who was highly revered by the Methodist ministerial fraternity of the day, particularly as he encouraged many young men to enter the ministry. He was a gifted local preacher. He was employed as mine manager and certified to operate mining machinery. Unfortunately his life was cut short at the age of 44 and life was a struggle for the family until the older children were employed.

School No 4085

Neil started school at Bairnsdale, continuing at Yallourn after the family moved there. School No 4085 was a pleasant experience only, marred by the tragic death of two young teachers in a motor accident, and the appearance of the polio epidemic during 1938. The school was closed for some months and parents were terrified, as the disease struck down children apparently at random. Neil recalls that his mother was in tears when he became ill and the doctor (James Andrew) diagnosed polio. However he recovered fully, but many others were not so fortunate.

The final year of primary school was conducted at the Higher Elementary School in Hillside opposite the Terrill home No2. This was later to become Yallourn High School, and enjoyed a fine reputation until its closure in the 1970s when the town was demolished. Neil still has some life-long friends from that class of 1941, ably taught by Mr Edmondson. Neil enrolled at the Yallourn Technical School in 1942, but soon after mother and brothers were evacuated to Bendigo for several months.

Yallourn ringed by anti-aircraft guns

Neil recalls that in 1942 Yallourn was ringed by anti-aircraft guns and as Japanese Naval forces approached Australia, the town was considered a prime target because of the concentra-



Yallourn Technical College C 1945. Rupert is seated on the front row at the far right.

tion of electricity generation in the area. In that brief period Neil attended the Bendigo School of Mines and his brother went to the primary school that Laura and Rupert had attended as children.

As the threat to Australia receded the family returned home and life was fairly normal. Neil discovered the sport of tennis, and with his friend, Neil Loble, spent many happy hours on one of the many tennis courts around the town. Nearly seventy years on this cherished friendship continues and some interesting bush walks in Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand have recently been shared by the two friends. Both boys completed their secondary education at the Technical School and went on to Diploma courses. Neil was taught chemistry by his father, and in 1947 transferred to the Melbourne Technical College, (later RMIT) to complete his studies.

Neil completed the Diploma of Applied Chemistry. He planned to become a teacher of Mathematics and science in technical schools. Time in industry was a requirement before being able to teach. Neil went into the chemical industry for three years at Monsanto Aus. which manufactured Sulpha drugs and aspirin for the whole southern hemisphere as well as plastics, herbicides and special chemicals.

Opening a Christmas box

To Neil it was "like opening a Christmas Box!" In the third year he joined a small team to make the synthetic antibiotic Chloromycetin for the first time in Australia. The drug had proven effective in the treatment of golden staphylococcus. The pilot plant trial was very successful, and a chemical milestone for 1952-53. When Lois was in hospital with their first child, she contracted golden staph and was treated with this drug Neil had helped to pilot.

Neil undertook his teacher training with the first group of students who were to become the nucleus of the future Technical Teachers Training College. The class was temporarily housed on RMIT campus and its first Principal was Mr Alan Blackman, who had been Headmaster at the Bairnsdale School of Mines, when Rupert Terrill was Principal. The pilot group were sent out to various technical schools for six months as part of their training. Alan Blackman was a brilliant and thorough educator whom Neil remembered as "a really fine man, gently spoken".

Neil was sent to Brighton Tech where he had a couple of very experienced mentors. His first fulltime appointment was to Brunswick Technical School. It was an old school, and a good one, which had produced many fine scientists and engineers. One was a good friend Fred James, who rose to be Head of the School of Chemistry at RMIT in later years. Soon after his arrival students from the new Coburg Technical School were squeezed into Brunswick classes because the new buildings at Coburg were incomplete. This meant class sizes were 56 in Form 1. Neil at the age of 22-23 was teaching maths and science to some very lively 11 year old boys. He described it as "a bit of a shock! Some young teachers did not survive."

Neil took on the job of Assistant Sports Master and later Sports Master and quickly learnt to organize large swimming and athletics carnivals, as well as purchase large quantities of equipment. Frequently the equipment reps were famous sportsmen of the day, such as cricketer Neil Harvey and footballer Thorold Merritt, who enjoyed coaching some of the school teams. Neil saw this as valuable experience for the future.

Neil met Lois in Melbourne where she was working in Collins Street as a photo reproduction of plans assistant for a small commercial copying company. Speaking to the owner of the business later, Neil learned that Lois ruled the office with a very firm hand, and managed the architect clients very well. Lois "hit me between the eyes, and we were engaged to be married in 1956," said Neil. Neil was keen to go back to the country and Lois was quite happy with the idea too. He got in touch with the Chief Inspector of Technical Schools and asked him for a country placement. Neil was told he could have Ballarat or Mildura.

Mildura was chosen and the couple moved there in 1956 in time for the start of the school year. Accommodation was limited but they rented a small flat attached to the home of Mrs Mudge, whose late husband had been a highly respected pioneer wheat farmer. The Mildura Technical School was opened late in 1955 on the site of a former vineyard. The original farm house was relocated to the edge of the campus, renovated, and became the Terrill home for the next decade.



A Churchill & District History Series

Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



Mildura had long hot summers, and air conditioning was rare in those days. The old house had canvas blinds on two sides, so Neil fixed trickle hoses to the blinds and turned the house into a giant Coolgardie safe on very hot days. Neil, looking back is amazed at Lois' fortitude.

"I brought this young, sophisticated woman to Mildura, and she was marvellous, despite some of the circumstances in which she found herself," he said. That first year in Mildura was the year that the mighty Murray River flooded and in some places it spread for kilometres across the surrounding countryside. Their three daughters, Linda, Jenny, and Thea were all born in Mildura.

Soon after he began teaching at Mildura, Neil learned that the Principal was keen to support teaching of the first and second year Diploma courses in Mechanical, Civil, and Electrical Engineering and Applied Chemistry. The Education Department and the Metropolitan colleges approved the plan for some remote technical schools. Mildura had a good number of staff members with excellent engineering and science qualifications who would be able to teach the core maths and physics subjects as well as the specialised engineering, metallurgy, and chemistry subjects.

With small classes Mildura Tech had excellent results, and many talented students were able to complete their courses in Melbourne or the large regional colleges such as Bendigo and Ballarat. Several students went to the University of Sydney to complete their Diplomas or Degrees.

At Mildura, Neil had the opportunity to teach mathematics, physics, and chemistry at the Diploma level. However, his main responsibility was the supervision of maths teaching for the exploding numbers in the Junior School. With a gleam in his eye, he recalls how the school "pinched young women from the primary service to teach maths".

For Neil this was a happy time; a time when he reconnected with the Methodist Church, teaching in the large Sunday school. He was also invited to join the Apex Club which brought new friendships and the chance to get into community service. Later, he had the honour to serve as President of the Club, and District governor, travelling widely in three States. The Mildura Climate was ideal for outdoor activities, and Neil remembers family picnics, summer evenings at one of the districts' swimming pools, and winter's days by a bend of the river to gather firewood. Neil says that the camaraderie and discipline of Apex was 'good stuff for a young guy', and probably aided his promotion later to the Yallourn Technical College.

Head of Chemistry at Yallourn Tech

Over the ensuing years Neil gained several promotions within the school as it grew in size and complexity. However, by 1965 it was clear that further promotion would have to be won in open competition somewhere else. The position of Head of the Chemistry Department at Yallourn Technical College became vacant. Neil applied with no thought of being successful, but he had a good teaching record, with the added advantage

of experience in Diploma level work at Mildura. News of success was greeted with some excitement in the Terrill home, and some sadness at the prospect of leaving a lovely region and many dear friends.

Yallourn was a prestigious college by 1966, when he, Lois and the three girls arrived. Amazingly they were assigned No 2 Hillside as their residence—the same house in which Neil grew up as a boy 25 years earlier. On arrival, the house had been painted, but the garden was a mess. Lois was not impressed!

Daughter Thea was frightened by the hills and thought they would fall on her. They soon settled in to their new surroundings. All three girls attended Yallourn Primary School No 4085, with the older two, going on to Yallourn High. All three girls later acquired tertiary qualifications related to their special interests.

Environmental issues didn't exist

The coal dust was everywhere Neil recalls.

"Each morning the shopping centre was swept. Environmental issues didn't exist. This was industry and you had to live with what was what!"

Neil settled in to teaching and planning course developments in chemistry. In 1969 the Vice-President of the Victoria Institute of College, Dr Philip Law, and other VIC officers visited Yallourn and approved affiliation of the college with the VIC. At that time, the college had Tertiary, Trade, and Secondary sections. Very soon the College was renamed the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, (GIAE). The new institute became independent with its own Governing Council.

The Tertiary teachers were offered positions in the new institution, and Neil advised his staff that he would accept a position with GIAE, and also advised that with rapidly changing technology it would be necessary for staff to pursue post-graduate study in the new environment. Neil made the first move. Analytical chemistry was his first love. He arranged for his students to be taught, and looked for a place which had a reputation in advanced analytical chemistry.

Bristol University

Bristol University School of Chemistry in the United Kingdom was chosen, a place sought for the 1970-71 northern academic year, and later confirmed. A discussion with Lois centred on such questions as could I do it? How could I do it? Could I get leave? These questions were all answered satisfactorily, President of Council, Jack Robertson, and Council members of GIAE granting Neil 12 months leave (which grew to 18 months), having got support from the Victoria Institute of Colleges to examine chemistry courses in the newer universities and polytechnics in the UK.

The course was due to start in September 1970, so on August 10th Neil boarded the M.S. Fairsky at Station Pier, Port Melbourne, and waved goodbye to the family with feelings of



Applied Science Group

excitement and misgiving. The ship sailed via Sydney, Brisbane, Wellington NZ, Panama, Lisbon, arriving in Southampton on September 15th. A week's accommodation had been arranged in London at the United Nursing Services (UNS) Club in South Street Mayfair

His first priority was to visit Chartwell Manor, the former home of Sir Winston Churchill, whom he had grown to appreciate for his humour and courage, having studied his life and actions. He took a Green Line bus to the village of Westerham in Kent, and arriving early, was invited by the attendant to go up to the house. He made straight for Winston's study, noting on the way that all the furniture and family items had been left intact. Neil counts that experience as very memorable.

On the last day in London his brother Ian was waiting for him at the South Street Club with a grin on his face.

"Come on," he said, "I'll drive you to Bristol to your new home". The University had arranged accommodation with Mrs Hilda Foster, who wrote to Neil offering a place in her home until he had found suitable accommodation for the family. Mrs Foster welcomed the brothers home in Stoke Bishop and they surprised her by saying they were off to Cornwall for the weekend, the land of their great grandfather, who had sailed out to Victoria 100 years ago.

Back in Bristol settling down to work, and with the arrival of the family still some months away, Neil confessed that homesickness hit pretty hard. Mrs Foster came to the rescue, introduced Neil to her friends, and took him with her to concerts and the theatre. Her husband Bill had died soon after their new home was completed, so that university guests helped supplement her income.

The family duly arrived in January 1971, and were all accommodated with Mrs Foster until a home nearby became available. This was the home of the Professor of Endocrinology at the Bristol University, who by chance was going on sabbatical leave to the University of Western Australia. Professor and Mrs Heller offered the family their home for a modest rental, complete with gardener and home help. Mrs Foster is in her 95th year, and remains a much loved friend to this day. Neil and Lois were able to bring her back to Australia in later years, to meet again the growing family, and introduce her to some of the local countryside including the 'Prom'. Neil said that the kindness of Mrs Foster marked the start of a great adventure in Britain for the whole family. A small used car was pur-

chased from the local garage (a Hillman Minx) and many happy weekends were spent exploring Bristol and nearby villages and towns. Later the family hired a Transit Campervan and ventured into Scotland to try it out, then proceeded on to the Outer Hebrides. "The kids loved it," he said. "We would camp in farmer's fields."

