

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

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Distributed Free



Australia Day

Supplement -- Middle Pages



Saving water

Gippsland Water - p 11



Matchbox Gallery - p 13



Do you have a plan?

Churchill Fire Brigade - p 19

Yinnar bakery break-in shock



On January 6, the Yinnar community awoke to the shocking news that the Yinnar bakery, coffee shop and grocery store had been so badly damaged overnight that it was no longer operating.

At 1.39 am thieves had rammed the front of the store and removed the public ATM, causing substantial damage to the store including the main supporting pillar.

This has been devastating for the owners Theresia Gailberger and Stuart Booth who took over the former general store two years ago.

They had created a very popular business with good support from locals and visitors to the town.

It could take up to six months for insurance issues and repairs to be completed.

Also the store had a number of local employees who no longer have jobs.

Stuart and Theresia are appreciative of the support from the local community including the service station that is now selling basics supplied by the couple such as bread, milk and eggs. The bakery's popular donuts are sold there too.

However they are saddened that they are

not in a position to support organisations such as the local CFA and the Lions with catering.

It is understood that this raid was one of a series of such crimes dating back to November.

Charges have been brought against two people and police are continuing with their investigations.



Shop Local MARKET 2026

Mother's Day Market SATURDAY, MAY 2

Father's Day Market SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Christmas Market SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5



CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"
Established 1966

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

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Articles for publication and Letters to the Editor can be sent to: Churchill & District News
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All articles must be submitted by the 25th of each month for publication in the next issue.



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We acknowledge the support of



Could the new Seniors Lifestyle Victoria program improve your wellbeing?



The Seniors Lifestyle Victoria (SLV) program supports older Australians to stay healthy, independent and connected in the community. It does this by helping people navigate the healthcare system and linking them with services that matter most to their wellbeing.

These services might include physiotherapy, nutrition and healthy eating support, medication reviews, falls prevention, and social groups, community activities and peer support.

"Seniors Lifestyle Victoria is a free program designed to support older Victorians stay well at home

and avoid unnecessary trips to urgent care or hospital," Seniors Lifestyle Victoria Program Team Lead, Steven Ross said.

"As people age, small changes in health or confidence can have a big impact. Programs like Seniors Lifestyle Victoria step in early to prevent those challenges from becoming bigger problems. So, if you are starting to notice changes in your strength, balance or confidence, or you have had a fall or hospital visit recently, this program can make a real difference," he added.

"Throughout the

Rainfall



Rain at Hazelwood South: January only had 17% of its monthly rain fall, with 13.8mm, and the Latrobe Valley weather station even less, with 8.6mm. The ground water reserves and moderate temperature has kept the trees healthy and a bit of green left in the grass. The lawn mowers still had work to do.

The year of 2025 had

778mm of rain which was 94% of the average of 39 years of records, and Hazelwood South had 4.3% more rain than the

Latrobe Valley weather station:

December 2025 had 50.3mm of rain which is 80.7 of the monthly average and 18% more than the Latrobe Valley weather station.



program, a Seniors Lifestyle Victoria coordinator will support people to identify their health and lifestyle goals and create a plan on how to achieve them. They will also check in to make sure their plan is working.

Our aim is to work alongside people to build confidence, improve wellbeing and support them to live the life they want to live. It also helps people stay socially connected, which is just as important for wellbeing as physical health," Mr Ross said.

Mr Ross said the

program differed from other aged care programs because it focused on short-term support across six months.

"The program is short term and goals driven to help older Victorians maintain their independence. Rather than focusing on longterm supports for what people cannot do, we focus on connecting with supports to maintain what people can do."

The Seniors Lifestyle Victoria program is free and does not require a referral. To learn more, give us a call on 1800 242 696.

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1.	58 mm x 83 mm	2 x 5.8 cm	32.00	NA	28.00	NA
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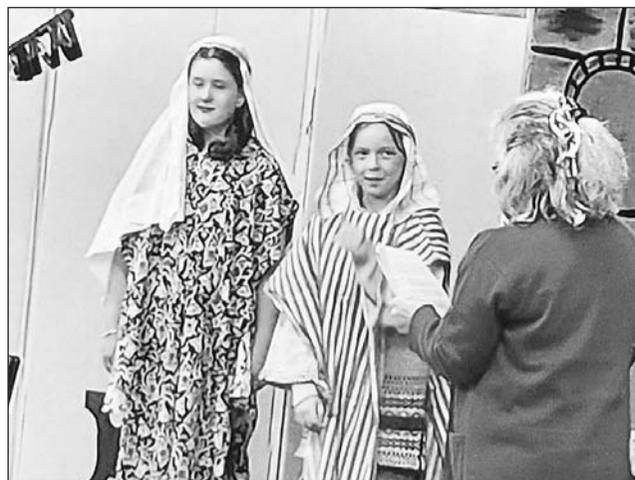
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CHURCH *news*

Co-Op Church snippets



went well, with fun but with the serious message that God became a man in Jesus Christ.

Jesus left his heavenly kingdom to come and be a human and to experience human life. In doing so he was able to point the way to living a better life through

because God wanted him to be the one and only true sacrificial forgiveness for our sins.

In believing Jesus humbles himself and did that for us when he died that horrible death on the cross, we can go and abide with him forever in his heavenly

praise him for his glorious sacrifice.

God showed us His boundless love and grace in bringing that sacrifice of Jesus to pass and open Heaven's doors for us.

The Crib Service on Christmas Eve was a lot of fun but with a serious

created by Faye depicted Heaven's Station. The train driven by David brought the messages about how to be eligible for Heaven.

Then we reenacted the Nativity story with children dressing up and acting the parts as our storyteller Liz read the story. It was a happy time with singing of our favourite Crib Service songs. At the end cupcakes were served and to top it off Santa came on the fire truck.

Very sadly, we lost another one of our much loved parishioners who was also our organist at Churchill church - Sylvia Cranwell. Our thoughts and prayers are with husband Dave, the family and friends of this very special lady.

Our church family will mourn Sylvia's passing and miss her smiling face and gentle nature and her expression of praise of God through her music.

Farewell to Fr. James Fernandez



A large group of Parishioners gathered at the 9am mass at Lumen Christi on the 11 January to farewell Fr. James Fernandez who had been the second longest serving priest in the parish's history. The entire mass was a wonderful tribute to Fr James who was acknowledged in song, prayer and words for his significant contribution to Lumen Christi over the last eight years. Highlights were a slide show of memorable moments in the parish accompanied by the gift of a photo book to take away and provide memories. During

the procession out of the church Fr James carried a lighted candle signifying that he was carrying the "Light of Christ" (Lumen Christi) to the parishioners of Clyde North. Fr James was accompanied on his journey from Lumen Christi in the final procession by Patrick Ross from the St Thomas the Apostle parish at Clyde North.

Fr James has been succeeded by Fr Paul Zaher who becomes the new parish priest of Morwell Catholic Parish and Lumen Christi Parish Churchill. He was previously at Berwick parish.



Church Times

Co-Operating Churches of Churchill

Sunday Services: 10.00am
Williams Avenue,
Churchill.
Tel: 5166 1819

King of Glory Ministries

Yinnar/Boolarra
Meeting at the RSL Hall,
Yinnar
3.00 pm each Sunday.

Prayer and Bible Study:

10.00 am Mondays at
Yinnar Bakery
and Coffee Shop.
10.00 am Wednesdays at
Boolarra Co-op
Church Hall.

For more info:
Pastor Lynn Fowler
0493 193 141

Churchill/Morwell Catholic Parishes

Tel: 5134 2849
Fr Paul Zaher
Saturday 5.00pm St Vincent's,
Morwell.
Sunday 9.00am Lumen Christi,
Churchill.

10.30am Sacred Heart, Morwell.
Every 4th Sunday alternates
Yinnar/Boolarra.
*See Church bulletin
or call 5134 2849*

Boolarra/Yinnar Co-Operating Parish

Boolarra/Yinnar
1st and 3rd Sunday: 10am
Christ Church Tarwin St.,
Boolarra

Churchill Christian Fellowship

3.00pm Sundays at Haz S. Hall
762 Tramway Road Churchill
(next to the soccer ground)
Everyone Welcome
0409 173 747



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

St Vinnies SOUP VAN

Soup van started Friday January 16

6.00 pm at White Parade reserve

6.30 pm at Illawonga Court

**Soup, sandwiches, frozen meals, fruit, pantry items.
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Try three weeks for free at Churchill Scout Group



Churchill
Scout Group



For 60 years Churchill Scout Group has been providing adventurous, fun, challenging and inclusive activities that teach practical life skills and help young people develop into strong, resilient adults who are also confident leaders.

Our age-specific units meet weekly as well as for weekend outdoor adventures.

Joey Scouts, for young people aged 5 to 8 meet Thursdays from 5.30pm to

6.30pm

Cub Scouts, for young people aged 8 to 11 meet Wednesday from 6.30pm to 8pm

Scouts, for young people aged 11 to 14 meet Tuesdays from 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Venturer Scouts, for young people aged 14 to 18 meet Mondays from 7pm to 9pm

Rover Scouts, for adults aged 18 to 25 meet Fridays from 7pm

New members can come along and try for three weeks before any financial commitment to join needs to be made. In Scouting you'll make friends for life and create heaps of amazing memories!

For more information or to sign up, please email the Group Leader Tammy Napier via groupleader@1stchurchill.com.au.

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Churchill & District Lions Club



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Contact Secretary Phone:

Peter Tait

0421 167 915



COMMUNITY SAFETY *Words of Wisdom*

Summer safety ... *HOT CARS!*

Leaving kids or pets in a hot car is extremely dangerous and potentially fatal, as temperatures inside rise rapidly, even with windows cracked, leading to heatstroke, organ damage, or death; it is illegal and requires calling emergency services (000 in Australia) if seen, with solutions like placing keys in the back with the child or using reminder tags to prevent accidental lock-ins.

Why it is so dangerous:

- **Rapid Temperature Increase:** A car's interior can heat up by 20°C (40°F) in just 10 minutes, becoming an oven quickly, even on mild days or in the shade.
- **Children's Vulnerability:** A child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adults.
- **Pets' Inability to Cool:** Pets do not sweat efficiently and overheat much faster, risking heatstroke, organ failure, or death.

Consequences:

- **Heatstroke:** Can cause shock, seizures,

brain damage, and death.

- **Legal Issues:** Leaving children or pets in hot cars is illegal in many places.

Prevention and What to Do:

- **Never Leave Them:** Do not leave children or pets alone in a parked car, not even for a minute.
- **Take Them With You:** Always take kids and pets out of the car when you leave it.
- **Prevent Accidental Lock-Ins:** Keep keys in your pocket, place a reminder item (like a bag or toy) in the back, or use car-key tags.
- **If You See a Child/Pet:** Call emergency services (like 000 in Australia) immediately.

Signs of Heatstroke:

- Excessive panting (pets) or lethargy, disorientation, vomiting (kids/pets).

By understanding these risks and taking simple precautions, we can prevent tragedies.

FOR EMERGENCIES, RING 000
FOR NON URGENT POLICE ASSISTANCE OR
ATTENDANCE WITH NO SIRENS, RING 131444

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Plants in my Garden

By Mike Beamish

Species: *Dietes robinsoniana*.

Family: Iridaceae.

Derivation:

Dietes: I have found two derivations for this genus: 1 - From the Greek dietes, meaning biannual, and apparently referring to the leaf and flower shoots appearing in the same year but in different seasons; or 2 - From the Greek dis, meaning twice or double, combined with etes, meaning kinsman or associate, thus meaning "two relatives" and referring to its intermediate position between the genera *Iris* and *Moraea*.

robinsoniana; Named after Sir Hercules Robinson (1824-1897), a former Governor of NSW (1872-1879), recognising the discovery of the species on Lord Howe Island by Charles Moore in 1869.

Name: Lord Howe Island Wedding Lily.

Distribution:

Endemic to Lord Howe Island (which is under the governance of NSW) and is widely distributed in forests and exposed places (e.g. cliffs) from sea level to the mountain tops. It is now a very popular horticultural plant, so can be found in

gardens worldwide.

Description:

A robust perennial herb forming tussocks of blue-green, leathery, strap-like leaves to 1.8m long and 7cm wide. Flowers occur from mid-spring to summer on many-branched panicles to 1.5m long, with individual flowers up to 9cm across, with six spreading segments (3 sepals and 3 petals), white with yellow markings, each flower opens only for a day. Fruits are capsules 4cm long by 2.5cm thick, starting green but drying to brown and containing columns of flat, black, triangular seeds.

Opinion:

I have had this species for a couple of decades now, having brought the seeds back from the island after our first trip there in March 2003. My clump is planted on the western fence-line next to the pedestrian gate in the south-west corner, so it gets quite a bit of westerly sun in summer, but also a bit of shelter from the three-railed fence and the overhanging Silky Oak. I did not think it was ever going to flower and by rights it probably should not in this part of the world, as it is a subtropical plant that

thrives in warm and humid climates. In 2022, however, conditions must have been right for it and it sent up two flower spikes. For the rest of the time it has been just another strappy plant where the tips of the leaves show its dislike for our colder climate. Its distribution is one of the intriguing mysteries of the plant world; there are six species of *Dietes*, the other five are all endemic to southern Africa (though they are all now popular horticultural plants around the world), so how did this one come to be on a speck in the Pacific Ocean? I also have *Dietes grandiflora* in the garden, planted way back before I realised it was not native, and it is a bit of a pest! It tolerates our conditions much better than its Lord Howe Island cousin and wants to self-seed everywhere. I dead-head regularly and think I have it confined to my small exotics bed, but it may have to come out eventually.