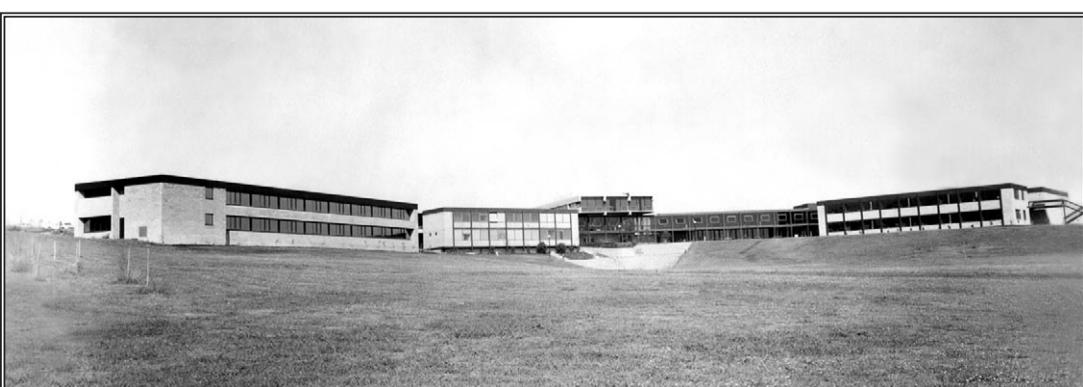
After that excursion it was back to work—research on the marine environment of the Bristol Channel, a multidisciplinary study called Project Sabrina. The project aimed to study the effect of industrial pollution from heavy industries on selected marine organisms, particularly waste discharges of heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and copper. Neil, with friend Barry Knight, went to two protected islands, Steepholm and Flatholm located in the middle of the Channel. Neil and Barry collected various organisms in the inter-tidal zone of these islands which experienced 12 metre tides!

They were warned to watch the tidal movement carefully as the current flow was very strong. Both islands were fitted with heavy guns during World War 2 against possible German invasion. Steepholm had no signs of former habitation except for concrete bunkers, but Flatholm had remnants of dwellings with evidence of hasty departure long ago. One such cottage had an eerie feel. A souvenir of a water colour painting found in a broken frame is still in Neil's possession today. The combined results of the work were notable at the time and the industrial discharges ceased. The family saw little of Neil for some months as the work went on day and night, but Lois had enrolled the older girls in an excellent Comprehensive School at Henbury. This was a shock at first as there were 1400 students, a much bigger school than they had been used to in Australia.

Thea went to a primary school near home. They all had to 'endure' hot midday meals from the school canteen. The local Guide Commissioner had been alerted by her Australian counterpart of the children's arrival in England, and soon had each of them involved in a lot of interesting activities including camps in various parts of England. Lois, in between organising family activities, food, and clothing for the English weather, was able to explore the ancient city, some of the lovely villages in the region, and make new friends.

At the university it was not all work. The cosmopolitan atmosphere of the faculty coffee room was a revelation for Neil, meeting visitors from all over Europe, and seminars on interesting chemistry topics being available every week. There was great excitement when moon rock samples arrived for study.

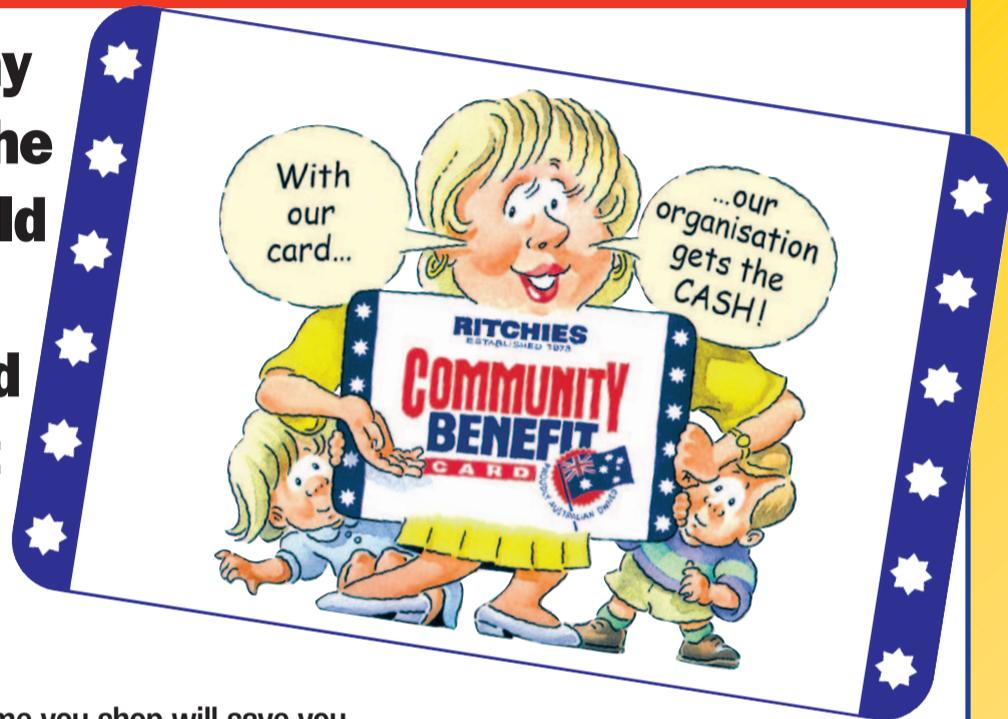
Continued on page 29



Early days at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education

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CHURCHILL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC. - the heart of our community

Phone/Fax: 5122 2955 - Email: churchillnc@bigpond.com

Term 1 (8 weeks) Tuesday January 29th - Thursday March 20th & Term 2 (12 weeks) Monday April 7th - Friday June 27th

	Monday 10.00am - 12 noon	Tuesday 10.00am - 12 noon	Wednesday 10.00 am - 12 noon	Thursday 10.00 am - 12 noon	Friday 10.00 am - 1.00pm
room 1	Stitch & Chat Craft Activity Sessions Finish or start new activities, Socialise, have a cuppa or just chat, Plenty of help & advice from many experts.	CREATIVE WRITING Join this wonderful, stimulating group & discover your hidden talents by putting pen to paper. Friendly & positive group.	Room available for meetings.	Beginning Term 2 Drawing Intro to drawing for the beginner learn basic techniques, different styles & use of different mediums.	Reiki Reiki 1 through to Master level Sue Kemsley:- Reiki Master Teacher learn this ancient art of hands on healing as well as how to self heal.
room 2	Microsoft Publisher Great program that allows you to create a vast variety of projects using graphics - cards, letterheads, signs, brochures.	Time for Internet use for general public.	Open Learning - On Line Study areas that suit your needs - Ebay, genealogy, internet for research, learn to draw, study english/maths, road rules.	Time for internet/computer use for general public.	Basic Computers - L1 For those that know the basics & wish to improve their skills & be the master over their computer.
room 3	PATCHWORK (advanced) Learn quilting, material choice, techniques & design.	Kurnai College Room booked - 29/01/08 to 18/03/08.	Room available for meetings.	Patchwork/Craft Activities Class designed for the beginner & novice art craft worker. Join the class have fun & develop your skills & make new friends.	Light & Bright, Chit & Chat Converse after watching movies or reading a book, talk or just listen, just do something different, join in & have fun while learning & make new friends, cook & share lunch.
	Monday 1.00pm - 3.00pm	Tuesday 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm	Wednesday 1.00pm - 3.00pm	Thursday 1.00pm - 3.00pm	Leadlighting Class Popular & creative class, make and create your own designs, windows, lamp shades, dragon flies 7 butterflies.
room 1	Room Available For Meetings.	Room available for meetings.	Folk Art Learn different brush techniques, create beautiful & functional items for your home.	Card Making Scrapbooking & other projects Have fun being creative with cards and sprucing up photo albums & much more.	Night Classes Tuesday Night: 6.00 pm - 8.00pm Digital Photography Turn ordinary photos into professional shots by using Microsoft digital image pro.
room 2	Basic Computers - Level 3 You are in charge & now you learn to refine & develop your skills for use at home or the work place.	Time for Internet use for general public.	Beginning Writing Have trouble with spelling, reading, writing, these basic are so part of your everyday life, let us get you up to speed.	Time for internet/computer use for general public.	Tuesday Night: 6.30 pm - 9.00pm Touch for Health Access your bodies wisdom & remove interference & restore muscle balance experience pain & emotional stress relief.
room 3	PATCHWORK (Advanced) Learn quilting, material choice, techniques & design.	Room available for meetings. <i>Show your support for the Centre become a member - only \$2</i>	Room available for meetings. <i>Show your support for the Centre become a member - only \$2</i>	Patchwork/Craft Activities Class designed for the beginner & novice art/craft worker, come & develop your skills in a friendly & happy environment.	Thursday Night: 2 Sessions 5pm - 8pm Yoga - with Healthier Intergrated form of Yoga Suited for everyone - relaxation, breathing, posture.

Ph: 5122 2955 - Fees and Charges upon enquiry - Child Care available for class participants - Photocopying & Internet/Computer Access - Ph: 5122 2955

The heart of our community Churchill Neighbourhood Centre

Holidays over? Kids back at school? How good is that! Time at last to enjoy yourself and do what you want to do. Come on down to the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre and check out what's happening. Have a chit and chat over a cuppa, relax, meet new people, make new friends, and if so inclined join one of the many classes that are in progress. Just do some thing different, some thing that you want to do and have fun. Come and cook lunch and share with the coordinator - now that would be fun!

Night Classes

Some classes are being offered on Tuesday and Thursday nights. These include digital photography, Yoga and, Touch for Health (check program). If there are any other classes you would like to see in the evenings

please let Henry know and if there is enough interest it will be organised. Check out the program and lets see if more evening classes can be organised before the start of Term 2 on Monday 7th April.

Churchill Neighbourhood Centre is a place - run by the people for the people - where everyone is welcome, a place to learn and share your skills and become a supportive community - and it all come from the heart, hence the heart of our community.

We are always looking for new members to help and support the work that is done at the centre. The Committee of Management has two vacancies. If you can help on the governance side of things come and talk with us, tell us what you think and what ideas you may have - everyone is welcome.



Rainbow Day at the Wattle Club

After a long break from Wattle Club, the New Year's activities started with time for chatting and catching up and some board games in early January.

Physical activities for all ages are important, so the Wattle Club members had a games day, playing Disc Bowls and Balloon Tennis. There was much laughter as the balloons decided to do their own thing, despite the greatest efforts of the participants. A game of Beetle followed.

Mystery Outings are a favourite experience. The seaside this time of year was the choice with a drive to Port Albert, where the fish and chips at the new F and C shop were sampled. It was a very windy day,

but enjoyable just the same. On the return journey a stop was made at Yarram for a cuppa.

The Sale Sporting Legends hosted the group for a very tasty lunch. A stop at Maccas for ice-cream sundaes completed that outing.

Australia Day was celebrated on the 25th January with a barbecue outside at the centre. Many things Australian were enjoyed and celebrated.

Rainbow day saw clients creatively using all the colours of the rainbow in their attire and activities! Pictures and book-marks were made followed by a rainbow-coloured lunch.

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Making the most of what's on our doorstep!

By Kristen Brehaut

Want to travel somewhere where you can see all the best bits for free? Looking to do something a little different over the Easter break?