The Australian Plants Society Latrobe Valley Group hosts monthly activities, excursions and/or meetings. Interested persons are welcome to join in. Please contact Mike for



more information, email mcandcjb@gmail.com or phone 0447 452 755.

Sources: Elliot & Jones - Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 3.

Hutton - A Field Guide to the Plants of Lord Howe Island.



Shop Local

MARKET

2026

9.00 am to 1.00 pm at Churchill Shopping Centre

Mother's Day Market SATURDAY, MAY 2

Father's Day Market SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Christmas Market SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

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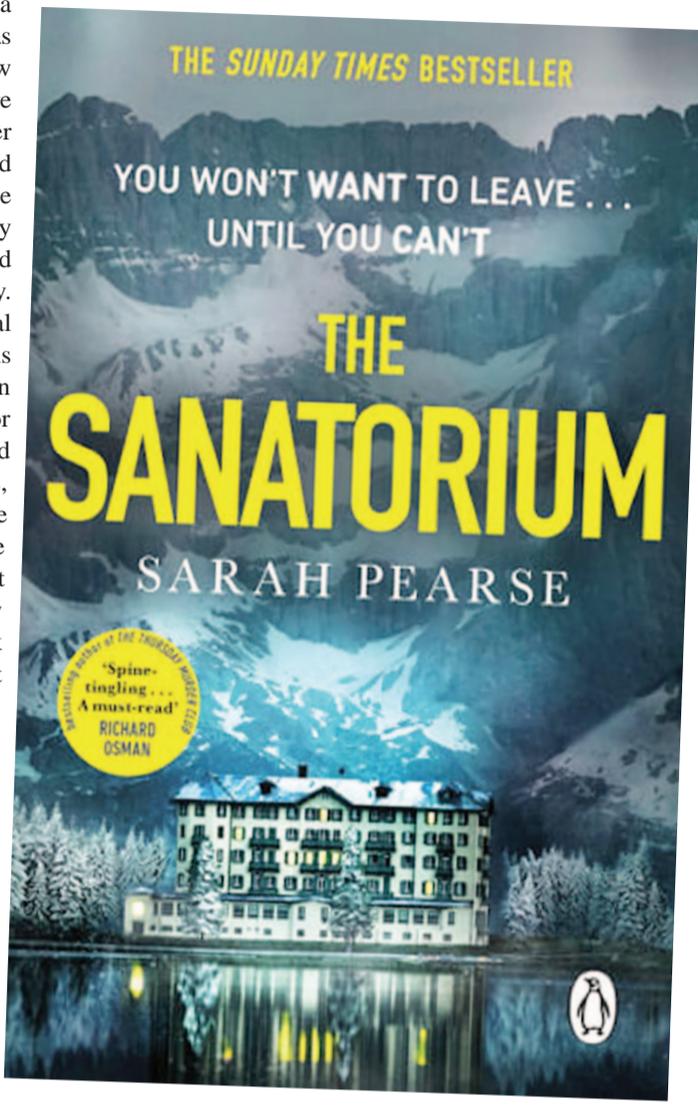
BOOK REVIEW

“The Sanatorium” by Sarah Pearse 2020

Sarah Pearse is a British author who was born in 1981 and grew up in Devon where she still lives with her family. She studied English and Creative Writing at the University of Warwick and Falmouth University. She writes psychological suspense novels featuring detective Elin Warner and is known for exploring dark, isolated and abandoned settings, inspired by her time in Switzerland. “The Sanatorium” is her debut novel and was a Sunday Times and New York Times best seller. It forms part of a trilogy with “The Retreat” 2022 and “The Wilds” 2025.

The story begins in 2015 with Daniel Lemaitre, an architect, inspecting an abandoned sanatorium in the isolated Swiss alps for his friend, Lucas Caron, a property developer. There is opposition to the development from the local community and rumours of corruption, and when he is leaving to return home he is confronted by mask-wearing figures and never seen again. In 2018 there is a press release reporting the opening of “Le Sommit”, the brainchild of Lucas Caron.

The story moves to 2020 when we meet Elin Warner, a detective on extended

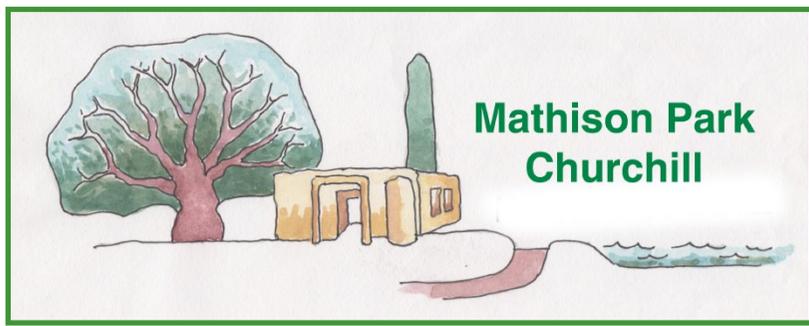


leave after an investigation which went wrong. She is travelling with her long-term boyfriend to meet with her estranged brother who is celebrating his engagement at “Le Sommit”. There is tension in this relationship over the death of their younger brother and Elin is hoping to resolve this conflict. On arrival at the venue she is unsettled by

the environment, with the use of articles used in the treatment of inmates used as decorations and artistic objects, and the sense of foreboding of the building.

A blizzard means guests need to be evacuated but not all are able to leave before the weather deteriorates. It is then a number of dead bodies are discovered in the resort and Elin swings into action.

This book is described as a Gothic thriller and it certainly was a page turner. The author was very successful in conjuring the atmosphere of the former sanatorium and this played an important role in the story. The ending made it clear that there was more of Elin Warner to follow. Some members really enjoyed this book and would read the sequels, others thought it was a bit predictable but everyone finished it.



No formal working bee was held during January as usual. However several of the men were out there watering the trees and newly planted scrubs to help them survive those very hot days we have experienced.

There was an event in the park run by the Melbourne Disc Golf Club which was successful. You can read about it elsewhere in this issue.

It has been noted, that a few locals have been having a go at disc golf. You can hire the discs at Churchill Leisure Centre.

Paul Tindall has started

a Facebook Page called “Mathison Park Disc Golf”.

The goal is to get interest from the community in some casual catch ups moving into casual tournaments if players are interested.

He is usually out at the course two to three times a week and also became a member of Melbourne disc golf club so he can compete in some of their events, the one at Churchill was his first one.

The club and players are fantastic, so welcoming, supportive and helpful to the new players, he is hoping we can be the same down here.

The course is a fantastic idea for families to get out, enjoy the park and have some fun.

As the month progressed, the Gippsland Interchange crew returned and helped with cleaning up all the fallen branches along the Eel Hole Creek pathway. The strong winds have wreaked havoc.

Lots of people have used the park for the holiday period before the new play space is begun, with the removal of some trees to clear the way for the equipment area.



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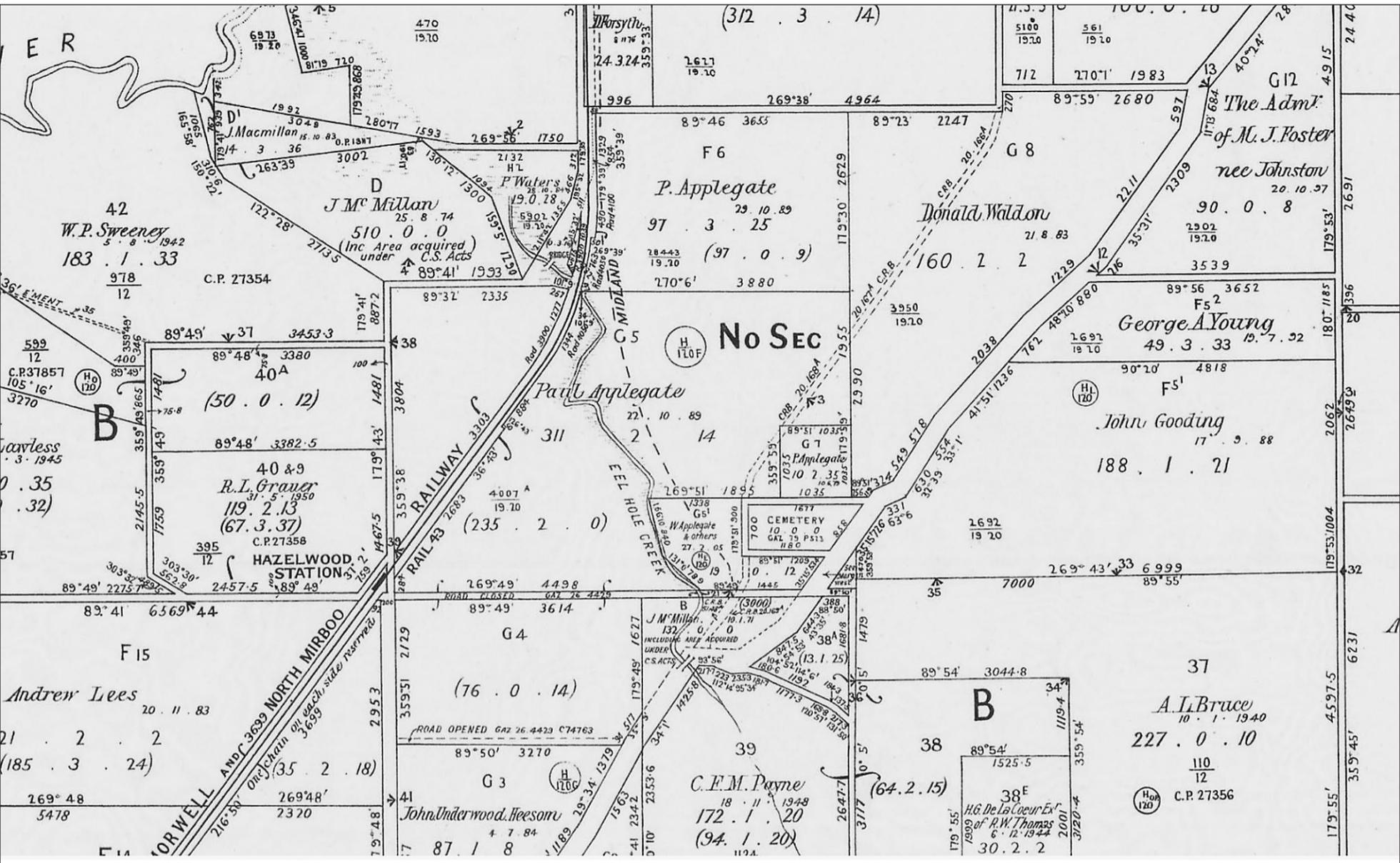
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Hazelwood Cemetery actually exists



By Leo Billington

A bank was established on July 15, 1858. Its focus was a land and building society. It became an official bank on July 1, 1895. Ten acres of land was gazetted for a cemetery on March 7, 1879. Being mentioned at this level of state government importance, it was decreed that the land was reserved to be used as a cemetery. This land was at Hazelwood, and has remained as a cemetery. Its focus has never been changed. It is simple to realise only 21 years separates the two entities being established. One was understandably destined to cater for an expanding market. So was the other. Recently, it came as a shock for the Hazelwood Cemetery Trust to be asked by the bank to prove its existence. Ironically, the Trust wants to be a customer of this bank.

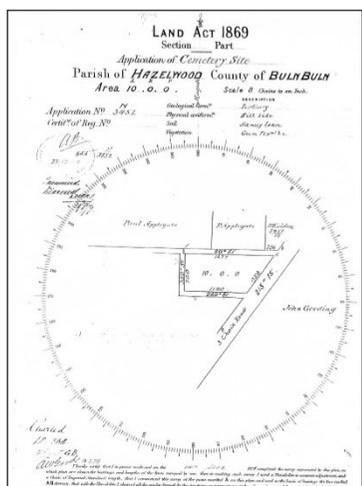
Hazelwood cattle station, was first occupied by William and Hazel Bennett in October 1844 in partnership with Hazel Bennett's brother, Eugene Brodribb. John Macmillan acquired the lease in June 1860. John died in 1899. Nonetheless, under various Land Acts in the late 1860s and early 1870s, the squatting leases were not renewed and most of this vast area was subdivided into farms of 320 acres and sold to selectors. Paul Applegate was one of the early selectors - research indicates he was perhaps the first one. **Hazelwood Station** Section 42 of The Land Act 1884 was a later version of Sections 19 and 20 of The Land Act 1869, as amended by The Land Act 1878. Through land legislation, the Victorian government tried to break up large squatting runs and allow more people to hold moderate sized farms. A selector could apply for a licence to occupy an area of land subject to certain conditions and payment of rent. When the licence expired, the selector could apply for a lease and, after paying a total of £1 (20 shillings) per acre, the selector could apply for a Crown grant—that is, land held by the Crown could be granted to the selector as the new owner.

The Land Act 1869 allowed the selection of up to 320 acres, including unsurveyed land, via the process of licensing, leasing and grants. The licence could be issued for three years at an annual rent of 2 shillings in advance. After that, the selector could apply for a seven-year lease at the same rent. After paying a total of £1 (20 shillings) per acre, the selector could apply for a Crown grant. Following various land sales to early families, including John Macmillan; John O'Hara; James McDonald; John Silcock; Charles Silcock; Francis Amiet; William Daly; Paul Applegate; Archibald Shaw, and Alphonse Nadenbousch - the Victorian government acquired what was remaining of the Hazelwood Estate in 1919. This acquisition of approximately 5,000 acres was estimated to provide about 50 small farms. Born in England in 1827, Paul Applegate arrived in Victoria in 1853 on the ship "Elizbeth", and worked as a miller in Flinders Street Melbourne for one year, before moving to Geelong, working as a carrier using a bullock team for

three years. He then farmed at Moorabool River, between 1858 and 1875. Relocating to Morwell, he selected land south of Morwell in 1876. Paul married Ellen Pratt of County Cavan, Ireland in 1857. They had four children. Paul Applegate died in 1900. Paul initially selected 320 acres, being part of the Hazelwood Station. By the time of his passing, the farm area was almost 860 acres. **Hazelwood Cemetery** The following was gazetted on Friday, March 7, 1879, page 523: This notice became local editorial via the Gippsland Times, on Monday March 10, 1879; page 3. This was three years after Paul Applegate arrived here with his family Three years later, on Friday February 11, 1881,

the following gazette announcement was printed: Government Gazette. Appointments: - J. Fitzpatrick, D. Donaldson, J. Tinker, L. Samuel, and D. Turner as trustees of Hazelwood cemetery. As was the main way of decimating important government information in Gippsland, the same notice appeared in The Australasian [Melbourne] - on Saturday February 12, 1881, page 20. An accompanying map depicts how land reserved for a cemetery sat in relation to its neighbours - particularly Paul Applegate and Donald Waldon. There is also reference to land held by John Macmillan (albeit with different spelling). There is reference to "W Applegate and others". William Applegate was Ellen and Paul's third child. William, born in Batesford in 1874, eventually moved to Richmond where he died in 1933, aged 59. He is interred at the Hazelwood Cemetery together with his parents and younger brother, Robert Paul. William was well-known throughout the district and for a number of years was judge at local race meetings. He was also a Hazelwood Cemetery Trustee, being appointed in October 1912, alongside his community work as a Justice of the Peace. He was also a staunch supporter of the local Church of England, and

a member of the Masonic Fraternity, Robert Paul Applegate passed away late in August 1951, aged 75. With his father, and then brother, fattening beef cattle was their primary focus. Robert Paul was also keen on horse racing. The deceased, who had been in ill health for some time, suffered severe shock as the result of a car accident, in which he was involved about six weeks prior to his death. The eldest child, Hannah, married Reverend Alfred Gamble, both of whom are interred at Hazelwood. Alfred was a vicar in Morwell from 1893 to 1897, and Hannah was regarded as an enthusiastic church worker, and the founder of St. Mary's Ladies' Guild. Second daughter, Elizabeth married, Robert Madden and moved to Batesford, near Geelong. Robert died in 1929 and Elizabeth in 1947. Two photos - one shows boundaries to the neighbouring selections for Applegate and Waldon under the Land Act 1869 when there was an application for a cemetery site. The date shown is December 16, 1878; several months later on March 7, 1879, it was published/gazetted that the land was to be withheld from any private sale. The other map shows actual cemetery land, largely surrounded by land tagged Applegate.





**STAMP
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Greenland

Over the past few weeks Greenland has been under intense scrutiny by the western world, particularly the United States. Ostensibly they want it for strategic reasons, but China has expressed an interest in mining rare earths there and the U.S.A. wants the same rare earths for its industry.

Neither country has done anything to develop these

settlements are mainly in the south and in isolated spots around the coastline.

Its settlement by Inuit people from Canada dates back at least 4,500 years but these settlements did not last, coming more in sporadic waves. The present Inuit culture is known as the Thule culture which spread from Alaska to Greenland about 1000AD and still exists

on Danish largesse. The principal language is Inuit, with Danish being taught as a second language in secondary schools. Education and Health Care are free.

Greenland has the lowest population density in the world. The population has just topped 57 thousand living in an area of almost 2.2 million square kilometres. Several mineral



industries yet because of the difficulties in setting up a mining industry in such an icebound place. Also, the island is governed by Denmark and has been for centuries. Who knows what the future will bring.

Greenland is the world's largest island, but its geographic location makes it an inhospitable place for humans. Most of the island lies above the Arctic Circle and over 80% of the island is covered by a huge ice sheet. Global warming has seen some of this icesheet retreat, but it is still formidable. Its

today. European settlement has also been impermanent. The first settlement dates from the 10th century when Erik the Red, exiled from Iceland, led his family to settle in the south.

It was he who gave the island its name, hoping to attract new settlers, but only the name survived. Over time there was considerable intermarriage with the Inuit but the settlement did not last. Several attempts were made to resettle but it was not until 1721 that a permanent Norse-Danish settlement was successful.

The Danish took over the control in 1814 and governed the island until it was granted home rule in 1979 and self-government in 2009. Denmark still subsidises the island with annual grants. The principal industry is fishing, providing 95% of its GDP but the island exists

deposits have been found including gold, bauxite, copper and iron and deposits of rubies are mined. The glaciers of Greenland produce most of the Atlantic icebergs every year. One of them sank the Titanic in 1912.

A set of five stamps were issued in 1935 commemorating the 25th anniversary of Thule settlement but these were limited to that town. Greenland used the stamps of Denmark until 1938.

In that year a set of five featuring King Christian X and two featuring a polar bear were issued for Greenland. In 1945 Greenland's second set was printed in the U.S.A. because Denmark was occupied by Nazi Germany. Greenland stamps are well worth collecting.

Federation launches Victorian-first centre for regional education

Federation University has launched the new Centre for Regional Education, Research and Development - a Victorian-first research centre dedicated to advancing education equity for regional and rural communities.

Led by Professor Garry Falloon, the Centre brings together leading researchers, educators and community partners to address long standing disparities between metropolitan and regional learners in preschool, school and community education settings.

Its work focuses on identifying and addressing the challenges faced by regional teachers and learners, improving access to high-quality professional development and exploring how technology and artificial intelligence can better support teaching and learning in regional and rural settings.

The Centre was formed on the back of several highly successful projects, including the Sandbox Project - an online platform supporting early childhood educators, delivered in partnership with the Victorian Government and The Ballarat Y.

Projects already underway span topics including STEM



engagement for girls, professional development to support the statewide rollout of Pre-Prep and work with local schools to better equip students with the skills to use, and critically evaluate, multimodal information and AI. The Centre is the first and only Victorian research centre with a dedicated focus on regional and rural education.

The establishment of the Centre recognises the unique challenges faced by regional learners and teachers, including persistent student achievement gaps between metro and regional areas, difficulties accessing quality professional learning and high teacher attrition, recruitment and retention issues.

The Centre's work is structured across three interconnected streams: Early Years Education, Primary and School Education and Tertiary and Community Education.

As Centre Director, Professor Falloon brings more than 22 years' experience in primary and secondary teaching and

school leadership, alongside his expertise in universities as an internationally recognised educational researcher and author.

Quotes attributable to Centre Director Professor Garry Falloon

"Regional and rural communities face unique challenges, and too often those challenges translate into fewer opportunities for learners. This Centre exists to help change that."

"Working with local communities, schools, learners and students, the new Centre will give regional education the dedicated focus it has long needed."

Quotes attributable to Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation Iven Mareels

"Federation is Victoria's regional university - and improving education outcomes for regional and rural communities is central to who we are and what we do."

"The Centre for Regional Education, Research and Development builds on our commitment to deliver research that will make a real difference on the ground."

Health Hints

By Andy Gergis - Churchill Discount Pharmacy

Scoliosis - Sometimes we hear the medical term, but what is it exactly?

Scoliosis is a condition where the spine curves sideways instead of being straight. When you look at a healthy spine from the back, it should run straight down the middle.

In scoliosis, the spine may form an "S" or "C" shape. It often develops during childhood or teenage years, but adults can also have it.

In many cases, scoliosis is mild and causes no serious

problems. Some people may not even realise they have it. Others may notice uneven shoulders, one hip sitting higher than the other, or clothes not fitting evenly. In more noticeable cases, it can cause back pain, muscle tiredness, or stiffness, especially in adults.

The exact cause of scoliosis is often unknown. This is called idiopathic scoliosis. Sometimes it can be linked to muscle or nerve conditions, injuries, or problems present from birth.

Treatment depends on how severe the curve is and the person's age. Mild cases may only need regular check-ups. Growing children with moderate scoliosis may need to wear a brace to stop the curve from getting worse. Severe cases are less common and may require surgery.

With proper monitoring and care, most people with scoliosis live normal, active lives without major limitations.

If you or your loved ones have any health concerns, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

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Water saving request



13 11 14

Customers reminded to save water during heatwave conditions

Gippsland Water is reminding customers to use water wisely as the region heats up.

Acting managing director Chris Wood said the organisation was well prepared for the conditions, but demand for water can rise sharply.

"We monitor weather forecasts across the service area and keep storages full ahead of summer," Mr Wood said.

"But high demand during a heatwave period can put pressure on our systems, and power interruptions or extreme temperatures can add further challenges."

"We have contingencies and plans ready to keep water treatment plants operating if mains power fails, so customers can continue to receive water."

"While we plan for these conditions, customers can help us keep our drinking water supply stable by following permanent water saving rules."

Customers can prepare for hot weather by following the permanent water saving



Customers are reminded to use water wisely during heatwave conditions.

rules and reporting leaks or main breaks by calling 1800 057 057.

Permanent water saving rules include:

- Only use a hand-held hose if it is fitted with a trigger nozzle and is leak-free.
- Use a watering can to

water gardens and only use sprinklers between 6pm and 10am.

- Only operate water features if the water is reticulated.

- Don't use water to clean hard surfaces like driveways or decking.

If services are

interrupted, customers will be notified via SMS, social media and on the website.

For tips on how to use water wisely and information on permanent water saving rules, visit: www.gippswater.com.au/reduceyouruse. Media contact: 5177 5979

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Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund

Gippsland charity prepared for bushfires in Gippsland

Local charity Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF) stands ready to assist local residents in the event of bushfires.

With bushfires in other parts of Victoria and record temperatures predicted, GERF president, Andy Tegart, says there is a real possibility of a spread of bushfires in Gippsland.

"If that happens, GERF is ready to assist," says Andy. The Gippsland

Emergency Relief Fund (GERF) exists to provide rapid financial support for Gippslanders who have been significantly impacted by a natural disaster.

This includes bushfires, floods, and storms.

"GERF financial support can be used for a range of needs from basics like food, shelter and clothing, to keeping livestock safe or education resources for kids," says Andy.

"We work with other recovery organisations and local councils as well as

affected residents to ensure our support is going fast to those most in need."

To be eligible for a GERF grant you must have experienced significant property damage or your home is uninhabitable. You must also be a Gippsland resident, and the property is your primary place of residence, owned or rented.

GERF works in cooperation with local councils in Gippsland.

"In the event of bushfire damage, your council will help you to lodge an application to GERF.

If you are eligible a grant will be provided within a day or two. The goal is to provide help as quickly as possible."

GERF is a registered charity, run entirely by local volunteers, helping fund emergency relief for Gippslanders with damaged property.

"Being run entirely by volunteers allows us to keep expenses low and return every dollar to the

community," says Andy.

Donations to GERF are tax deductible and will go entirely to supporting Gippslanders impacted by natural disasters.

To find out more about GERF or make a donation visit www.gerf.org.au



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Friends of Morwell National Park

December Activity Report

Construction of the bridges along Billys Creek have commenced. A reminder that the area of Morwell National Park accessible from Junction Road, Braniffs Road, Tebb Terrace and Morans Road remains closed over the Christmas period and into the new year. It will reopen at the conclusion of works in late February.

The second weeding day was held in November, and thanks goes to Beryl, Graeme and Peter who worked alongside four Parks Victoria rangers. While some of the rangers tried out their new spray unit along Weir Track and Billys Creek Track, the rest of the group removed weeds near the Junction Road car park and extracted the thistles growing along Fosters Gully Nature Walk and at Lyndons Clearing. One of the Parks Vic rangers was impressed to discover that Morwell National Park has all of the locally growing varieties of thistle. How lucky are we?

For the activity before the end-of year BBQ the group divided to walk different tracks and complete some track maintenance as each group walked around. Gordon, Mike, Ken and Matt walked around Fosters Gully looking for thistles.

Caitilin, Anita, Cathy and Darren trekked around Stringybark Track travelling between the west boundary, main track and some of the cross tracks. Caitilin captured photos of some of the flowers seen.

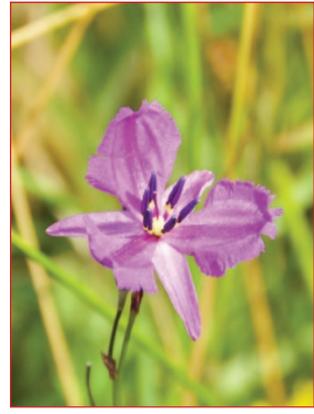
Graeme and Peter removed thistles and ragwort from another patch. On the three walks the groups observed a wombat, tiger snake and a fox on the tracks.

As the groups finished up their walks the days expected rain started.

On the day following the activities, just in time for Christmas, the long-awaited information signs were installed at the Kerry Road, Junction Road and Braniffs

Mike scouted out the next boxes to survey. Cathy, Toby, Sam and Lilly managed the camera and recorded what was in each box.

Caitilin separately photographed each box and recorded its condition and whether future repairs were needed. We have found that when a resource is lost or broken within the park there is little evidence of those pieces and their condition. Now we will have a record of



Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium strictum*)

in a Silver Wattle, and we watched her navigate over thin branches to a larger Eucalypt. There was much coaching, commentary and encouragement from our group. Another two koalas were at the top of two adjacent trees, while the last was sitting in a low fork unconcerned about us looking at it. It was ready for its Instagram moment!