Gippsland offers a diverse range of experiences. From old growth forest to squeaky clean beaches and a variety of Australian wildlife, Gippsland can give you one of the best experiences of nature you will ever have.

Wilson's Promontory National Park is famous for its beaches – one of which has squeaky sand. Wilson's Prom or, The Prom (as we know it) is one of Gippsland's jewels.

Watch the sun set from the top of Mount Oberon, take a dip at one of the beaches or in Tidal River, or go for a wander along one of several walking tracks.

The Prom is home to an abundant array of wildlife, including parrots, kangaroos, native finches and possums. At night wombats roam the camping ground, and may even visit campsites looking for food.

Further inland is the picturesque town of Walhalla. Once a booming

gold mining town, Walhalla now has a population of just 20, but many remnants of its past remain, with an historic railway, mine and restored buildings, the town has much to see and explore.

Walhalla also has the Australian Alps walking track, which can take you all the way to Canberra if you're game (it's a journey of over 300 kilometres).

Make sure to visit at Tarra Bulga National Park. The cool temperate rainforest is magical, and if you're lucky you may see one of the Lyrebirds who live in the park.

They are notoriously shy and have the unique ability to imitate any and every sound they've ever heard. This forest has been untouched for many years, allowing you to experience the true beauty of the Australian rainforest.

Heading further east we come to East Gippsland, home of the Gippsland Lakes and some of the longest silt jetties in the world.

Swimming, sailing, canoeing and bushwalking are available all year round. In winter, Mt Baw Baw and Mt Hotham are close by with

skiing and snowboarding available.

The Croajingalong National Park near Mallacoota has bushwalking available all year long, while the Buchan Caves give you a whole new perspective on Gippsland.

Gippsland has a rich history, evidence of which can be seen along the roads as you travel around. Most towns have museums which are either free or charge a small fee.

There is so much to see and do, and there really is something for everyone – beaches, entertainment, national parks and of course, native Australian wildlife.

Gippsland is so vast, I feel as though I've barely touched the surface. Gippsland is a beautiful part of Australia, and I encourage you to make the most of what is quite literally on our doorstep.

For further information visit www.inspiredbygippsland.com.au or www.visitvictoria.com.au and follow the links.

*Pictured above and below:
Historic Walhalla*



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Entertainment for February

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Saturday 16th	Revolver
Sunday 17th	Old Time Dance Featuring Ken & Alice Rae
<i>Wednesday 20th</i>	<i>'Under the Spotlight' Featuring BILL ROWLEY "THE COUNTRY ROCKER"</i>
Friday 22nd	Hound Dogs
Saturday 23rd	I.C. Rock
Friday 29th	The Badgers

Telephone: 5134 2455



Christmas in Glendonald Park

By Margaret Guthrie, Treasurer
Last December Santa made a guest appearance at a free community barbecue in Glendonald Park. Arriving on a fire truck, courtesy of Churchill CFA a queue of youngsters lined up to have the chance to talk to him, have their photo taken by their parents and receive a bag of lollies.

Members of Churchill CFA were kind enough to allow the kids to climb up on the fire truck and have a look around. Our thanks go to the CFA volunteers.

The December Community Christmas barbecue in Glendonald Park is an annual event conducted by volunteers from Glendonald Residents Group. Our small band of volunteers organise the event, source the funding, purchase the BBQ fare and lollies and then do the food

preparation and cooking on the day.

Another small group of volunteers from GRG and Churchill Guides turned out at Mathison Park on Saturday 15 December to cook a barbecue for the hard-working team constructing the new path around the eastern side of the lake.

It is great when several community groups can combine their resources in ways such as this and support each other's efforts.

Our Group took a well-earned break over summer and has yet to meet in 2008.

GRG can be contacted at PO Box 245, Churchill 3842, by emailing g_r_g_inc@hotmail.com or by phoning the Chairperson, David, on 0407 327 661.





Northe's Natter

I had opportunity to visit the new medical faculty at Monash Gippsland earlier this month. I was very impressed with the facility and believe it will be a fantastic asset for Monash and the region in general.

Let's hope that a number of these students decide to remain in Gippsland once they have graduated to serve the health needs of the local community.

Whilst at Monash, I also visited the Megawatt Interactive Electrical display. This interactive Scienceworks exhibition is being facilitated by Powerworks and I would encourage locals to take a walk through the Binishell before the display closes February 22.

Late last year, I was pleased to be advised by the Speaker that the Victorian Parliament will hold a

regional sitting here in Churchill on October 15.

I believe this is only the third time in history regional sittings have occurred and there's no doubt it is fantastic news for the region.

Parliament will resume for 2008 this month and I look forward to continuing to provide a voice for this region on important State Government issues.

As always, I encourage your feedback on such matters and welcome correspondence via mail (PO Box 214 Morwell 3840) or email: russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au.

Looking forward to a great year ahead

Russell

Counterfeit Gypsies Return for Folk Festival

THE Counterfeit Gypsies, Melbourne's premier gypsy dance band, are one of four headline acts announced as part of the 17-band line up for the 2008 Boolarra Folk Festival.

The 2008 festival, as usual a free event, will be held on Saturday 1st March. Organisers have confirmed that the Gypsies, an independent, six-piece outfit comprising duelling violins, flute, guitar, double-bass and drums, will return to Boolarra at the tail end of an east coast tour to launch the band's third album *Appropriate Footwear*.

Festival president Ray Stewart said the Gypsies had earned a reputation as one of the country's most talented and exciting live acts, and the festival organising committee was delighted that they would be back. "They somehow fuse traditional Balkan and eastern European melodies with a rocking rhythm, and the effect is mayhem on the dance floor," Mr Stewart said.

Also appearing will be Ann-Marita, The Go Set - which combines the folk elements of the bagpipes, accordion, and mandolin with distorted punk guitars and a rock 'n' roll ethos, and Italian folk band The Paesanos.

Mr Stewart said soaring temperatures during the 2007 festival had kept numbers

down, but it was anticipated some 5000 people would turn out in 2008.

The festival will again be held in what is usually the sleepy centre of Boolarra's town centre - the massive central parklands.

It will include a giant market and food and information stalls manned by community groups.

Other performers include the local bands Adagio, The Grenadines, Barry Callister (pictured below), The Molly Maguires, Celtic Rhythm Method, Grand Junction, Henry's Men, Jack, Daniel and Phoebe, Southern Collection, Taylor, Cupples and Boothman and The Brody Young Band.



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Churchill Newsagency

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Phone/Fax: 5122 1241

New Opening Hours

Monday to Friday:

7am to 6pm

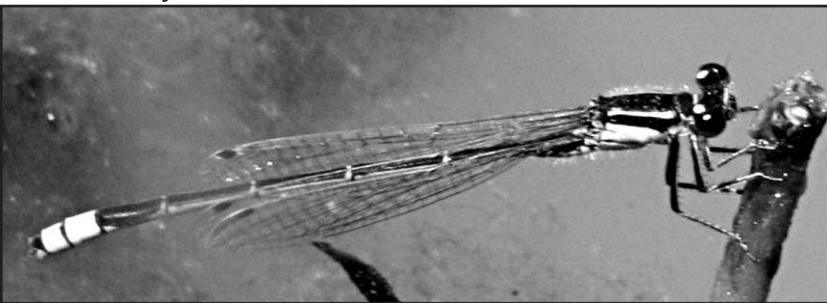
Saturday:

All Day to 6pm

Sunday:

7am to 12 Noon

Churchill Newsagency



Dragons and Damsels

Thank you to those who have attended our working bees the last two months. We are making some progress on the new pathway.

Our working bees are held on the third Saturday of each month, commencing at 9:30 and going to about 1:30pm. If numbers are sufficient we have a free barbecue lunch. The next one will be on Saturday 16 February.

Garden Beds

The two newly planted garden beds near the toilet block have been severely up ended. Those fishing at Lake Hyland have lifted up the weed mat to find worms for their hooks. The result is the destruction of the beds, the death of all plants in one bed and the disruption of a couple in the second bed. Please, if you see someone upending the weed mat for worms ask them to stop, or ring Simon Clarke at Latrobe City Council.

size means they are often unnoticed. One of the commonest is the Common Bluetail (*Ischnura heterosticta*). The male is very pretty, with sky-blue markings on the thorax and the tail.

The female is also pretty, but not so striking being dull green in colour. They often land on the vegetation around the edge of the lake, but unlike the dragonflies which keep their wings spread when perched, the little damselflies, close their wings above their abdomens.

Even smaller is the colourful little Red and Blue Damselfly (*Xanthagrion erythroneurum*). These are also quite common in the park. The female is very similar to the female bluetail, but the male stands out with its bright red thorax and two bands of sky-blue round its tail.

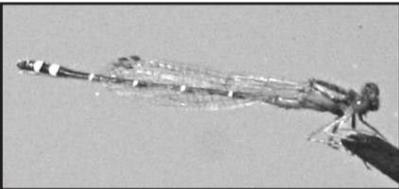
A Secretive Bird Nesting in Mathison Park

The crakes and rails are small birds that are very secretive. They live in damp areas with dense sedges and rushes and it is hard to get to see them at all.

In 2006 I had several sightings of a Baillons Crake in the park and when I saw a little bird running into the cord-rushes in early December last year, I thought it was the crake again. I had two fleeting glimpses of it, before on 12th December, I got the chance to watch and photograph the bird feeding on a muddy patch between the path and the lake. It proved to be, not the crake, but a Buff-banded Rail (*Gallirallus philippensis*).

It was exciting to see and photograph the bird, but there was more to come. Looking in the same place on 17th December, I found the rail feeding there again and it accepted me standing watching it and went on with its feeding. It kept returning to the same corner of the open area, and I suddenly realised that it was taking food to a group of tiny little black fluffy chicks. The rail was not just living in the park, but raising a family as well. I was able to photograph the babies, but I cannot quite tell from my picture whether there are 4 or 5 tiny little rails.

I have seen the rail several times since in the same place, but it keeps its babies hidden in the undergrowth and I have not seen them again although the mother keeps taking food in to their hiding place.



Dragons and Damsels

Ken Harris

Lake Hyland in Mathison Park is a good place to see dragonflies. Several species appear in the park at different times, but far the commonest seems to be the Tau Emerald (*Hemiodulia tau*). This lovely dragonfly is very common in the park working around the shore of the lake looking for other insects to feed on. Unlike most dragonflies, this one hardly ever lands, so I had to try and photograph it in flight. This is not quite as hard as it seems, because it keeps hovering in one spot before moving and then hovering again.

Much smaller than the dragonflies, are their cousins the damselflies. There are also several species of damselflies around the shore of Lake Hyland and they are little gems, although their small



Buff-banded Rail chicks

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Buff-banded Rail

S.O.S!

The Churchill News Team Is In Need Of Some Extra Volunteers.

These may include:

Advertising, Competitions Co-ordinator, Secretary, or Supporter.

Too few people are having to share a growing load as the Churchill News expands.

We are looking for a person(s) with a heart for our community

Who are reliable and are willing to have a police check and a Working With Children check

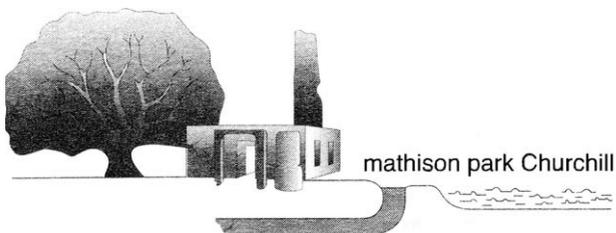
Willing to attend monthly meetings

Want to belong to a dedicated team of volunteers

Has access to computers, fair computer skills, and access to email facilities.

If you think you want to be part of this team, or if you know of any suitable people please let

Ruth Place know on 51221961 or email place@net-tech.com.au



The Churchill & District News invites you to take part in our

Photographic Competition 2008

Entries will be accepted in the following categories:

My Gippsland

This category is open to adults over 18

My Favourite Place

Open to children from 4 - 17

Photos From the Attic



Dig out those old and treasured photos that are a part of our history
Entries will be judged in three categories: Local, Australia and International*

* **Judging will be based on historical interest/content.**
Due to the value of these types of photographs, images that have been scanned and reprinted on photographic paper or are on a CD Rom will be

accepted.

The Churchill and District News Team will be happy to scan and print photographs for you.
Please contact Val on 04110 53546 for details or for more information.

For Copies Conditions of Entry and Entry Forms Please Send a SAE to:
Churchill & District News
PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842
Tel: 5122 2589
Email: cdnews@dcsi.net.au

Closing Date for Entries: 14th April 2008



Churchill & District News Photographic Competition 2008 Conditions of Entry

CATEGORIES: Entries are accepted in 5 Categories:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. My Gippsland | 2. Photos From the Attic | 3. My Favourite Place |
| a) 18 - 21 yrs | | a) Age 4 - 9 |
| b) 21 and over | | b) 10 - 17 |

PRIZES: Prizes can be won in all five categories. JUDGING: Entries will be judged locally.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

My Gippsland and My Favourite Place

Each entry must be accompanied with an entry form and state where the photograph was taken.
Entries must be in the form of a photographic print. Photographs can be submitted in colour or black and white. They must be unframed. Size 150mm x 100mm (4"x6")
Slides will not be accepted. Computer generated images will not be accepted.
Multiple entries will be accepted
Photographs must be received by 14th April 2008
The greatest care will be taken with entries, but no responsibility will be accepted for loss or damage
Unless otherwise specified, permission to reproduce entries for publicity purposes will be assumed.
Photographers will be credited whenever the images are used.
Any persons included in the photographic image must be consenting for the photograph and any subsequent use of the photograph. A consent form must accompany entries that include images of people.
Entries from children under the age of 18 must have adult consent
Entries will be returned only if they are accompanied by a SAE.
The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
Signing of the entry form for this competition constitutes acceptance of these conditions of entry.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Category 3 - Photo From the Attic

Each entry must be accompanied with an entry form and where possible please attach brief details of where/when/what/who etc
Entries must be in the form of a photographic print. Photographs can be submitted in colour or black and white. Any size of photo will be accepted. Due to the value of these types of photographs, images that have been scanned and reprinted on photographic paper will be accepted. *
Multiple entries will be accepted
Photographs must be received by 14th April 2008
The greatest care will be taken with entries, but no responsibility will be accepted for loss or damage. *
Unless otherwise specified, permission to reproduce entries for publicity purposes will be assumed.
Photographers will be credited whenever the images are used.
Entries will be returned only if they are accompanied by a SAE. *
The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
Signing of the entry form for this competition constitutes acceptance of these conditions of entry.

Churchill & District News Photographic Competition 2008 Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Title of Photograph: _____ Category _____

The Photograph was taken at: _____

I have read and understood the conditions of entry and agree to abide by them.

Signature _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian if under 18: _____

Entry Fee to be included with Entry Form:
Entry Fees: \$2.00 per photograph (\$1.00 per photograph concession or student): (\$5.00 Maximum regardless of number of entries)

Please make cheques or postal orders payable to 'Churchill & District News'.
No cash or stamps. Attach consent form if necessary.

Entries to be mailed to:
Churchill & District News
PO Box 234 Churchill 3842

Closing Date: 14th April 2008



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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds.
Albert Einstein



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Traditional Indian Wedding for Churchill Bride

By Cora Pal

Ipsita Roy, formerly of Churchill, recently married Adrian Wright of Wheeler's Hill in a traditional Indian wedding celebrated in the picturesque gardens of 'Tatra' in the Dandenong mountains.

Ipsita is the daughter of Dr. Parimal and Mrs. Sikha Roy of Churchill and Adrian is the son of Mrs. Carmen Wright and the late Mr. Adrian Wright.

In a colourful ceremony, full Vedic (Hindu) marriage rites were conducted by Bengali priest Dr. Pratish Bandopadhyay of Melbourne. The traditional Indian rites included Sapta Padi (seven steps). In Hindu culture it is said that if two people take seven steps together they become lifelong friends.

Ipsita and Adrian's seven steps signified their vows to

*develop their physical, mental and spiritual universe;

*to protect family and safeguard their interests;

*to remain forever devoted to one another;

*to share wisdom, happiness and har-

mony of the mind, body and soul;

*to share each other's pleasures and pain;

to help in humanitarian work and the betterment of mankind;

to offer mutual companionship, lifelong partnership and friendship in all phases of life.

The religious rites were followed by a civil ceremony conducted by marriage celebrant Mr. Lynton Round.

The groom, who is a motorbike enthusiast, arrived for the wedding on his Harley Davidson. The bride wore a heavy red and silver sari with traditional Indian jewellery for both marriage ceremonies. She chose a shimmering, full length pastel coloured outfit with matching jewellery for the reception.

Special guests at the wedding were the bride's aunts and uncles Kakoli and Subhendu Dasgupta and Anuka and Ajutava Dasgupta who traveled from Chicago and Toronto respectively.

The couple honeymooned at Phuket in Thailand. They have made their home in Wheelers Hill, Melbourne.



HVP and Roaming Reptiles!

What do HPV and Roaming Reptiles have in common? They will both be at the Churchill Festival on 15 March at Gaskin Park!

Major sponsor of the festival, Hancock Victorian Plantations (HVP), will be exhibiting at the festival and will house the Roaming Reptile Show.

Roaming Reptiles is a hands-on experience, where you will have the opportunity to hold live snakes, turtles, lizards etc.

"Visiting Roaming Reptiles at the Festival will be a memorable event for everyone," said event organizer,

Ruth Place. "Not only will HPV be sponsoring the reptile experience they will have their fire tanker on site."

HVP is Australia's largest private timber plantation company.

They manage around 245,000 hectares of land across Victoria, with its subsidiary, Grand Ridge Plantations supplying around 1.5 million tones a year of sawlogs and pulpwood to sawmills in Victoria's Gippsland region. To find out more about HPV come along to the Churchill Festival – entry is Free!



Festival - The Biggest Ever!

Plans are well underway for the 2008 Churchill Festival to be held on Saturday 15th March in Gaskin Park, Churchill. The theme for the event will be once again 'Free Fun inFormation for Families'.

The event was first staged in May 2004.

"The 2008 Festival is the biggest yet," said Ruth Place. "We have over 40 organisations represented, some organising activities and some exhibiting. The change of venue this year has allowed us to include several sports clinics, including basketball, football, golf and bocce. Everything is free - the food and the entertainment. Everyone can come along, share in the fun and not have to reach for the purse or wallet."

A jumping castle, the CFA Smokehouse, Awakening, the Country and Western Music Club, Gippsland Early Holden Club, Gippsland Speedway Motorcycle Club, Latrobe Valley Rockers and a free sausage sizzle are just some of the attractions.

The Festival will be held in Gaskin Park in Churchill from 10.00am to 3.00pm. A free bus service will run from the Glendonald side of Churchill

"There is still room for more community groups to come along," said Ruth. "The cut off date for registration is 22nd February. If you are interested or would like more information please contact me on 5122 1961."





Churchill Festival 2008

Free, Fun, information for Families

Saturday 15th March 2008
Gaskin Park, Churchill
10.00am - 3.00pm

Heaps of FREE Entertainment

Roaming Reptiles

Jumping Castle

FREE Sausage Sizzle

Sports Clinics: Hockey Baseball Football Golf Tennis

Bocce Club

CFA Smoke House

Gippsland Early Holden Car Club

HVP Plantations Fire Tanker

Latrobe Valley Rockers

Awakening

Latrobe Community Health Service

Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc

Yinnar Landcare Group

Gippsland Motorcycle Speedway Club

Boolarra Wool Group

Churchill Neighbourhood House

FREE Bus Service*

and Much Much More!!!!



*For Bus Time Table and Route see March 13th Edition of the Churchill & District News



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Timber that can be cut to your size & Hardware that is
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9.00am - 1.00pm Saturday
10.00am - 12.00pm Sunday

History of the CFA

Community volunteer-based fire fighting services started up in the early 1850's on the

gold fields, in Ballarat, Bendigo and Creswick, out of the necessity to protect their homes, buildings and surrounding areas. Fires were put out through the use of a human water chain, with buckets of water being passed along from person to person.

The person on the end would throw the water on the fire. Young children often collected the empty buckets and returned them to the water source. Fires in the bush were put out using wet bags or green tree branches.

Next came the Hook and Ladder Brigades, where long hooks were used to pull down buildings next to the fire to stop it from spreading. All of the equipment was carried to the fire by hand-pulled carts.

As towns became wealthier, hand-operated pumps were bought. Later more modern pumps were bought and used. Sometimes these pumps were so big they needed 40 men to pull the cart to the fire. Each town organised its own brigade.

The Fire Brigades Act 1890 created two boards, a Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board (MFBB) for the Metropolitan Fire District and a Country Fire Brigades Board (CFBB) to embrace the nine County Fire Districts. The Act laid the foundations for the CFBB giving it

extensive powers and responsibilities of fire brigades based more than 16 kilometres from Melbourne. The CFBB official-ly came into being on 1 January 1891.

In 1926, the Bush Fire Brigades were formed following serious bushfires. They consisted entirely of volunteer members, were administered by the State Forests Department, had only scant power to carry out fire prevention measures and received little or no financial assistance from the Government.

Following serious fires across Victoria in 1939, a Royal Commission recommended a single firefighting organisation for country Victoria. The devastation of the 1944 fires emphasised the urgency of better coordination of country fire services. Legislation was passed to establish a country fire authority and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) commenced operation on 2 April 1945.

CFA has now evolved to become one of the world's largest volunteer based emergency services and has been involved in fighting a number of major fires, including the Ash Wednesday fires.

There are currently 1,228 CFA brigades servicing the operational areas throughout regional Victoria (except state forests and parks) and outer metropolitan Melbourne. In recent times, CFA's responsibilities for responding to urban and transport risks have grown substantially.

Managing Chronic Health Better

Latrobe Community Health Service is again offering the popular Better Health

Self Management Course for people with chronic conditions. This accredited program is suitable for those with arthritis, diabetes, lung or heart diseases and many other conditions.

The course covers many topics that are common to all those learning to live with ongoing health problems, for example, understanding medications, the benefits of good nutrition and appropriate physical activity, ways to solve health related problems, improving communication with health professionals, managing fear, anger, frustration, pain and

fatigue.

The program runs once a week for six weeks from Tuesday 4 March till 8 April, 1.30 - 4.00pm, at Latrobe Community Health Service Seymour St. Traralgon.

The total course, including the book 'Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions' by Dr Kate Lorig, costs \$52.00. A relative or friend is welcome to accompany you for \$5.00. A deposit must be paid by 22 Feb.

Book by contacting the Community Health Nurse Julie Parker on 5127 9139 9100 or Respiratory Nurse Jan Smart 5171 1426.



Timely Reminder



By Ruth Place

The Fire Brigade reminds everyone to keep their places free from leaf and other flammable materials, so your property does not have fuel for fires. Although it has been a reasonable fire season so far, we cannot be complacent.

Birthdays Celebration

Captain Steve Barling celebrated his 50th Birthday with a cake and balloons at our December meeting. Steve is a well respected Captain and member of

Churchill Brigade.