Over the day, at least 42 sugar gliders were seen in the nesting boxes. A few of the boxes had a family group of at least five gliders. In these boxes you kept searching to locate more heads. When we go through the videos, more gliders may be located. It was good that in all boxes the gliders were alert but not scared by the camera. None



Small Grass-tree (*Xanthorrhoea minor*) in flower

Road entrances. It has been quite a process getting the signs to this stage, so it is great to see them finally in place. Thanks to Caitilin for these photos of the new information boards.

January Activity Report

The activity for the day was the annual nesting box survey. The original plan for the day was to split the group across two activities, but with the smaller group it was decided to just focus upon the nesting box survey and leave working on Muttonwood Track until another time.

The group assembled the camera equipment and carried it into the first nesting box. The group split up and took on different roles. Tamara took on record keeping while Darren and



all of the nesting boxes.

As the group moved around from box to box, Peter completed some weeding. After completing about 40 boxes the group stopped for lunch. After lunch the search for boxes and sugar gliders continued.

We were fortunate to spot at least five koalas. The first was a mother koala with the joey on her back sitting

of the gliders were scared out of the boxes by our activity.

February Activity

Sunday February 15, 10.00am

The group will meet in the Kerry Road car park to undertake track maintenance and weeding. You will need to bring your lunch along with clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions on the day.



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Inkpot Alchemy will be coming to Matchbox Gallery



Cheryl Cook



Dijanne Cevaal

Inkpot Alchemy, comprised of the dynamic duo (according to LRG) Cheryl Cook and Dijanne Cevaal will be coming to Matchbox Gallery, Yinnar from March 16 - April 12, 2026.

They will be in residence at the Gallery so not only can you enjoy their work but you will be able to chat with the artists whilst they work, and on some days partake in mini workshops at minimal cost. You will need to book as numbers are limited to four participants. During the Easter break there will be a special workshop for children who are in the company of a responsible adult. Note that both Cheryl and Dijanne have current Working with Children Certificates.

Inkpot Alchemy has

been a collaboration between Cheryl and Dijanne in creating with the magic and mystery of natural inks. The inks were originally developed by Cheryl to individualise her work in response to the City and Guilds Fellowship she completed out of the United Kingdom. The inks are sourced from the bush, our gardens and the gardens of friends, and the work they have created has been inspired by the interactions with these natural botanical elements. They have learnt that nature and plants offer infinite variety and surprise and that the only way to work with them is to be constantly awed. Cheryl and Dijanne have developed a myriad of colours using the inks and also created printing inks - all created from

botanicals which can be used on fabric and paper.

Together they have been on road trips searching for River Red Gums in Stratford, reindeer Lichen at Cheryl's property, coastal Banksias at Marlo, seaweed at Woodside beach, even moss and laurel leaves in Chartres, France.

There were many raids on the gardens of friends - for where you might see a rose they see colour and ink.

They are both very aware that they are a part of this magical alchemy with nature and that nature firmly guides them and requires attention and love.

This is the outward expression of the materials they have synthesised from nature and which is embedded in their art. Inkpot Alchemy are excited to share this as part of their

residency at Matchbox and hope you will join in the fun and magic and be inspired.

In the last two years they have exhibited at the Orbost Exhibition Centre, Meeniyan Art Gallery, ARC Yinnar and have conducted workshops at Geelong Fibre Forum, Latrobe Regional Gallery, at ARC Yinnar and at Cheryl's studio at Tanjil South. They have also written two booklets which will be available at the Matchbox Gallery during this time.

Dates to note:

Wednesdays to Fridays from March 8 to April 17, - Artist in Residence demonstrations and chats.

April 3, 4, 5 - Children's two hour workshops 1pm - 3pm

April 11 and 12 - Adult three hour workshops 1pm - 4pm

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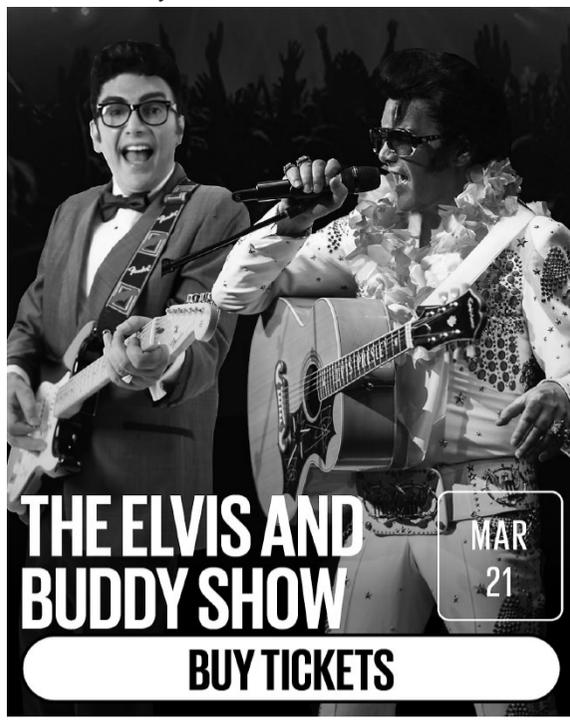
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Off to another productive year. I hope everyone had a good start to this New Year.

An update of our toilet: Yes, the contractor has been busy on measuring the site etc. If you haven't seen the sign, it is on the land next to Churchill Fish and Chip shop. This is land that council owns and all the necessary amenities can be accessed by the builder. This will be owned, cleaned and maintained by council and open every day at all times. It is all abilities accessible and is between both sets of shops. Close to the bus stop and taxi rank too. We have noted that the toilet behind the bakery was pretty dirty earlier this year and had notified council and Cr

Potter before it was reported on Facebook. It was very disappointing that it was not attended to immediately but please remember that CDCA is a voluntary organisation and we need your help in reporting this type of thing. Snap, send, solve and letting Cr Potter know (if needed) is the quickest, most effective way to get many of these issues dealt with,

Management of Hazelwood Village had requested that their cleaner continue to clean the area twice per day and council paid for the extra cleaning. This obviously was not happening but has been attended to.

The Churchill Historical Walk has progressed and will be

calling for people to take part and learn about the early history of Churchill and it's families. Thanks to Rob and David for their tireless work on this. It will only be successful if people support it.

There will be a listening post on Friday 6/2 regarding changes to the Planning Scheme.

We should have someone able to attend this.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12/2 at the Churchill Studio 1 (below the public hall) with the following meeting in April. The exact date will be advertised. Remember, that all are welcome.

Linda Reid
President



Morwell & District Red Cross Branch

Members meet on the second Wednesday of each month (February through until December) at 1.30 pm. at the Meeting Room of Yinnar and District Memorial Hall, unless otherwise notified. New members and visitors are welcome to attend
For further information contact the Secretary
Phone 0427 273 910



SCAMWATCH

Scamwatch warns about potential scams exploiting the new social media age restrictions

What is happening:

From December 10, 2025, some social media platforms will be restricted by law, to people aged 16 and over.

These laws require affected platforms to take reasonable steps to prevent anyone under 16 from creating or holding accounts. These measures are designed to protect young people from the risks and pressures associated with social media use.

Information about the new restrictions is available at eSafety's social media age restrictions hub.

Scamwatch has identified four potential scams that opportunistic criminals may use to take advantage of these changes.

Who is at risk:

Young people and their families affected by the new social media age restrictions.

Social media users.
What the scams might

look like:

Platform impersonation scams

Scammers may pretend to be social media platforms or age verification providers, and ask you to verify your age or risk losing your account.

Government impersonation scams

Scammers may pretend to be from government or law enforcement, claiming you have breached the new laws and threaten fines unless you provide proof of age.

Fake ID scams

Scammers may offer fake IDs or access to age-verified accounts for a fee, targeting young people under 16 and their families.

'Hi Mum' scams

Scammers might impersonate young people aged 16 or older, contacting their parents or guardians to claim they need help verifying their age to use a social media platform.

If someone contacts you about the social media age restrictions:

STOP. Do not be rushed to share age verification details quickly.

Do not make any payments. No legitimate platforms are requesting payment associated with these laws.

CHECK. Make sure the person or organisation you are dealing with is real. Find out how your social media platforms are communicating with users about the restrictions and how they are verifying users' ages.

You can visit eSafety's frequently asked questions page for more information.

PROTECT. If you have given any personal information, such as your age or proof of identity, or money to someone you suspect is a scammer act quickly.

'The What to do if you've been scammed page' on scamwatch.gov.au has steps you can follow.

To report scams and find more info go to Scamwatch.gov.au

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Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



By Leo Billington

History needs to be as accurate as practicable

Accurate portrayals do not just please discriminating enthusiasts of local history — they honour the lives and struggles of real people. Whenever one watches an historical film or reads an historical novel, imagine if it were your life, your family, your community being depicted. Any bits missing will annoy anyone; particularly when those missing bits are available in the first place.

Let us take an example. Leon Wuttrich was 18 years old when he and his parents selected land at Hazelwood North. From here, the family moved to Moe in about 1905.

After arriving in Australia from Switzerland, Leon's parents, Marie and Alphonse Wuttrich first settled at Moorabool Viaduct, Batesford (near Geelong), where they had a vineyard and orchard. It was when they were journeying between Africa and Australia, that Leon was born on May 24, 1854.

Leon was widely considered a true dinky-di Gippslander until his death in 1938, his father having died 25 years earlier, and his mother many years previously.

There is another more complete story to be told about the family's selection of approximately 280 acres of what was described back

in 1881, "rough, heavily timbered country".

Six years later, Leon and his parents were "running a general and dairy farm, breeding cattle, horses and pigs. The farm was able to send about 100 pounds of butter weekly to Melbourne, using in its production, a cream-separator worked by horse power. They also had planted 100 acres with walnut trees, partly enclosed with a whitethorn hedge and looking remarkably well." (Victoria and Its Metropolis 1887 -short Biographies of Early, Morwell-District People.

They first resided at Hazelridge, a property later acquired by Mr. Robert Porter. Among the many activities of Mr. Wuttrich and family, while residing in Hazelwood was the pioneering of the winemaking industry in this district. The family quickly earned a reputation for ingenuity as dairy farmers.

One innovation he promoted was the DeLaval cream separator, initially invented in 1878 by Swede Gustaf De Laval and the Dane, L. C. Nielsen when they made the first practical centrifugal cream separators. DeLaval was formally established in 1883 by Gustaf.

In February 1886, Leon proudly announced he had made an arrangement with the Gippsland Dairy

Company to supply that company with 20 quarts of cream per day. With his acquisition of a new DeLaval Cream Separator, he believed he could earn greater profits by selling cream rather than making butter. Basically, Leon was also inviting others to learn about new technology.

While at Hazelwood North, he donated land sited opposite his farm on which the Hazelwood North Mechanics Institute was built, surrounded by trees planted by himself.

These days, the Hazelwood North Community Hall and the former Hazelwood North Presbyterian Church stand on part of Walnut Park.

The Hazelwood North Community hall and church, to which he made many gifts, stand on part of the family property.

Leon's eldest child, Melina, died at the age of 8½ months, and, with their daughter (Cosette) and son (Fred/Frederic), the latter of whom succumbed to an attack of appendicitis in 1915, they moved to Moe and took up land adjoining the main drain, and built their home, Leonville.

Back to Hazelwood North, an area fast becoming a social and cultural centre for "Morwellians" prepared to travel out from Morwell, the Wuttrich family would invite the public to enjoy picnics under the trees.

Celebration of New Year's Day was an opportune time for picnicking at Wuttrich's farm. Expectations of large musters during the late 1890's gave added excitement.

Even during the early 1990's, students from Hazelwood North State School would enjoy visits to the walnut grove, having fun collecting fallen walnuts. During this decade and afterwards, "tired trees" were removed.

In addition to a reputation for giving away bunches of home grown flowers, a visiting correspondent wrote the family "has a fine lot of vegetables growing in his park and I understand the Morwell people will be given an opportunity of securing some." (Morwell Advertiser, April 14, 1899.)

Although the walnut grove is no more, the farm, since owned by other families, is still known as Walnut Park.

It was reported (Morwell Advertiser July 1904) that Mr John Graham purchased, Walnut Park, from Mr Leon Wuttrich. He made extensive alterations, and local residents predicted that this will be a future model farm of the district.

George Jones was the next owner. For a time he was share-farming on property then owned by Mr George Bond, at Hazelwood. (Hence the name for Bonds Lane.)