During December, with the help of Churchill Fire Brigade members and truck, Santa paid visits to the kindergartens and the other places before Christmas and spent Christmas Eve traveling the streets of Churchill seeking all the children to give them some lollies.

He was greeted by many excited and happy children. This is a great community service provide by Churchill and other local Fire Brigades.



Photographic exhibition depicts women at work

John Werrett's 'Women at Work,' a new photographic exhibition currently showing at the Latrobe Regional Gallery, presents workers in their everyday environment.

Produced in the 1980s and '90s, the photographs include workers at the Moe Racing Club, the Murray-Goulburn Co-op in Leongatha and the Mallacoota abalone processing plant.

Latrobe Regional Gallery senior curator, Bryony Nainby, said the images invite people to share the experiences of those depicted and to

be part of their working day.

2008 is the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Victoria, marking women's equal participation in political and community life. 'Women at Work' marks this event by showcasing the diversity of women's roles in the workplace.

"Werrett's interest in photography began when he photographed workers at a local brickworks in 1971.

Since then, John has been interested in the 'working person' and has photographed workers in major rural industries such as mining, cat-

tle, and fishing.

This exhibition is a culmination of many years photographing women in the workplace," Ms Nainby explained.

'Women at Work' is currently showing and runs until 14 March.

Latrobe Regional Gallery is located at 138 Commercial Road, Morwell, and is open Monday to Friday 10am-5pm, and on weekends 11am-4pm. T

he gallery is closed public holidays. Entry is free.

For more information, contact the Gallery on 5128 5700.

The Well

A Short Story by DES BENNETT

How deep is the well – what stories can it tell.

Each morning and evening as I traversed the distance between the milking shed and the ‘shack’ on our newly purchased farm, I pondered the story of ‘The Well’. So alone, it stood out as a sentinel – its only comparative survivors being a patch of snow drops which bloomed forth anew in the late winter of each season, and a pile of chimney rubble, the remnants of the family home burnt to the ground in the fires of nineteen forty four. I decided to do some research.

In settlement days the sinking of the well signified a degree of acceptance that the time had arrived for the establishment of a permanent place of abode – for the settling down of roots, and hopefully for the establishment of a family. Apart from the construction of shelter itself, the provision of clear fresh drinking water was priority of the highest order, and one which virtually required immediate attention. My enquiries revealed that our farm had in fact been settled as early as 1846 when it was an integral part of the original ‘Merton Rush’ Station in Central Gippsland. This run was bounded by the Morwell River to the east, the Ten Mile creek to the south, the Haunted Hills to the west, and the Latrobe River to the north.

My well dated back to this period, and must have been ‘sunk’ soon after settlement. I just love that term ‘sunk.’ It signifies that it was meant to stay, never to be raised again, and to see very little of the light of day in the process. Its construction would have been a difficult task, and one which would have required a commitment of time and effort sufficient to ensure domicile for many years to come. Firstly, it would have required the digging of a hole at least eight feet in diameter and fifteen feet in depth. My own experience at digging postholes in the hard clay substrata of the river valley highway, convinced me of the effort that must have been expended. Experienced outside crews whose specialty lay in the art of cementing in place bricks in a round configuration, would then have been brought in. Their work would further have covered the domeing over, and rendering of the walls in such a fashion as to prevent the loss of water by seepage. And then, the space between the bricks and the outside clay walls would have been refilled. PHEW!! It is starting to make me feel thirsty just thinking about it – but more about that later. No doubt the same expert bricklayers would also have been employed to construct the chimney of the house, sadly now no more than an overgrown pile of bricks.

Having sunk ‘The Well’ and provided a roof over their heads, the occupants, out-station employees of one Mr Henry Scot, would have been required to focus their attention on the clearing of the stringybark and yellow box bushland, which, along with melaleuca scrub, was the dominant landscape feature. Charred stumps from the yellow box fence posts salvaged from the clearing were the only remains that I could find relative to that early era. ‘The Well’ then serviced the needs of that pioneer family, and others as station employees came and went. And therein lies the first story that I wish to relate.

In the days before World War Two, one could be forgiven for thinking that Victoria was literally alight from end to end during the summer fire period. Afterglow smoke haze from unregulated

burning and clearing operation, covered our State like a blanket, and when on occasion these were augmented by lightning strikes and fierce summer storms, destruction of an unprecedented kind took place. On the 13th and 14th January 1939, Victoria experienced the worse possible natural disaster in this respect. Seventy-one lives were lost state-wide, but ‘The Well’ and its surrounds survived unscathed. Such was not to be the case on Monday February 14th 1944 however. On this day thirteen people, six from Morwell, three from Hazelwood, and four from the Yinnar-Jeeralang area, all lost their lives. There could well have been a fourteenth – but for ‘The Well’.

The day started off quietly enough, but excessively strong winds soon whipped up a series of smaller grass fires in the North-west, which collectively then bore down on our district. It was a case of every available man to the front, and the then resident Lamb family menfolk were foremost. However, before leaving home to fight fires elsewhere, they had providentially taken the precaution of placing the farm ladder down through the domed opening of ‘The Well.’

In the early afternoon fire stormed down and overtook the property. There was nobody there to defend it, and in any case, under the circumstances of the day, flight and safety had to be the only consideration. Old Mrs Lamb had but one option – she climbed down the ladder, and there, in its cooling confines, she spent the latter part of the afternoon. All else around was burnt to the ground, but Mrs Lamb survived – saved by the bell – sorry, ‘The Well’.

‘The Well’ did not come into my life until 1948. By this time it was part of a dairy farm, one of the many established because of a Victorian State Government closer settlement policy. My father had recently purchased the property, and being fresh from College and anxious to become established in my own right, I managed to convince him to allow me to sharefarm. In time I prospered, and in a few years was able to purchase the freehold title. I married, and together with my wife Denise, set about the business of further developing the ram and raising a family. By now the well was in complete disuse and all supply pipes had been disconnected. As family numbers increased, we built ourselves a new brick home, which, because of the lie of the land, was situated in the immediate vicinity of the well. The carport in fact abutted it. I pondered its fate. Could its dome be covered with a layer of dirt and perhaps be turned into a feature of the garden, or would it be better to simply propagate a dense vine over it and hide forever what was now being regarded as something of an eyesore? I vacillated – but then I had a brainwave.

The collecting of vintage wines has been an interest of mine for many years. It was an interest which commenced as a teenager when Para Ports, resplendent in their globule shaped bottles, were all the rage, and tipped to be the investment of the future. But my collection also included some of the very first Grange Hermitage range of vintage wines, which at the time were selling for bottle-shop prices. It was expanding all the time. Household storage space was at a premium, and in any case did not really take care of the vagaries of temperature fluctuation, an age old problem associated with the correct storage of wine. But here,

right before my eyes, was the answer. What a fool I had been not to see it earlier, when I could have incorporated the well/cellar into the household design. I could even have built over it, when it could have doubled as a nuclear shelter in those far off cold war years. Okay, okay, lets not get too carried away!! Nevertheless, a vision of my own private cellar in complete stable temperature surrounds, gradually took over, and in time its construction just had to be.

I diligently laboured away in due course had in place a rather steep set of clay steps spiraling down around the outside of the well to basement some fifteen feet below. I sledge hammered a doorway through, concreted the results of my effort and installed a ground level trapdoor for the safety of errant nighttime prowlers, (and other of perhaps more evil intent). I was very proud of my work, and quickly added suitable horizontal bottle storage facilities and treated pine table and chairs. The temperature range was consistently perfect. I could not get my wine collection in house quickly enough.

On the hottest of hot days it was just so lovely and cool down there, and after the rigors of farm work was such a welcome haven from the heat. Beer was the favoured drink of my farm management apprentice David and myself during that first long and very hot summer, but discussion about, and care of the wines was never far off the agenda. The problems of the world were solved within its precincts. It was indeed a time to savour and to reflect upon.

Summer turned into autumn, and autumn into winter, and with it came the colder weather. Our forays into the cellar became fewer and fewer, and finally ceased altogether as the longest, coldest wettest winter I can remember swept in. The time had come to batten down the hatches.

However, spring duly arrived and with it the busiest time of the farm life cycle. There were cows to be calved down, ever longer twice-daily milkings to attend to, calves to be reared and myriad other seasonal tasks to attend to. The warm weather returned. It grew hotter and hotter.

I shall never forget the day. David and I had finished silage making and were really looking forward to that first, long cold beer of the season in the confines of the well/cellar.

I unbolted the trapdoor.

Shock. Horror!!

Water extended halfway up the steps!! And what were all those fully little bits of paper floating around?

Oh well, I suppose there’s not much difference between this and the possible future participation in a masked wine-tasting session. After all, it’s the quality that counts – only a snob would worry about the labels. SOB. SOB.

Des Bennett’s ‘The Well’ and ‘My Gippsland’ were runners up in the Churchill and District News Short Story and Poetry Competition 2007

My Gippsland

By Des Bennett

*In the shadow of Mt Baw Baw, beneath the Great Divide,
I've lived my life in Gippsland's fair rolling countryside.*

*I've sensed her mood in tempest, and flood and fire and drought,
But through it all could never say we've had to go without.*

*The bounty of her harvest each year sustains us all.
The beauty of her countryside, a vision to enthrall.*

*My parents farmed rich river flats at our home town Yinnar,
From there as base, with verve and zest, I've journeyed round thus far.*

*To Morwell, Moe, Neerim South, Nyora and Poowong,
To Nar Nar Goon and Koo-we-rup, to Bunyip and Tynong.*

*Then down the coast to Phillip Isle, where memory recalls,
A Christmas present when aged three, a bouncing rubber ball.*

*It bounced along the pier at Cowes, so vibrant, so carefree,
It bounced and bounced, it broke my heart, it bounced right out to sea.*

Then on to Lock and Archies Creek, heartland of Southern Skies,

All tilled and ploughed, so well endowed, fertile beyond surmise.

*To Mirboo North's Strzelecki Range, and Tarra Bulga Park,
Where glades of beech trees forbear back beyond primeval dark.*

*Through heathland brush, remote and lush, I've hit the Grand Ridge Trail,
My destination sweeping plain, and wetland east of Sale.*

*I've journeyed to Glenmaggie Wier, to Orbost, Omeo,
Cobungra Station and Hinnomunjee – land of the Overflow.*

*Then down the Princes Highway East, Lakes Entrance beckoned, called,
A welcome to the Gippsland Lakes, a playground fair for all.*

*Eight river source its coves and bays, its pristine golden sands,
A wilderness of waterways, the finest in the land.*

*Near journey's end, and land's end too, to Wilson's Promontory,
Southernmost tip of the land of Oz, a private sanctuary*

*For birds and bees, and banksias trees, the giant Eucalyptus Regnans,
For kangaroos, wombats, emus, and the genus Homo Sapiens.*

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch is a community based crime prevention program which aims to improve the quality of life within a neighbourhood by minimising preventable crime and promoting closer community ties.

The program relies on the community and the Police working together in a partnership to achieve these aims.

Is there a Neighbourhood Watch group in Churchill?

Yes there is and everyone is welcome to attend meetings. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21 February at 7.30pm at the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre, Churchill.

Each month we will bring you articles that will help minimise crime and increase safety within the community. This month we focus on the very important issue of Children's Safety

Children's Safety

At Home

Most accidents involving children occur in and around the home. A majority of these accidents could have been prevented if some general safety rules had been imposed. Some basic things to watch out for around the home are:

*Pharmaceuticals

Don't leave these around where children can gain access to them. Children may confuse pharmaceuticals with flavoured drinks or sweets.