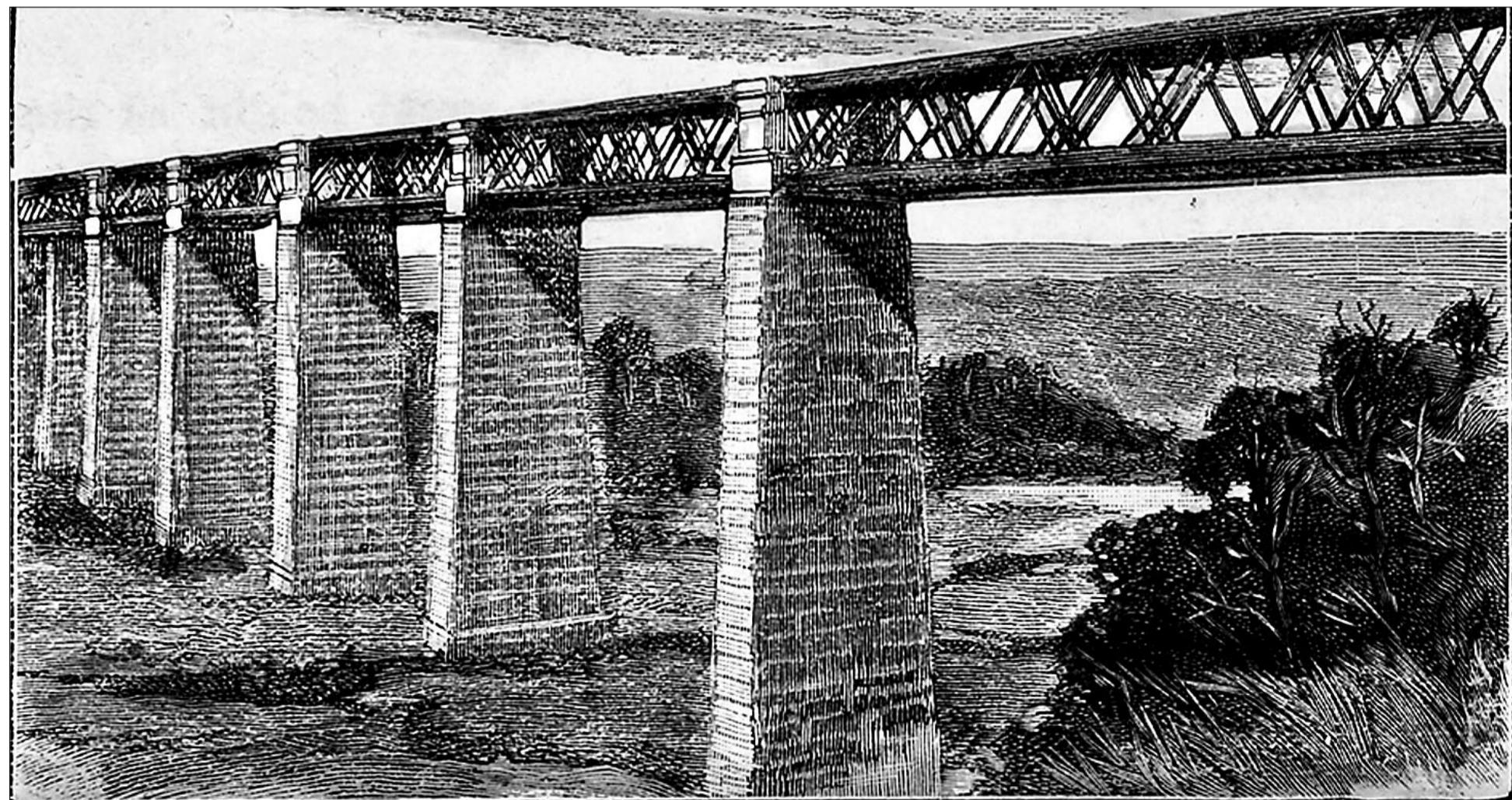


George subsequently purchased Walnut Park, where he successfully carried on farming and resided until the time of his death in September 1939.

Interest in the significance of Leon Wuttrich and his family, while living at Hazelwood North was prompted by a family relative, living interstate and an avid reader of the Churchill & District News. The Wuttrich family's place in Moe's history has been well documented.

Equally, the Wuttrich family's place in Hazelwood North's history needs to be documented. There is a definite case for memorialisation of this family.

At about the same time when local selectors were taking up land, Paul Applegate selected his 320 acres in 1876 at Hazelwood. Previously he had farmed at Moorabool Viaduct, Batesford (near Geelong). The families knew each other.



THE MOORABOOL VIADUCT.

COOKING with Noelene

<https://thegardeninggastronomer.blogspot.com/>



What do you know?

Here are the answers to December's challenge:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1. Grill | 4. Pepita |
| 2. Emulsify | 5. Spit. |
| 3. Caramel | 6. Walnut |



Here is 'food for thought'. . . Just read a recipe. Cooking is just reading - and tasting.

Here is my challenge for you this month:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. A combination of raw or cooked foods, usually served with a savoury dressing? | 4. A variety of Arabian coffee? |
| 2. A solid fat such as butter, margarine, lard or suet? | 5. A mild curry dish usually of lamb or mutton braised in a small amount of liquid and masala paste and flavoured with cashew nuts, yoghurt and saffron? |
| 3. A rich dough, made from flour, shortening and a little liquid? | 6. A protein in wheat and some other grains that, when moistened gives elasticity to a dough? |

Cauliflower au gratin



Ingredients

1 cauliflower, 30gm butter/marg, 2 tbs plain flour, 1/2 tsp dry mustard, 1/2 tsp cracked black pepper, 1 cup evaporated milk, 3/4 cup water, 90 gm tasty grated cheese, 1 tbs breadcrumbs.

Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Lightly grease an ovenproof dish. Cook the cauliflower in boiling salted water until just tender. Drain well. Break the cauliflower into large flowerettes and place in the prepared ovenproof dish. Now melt the butter/marg in a pan and add the flour, mustard, pepper and cook over a low heat until well combined. Gradually add the evaporated milk, water and 60gm of the grated cheese, stirring constantly until the mixture boils and thickens. Pour this over the cauliflower. Sprinkle over the remaining cheese and finally the breadcrumbs. Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes or until heated through.

Kale stir fry



Ingredients:

Canola/rice bran oil for frying, 1 tbs minced garlic, 1 bunch kale, chopped and large stems removed, 1 dsp minced ginger, 2 fresh tomatoes, quartered, 1 dsp chilli flakes (optional) or 2 mini caps sliced, 1 tbs sesame oil, 1 tbs lemon juice.

Heat the canola/rice bran oil in a large frying pan over a medium heat. Stir through the minced garlic until aromatic. Add the mini caps/chilli flakes and the ginger, stirring until well combined. Now add the kale and cook until tender. Finally add the quartered tomatoes, sesame oil salt and lemon juice and stir fry for 2 minutes until heated through. Serve hot.

Zucchini, yoghurt and mint muffins



Ingredients:

2 and 1/2 cups self-raising flour, 1 tbs finely chopped mint, 1 cup plain Greek yoghurt, 2 eggs (lightly beaten), 150gm melted butter/marg, 3 zucchini (grated), 1 tbs sesame seeds.

Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Lightly grease your 12 x 1/2 cup hole muffin tray. Mix together the mint and flour into medium bowl, season with a little cracked black pepper. In a separate bowl mix together the yoghurt, eggs and melted butter/marg. Make a well in the centre of the flour mix and pour in the yoghurt mix, fold in gently until just combined.

The mixture will be quite dry, stir the grated zucchini in with a fork. Do not overmix, the batter should be lumpy and over working the batter will make the muffins tough. 3/4 fill each muffin hole with the batter and sprinkle with sesame seeds. Bake in the preheated oven for 25 minutes or until the muffins are golden and come away from the sides of the muffin holes. Gently loosen each muffin with a flat bladed knife and place on a wire rack to cool. Can be served warm or at room temperature also a great accompaniment to curries. Also good spread with butter.

Orange and olive oil cake



Ingredients

3 eggs, 1 egg white, 90gm castor sugar, 1 dsp finely grated orange zest, 65 ml extra virgin olive oil, 60 ml orange juice, 80gm plain flour, 1/4 tsp cream of tartar, a pinch of salt.

Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Grease and lightly dust with castor sugar a 20cm cake pan.

Separate the eggs. Whisk the egg yolks with half the castor sugar until light and fluffy. Add the finely grated zest, whisk in the olive oil and then the orange juice. Mix the flour with the pinch of salt and gently fold into the egg yolk mixture, until just combined.

Whisk the egg whites with the cream of tartar until soft peaks form. Gradually add the remaining sugar and beat until stiff. Now gently fold into the yolk and flour mixture. Spoon into the prepared pan.

Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes, then reduce the oven temp to 150 deg C and continue to cook for a further 20 minutes.

Turn the oven off, leave the cake in the oven for 10 minutes before removing. Remove the cake to a serving dish and remove from the pan.

Serve with mascarpone or thickly whipped cream, along with orange segments and strawberries if desired.

Kiwi fruit cream pots



Ingredients

4 tbs chia seeds, 375ml coconut milk, 1 dsp honey, 4 kiwi fruits, peeled and roughly chopped, 1 extra kiwi fruit, peeled and chopped to serve.

Measure out 2 tbs chia seeds in a small bowl and cover with the coconut milk. Transfer the mix to your refrigerator and leave to soak for 20 minutes. Now add the honey and stir to combine. Place the 4 kiwi fruit in your food processor and pulse to form a smooth paste. Place the other 2 tbs of chia seeds in a medium bowl and pour the kiwi paste over top. Place the bowl in the refrigerator and leave to soak for 20 minutes. When you are ready to serve, divide the kiwi paste between small serving pots/ramekins. Spoon the coconut cream on top and dress with the fresh chopped kiwi fruit.

A spicy mango salsa



For a sweet, tangy salsa select a ripe, juicy mango and keep it in the fruit bowl for a couple of days until it has softened. This salsa is the perfect partner to barbecued / grilled chicken or fish.

Ingredients

1 medium ripe mango, 1 lime, 1 red chilli/or use chilli flakes to taste, 1/2 small onion, a sprinkle of sea salt.

Cut the flesh off either side of the stone. Peel and finely dice the mango cheeks and cut off and dice the remaining flesh on the stone. Finely grate the rind of the lime and squeeze the juice. Seed and finely slice the chilli, peel and finely chop the onion and mix it in a bowl with the mango, lime rind, 1 tbs of lime juice. To finish, lightly sprinkle with sea salt and chilli flakes if you are using them in place of the fresh chilli. Cover and chill until ready to serve.

COOKING with Noelene

More recipes on Noelene's blog

<https://thegardeninggastronomer.blogspot.com/>

Strzelecki Koalas Action Group display



The Strzelecki Action Team held the Wildlife Wonderland display in Sandy Point Community Centre on Saturday January 10. Imaginative scenes of soft toy koalas and other native animals interested the locals and visitors at Sandy Point. Children and their accompanying adults enjoyed the display and participated in the treasure hunt while learning about the Strzelecki koala and its need for extra protection. Many people signed the petition to Victoria's Minister of the Environment, Minister Dimopoulos.

The Wildlife Wonderland display was held in conjunction with the Wildlife in Sandy Point Event, Everything Koalas and Cousins. This event was organised by Wildlife in Sandy Point (WiSP) group which was formed in 2020 to continue the work of Wildlife and Habitat in



Sandy Point Action Group which started in 2017. www.sandypoint.vic.au 20-1-26) Reports were presented by the habitat group, a wildlife carer and a wombat specialist.

One of the major concerns of this group is their Sandy Point koala population.

The present and long term survival of the Sandy Point koalas is compromised by their small and isolated habitat and without safe access to other food sources and the opportunity to breed with other Gippsland koala populations.

These koalas are over browsing their food trees and inbreeding. Therefore the Sandy Point community groups are focusing on creating and maintaining a healthy habitat and wildlife corridors for their local koalas.

They are also keeping records of koala numbers, supporting wildlife carers and advising residents and visitors about the Sandy Point koala. Please watch the "Koala Corridor. ABC Gardening Australia. Series 31. Episode 18. Broadcast: Friday June 5, 2020. 7:30pm. Presenter: Milli

Ross. (www.sandypoint.vic.au) This summarises what the Sandy Point community is doing for its koala population.



The dedication and hard work by the Sandy Point community groups is producing many positive outcomes which are already becoming apparent.

For instance, a manna gum planting in a coastal reserve in the town is now able to provide food and shelter for the Sandy Point koalas. Two sets of mothers and their joeys as well as a male were spotted in this reserve on the weekend of the event.

Appropriate, diverse and plentiful habitat is key to the survival of any species. The Strzelecki koala population also needs extra protections for its habitat. Please consider signing the petition to Minister Dimopoulos which is about establishing a koala reserve in the

Mullungdung State Forest.

It is estimated that nearly 600 Strzelecki koalas live in this area and that the Mullungdung State Forest is a significant habitat for the long term survival of the Strzelecki koala and other native species such as the glider.

More information about the Mullungdung State Forest and the petition can be found in the koala section of www.melbournefoe.org.au.

Other ways to help the Strzelecki Koala:

Spread awareness about our local Strzelecki koala population, the only endemic and genetically diverse koala in Victoria.

With the heat of the summer months, provide fresh clean bowls of water and make sure that backyard pools are safe. Also follow fire restrictions at this time.

Drive carefully as koalas are on the move to mate and to find new home ranges, particularly between dusk and dawn.

Be a responsible pet owner especially by ensuring pets are indoors or contained during the night.

Join or support landcare and wildlife groups.

Contact Wildlife Victoria (03 8400 7300) or a local wildlife carer if you come in contact with an injured or sick koala or wombat.

If you spot a koala let

Anthony Amis know by emailing him the koala's location to

anthony.amis@foe.org.au or notify WomSAT at https://womsat.org.au for a wombat.

Future Strzelecki Koala Events:

Koalathon Melbourne (Date to be set for 2026)

Strzelecki Koala Festival in conjunction with the Tarra Easter Festival 2026, April 3 to 6.

Extra Important Information

Anthony Amis has published "2020-2025 Road Kill Hotspots" January 7, 2026 at www.melbournefoe.org.au (20-1-26). The Princes Highway, Morwell and Hernes Oak and Monash Way between Churchill and Yinnar are mentioned in this report. So please take extra care and be on the lookout for wildlife when driving on our local roads.

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State Member for Eastern Victoria

Your voice in the Eastern Victoria Region

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Authorised by Harriet Shing MP, 216 Commercial Road, Morwell 3840. Advertisement.





What a busy year in 2025

Did you know that the Churchill Fire Brigade responded to 183 calls for assistance in 2025?

Types of calls ranged from fires and explosions (72), motor vehicle crashes (10), hazardous condition including gas leaks and fuel spills (15), false alarms (25), service calls (10), support calls to assist other agencies (17) and good intent calls (10).

**CHURCHILL
FIRE BRIGADE**

HAS RESPONDED TO

013

CALLS THIS YEAR

Churchill fire station upgrade

Planning is underway for our fire station to receive an extensive upgrade during 2026.

The upgrade will see a full refurbishment of the kitchen, meeting room and toilet facilities, with improvements and an extension of the motor room.

Additional facilities to enable laundry and drying of firefighter uniforms (yellows), a dedicated room for cleaning and managing our protective equipment such as breathing apparatus, a new workshop area and offices for the brigade and Merton Group will also be welcome additions to the station footprint.

Tenders for the work closed in January, and it is hoped works will commence in March or April.



Churchill Fire Brigade approved for new field command vehicle

Under the government 2025/2026 Volunteer Services Equipment Program (VESEP), the brigade has been approved for a replacement Field Command Vehicle.

The new vehicle will be a Ford Ranger XLT with a

custom built back, costing around \$103,000 when fully equipped. The brigade will fund \$35,500 and the government will contribute \$71,000 through the VESEP fund.

This upgraded vehicle will provide much needed upgrades to the command

function when managing incidents, as well as providing crew transport to training and operations as well as supporting our fire equipment maintenance activities servicing fire extinguishers, hose reels and fire blankets in businesses throughout the local area.

On a high fire danger day, do you have a plan?

Over January 2026, across the state we have seen a number of High, Extreme and Catastrophic fire danger days. Do you have a plan in place for what you would do on a high fire danger day?

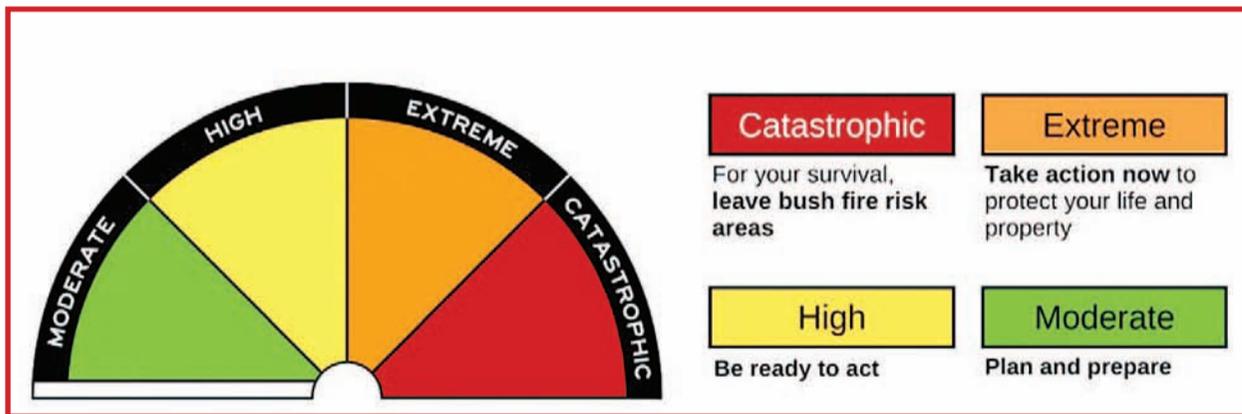
CFA Churchill Fire Brigade Captain Matt Fisher said people needed to take fire danger ratings into account, what this means for them and they should respond accordingly.

CFA Gippsland regional commander Michael Owen said leaving early was the safest option. "Not when you can see flames or smell smoke. Leaving early means avoiding panic, being trapped, making the wrong choices and risking serious injury or death," he said.

"Even if you have a plan, you need situational awareness and circumstances will vary greatly. Be aware of what is going on around you, not just in a fire, but in any emergency. Listen to the radio, TV or talk to neighbours," he said.

The safest option for anyone living in high fire danger areas is to leave early on hot and windy days that create dry and dangerous conditions.

CFA Churchill Fire Brigade Captain Matt Fisher said locals should make a plan and stick to it. Captain Fisher said that the local area was now very dry, pushed along by the last few weeks of very hot and windy days. "If you plan to leave early, then do it. It is no good waiting. You can replace houses and things, just take your family and pets and go," Captain Fisher said.



A CFA bushfire community survey revealed that only one in ten Victorians in high bushfire risk areas would leave early on high danger days – the lowest number in seven years.

Captain Fisher said many people had let their guard down since Black Saturday in 2009 but they need to understand that the 2025/26 fire season is now well and truly underway.

"There has been a bit of malaise around. In recent years we have not had much fire activity but this will not be the case for much longer. The season has well and truly started and the bush and grass is very dry," he said.

For information on how to Plan and Prepare, see the CFA website cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare

Know what the new Fire Danger Ratings mean:

Moderate

Plan and prepare

Most fires can be controlled.

• Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.

High

Be ready to act

Fires can be dangerous.

- There is a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.

- Decide what you will do if a fire starts.

- If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.

Extreme

Take action now to protect your life and property

Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.

- These are dangerous fire conditions.
- Check your bushfire plan and that your property is fire ready.

- If a fire starts, take immediate

action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.

- Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas.

- Expect hot, dry and windy conditions.

- Leaving bushfire risk areas early in the day is your safest option.

Catastrophic

For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas

If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.

- These are the most dangerous

conditions for a fire.

- Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.

- For your survival, do not be in bushfire risk areas.

- Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.

- If a fire starts and takes hold, lives and properties are likely to be lost.

- Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.

- Monitor conditions and official sources for warnings.

- Adhere to local regulations governing fire activity.

- Ensure any industrial or agricultural activities adhere to relevant industry guidelines.

- If a fire starts near you, take action immediately to protect your life. Do not wait for a warning.

Download the Vic Emergency app (emergency.vic.gov.au) and create a local watch zone to stay up to date with local information on Fire Danger Ratings, local incidents, and Warnings and Advice.



Braves

CHURCHILL BASEBALL CLUB

COME & TRY DAY



CHURCHILL BASEBALL CLUB

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Stalwart volunteer steps down

After volunteering at Churchill Primary School's breakfast club for the past 17 years, Pat Stewart has decided the time has come to hang up her tea towel. There have been a number of volunteers over the years since the program began in 2004, and the school is immensely grateful for the valuable contribution they have made. The school has

served tens of thousands of breakfasts to students over the years, with Pat, the longest standing volunteer, being there every week to lend a hand. Pat's record-breaking commitment has been very much appreciated by staff and students alike and her presence will be sadly missed, but we think she's deserved a well-earned retirement from porridge, toast and dishes! Thank you, Pat!

Fun in every forecast: Inverloch excursion a hit

CPS wrapped up another action-packed school year with a much-anticipated excursion to Inverloch, giving students and staff the chance to celebrate together in a fresh and exciting setting. Held across two days, the junior unit braved a cold and blustery Monday, while the Year 3-6 students enjoyed a very different experience,

soaking up the sunshine on a sizzling 30-degree Wednesday. No matter the weather, spirits were high and smiles were everywhere as students eagerly took part in a range of fun-filled activities. From a lively scavenger hunt and energetic beach games to a creative sand-building competition and plenty of playground time, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The excursion provided the

perfect opportunity to burn off energy, relax with friends, and make lasting memories, making it a fantastic way to celebrate the end of another successful school year.

Christmas Club fun

Once again, the Cooperating Church delighted our Grade 1-4 students by inviting us to participate in craft activities with their church members and bringing the nativity story to life through an

engaging performance. Students enthusiastically rotated through a variety of craft stations with the help of the volunteers, where they created their own nativity scenes, angels, and festive door hangers, as well as decorating stars to proudly hang on their Christmas trees. The day was filled with creativity, connection, and Christmas cheer, making it a memorable experience for all involved.



Photo Captions

- 1- Jo Whitlaw with Pat- below
- 2- Beach shot, above
- 3- Digging for treasure, to right
- 4- Running on beach, - above
- 5- Sandcastle Fun below centre
- 6- Christmas Club below right



Inaugural Churchill Summer Cup Tournament at Mathison Park



Report courtesy Melbourne Disc Golf Club

Melbourne Disc Golf Club (MDGC) was excited to host the first-ever Disc Golf tournament at Mathison Park Disc Golf Course, on Sunday January 11, 2026. "The Inaugural Churchill Summer Cup Tournament" was part of MDGC's Summer Cup series of events that the club holds at the beginning of every year.

The idea of holding an event at the Mathison Park Disc Golf Course followed on from the launch of the course by Latrobe City Council on November 28, 2025. MDGC were invited to attend the launch and provided support by demonstrating and teaching members of the local community a little

about disc golf – formerly called Frisbees. The Inaugural Summer Cup event was well attended with 43 players playing two rounds of disc golf on the 18-hole course. It was great to see that four of those players were local players, from Morwell, Traralgon and Sale. As well as the tournament, MDGC held a two hour Come 'n Try disc golf session for the local community between the two rounds of the tournament.

This attracted 20 people, who were given hands-on coaching by members of the club, learning the basic throws, putting and the basic rules of the game. This was a fun session, which is what disc golf is all about, and participants were happily surprised that their skill levels

improved during this time. We also took the opportunity to explain to those who attended that discs could be hired from the Latrobe Leisure Centre and that further information about disc golf could be gained by visiting Melbourne Disc Golf Club's website. <https://www.melbournediscgolf.com>

Feedback about the course was very positive, with many players commenting that the course is a great space and to some degree a blank canvas due to the vast amount of space available.

As well, the new plantings on the course will create different challenges as they grow. Players also commented about the amenity of Mathison Park, as players took the opportunity

during the two-hour break between rounds to enjoy the park. MDGC thanks Latrobe City Council, Visit Latrobe City and the Mathison Park Community Assets Committee who have been very supportive of the tournament and the Come 'n Try.

This was a successful inaugural event and helped to promote the sport and recreational opportunities that disc golf provides. It really is an activity which can be played by people of all ages and abilities and is a great low-cost family fun activity.

We look forward to future events here and we would be happy to discuss any ideas for future events at the Mathison Park Disc Golf Course.



*"Connecting Your Community"***Jack Thomas shines at Australian Youth Championships**

Churchill Braves' Jack Thomas Shines on National Stage at Australian Youth Championships

Churchill Braves' rising star Jack Thomas has returned home with silverware and invaluable experience after representing Victoria at the Australian Youth Championships, cementing his reputation as one of the club's most promising young players. Jack started his baseball journey with the Churchill Braves almost 10 years ago as a young Tballer.

Competing in the highly competitive Under 16s division, Thomas was part of a Victorian side that showcased resilience, firepower, and belief throughout the tournament. Victoria finished with a silver medal after an outstanding campaign that saw them reach the Gold Medal game, ultimately falling 12 to 1 to New South Wales in the championship decider.

Thomas played a key role on the mound during the tournament, pitching in two games against

the nation's best young talent. His most notable contribution came when he was entrusted with the start in the Qualifying Final — a high-pressure contest with a place in the Grand Final on the line. Thomas delivered when it mattered, helping Victoria secure the win and guaranteeing the team at least a silver medal heading into the final day.

For a young pitcher, starting a finals game at a national championship is a significant vote of confidence, and Thomas handled the moment with maturity beyond his years. His performance was another step forward in what has been a rapidly developing baseball journey for the Churchill Braves product.

Victoria entered the Gold Medal game full of momentum after a dramatic finals series that underlined their never-say-die attitude. Baseball Australia's preview of the decider highlighted the team's remarkable resilience, noting multiple late-inning comebacks throughout the



tournament. From stunning South Australia with three runs in the final inning on opening day, to overturning large deficits against Queensland in the preliminary final, one where Jack drove in the go ahead run that gave Victoria the cushion it required to complete the comeback in extra innings, Victoria repeatedly proved they were never out of a contest.

That fighting spirit carried the team to a 14-12 finals victory over New South Wales, powered by seven runs in both the first and last innings — a result that set the stage for the Gold Medal showdown on home soil.

Victoria finished pool play with an impressive 5-1 record and boasted a team batting average of .376, scoring double-digit runs in six consecutive games leading

into the final. While the Gold Medal ultimately went to NSW, the Silver medal represented a strong statement about the depth and quality of baseball talent coming through Victoria's junior ranks.

For the Churchill Braves, Jack Thomas's involvement at this level is a source of pride and excitement. Competing against the best Under 16 players in the country, contributing on the mound in crucial games, and experiencing the intensity of finals baseball at a national championship will prove invaluable as he continues his development.

Thomas now returns to the Braves system with enhanced confidence, experience, and a Silver medal to show for his efforts — and with many at Churchill eagerly watching what comes next.

With performances like this on the national stage, Jack Thomas has firmly placed himself among Victoria's emerging baseball talents, and the future looks bright for both player and club.

Churchill & Monash Golf Club results**Men's Championships Rd 3 (Stroke) and Monthly Medal and Ken Garlic Star Medal November 29, 2025**

Men's Championship Overall Winners

Men's Champion (Scratch): T. Webb 259. Men's Champion (Handicap): G. Sanders 229. A Grade Men's Championship Handicap Winner: G. Sanders 229. B Grade Men's Championship Handicap Winner: B. Mathieson 230. C Grade Men's Championship Handicap Winner: B. Cluderay 231. Monthly Medal Winner: S. Sanders 72 Nett. Scratch Winner: B. Downie 84 strokes. Putts: S. Sanders 25. Ken Garlic Star Medal Winner: C. Wilson 75 Nett. A Grade Winner: P. Kearns 74 Nett. B Grade Winner: S. Sanders 72 Nett. C Grade Winner: B. Cluderay 76 Nett. D.T.L: 1. C. Wilson 75, 2. G. Barnes 75, 3. J. Cahill 76, 4. B. Downie 76, 5. G. Sanders 77, 6. R. Sands 79. N.T.P: 3rd T. Webb (Propin), 5th J. Cahill, 12th P. Smart, 14th G. Beyer Target Hole: G. Beyer.