*Electrical equipment

Educate children from a very early age about the dangers of electricity. Use covers on unused power points. Install a safety switch (a shut off device that disables the power in the event of a short circuit), and don't let your child use metal objects such as knives or forks to remove toast from the toaster. Never let your children use electrical equipment such as hair dryers near water. Be cautious with fans and heaters as well.

*Hot things- Fires, irons, and saucepans or frypans on stoves are especially dangerous. Ensure that handles of pots and pans on the stove are turned in to the rear of the stove and never leave children alone with hot things on the stove.

Make sure you use a fire-screen for an open fireplace

*Broken Glass

Check to make sure garden and sandpit areas are free from any broken glass. Small pieces of glass can be very difficult to see - until it's too late.

*Learning to fly

Never let your children get up on the roof of your house. They may try to jump off wearing their costume, thinking they can't get hurt.

At Play

We all want to minimise the risk of serious or

painful injuries to children. Playground equipment should be regularly checked and maintained, and in public play areas, this is generally taken care of by the local council. Any potentially dangerous equipment should be reported.

We should ensure that any equipment provided for children is safe to use, and teach our children some basic playground safety rules.

Some of these rules are:

*Don't play in bare feet

*Protect your hands and fingers from sharp objects, pinching or crushing

*Don't stand up on a swing's seat. Use the swing in a seated position. Don't use the slide until the person in front of you has moved clear of the slides bottom, and ask the person behind you to wait until you've moved clear.

*Don't put yourself within striking distance of a moving swing.

*Don't get off a sea-saw with someone else on the other end - you could injure their back.

Children should try to remain aware of their surroundings while playing. Playing on the street is dangerous. Safe play areas which are fenced and generally close by should be preferred.

Young children should never be left unsupervised in a playground.

They are especially vulnerable to the rough antics of older children, and in their excitement they are apt to become careless.

Bullying

Bullying is a problem that that no child should have to put up with. Australia statistics reveal that one in six school children are bullied each week. Children who are being bullied can do something about it.

Here are some tips that might help:

*You should realise that the kid/s who are bullying you aren't smart, even though they might think they are.

*Try to avoid bullies, but don't make it too obvious.

*Hang about in places where they don't go - the library for instance - While you're there, you'll be learning while they're missing out.

*Keep telling yourself that you're doing OK at school and try to concentrate on your studies. Talk to a friend or a teacher about it.

*Talk to parents, and ask for their support.

Parents and teachers can help by believing and supporting a child when they report bullying.

Australian children can call Kids Help Line - a free, confidential telephone counselling service. The number is 1800 55 1800 (Australia Wide) or web site www.kidshelp.com.au

Kids Traffic Safety

Buses:

If you are waiting for a public bus or a school bus, wait at the bus stop, and stand well back from the curb.

There are danger zones near all buses and the driver can not always see you. You should never cross the street in front of a bus.

Wait for the bus to pull away so you have a clear view of the street.

Cross at the traffic lights or street corner, and wait for the light to turn green or for the WALK crossing signal.

Trains:

If you take the train, you may need to take an escalator to the subway platform.

Strollers and prams should never be used on an escalator.

Very small children should be carried on the escalator with the person carrying the child holding on to the handrail.

Young children should always have an adult or older child to hold their hand.

Young children should not hold the handrail, because they are not tall enough to reach it safely and may get their small fingers stuck in the moving belt.

When walking to and from the bus stop or the train station. It is important to look carefully to the right then to the left then right again before you cross the street. If you must walk through parked traffic, stop and look carefully before stepping out onto the road from between vehicles. Don't run across the street or through a car park. When you are walking in these areas, you need to give your full attention to buses, cars, trucks and other pedestrians.

At busy intersections there may be lines on the road called a crosswalk for you to walk between. There may also be special signals such as walk or don't walk, to tell you to cross or not to cross the street in the form of words or symbols. Walking School Bus programs are also a good idea to get to school safely

Find out more at www.vichealth.vic.gov.au

Train Crossings:

Many railroad crossings have a gate with flashing lights that close when a train is coming. NEVER go around a closed railroad gate.

NEVER try to get across the track before the train gets there.

NEVER place anything across or on the tracks.

You should not try to cycle, in-line skate or run when crossing tracks. Trains are very large and heavy, and take a long time to stop. Sometimes another train may be coming from the



opposite direction. You might not notice the second train because of the noise from the first train. TAKE CARE.

Bike riding and skating along the side of the road is dangerous.

Many cities and towns provide bike trails and areas for in-line skating.

These are the safest areas for you to bicycle and skate since there are no vehicles allowed there.

All people are required to wear a helmet when



bicycling or in-line skating. A helmet will not protect you if it doesn't fit properly or is not used correctly:

Your helmet should fit your head snugly.

The helmet should sit on top of your head, with the bottom two finger widths above your eyebrows.

The strap should be fastened with room for one finger inside the strap.

And if your helmet has been in an accident, it should be replaced. There could be damage to the helmet that isn't visible.

Helmets come in all sorts of styles and colours.

Safe Bicycling:

*During the day, wear light coloured or bright coloured clothing so you can be seen.

*At night, you should wear light coloured and reflective clothing.

*You should also have lights and reflectors on your bike.

*Make sure that your bike is in good condition.

Take a look at the NHW Virtual Website www.virtualbike.com.au

Birds and a new plant in Morwell National Park

By Ken Harris

On 1 December the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club carries out an annual bird count, covering most of the important bird sites in the local area. I was part of a team surveying Mathison Park, Morwell National Park and the Brodribb Rd Wetlands. Our visit to Morwell NP was particularly good this year. We started in Fosters Gully but mostly surveyed up on Stringybark Ridge, particularly on the Western Boundary track.

When crossing Fosters Gully, we found an Eastern Yellow Robin feeding young in a nest (only 5 metres from where we saw the same thing last year). Nearby we saw a newly fledged Fantail Cuckoo, begging for food and being obliged by a pair of Brown Thornbills. The thornbills are so tiny beside their foster child, each 'parent' being only about the size of the cuckoo's head.

Going on to the Western Boundary track, we found that the Dusky Wood-swallows are in residence in that corner as they usually are, but then came the best sighting of the day. Back on 14th February 2006, I had seen a single Blue-winged Parrot in this corner of the park, flying up from the adjacent fields into a tree in the park. On Saturday we found at least 10 Blue-winged Parrots.

We saw them feeding on the ground in the paddocks, but also in the trees in the park close to the boundary. We had a strong suspicion that this is a little nesting colony of these beautiful little parrots.

Another bird that is rarely seen in the Park was seen at the same spot. This was Richard's Pipit, a bird of flat open grassland, not a habitat available in the park. Two pipits were seen in the paddocks alongside the park boundary. Other birds in the same vicinity included Jackie Winter (this is the only corner of the park we ever see Jackie Winter) and a small flock of Varied Sitellas.

Walking back through the forest on the Stringybark Ridge Track, I spotted a small plant growing by the side of the track, which I recognised immediately as the Cut-leaf Xanthosia - Xanthosia dissecta. This is not perhaps the most exciting of plants, but it is the first time this species (which is a native species) has ever been seen in Morwell National Park. I was only able to locate a single plant, but will return and search the area to see if there are more of them.

Crossing back over Fosters Gully, we took the vehicle track which bypasses the steps and goes just outside the park and along there we found a healthy young Wombat out of its burrow in daylight.

We extended our survey along Billys Creek. We didn't see anything very special, until we got right to the end of the track, where the steep ascent to Blue Gum Hill begins. We walked 30 metres up the track and sat on the grass to watch for birds and here we had great success. A Satin Flycatcher was calling around us continuously, but it was overshadowed, when a lot of noise from other

birds drew attention to a Peregrine Falcon, which dashed across the Billys Creek Valley, circled three times in the clear sky above and then flew out of sight. Attention was turned back to the Satin Flycatchers and to our delight their nest was spotted high in a Manna Gum. Satin Flycatchers share incubation and we were able to watch the female fly in to the nest and call the male off so that she could take her share at keeping the eggs warm



Jackie Winter

Boolarra Primary School



Ryan and James test out the Windsurfer

New Playground Equipment

Our Junior School Council selected a Rocking Windsurfer to be added to our play-ground equipment.

This was installed over the recent vacation period and is already proving to be a popular addition.



New preps Riven and Emre try the play equipment



Senior students Rosie, Chris and Emily help set up for the school year



New Staff Member

We are pleased to welcome Intern Teacher Matthew Dubois to our school. Matt attends Monash Gippsland

and will regularly work with his mentor teacher, Mrs. Cheryl Hilton and her grade 2/3 class.

Fabulous New Carpet!

Our students returned to a fresh environment with new carpet and vinyl laid throughout the school. This entailed lots of upheaval and chaos prior to the students resuming. All the teachers pitched in (some enlisted the assistance of their husbands) and took part in a massive working bee the day before Australia Day to restore order. Everyone did a sensational job to ensure that everything was in great shape for the students on the first school day.

A Great Start To The Year

Our students resumed school with smiling faces, several extra centimetres of height and lots of holiday news to share. All our students were well prepared for school having already organised their school books in advance. The teachers had the classrooms set up brilliantly, with all our new classroom computers in place. This ensured a smooth start to the school year with an industrious tone set right from the outset.

Welcome

It was delightful on the first day of school to hear 'old hand parents' introducing themselves to new families. We are very lucky to have such a friendly and welcoming school community. Our School Council decided that this year we will present the Junior School Council and House Captains for 2008 with their badges of office at the general Welcome BBQ, which should make this occasion even more enjoyable. The tentative date for this BBQ is Thursday 21 February from 5:30 pm.

Small Classes

We are delighted to have all our grades from prep to grade 4 with 20 or less students. Our largest grade is 22 grade 5/6s. Such small numbers really assist our teachers to provide individual learning programs for our students maximising their learning.

Thomas and his mum collect his books



Whole School Maths

Our teachers will continue to operate a whole school maths program this year. This sees students working in flexible groupings from prep to 6. By adopting this approach our many bright students are challenged and extended and students experiencing difficulties obtain the assistance and support they require.

Community Library

We have lots of great 'adult' books and magazines (but not rude ones!) available for anyone from the local community to come and borrow. To assist our local community to feel more relaxed about using this Community Library we are providing specific times for borrowing. The process is very simple and we have more books than we can fit on our shelves so we'd really like folk to borrow! 2:15 - 3:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays is the specific time we have set. Folk wishing to use the Community Library are asked to go to the main office and sign our Visitors' Book and we'll assist you from there.

Congratulations!

We were thrilled that our R.E. Coordinator, Mrs Elizabeth Black received a Community award at the Boolarra Australia Day celebrations. Among other things, Liz manages our Breakfast at School program on a voluntary basis and solicits donations to assist with the costs. Liz is a very worthy recipient!

Home School Students

The Education Department has advised that students who are home schooled may be enrolled part time in regular schools. We would be very happy to talk to any parents who home school their children about the enrichment possibilities such part time attendance at school could provide. Anyone interested in discussing this further should contact the Principal. Leanne Emond on 51696471.



Lauren and her mum collect her books

Kurnai College Churchill Junior Campus

New Faces at Kurnai

New campus Principal, Nello Cabone, was Assistant Campus Principal at Morwell Campus in 2007. Nello started work at Maryvale Campus in 1984, and has been at Kurnai College ever since it began. Nello has taught at the old Maryvale Campus and the Morwell Campus at both Senior and Junior levels.

With Geoff Block now heading the International Program, Nello will be Campus Principal for at least the first semester, but may continue to the end of 2008.