Women's Championships Rd 3 (Stroke) and Monthly Medal December 2, 2025

Women's Championship Overall Winners

Women's Champion (Scratch): S. Caldwell 312. Women's Champion (Handicap): S. Caldwell 237. A Grade Women's

Championship Handicap Winner: S. Caldwell 237. B Grade Women's Championship Handicap Winner: K. Del Piccolo 258. Monthly Medal Winner: S. Gosling 82 Nett c/b. Winner: B. Jenkins 78 Nett. Putts: B. Jenkins 28 D.T.L: 1. S. Caldwell 82, 2. K. Del Piccolo 82. N.T.P: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th C. Carder, 12th S. Caldwell, 14th L. Brent.

Stableford December 6, 2025

A Grade Winner: P. Kearns 36 pts. B Grade Winner: M. Hammer 41 pts. C Grade Winner: C. Filfillan 41 pts. D Grade Winner: T. Bennett 36 pts.

D.T.L: 1. I. Heppleston 40, 2. R. Sands 37, 3. A. Jenkins 36, 4. G. Beyer 35, 5. S. Caldwell 35, 6. C. Sterrick 35, 7. C. Waring 35, 8. V. Monument 35, 9. C. Gosling 34, 10. J. Balding 34 N.T.P: 3rd A. Jenkins, 5th C. Gilfillan, 12th C. Waring, 14th R. Welsh Birdies: 3rd L. Anderson Target Hole: P. Kearns.

Women's Event 9 hole 3BBB at Toongabbie Christmas Breakup - December 9, 2025 - no official results

Par - December 10, 2025

A Grade Winner: Adam West +3 B Grade Winner: S. Sanders +2 C Grade Winner: M. Lugton +5 D.T.L: R. Abel +1, 2. C. Waring +1, 3. G. Leahy +1, 4. P. Smart +1, 5. Dale Burrige +1, 6.

R. Davidson +1, 7. D. Byers 0, 8. D. Del Piccolo 0, 9. W. Sutton -1 c/b N.T.P: 3rd Ash West, 5th Dale Burrige, 12th R. Vesty (Propin), 14th M. Allen Target Hole: C. Waring.

Stableford - December 13, 2025

A Grade Winner: C. Gosling 36 pts B Grade Winner: J. Tatterson 47 Pts. D.T.L: 1. V. Reid 37, 2. C. Carder 36 N.T.P: 3rd V. Reid, 5th S. Caldwell, 12th L. Brent, 14th J. Tatterson.

Gentsomes 4s - December 13, 2025

Winners: G. Sanders/A. Sanders/D Cluderay/B Cluderay 103 pts c/b. D.T.L: 1. G. Leahy/T. Bennet/J. Balding/G. Beyer 103, 2. D. Byers/C. Gilfillan/M. Lugton 102, 3. P. Jordan/A. Auld/T. Collins/B. Kilday 101. N.T.P: 3rd Adam West, 5th M. Brereton, 12th G. Sanders, 14th C. Thompson Target Hole: D. Cluderay.

Stableford - December 16, 2025

A Grade Winner: S. Caldwell 38 pts. B Grade Winner: J. Tatterson 42 pts. D.T.L: 1. K. Del Piccolo 36, 2. C. Gosling 35, 3. S. Gosling 34. N.T.P: 3rd J. Tatterson, 5th S. Caldwell, 12th M. McQuillen, 14th S. Caldwell. Birdies: 3rd C. Bird.

Captain vs President's Day (Stableford) - December 17, 2025

A Grade Winner: P. Smart 36 pts B Grade

Winner: A. Auld 37 pts C Grade Winner: M. Hutchinson 36 pts D Grade Winner: J. Balding 36 pts

D.T.L: 1. M. Brereton 36, 2. R. Vesty 35, 3. M. Soppe 34, 4. J. Soppe 34, 5. S. Caldwell 34, 6. C. Gosline 34, 7. R. Noordam 34, 8. R. Timbs 34, 9. C. Sterrick 33, Adam West 33 c/b N.T.P: 3rd J. Soppe (Propin), 12th P. Kearns, 14th C. Wilson Birdies: 3rd I. Heppleston, 12th P. Kearns Target Hole: T. Bennett. Winner: Captain's Team Avg 30.066 pts. Runners Up: Presidents Team Avg 28.6 pts.

3 Person Ambrose - December 20, 2025

Winners: C. Gosling, S. Gosling, J. Clegg, M. Dear 58.875. N.T.P: 3rd M. Dear, 5th S. Caldwell, 12th J. Clegg, 14th C. Stevens.

Men's Monthly Medal (stroke) - December 20, 2025

Monthly Medal Winner: A. Sharrock 63 Nett. Scratch Winner: P. Smart 79 off stick. Putts: G. Tatterson 25 putts. A Grade Winner: - M. Brereton 67 Nett. B Grade Winner: - A. Sharrock 63 Nett. C Grade Winner: G. Blizzard 68 Nett. D.T.L: 1. W. McGrath 64, 2. R. King 68, 3. G. Tatterson 68, 4. B. Mathieson 69, 5. D. Cluderay 70, 6. C. Sterrick 71, 6. S. Caldwell 71. N.T.P: 3rd R. Dent (Propin), 5th J. Vickers, 12th D. Cluderay, 14th R. Walsh. Birdies: 3rd D. Burrige, 12th A.

Sharrock, D. Cluderay Target Hole: I. Fortune.

Stableford - December 23, 2025

Winner: R. King 37 pts c/b D.T.L: L. Brent 37 pts N.T.P: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th L. Brent, 12th C. C. Carder, 14th L. Brent Birdie: 14th L. Brent.

Stableford - December 27, 2025

A Grade Winner: J. Langstaff 37 pts B Grade Winner: S. Caldwell 45 pts

C Grade Winner: K. Del Piccolo 43 pts D.T.L: 1. Ash West 42, 2. A. Auld 38, 3. Adam West 38, 4. I. Heppleston 37, 5. R. King 37, 6. M. Brereton 36, 7. G. Barnes 36, 8. M. Hutchinson 36 N.T.P: 3rd J. Cahill, 5th D. Burrige, 12th D. Burrige (Propin), 14th J. Langstaff Birdies: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th S. Caldwell, 12th Matt Soppe, 14th J. Langstaff Target Hole: A. Jenkins.

Stableford - December 30, 2025

A Grade Winner: J. Soppe 39 pts B Grade Winner: K. Del Piccolo 37 pts c/b. D.T.L: 1. R. Dent 37, M. Soppe 37, 3. R. Sands 37 N.T.P: 3rd R. Sands, 5th C. Sterrick, 12th M. Dear, 14th C. Carder Birdies: 12th R. Dent, 14th R. King.

Stableford - January 3, 2026

A Grade Winner: J. Cahill 36 pts B Grade Winner: W. McGrath 40 pts. C Grade Winner: G. Dingwall 38

pts D Grade Winner: C. Gardiner 38 pts. D.T.L: 1. C. Wilson 38, 2. R. Abel 38, 3. Adam West 38, 4. D. Cluderay 38, 5. G. Blizzard 37, 6. K. Del Piccolo 37, 7. R. Sands 37, 8. G. Sanders 36, 9. A. Sharrock 36, 10. M. Soppe 36, 11. M. Hutchinson 35 c/b. N.T.P: 3rd B. Downie (Propin), 5th C. Sterrick, 12th C. Wilson, 14th G. Blizzard. Birdies: 12th C. Wilson, K. Barnes Target Hole: R. Dent. Women's **Monthly Medal (Stroke) - January 6, 2026**

Monthly Medal Winner: S. Caldwell 68 Nett. Scratch Winner: S. Caldwell 89. Putts: S. Caldwell 25 D.T.L: C. Stevens 70 Nett N.T.P: 3rd L. Brent, 5th S. Caldwell, 12th C. Carder, 14th K. Del Piccolo.

Foursomes - January 24, 2026

Winners: P. McGann/Adam West 67.5 Nett Runners Up: C. Hogbin/D. Ellwood 69 Nett D.T.L: 1. T. Collins/P. Jordan 70.5, 2. M. Lugton/C. Thompson 71, 3. A. Auld/B. Kilday 71, 4. G. Leahy/D. Burrige 71.5, 5. S. Caldwell/C. Stevens 72. N.T.P: 3rd R. Madigan, 5th S. Reid, 12th R. Madigan, 14th G. Spowart. Birdies: 3rd D. Byers/L. Anderson.

Par - January 27, 2026

Winner: C. Barnes +7 D.T.L: C. Stevens 0 N.T.P: 3rd C. Stevens, 5th M. Hutchinson, 12th J. Blizzard, 14th C. Stevens.

Strezelecki Bushwalking Club



Club members "rock hopping" over the Thompson River

The first month of 2026 is finished and most of us are back into work and our familiar routines. Christmas festivities are behind us, and a lot of people will start to give some thought to New Year's resolutions. If your ideas centred around meeting new people, getting fitter or being more active within the community then look no further than the Strezelecki Bushwalking Club.

The SBWC is an incredibly inclusive and active Club that has a

broad range of activities on their agenda at all times. Activities can include short and long walks, dog friendly walks, kayaking and bike riding. There are social opportunities each month with our Club night held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Trafalgar Scout Hall commencing at 7p.m.

Visitors are welcome to attend these evenings and have a cuppa and meet existing members in order to gain further information

about the Club.

January can be a traditionally quiet month for the SBWC however, in 2026 there have been some outstanding walks on offer. Matt Morgan, our newsletter Editor, has led walks to Mount Bishop, the Horseshoe Bend Tunnel near Walhalla and a dog friendly walk out to Rokeby.

Jim Rowley our club Secretary led a walk to Jeeralang West. This walk had a very historical aspect as this district has

been settled for farming twice. The first farms were allocated in the 1880's. At its peak there were 38 families living and farming in this area. Life on these early allotments was extremely hard, and farmers had to battle bushfires, rabbits and steep terrain.

The Great War saw a lot of farmers leave the land and the district became uninhabited. The Depression saw the State Government of the time reallocate farmlands once again in the Jeeralang

West area. Farming included dairying, pigs and sheep. These hardy farmers battled rabbits and noxious weeds, but the area was burnt out in the 1930's bushfires and has not been resettled. There is still evidence of these early pioneers to be seen with orchards, driveways and remains of old homesteads in the area.

The Australia Day weekend saw a group of hikers walk up into the Baw Baw National Park for a three-day hike led by Martin

Norris. Martin is a long-term leader of the Club and is extremely knowledgeable in the bush. He is always more than happy to share some of that experience with new members.

The SBWC's next social meeting was the annual BBQ in McGregor Park, Trafalgar on Wednesday February 11.

For further information on anything that you have read in this article go to sbwc.org.au, our Facebook page or by contacting publicity@sbwc.org.au



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Australia Day Ceremonies

CHURCHILL



It was a cool morning with an easterly breeze. Bill Rowley was playing a selection of Australian songs.

Lion Peter Tait as MC opened the proceedings, welcoming everyone with acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand and paying respect to the elders and people of the Gunaikurnai Nation past, present and emerging.

Peter continued, The Lions Club of Churchill would like to welcome our special guests, the member for Morwell, Martin Cameron, Budgereew Ward Councillor Leanne Potter, The Reverend Bec Hayman and the citizens of Churchill.

A big thank you to Bill Rowley for providing some musical entertainment, The 1st Churchill Scout Group for their support with first aid and other help and the Vintage Car club's display

The National Anthem was led by Peter unaccompanied.

Martin Cameron was then asked to speak.

He welcomed everyone to the occasion. He paid his respects to our first responders, CFA members, returned services personnel, men and women. Australia Day he said was a chance to celebrate our great country and to remember how lucky we are. Australia Day means much more than a holiday. Martin thanked the Lions Club for organising the event as a way to present awards and celebrate. Our communities are melting points of people with different points of view, but we are all Australians. Be kind to each other he said in conclusion.

Everyone was invited to be upstanding for the National Anthem

Reverend Bec Hayman of the Co-Operating Churches in Churchill, Boolarra, Yinnar and Chaplain at FedUni delivered this prayer.

Adapted from the Australian Defence

Chaplain's resources

For those of you unfamiliar with prayer think of it as making space to reflect with the added bonus of a loving powerful presence receiving your hopes and your hurts. There will be few words and many silences for you to fill with your own thoughts and for God to fill with comfort, peace and maybe challenge. Let us pray:

Loving God, We give thanks for this ancient and beautiful land,

A land of despair. We think of the things which have broken us as a nation. It is also a land of hope. Fill us with new hope.

Thank you for the wealth and abundant harvests the land has yielded for us.

We remember also that for many this past year has proved to be a land of fire, drought and flood.

Holy Spirit may you continue to move in this land, teach us to forgive, empower us to work for reconciliation and encourage us to stand against injustice.

God, bless Australia

Guard our people

Guide our leaders

And give us peace;

For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

School Awards were then presented with the following introduction.

The Schools Citizens of the year are selected through consultation between teachers and their Principals to find the young students who demonstrate the qualities of good citizenship within their school community.

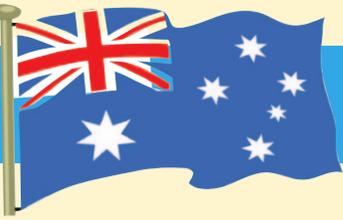
These awards are in recognition of their commitment to their education and respect of the schools' values. Highlighting their leadership qualities, compassion and the giving of their time to help and encourage their peers to achieve common goals. Each of the four schools has selected one student who fits these criteria and it is our pleasure to announce their recipients.

See over . . .