Nello reports that a lot of maintenance was carried out over the holiday period at the Junior campus. The Community Library has been repainted and looks very impressive. "This has taken lots of work by lots of people to achieve," he said.

New Team Offices have been established due to the Teams

Approach to student welfare, which has been adopted by Kurnai College. One team of teachers will be completely responsible for all matters concerning that year level. Each team will be led by a Leading Teacher.

The Year Level Team Leaders for 2008 are Year 10- Laurel Kane, Year 9- Cristy Russell, Year 8- Bernir Cropper, Year 7- Cheryl Taylor and Nicole Pryor.

"Any concerns regarding the school should be addressed in the first instance to the relevant Year Level Team Leader," said Nello.

Four new people have joined the staff of the junior campus. Nello is very pleased to see these young and enthusiastic teachers coming into the campus and bringing with them fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

Nello reports that the start of the year has been very busy and productive. Ian Lillico addressed all Kurnai Cluster Schools Staff on the relevant topic of boys education and how, as educators, teachers can better address the disturbing data concerning why boys do not perform at the level of which they are capable.

Gerard Murphy continued his excellent work with the College staff on the very important issue of how to build effective teams that allow a better outcome for all partners in the learning community.

Nello looks forward to working at Churchill Campus and the challenges it brings.



Eloise Porter

This is Eloise's first appointment. Eloise did her placement at Kurnai last year and loved it. She is very happy to be a part of the staff. She completed her studies in Dip Ed at Melbourne University.

She moves to the area from her Melbourne home in St Kilda, looking forward to getting to know the region in her time off. Eloise will be teaching English and SOSE in Years 7-10.



Cathy Tan

Cathy came to Australia four years ago to study at Latrobe University in Bendigo, where she achieved a Bachelor of Education. This is her first appointment, and she too, has moved to this area very recently.

With her Chinese background Cathy will be involved with assisting the Chinese students coming to Kurnai, to be involved with the Australian culture and their studies. Cathy will be taking Years 9 and 10 for Maths at the Churchill Campus.



Jason Drew

Jason brings a wealth of experience to his role. Jason was an Artist in Residence at Monash University Gippsland in the late 90's, so he is familiar with this area although he comments that he notices there have been many changes!

He has also worked at universities in Equity and Diversity. In 1999, Jason spent a year in Japan teaching English. This gave him a desire to teach in Australia, so he enrolled at Melbourne University and undertake a Diploma in Education followed by a Masters Degree in Fine Arts at Monash Churchill and Clayton campuses.

Jason is a Visual Artist, a Filmmaker and a Musician/Composer.

He will be teaching Year 7-10 students in the fields of metalwork, woodwork and art.



Karen Parker

Karen has a Bachelor of Science in bio chemistry and micro biology from Monash University Clayton. In her past working life, Karen did research in genetics at Monash University Gippsland in the Genetics Department laboratory.

This was followed by a time of home leave bringing up her family. During this time she helped a considerable amount at her children's schools and enjoyed it so much she decided to become a teacher. Karen has completed her Diploma of Education, and through this past summer has attended the Victorian University for an intensive course for the Career Change Program.

This program will allow Karen to teach for four days a week and attend distance university for the fifth day to complete her studies. The Career Change Program is for those who have skills in a particular area and wish to become a teacher in that subject. This program is mainly to increase the number of teachers in the difficult to fill curriculum areas like Science, Maths and Technology (home economics, metalwork and woodwork) in country areas.

Hazelwood North Primary School

Smooth Start to the New School Year



Ian Drysdale
Principal

It was a smooth start to the 2008 school year. Enrolments remain steady at 162.

The back to school barbecue and grade information sessions will be held during February.

We welcome the following teachers to our school. We look forward to their contribution to our teaching team.

Mrs Sarah Blythman who will be teaching 45B. Mrs Blythman previously taught at Morwell Primary School (Cringan Road)

Ms Caryn Rule – who will be teaching 23R. Ms Rule is a graduate of Monash University – Churchill Campus.

Mrs Louise Meade and Mrs Laura Maiolo who will be filling the specialist teacher roles while other staff are on leave.

Mrs Ann Wyeth finished teaching at the end of 2007. Ann will be resigning as from the start of Term 2. Ann has taught at Hazelwood North Primary School since 1993.

Ann also taught at Thorpdale, Hazelwood

Estate Primary Schools.

Ann was involved with the Yinnar and District Sports Association for twenty years.

Ann was always well prepared as a classroom teacher; she was always willing to share ideas with her colleagues.

Ann's husband Colin was also a great supporter of the school at swimming sports, athletic sports and the cross country.

The school community wishes Ann and Colin all the best for their future.

Mrs Janelle

Szkwarek is on family leave until Term 3. Congratulations to Janelle and Michael on the safe arrival of their son Will Oliver on January 14.

Parent information Evenings are planned for later in the month.

We are looking forward to a great year working as a team – students, parents and teachers.

Churchill North Primary School



Frist day at Churchill North Primary School!



Welcome to new students

During the school holidays, Churchill North Primary School received a long awaited make over, the outside buildings were freshly painted and compliment the well maintained school gardens

The first few days of school have run extremely smoothly with all students settling back into class well. The Kinder Prep transition program was a credit to all staff as there were no tears by either children or parents.

We welcome several new students to our school, both local and internationally. If you know of anyone moving to the area, please feel free to recommend them to our school or invite them for a tour.

We also welcome Gwen Hunter in Grade 4/5 & Jaylene Shorter an Integration aide with extensive knowledge in language development.

Prep / 1 Dunne

Prep/1 Dunne were straight into work with their focus being the letter 'S'. Students contributed to the 'S' table and enjoyed making spaghetti and eating sprinkle sandwiches.

Some comments by Prep / 1 students reflecting on their first week of school.

"I have played Kidz Pix on the computers. I like drawing." Kolby.

"I have drawn pictures of me running and played games called follow the leader and Simon says." Trent

"I brought sunglasses for the 'S' table and I went to the cricket oval". Jayden

"I have played the computer, we have played Simon says." Aiden

"I played with play dough, I made the letter 'S'. I liked the sprinkle sandwiches and strawberries & cream." Sarah

"I like playing with the doll house. It was fun learning the letter 'S' because we got to eat sprinkle sandwiches." Gysie

"I like to play doggy, doggy who has the bone, we have been learning about the letter 'S'. I don't like snakes. Jake

"I have been learning to listen. I went to the speedway, that starts with the letter 'S' Jamie

"At school we can draw with pencils, and play with play dough." Zac

"I liked the sprinkle sandwiches, they were yummy." Blake

"I did some painting of a butterfly and flower. We are learning the letter 'S'.

"Seals, snakes and sand start with the letter 'S'. I like playing with my friends." Ebony

"I like my classroom. My favourite thing about school is doing maths." Miranda

"We are learning about the letter 'S', shell, starfish & silly start with 'S'. I like when I play with my friends." Maddison

All staff recently attended Professional Development at Monash University on Boys in Education. Ian Lillico presented a great insight into the different learning styles of boys and girls, the influence of peers and explored strategies to combat peer pressure and bullying.

This will support our current plan in developing and enhancing the literacy skills of both boys and girls.

Ian presented the concept of a homework grid, in the coming weeks this will be implemented across the school. As a parent you will love it, it is practical, involves a mixture of physical activity, academic work and house work of all things.

1/ 2 Judkins

The circus has arrived in Grade 1/2 with the most amazing circus tent erected within the class, this sits alongside the puppet theatre and opposite to the hermit cards.

An exciting and engaging environment for students. Erica is great at exposing children to a variety of positive and interesting experiences.

3/ 4 Midgley

Students were attentively listening to Ms Midgley's amazing holiday adventure regarding—termites of all things.

They sat silently while Michele held the children captive with tales of moving house while it was being fumigated, taking with her the school lizard which was on vacation with her, and the cat.....all survived and enjoyed a great holiday at Grandma's.

4/5 Hunter

Welcome to Mrs Hunter who has settled in well to the school; please feel free to drop in and meet her and see the great changes to the classroom.

It was also great to see students settled and confident in organising their belonging ready for the very important step into the middle years.

5/6 Scotson

Moving to the senior school is a very important step in your child's education.

Students at this level take on greater leadership responsibilities—such as school captains, junior school council representatives, lunch time links coordinator and peer mediators.

It was great to see that all students were eager to step up to the challenge.



DUX Honours for Local Girl Rachelle Cheater

Congratulations to local girl, Rachelle Cheater on achieving an ENTER score of 98.2 and DUX of Chairo Christian School for 2007.

Rachelle achieved this despite juggling year 12 with glandular fever, two hours of bus travel to Drouin each day, a part time job at the Churchill Fish Shop

and playing hockey for Churchill Hockey Club.

Rachelle who has been a resident of Churchill all her life now plans to study a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne. Her ultimate aim is to study Veterinary Science at Melbourne and then return to Gippsland to practice.

International Women's Day Lunch in Churchill

An International Women's Day Lunch is to be held at the Gallery Bar in Churchill on Friday 7th March 2008.

Hosted by the Gippsland Trades & Labour Council and invitation is extended to all women to attend and celebrate the day.

International Women's Day (8 March) is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world.

This date is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday.

When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.

International Women's Day is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men.

In ancient Greece, Lysistrata initiated a sexual strike against men in order to end war; during the French Revolution, Parisian women calling for "liberty, equality, fraternity" marched on Versailles to demand women's suffrage.

The idea of an International Women's Day first arose at the turn of the century, which in the industrialized world was a period of expansion and tur-

bulence, booming population growth and radical ideologies.

Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike.

The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point for coordinated efforts to demand women's rights and participation in the political and economic process.

Increasingly, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.

The cost of the International Women's Day Lunch is \$15 and bookings are essential. Please contact Val on 03 5133 7684 (BH) for more information or to book.



Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



European Tour

With the work completed in October and with the research requirements for the degree of Master of Science completed, the family collected the camper-van again, and headed for Europe. They travelled by hovercraft across the Channel to Belgium and on through France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Spain. Snow was falling as they made their way back to the channel port of Le Havre and so to England.

The four weeks away were filled with adventure each day, but Christmas had arrived and it was time to return home. Neil's degree was conferred 'in absentia' because the family were already aboard ship on the day of the ceremony. However the Bristol faculty hood, gown, and hat were purchased from the famous London suppliers Ede and Ravenscroft Ltd., as a memento. On reflection, Neil said that the Bristol experience changed his life and the lives of the family for ever.

The Voyage home was a long trip via the Cape because at that time the Suez Canal was still closed. The first Australian landfall was Freemantle and here the family were greeted by the Grant family.

Before Neil left Australia the staff of the Gippsland Institute had been preparing the educational specifications for the new institution. This was a VIC requirement spelt out by Philip Law when he visited the College in September of 1969. The then Principal had left and the Council invited the staff to undertake the work. Don Grant, then Head of the Humanities department, collated the work of various groups, to produce a document which the architect could use to plan the new buildings for the site at Churchill. Neil chaired the staff panel producing the document, until his departure for England.

Don Grant had made a brilliant job of the 'Ed Specs' but had subsequently accepted a position with the Western Australia Institute of Technology.

The opportunity to meet the Grants again and personally thank Don for that vital work was not to be missed. Those months of quite detailed planning were pretty exciting and had to be completed after the normal working day of lectures and laboratory supervision-some of which were night classes! However, the final draft was printed by April, 1970 and approved by the VIC. Don Grant died in 2007. The Institute owed much to that man.