AUSTRALIA

DAY 2026

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



Australia Day Ceremonies

Churchill Australian Citizen of the Year Gregory Farrell AKA Barney



The recipient this year has been contributing to the betterment of Churchill for at least thirty years, and often referred to as a quiet achiever. They do good deeds and disappear and nobody knows they were there. Barney has been involved with 1st Churchill Scouts in many ways, always willingly.

Greg Farrell (known to many by his nickname Barney) has been a valued member of the Churchill community for over 30 years, as a volunteer Venturer Scout leader throughout this time. Barney's commitment has benefitted hundreds of young people, enabling them to develop leadership skills, resilience, experience outdoor adventure, and learn valuable life skills. It is not only the youth of Churchill who have benefitted from his work. Barney has been involved in the facilitation of scout events at a District, Regional, State, National and International level, particularly within the Venturer Scout section.

Whether it is taking Venturer Scouts on an outdoor adventure weekend, helping man the local Bunnings sausage sizzle, keeping the camping equipment in top condition, towing the trailer to camp, or any one of the other 150 things he does, Barney is a stalwart member of our Churchill Scout Group family, and a worthy nominee for Churchill Citizen of the Year.

Peter Tait concluded by saying –
 "The Churchill Lions would like to thank you all for coming to celebrate Australia day with us.



Thank you to the Latrobe City Council for assisting with making this a great event and once again thanks to the Scouts and Bill the music man.

That is the end of all ceremonies, if Churchill would like to gather for breakfas, we have egg and bacons sandwiches and sausages ready to serve."



Luca Mulder Churchill Primary School

When we talked to this young recipient, he told us that his favourite subject at school was PE. He loves to play basketball and this year will be playing in the under 13s football team. Getting out on the ride-on and helping his dad around the place was important to him. His long-term goal in life is to play professional football for Collingwood preferably.



Macy Grimshaw Hazelwood North Primary School

The next recipient informed us that she had tried various sports, and none had taken her fancy but talk about the arts and it is another story. Art and Literature are her favourite subjects at school, especially the performing arts. She participated in all aspects of the arts at school and sang at Church concerts. In her spare time she makes jewellery, mainly earrings, that she sells at various markets.

Nathan McLaren Churchill North Primary School

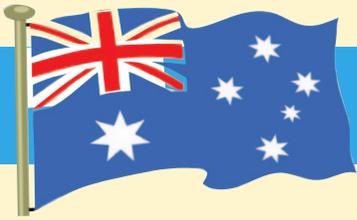
This recipient is a big fan of the Rams Soccer Club where he plays in their under 13 side whilst simultaneously barracking for Melbourne Storm and Collingwood. At school his favourite subject is maths which I am sure will come in handy if he follows his desire to become a police detective when older. Nathan gets on extremely well with his peers and teachers and was the recipient of the John Tipping award for excellence for 2025.



Charlie Jones Lumen Christi Catholic Primary School

A big fan of the Essendon Football club, this recipient loves to play sport. Playing soccer for the Rams and next day playing footy for the Cougars keeps mum and dad busy. His favourite school subject is PE. He is a well-respected student who is considered very responsible and is highly respected by his peers.





Australia Day Ceremonies

YINNAR

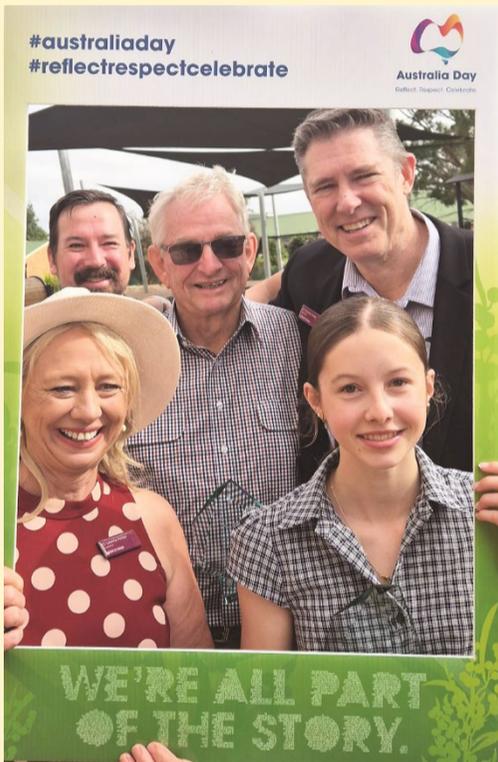
The Yinnar and District Community Association hosted the Australia Day Celebration at Centenary Park. The event was well attended, with approximately 100 residents and guests present. After the 1st Yinnar Scouts raised the flag, the Australian National Anthem was sung, followed by Henry, Harry and Daisy from Yinnar Primary School giving their take on "What is Australia Day?" The two official guests were Councillor Darren Howe and Councillor Leanne Potter, with Councillor Potter offering some concise words on the impact of

volunteering and also more broadly on the mistakes of the past, but the excitement and prospect of a bright future together as one inclusive and diverse community. There were two awards issued by the Yinnar and District Community Association Awards committee. Sage Jobling was awarded Yinnar Young Citizen of the Year for all her volunteer work in Kurnai College and in the community. Graeme O'Hara was awarded Yinnar Citizen of the Year, for all the volunteer work Graeme has done for the community over the

years. Graeme was President of the Ratepayers Association for 25 Years and the Yinnar Greenside Villas retirement Village for 14 years, having stepped down from both roles last year upon turning 80. The Yinnar Lions Club provided a fantastic egg and bacon sandwich breakfast while Australian classic songs played in the background. The Yinnar Pub held a special event, with free BBQ and live music in the afternoon, to raise money for the local community food bank.



The flag goes up



Clockwise from top left, YDCA Pres. Luke Townsend, COTY Graeme O'Hara, Cr Darren Howe, YCOTY Sage Jobling, Cr Leanne Potter.



Yinnar Cub Scouts Cooper Sherlock, Penny and Max Townsend



Cr Leanne Potter congratulates Yinnar YCOTY Sage Jobling



Yinnar Students Harry, Henry and Daisy



1st Yinnar Cub Scouts



Cr Darren Howe congratulates Yinnar COTY Graeme O'Hara.



Australia Day Ceremonies

BOOLARRA

Another great Australia Day celebration at Railway Park in Boolarra with around 150 people turning out to enjoy the mild weather, an egg and bacon sandwich and a chance to have a chin wag with friends they do not run into often.

The volunteers on the BBQ started at 8am to ensure the hungry masses were very well catered for. A big thank you to members of Boolarra Community Development Group for feeding everyone breakfast. Eggs, bacon, sausages, vegetarian burgers were enjoyed by all.

The crowd members were kept on their toes by Australiana Trivia Questions provided by Robert Franssen.

There were seven nominations for the Community Recognition Awards this year.

This reflects the enthusiasm people have for being able to have their friends' efforts formally acknowledged in front of an audience of their peers.

Once again it was a terrific range of recipients this year, with a number of the quiet achievers acknowledged, along with a number of people who have been closely involved.

Cr Leanne Potter arrived from her prior commitments at Churchill and Yinnar and spoke of the significance of Australia Day, and the values it represents, and how these are reflected in our community and the strength of the community spirit within Boolarra.

We then had the raising of the flag.

Congratulations to the following recipients in recognition of their



significant contribution to the Boolarra community:

Doug Black - Boolarra Community Development Group over 20 years service

Liz Black - Boolarra Memorial hall

Callum Olivier - Boolarra community activities and town Christmas decorations

Juliette Olivier - Boolarra community activities and town Christmas decorations

Denise Warne - Boolarra community activities and town Christmas decorations

Denise Schiller - Helping in the community

Rhonda Keegan - Grants co ordinator

for Boolarra community development group

Photos L- R

Liz Black, Denise Oliver, Juliette Oliver, Doug Black, Callum Oliver, Rhonda Keegan, Denise Schiller, Leanne Potter.

AUSTRALIA DAY 2026

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Guided Walk for Valentine's Day

The Churchill Guided Historical Walk is run by the Churchill & District Community Association. A Walk will be held on Saturday February 14, 2026 and will be subject to weather.

The pre-walk meeting place is the Churchill Cafe & Pizza HQ. A visual presentation of Churchill's natural history and of the development of Churchill will be projected prior to the

walk commencing. Walkers are asked to be seated by 10.15am.

The estimated time for the Guided Walk is two hours. The route of the Walk and predetermined commentary points are shown on the map.

Cost is \$15 for walkers of secondary school age and above. Please book a place by phoning David McInnes 0400 809 376.

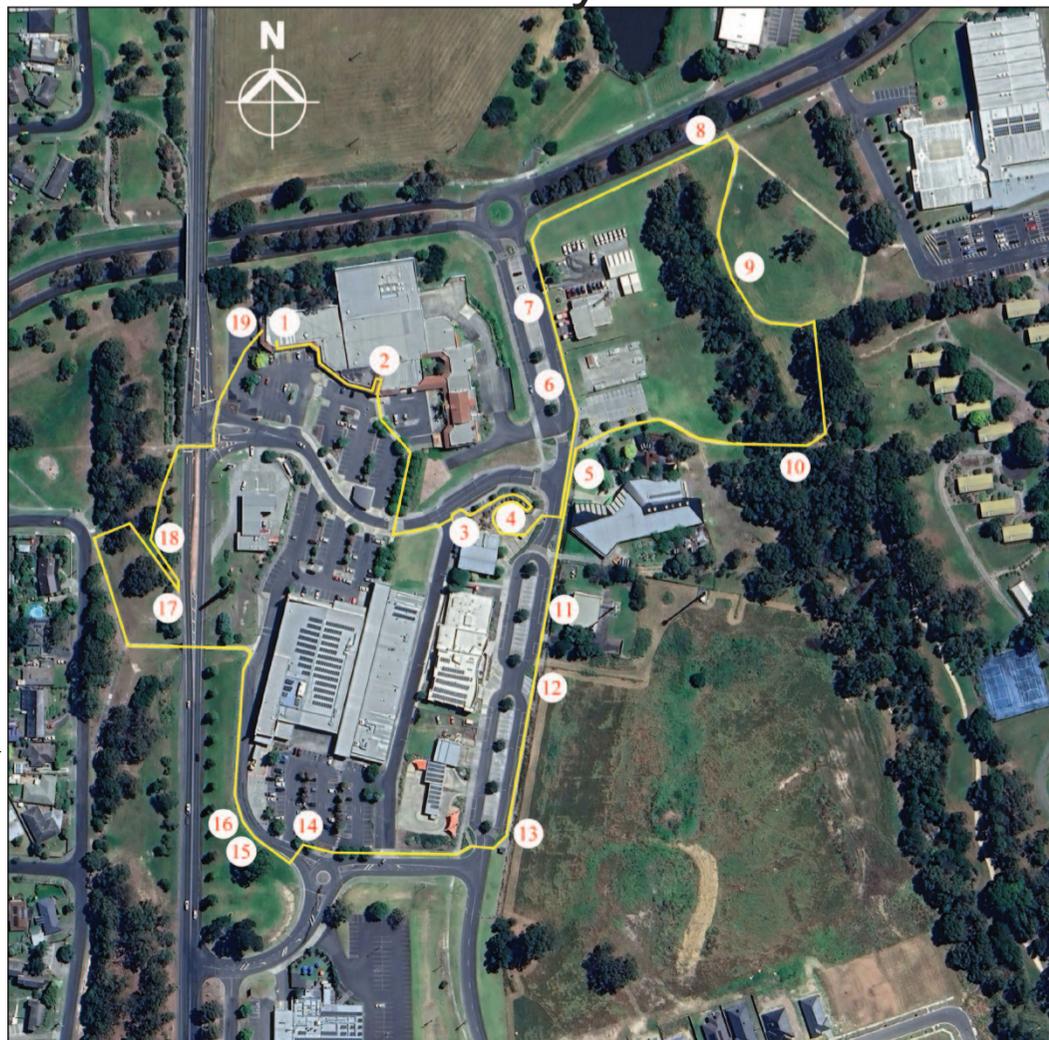
Churchill and District Community Association Inc. CHURCHILL GUIDED HISTORICAL WALK

DISTANCE = 1.8 km Aerial Photograph - Feb 2024 Estimated Time = 2hrs
From leaving cafe for the walk.

LOCATION AND SUBJECT OF COMMENTARY

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. INSIDE CAFE & PIZZA HQ | 11. CHURCHILL EXCHANGE |
| 2. SHOPPING CENTRES | 12. LATROBE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE |
| 3. CHURCHILL PUBLIC HALL | 13. NEW SUBDIVISION |
| 4. CHURCHILL SERVICE MEMORIAL | 14. CHURCHILL HOTEL |
| 5. CHURCHILL HUB | 15. JOHN FLYNN MEMORIAL |
| 6. CHURCHILL MURAL | 16. EEL HOLE CREEK STATE SCHOOL |
| 7. DARREN McLEAN MEMORIAL | 17. CHURCHILL COMMEMORATIVE WALL |
| 8. GIPPSLAND ENTERPRISE CENTRE & FORESTRY | 18. CHURCHILL TOWN SYMBOL |
| 9. LATROBE LEISURE CENTRE - CHURCHILL | 19. OUTSIDE CAFE & PIZZA HQ |
| 10. O'HALLORAN & NORTHWAY - EEL HOLE CREEK | |

Updated: Nov 2025



Meet 10.15am inside Cafe & Pizza HQ for 10.30am start
Possible days Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
Cost \$15 per person. Bookings are required
Group bookings 20 to 25 walkers.

All guided walks subject to volunteers being available and weather
Walks will not be held if forecasted temperature is above 28°C.

Contact for enquiries and bookings: David McInnes 0400 809 376