Neil met the new Director of the Institute, Max Hopper, on the day he sailed to England. Neil said that Max Hopper had introduced distance education to Gippsland, bringing his experience from the University of New England. The concept opened up tremendous opportunities for adult students to retrain or extend their education. The teaching and support staff embraced the external studies work that required preparation of study guides and other materials for mailing to students.

The community response was overwhelming, and the weekend schools produced a sea of cars around the Churchill campus, and caravans and tents on the sports grounds, as students arrived from all parts of the State and beyond. Motels and hotels in the area were booked out. Neil described this phase of his teaching life as among the most exciting and rewarding.

Board of Studies of Victorian Institute

Soon after returning to work Neil received an invitation to become a member of Board of Studies of the Victoria Institute of Colleges. The Board was established to accredit all courses offered by the affiliated colleges. Various committees reported to this board as new degrees courses were developed in many fields. Neil remained a member of this board until 1980 when the Colleges became independent. He found this work very rewarding and a highlight of his career.

Dean of Engineering

In 1978 Neil was appointed Dean of Engineering and Applied Science at the GIAE, and Deputy Director. The Director became ill in the early 1980s and subsequently retired. Neil was appointed Acting Director until a new Director was appointed late in 1984. Neil retired from the Institute in 1987 after 35

years in education.

For the Terrill family, there was more than one change. With the closing of Yallourn, Neil and Lois purchased some land in the Jeeralangs in 1975, and began to build the house, moving in, in 1976.

The girls grew up, completed their education and moved into the work force.

Linda, Jenny and Thea, have all married, and have had children, Jack and Harry at Bowen, Foster at Yinnar, and Sophie at the Holey Plain, Rosedale. Over the years and continuing into the present days of his retirement, Neil and Lois have been involved with their Church. At Yallourn they attended the Methodist Church, but now are regulars at the Co-Operating Churches, where they have been involved in various activities down the years.

Neil has retained his professional associations. He is member of the Royal Society of Chemistry in the UK, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Energy, and a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

In 1987, Jack Robertson introduced him to Probus, which both he and Lois now attend. Also in 1987 Neil was invited to join the Latrobe Regional Gallery Advisory Committee. Over the next 17 years Neil was privileged to participate in the development of a large contemporary Art collection, and the construction of the Gallery on the site of the former Morwell Shire Offices and Town Hall. There were many frustrations along the way, but the new Gallery is among the best regional galleries in Australia.

Waste Water Management Review

In 1989-90 the Victorian Government commissioned a major review of Waste Water Management in the Latrobe Valley. There had been a public outcry at the proposal to discharge the regions' treated industrial and domestic waste water into Bass Strait. The wastewaters were collected by the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board for treatment in the pond system at Dutson Downs.

The Review contained some 30 major recommendations. Among these was the requirement for major industries to reuse water and minimise waste, and the formation of Community Consultative Committees, to oversee the rehabilitation of damaged wetlands and water quality requirements for the proposed ocean outfall. Neil was invited to Chair the Consultative Committees. Neil was also asked to become a member of a two person tribunal to report on the plans and actions of industries in minimising wastewater discharge.

The work extended over the next five years involving community consultation throughout Gippsland. Much of the job was public education on the soundness of actions to be taken for the long term benefit of the environment. Neil recalls his admiration and regard for the hard work of citizens who comprised those committees.

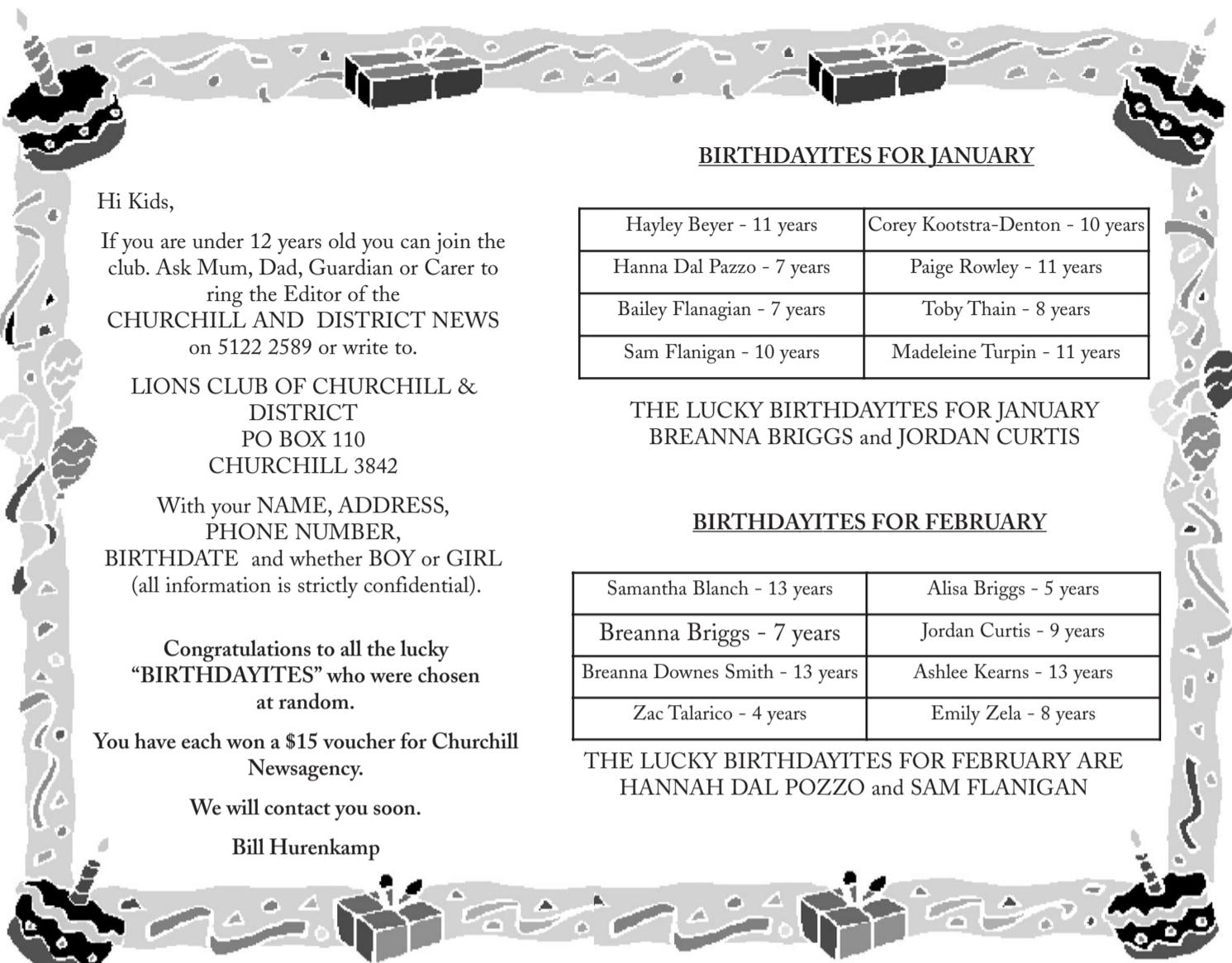
Neil wrote up the reports to Government on behalf of the committees in 1995, and also presented the report of the Tribunal on industry responses. Neil thought there would be more time to go sailing or work in the garden! However, in 1996 he was invited to Chair a new Technical Advisory Committee for Gippsland Water. This committee was convened early in 1997, and has just celebrated a decade of work. Future work will begin to focus on the operation of the new Water Factory.

Fitted into this active lifestyle, Neil and Lois have enjoyed a host of travel experiences throughout the world, including Thailand, Europe, Scandinavia, Alaska, USA, Canada, UK and Ireland.

One of the most rewarding things for Neil and Lois now is spending time with the family and watching with pleasure, (and some anxiety!) their grandchildren grow up do well in their various activities.

Neil acknowledged that after more than fifty years of marriage, all the organizing and budgeting for the travel adventures including Bristol, was done by Lois, 'The love of his life'. In truth, much of this story would not have occurred without her constant inspiration and help.

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Congratulations to all the lucky "BIRTHDAYITES" who were chosen at random.

You have each won a \$15 voucher for Churchill Newsagency.

We will contact you soon.

Bill Hurenkamp

BIRTHDAYITES FOR JANUARY

Hayley Beyer - 11 years	Corey Kootstra-Denton - 10 years
Hanna Dal Pazzo - 7 years	Paige Rowley - 11 years
Bailey Flanagian - 7 years	Toby Thain - 8 years
Sam Flanigan - 10 years	Madeleine Turpin - 11 years

THE LUCKY BIRTHDAYITES FOR JANUARY
BREANNA BRIGGS and JORDAN CURTIS

BIRTHDAYITES FOR FEBRUARY

Samantha Blanch - 13 years	Alisa Briggs - 5 years
Breanna Briggs - 7 years	Jordan Curtis - 9 years
Breanna Downes Smith - 13 years	Ashlee Kearns - 13 years
Zac Talarico - 4 years	Emily Zela - 8 years

THE LUCKY BIRTHDAYITES FOR FEBRUARY ARE
HANNAH DAL POZZO and SAM FLANIGAN

COLOUR ME IN



SUDOKU

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

The objective is to fill a 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9, only one time each.

The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid.

Digi-Search

Can you find the hidden numbers? They may be horizontal or vertical.

03987	04873
04285	18988
20987	22473
33838	49837
59348	63862
65678	74833
82207	83357
96857	99874

5	6	7	6	5	6	7	8	3	9	2	3	4	6	3
8	6	4	9	8	7	3	8	3	9	2	2	7	3	3
2	0	2	0	9	8	7	8	3	3	4	8	4	9	4
2	4	7	4	8	4	9	4	8	0	0	2	2	8	4
0	1	9	2	7	4	6	5	8	4	9	3	0	0	5
7	0	9	8	7	3	8	4	9	8	3	7	4	8	9
8	4	7	5	6	7	5	8	4	7	4	7	4	8	4
7	8	9	9	9	8	7	4	9	3	4	8	7	2	3
1	1	2	3	1	3	6	3	5	4	7	3	6	3	8
1	0	1	0	7	9	0	3	9	8	7	2	3	8	3
7	5	8	5	9	3	4	8	2	3	6	3	8	8	3
0	1	9	1	9	3	8	3	8	3	7	3	6	3	5
7	4	8	3	3	2	9	8	3	7	4	3	2	9	7
1	7	8	9	0	3	9	8	4	7	5	4	3	7	3
9	8	7	9	8	7	4	3	8	2	2	4	7	3	2



Taylor Poole Wins Prestigious Neil Street Cup

Taylor Poole from New South Wales won the Neil Street Cup in a close final at Newborough on Saturday 9 February.

"It was a beauty of a final," said organizer John Ferguson. "It was very close."

Sam Anderson from Shepparton came in second with Robert Medson from South Australia third and Joshua Munroe from Melton finishing fourth.

The Gippsland Speedway Motorcycle Club hosted the cup, named after world renowned rider Neil Street.

Neil started riding in the early 1950s in Australia, venturing to England in 1952. He rode in both Europe and Australia until the mid 1970s.

After retiring from racing he became a mentor to many Australian riders who have pursued a speedway career, including Jason Crump, his grandson who won the world championships in 2004 and 2006.

According to Neil, speedway teaches discipline and safety. Riders are more able to look after themselves on the roads either in a car or on a bike when they are older,

he said while watching the racing. While Neil clearly was enjoying the day, organizers already have the winter series in mind.

If anyone is interested in becoming involved in the sport they can contact Jack Ferguson on 0407 331 1867.

The Club will also be at the Churchill Festival at Gaskin Park on 15 March where riders will be demonstrating their skills and potential riders can find out more about the sport.



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